

The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ Amherst, New Hampshire



*“People have an idea that the preacher is an actor on a stage
and they are the critics, praising or blaming. What they don't know
is that they are the actors on the stage; the preacher is merely the prompter
standing in the wings, reminding them of their lost lines.”*

— Søren Kierkegaard

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Amherst, New Hampshire

April 16, 2023

Second Sunday of Easter—Creative Worship

10:00 a.m.

Discerning

GATHERING CHIMES

Let us be gathered in silence so that we may prepare to worship.

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Rejoice, the Lord is King

John Darwell/
Anna Laura Page

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: The tomb was found empty!

Many: And we are amazed!

One: Jesus has risen!

Many: And we are rejoicing!

One: Jesus returned, saying, "Peace be with you!"

Many: And our hearts are singing!

One: Jesus tells us, "Go into the world and proclaim the Good News!"

**All: Come, let us walk the journey of faith,
acknowledging our doubts
and holding on to hope,
for Christ is Risen, indeed!**

*HYMN

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

No. 121

PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

The congregation may be seated.

Still Speaking God, we dare to believe in the Good News:
your love for us, your love for all of Creation, and the hope of eternity.
We dare to believe that another world is possible;
that suffering can end and that we can play a part in your reign to come.
We dare to believe in heaven on earth;
in the light breaking through, in justice made new,
and in everlasting peace for all.

Compassionate Christ, you appeared to your disciples
and offered them your peace to still their hearts,
may we experience that peace among us now,
as we pray the words that you taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of God be with you. AND ALSO WITH YOU.

ANTHEM

The Prayer
Chancel Choir

Carole Sager & David Foster/
arr. Tom Fetke

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Exodus 4:1, 10-12

Then Moses answered, "But suppose they do not believe me or listen to me? O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." Then the Lord said to him, "Who gives speech to mortals? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak."

Isaiah 61:1-3

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor; to comfort all who mourn.

Psalms 40:8-10

I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart. I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord. I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Mark 16:12-16

After this Jesus appeared to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation."

SERMON "Discerning and Sharing the Good News"

*HYMN *I Love to Tell the Story* inside back page

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

If you have a prayer to share, fill out a prayer card in your pew. Cards will be collected by one of the pastors during the hymn after the sermon, and will be shared during Joys and Concerns.

CHORAL RESPONSE

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Let There Be Joy* Beatrice A. Miller

*SONG OF DEDICATION (Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee)

Joyful, Joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

For the breath of life, for eyes to see, for insight to believe, for courage to witness, we give thanks, gracious God. The signs of your presence are everywhere. May this offering serve as our witness to your grace and peace. Breathe your Spirit into us so that it may transform, inspire, and equip us in your service. Amen.

*HYMN *Christ is Alive!* No. 108
verses 1-5

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

One: We go out into the world in peace.

Many: We go with joy.

One: We go with courage.

Many: We go with hope.

One: We go as people of the resurrection.

Many: We go as servants of Christ.

One: We go sharing the Good News.

Many: We go sharing the message of God's unconditional love.

One: We go rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Many: And may the love of God,
the Light of Christ,
and the power and communion of that Spirit
be with us all.
Amen.**

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Arthur S. Sullivan/
Edward Broughton

*(*Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.)*

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service
obtained from One License with license #A-731944.*

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AMHERST, NH, UCC



**A Welcoming, Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ**



***"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here."***

We, the members of The Congregational Church of Amherst, New Hampshire, United Church of Christ, believe God's Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ call us to love all our neighbors as we would want to be loved. We are called to be as one body, seeking to walk together in the full life and ministry of our church.

We welcome each individual as a child of God. As covenant members of Christ's church, we celebrate God's love for people of all races and ethnic backgrounds, all mental and physical abilities, all socioeconomic backgrounds, all sexual orientations, all gender identities and gender expressions, and all of the other diverse attributes woven into the fabric of humankind.

With God's grace, we invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry and fellowship, worship and sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of our church.

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Our membership is open to all those who choose to walk with us in our witness. Please speak with any of our deacons or pastors should you have any questions regarding our church or our membership.

Worship Notes:

- Church school is available for children Pre-K through grade 7.
- Our church nursery is open, but not currently staffed, and is available when parents with young children feel the need for a quiet, safe space to go to during worship. A monitor is available to watch and listen to the service.
- Joys and Concerns may be written on the cards found in the pews. You are also welcome to submit your prayer request through our website in advance of the worship service.
- Please remember to wear your nametag each Sunday, so that we may all greet our neighbors. If you do not have a permanent nametag, temporary nametags may be found inside the friendship registers. If you are in need of a new, permanent nametag, please see one of the deacons.
- Please join us in the community room for a time of fellowship after the worship service. Coffee and beverages are offered.
- In the event of an emergency, please remain seated until instructions have been given. An emergency plan is in place for the children in the church school.

The church office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m., and available Monday through Friday by telephone 673-3231 and by email info@ccamherst.org. Please feel free to leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Visit our church's website at www.ccamherst.org, and follow us on Facebook.com/ccamherst and Instagram.com/ccamherstnh.

Grounded in God's Love—Serving Neighbors Near and Far—Welcoming to All

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church
Rev. Maureen R. Frescott
Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy
Sara L. Phelps
Michael Havay
Gail Wiegand
Sue Ruggiero
Paul and Sue Spiess
Tim Wiegand

Ministers to the World
Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Director of Music
Organist/Accompanist
Deacon in Charge
Greeter
Ushers
Videographer

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
Dave Hagerstrom

Church School Coordinator
Teacher, Grades 5 to 7

A REMINDER to all committees and ministry coordinators—**annual reports** were due in to the church office by April 15. Thank you!

KENTUCKY DERBY SOCIAL: Wear your favorite derby hat/attire and join us on Saturday, May 6 at 5:30 p.m. for this fun annual event, hosted by Sue and Bruce Manchester along with the Fellowship team. All generations are welcome and if weather cooperates we will have bubbles and yard games for the kiddos. This is a potluck style event: last names A-L please bring a side dish or a salad; M-Z please bring an appetizer or dessert. BYOB.

Please RSVP to Meredith Dart: email meredith.dart@astellas.com, or via text or call (603) 305-9065.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for April include toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorants, shampoo and conditioner, bar soap, feminine hygiene products, diapers and wipes. Donations should be brought directly to the SHARE Center in Milford; if you are unsure where, please call their office at 673-9898. Many thanks for your continuing support!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SING in our Youth Choir? This group, led by Mrs. Phelps, meets in the vestry after church school on Sundays. Open to all ages! Grab a snack in the community room and come join us!

Financial Summary (as of March 31, 2023)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$347,623	\$332,632	\$14,991
Expenses	\$350,774	\$354,038	\$ (3,264)
Net Income	\$ (3,152)	\$ (21,406)	\$18,255

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole dollar; as such, some columns may not appear to total correctly.

We hope you are finding this information helpful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to anyone on the Finance Team: Keith Lammers, Paul Spiess (Treasurer), Doug Topliffe, Todd Whitney and Tim Wiegand.

WA GOOD STUFF SALE on April 28 & 29: This event is both a modest fundraiser for the Woman's Association's charities and a service to the community. It enables church members and others in the community to recycle no longer needed clothing and household items, and it provides these items at very low prices, enabling local community members, including many low-income residents, to shop to meet family needs. The WA is still accepting donations (see the website or any WA member for information on what can be donated).

During the days leading up to the sale (April 25-27), help will be needed with sorting of donated clothing and setting up the Community Room. Help is needed at the sale, particularly on Friday, April 28. Help will also be needed on Saturday at noon to bag leftover items and transport leftovers to Goodwill and to the Ecosmith Recycling container. Please contact Sally Bowkett (603-673-7409 or sbb46@hotmail.com) or Alicia Wight (603-345-0155) to volunteer to help or with any questions.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. You can donate online on our church website (please put OGHS in the memo line) or use the pew envelopes, or send a check to Andrea with OGHS in the memo line. Thank you for your caring and generous donations!

Our Church Calendar

April 16—22, 2023

Some events are taking place virtually.
Links are sent out directly by email,
and a list of recurring meetings with their links
can be found in the member section of our website.

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:15 a.m.	Youth Choir
	11:30 a.m.	Christian Ed
	4:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday AM Adult Ed
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

Congregational Church of Amherst Fundraiser



Ecosmith Recyclers Inc. and Congregational Church are proud to partner in hosting a fundraising clothing and shoe drive.

Raise money to support your local church by donating new or used articles of clothing, pairs of shoes, and household textiles.



CLOTHING & SHOE DRIVE

WHAT TO DONATE

- Shirts
- Jeans
- Pants
- Shorts
- Sweaters
- Jackets
- Socks
- Dresses
- Skirts
- Bed linen
- Purses
- Backpacks
- Hats
- Scarves
- Belts
- Sneakers
- Sandals
- Dress Shoes
- Boots
- Towels

PLEASE BAG SHOES AND CLOTHING
SEPARATELY

WHEN

April 28th through May 12th

WHERE

Meeting Place Plaza

199 Route 101, Amherst, NH

CONTACT

Colleen Cushing

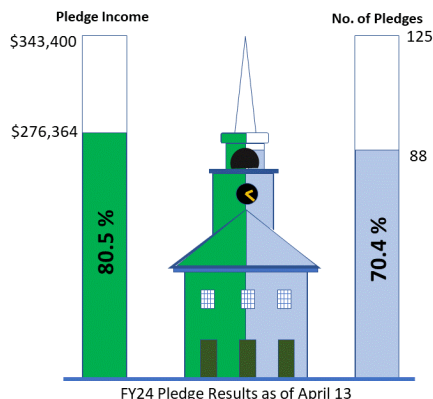
colleencushing54@gmail.com

All collected material is destined for export to less advantaged persons in developing nations around the world.

info@ecosmithrecyclers.com • 11 Byam Road, New Boston, NH 03070 • 603-647-1088

Updated Results of Our Faith Promise Stewardship Campaign

Our 2023-2024 fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is underway. Thank you to all that have responded so far. To those who are still considering your pledge, you can email your intents to Andrea at andrea@ccamherst.org, mail in your pledge intentions, call Andrea (673-3231) or go to the church website <https://www.ccamherst.org/stewardship-pledge/>.



Mark & Fran Baddeley
Cynthia Baker
Alison Batey
Steve & Deb Boczenowski
Patricia Bodan
Jessica & Joao Bortolotto
Sally Bowkett
Jack & Pat Buben
Carole Byatt
Claire Choiniere
Robert & Sydney Conti
Colleen Cushing
Obadiah & Meredith Dart
Camille Davis
Tyler & Gretchen Davis
Russell & Sandra Demarest
Susan Deschenes & Fred Dyke
Cynthia Dokmo
Judi Dunbar
William & Joan Dunn
Greg & Jennifer Eccleston
Stephen Egbertson
Joan Egbertson
Alvin & Heidi Fortune
Maureen Frescott
Andre & Nancy Gagnon
Edith Gambee
Sheryl Gottwald
Patricia Harris
Michael Havay
Leona Hendrickson

John & Linda Herrin
Scott & Sally Hewett
Susan & Don Holden
Roger & Sally Hooper
Kelly & Stephen Isaacs
Kathy Johnson
Wilene Knight
Rosmarie Krosch
Peter & Irene Labombarde
Keith & Gail Lammers
Linda Lannin
Arthur & Victoria Leknes
Elizabeth Levesque
Donald & Carol Lyon
Heather MacDonald & William Dallas
Elizabeth MacMillan & Hamilton Stewart
Bruce & Susan Manchester
Ingrid Michaelis
Gail Miller and Lee Bowley
Howell Mitchell
Avis Moller
Mary Moore
Judy Peterson
David & Sara Phelps
David & Joan Poltack
Nancy & Daniel Protzmann
Chris & Gretchen Pyles
Craig & Katherine Richardson
Anne Riehl

Travis & Larissa Riley
Robert Rowe
Susan Ruggiero
Carol St. Jean
Vic & Carolin Sanchez
Paul & Maggie Schellenberg
Kelly & Casey Schmidt
Beth Secor
Emil & Kathryn Skoglund
Paul & Susan Spiess
Richard & Kathleen Steeves
Sean & Ann Stevenson
Richard & Susan Stout
Audrey & Marshall Strickland
John & Anita Swanson
William Swift
Kate & Keith Thompson
Holly Tonnesen
Jean Tonnesen
Douglas & Adrienne Topliffe
Sally & Michael Varanka
Charles & Rolinda Vars
Martha Warren
Thomas & Susan Werst
Todd & Jennifer Whitney
Tim & Gail Wiegand
Alicia Wight
Ken & Barbara Wolfe