

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



*“Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive,
and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”*

— Howard Thurman

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

April 30, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Wilbur Held

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: God invites us to come in:

Many: to come into God's realm, into abundant life, into hope and peace;

One: God invites us to go out:

Many: to go out to serve, out to live our faith, out to be the Body of Christ.

One: Christ is our shepherd.

Many: We seek his guidance and follow his lead.

One: The Spirit opens the gate wide,

Many: welcoming us into the pasture of the Kingdom.

One: Come, let us worship the Good Shepherd.

All: Come, let us worship our God.

*HYMN

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!

No. 111

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

The congregation may be seated.

Holy One, in love you throw open the doors and welcome us into your presence, no matter who we are or where we are on life's journey. You walk with us up high hills and into deep valleys. You spread a table before us, and our cups overflow. You fill us with goodness and mercy, all the days of our lives. And so, we take this time to dwell in your house, meet you at your altar, and celebrate your grace and love. May your Spirit inspire our praise and thanksgiving, our prayers and petitions as we worship together in your presence.

We pray this in Jesus's name, who taught us to pray saying:

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.

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and Holy Spirit, One;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

Autumn Fortier

Scriptural Setting
Questions of Commitment

Response of Members and Friends (in unison)

We receive Autumn as a new person in Christ. We offer our guidance, understanding, and support as she continues to explore and learn about our world as a child of God. We enfold her in our love, seeking together to grow in wisdom and grace, with God's help. We join with her parents and her family in telling the Gospel in our midst, so that we may all live for Christ, showing forth God's love for all people. Amen.

Pouring of the Water
The Act of Baptism
Prayer of Blessing
Presentation of Baptism Certificate

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

ANTHEM

Brother James's Air
Chancel Choir

Gordon Jacobs

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

SERMON

"Growing the Church"

*HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

No. 276

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

The Strife is O'er

Don Hustad

*DOXOLOGY (Tune: *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Gracious God, when we give, may we do it with a sense of joy. When we give, may we do it with a wholehearted commitment to the mission and mercy of your kingdom. When we give, may we do it with spirits open to your growth, within ourselves and within your church. Take this gift, and let it grow. Amen.

*HYMN

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

No. 372

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Alleluia - #10 from Douze Pièces pour Orgue (1909)

Georges A.P. Jacob

*(*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. Katherine R. Kennedy
Sara L. Phelps
Michael Havay
Gail Wiegand
Kate Thompson
Joan Poltack, Tim Wiegand
Alison and Xander Batey
Paul Schellenberg

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

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
Sarah Merrigan
Dave Hagerstrom

Church School Coordinator
Teacher, Preschool to Elementary
Teacher, Grades 5 to 7

WE REJOICE TODAY in the baptism of Autumn Fortier, daughter of Rebecca and Samuel Fortier. Autumn's sponsor is David Warren.

LEVI SUNDAY IS MAY 7: Wear your work clothes to church and join us after worship for our annual spring cleaning day. We have our usual spring projects such as yard clean up, spreading mulch and sweeping/cleaning the parking lot. We also have some fallen trees that need taking care of, the front walk needs weeding, and the parsonage picket fence could use a paint touch up. Bring your own tools for the jobs you want to tackle. Many hands make light work!

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!

ANNUAL MEETING: Save the date! This year's annual meeting will be on Sunday, May 21 after worship. All members are encouraged to attend; child care will be available.

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.

AMHERST TOWN-WIDE CLEAN UP DAY: Join us as CCA participates in the Amherst Town-Wide Clean-Up Day on Saturday, May 6 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.! Our assigned clean-up location is Horace Greeley Rd. (beginning at Austin Rd). Meet at the church to carpool or meet us there. Trash bags and gloves will be provided by the town at the church and on-site. Filled bags will be dropped off on the town green. CCA is proud to be a co-sponsor this year and all are welcome to participate!

Our Church Calendar

April 30—May 6, 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
	4:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
	7:00 p.m.	World Service
Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	4:30 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday AM Adult Ed
	7:00 p.m.	New Member Info
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	AP Search Team
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Amherst Town Clean Up Day
	5:30 p.m.	Kentucky Derby Social



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.

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!

NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS INFO SESSIONS: Are you NEW (or not-so-new) to our church and interested in learning more about our congregation? Are you interested in learning more about becoming a member? Do you want to know more about the UCC? If so, please join us for one of our info sessions on either Wednesday, May 3 or Thursday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom to learn more about all of the above!

For those who've already joined our mailing list and/or inquired about becoming a member, you'll be hearing from us soon! If you've joined us for our in-person or online worship over the last year and are interested in attending one of our info sessions please reach out to Andrea in our church office at andrea@ccamherst.org or 673-3231, or contact Pastor Maureen at pastormaureen@ccamherst.org.

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

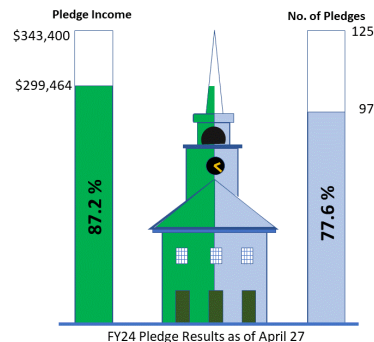
colleencushing54@gmail.com

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/>.



Patricia Ansdell
Herb & Emily Archer
Mark & Fran Baddeley
Cynthia Baker
Alison Batey
Terri Behm & Ken D'Ambrosio
Ken & Charlotte Bell
Steve & Deb Boczenowski
Patricia Bodan
Jessica & Joao Bortolotto
Sally Bowkett
Jack & Pat Buben
Carole Byatt
Claire Choiniere
Robert & Sydney Conti
Wayne & Audrey Croswell
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
Tedd & Carol Landon
Linda Lannin
Arthur & Victoria Leknes
Elizabeth Levesque
Donald & Carol Lyon
Heather MacDonald & William Dallas
Elizabeth MacMillan & Hamilton Stewart
Bruce & Susan Manchester
Sarah & Bob Merrigan
Ingrid Michaelis
Gail Miller & Lee Bowley
Howell Mitchell
Avis Moller
Mary Moore
Jeanne & Mike Neverisky
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
Jodi Woroski & Gwenael Busnel