

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



*“Faith isn't about having everything figured out ahead of time;
faith is about following the quiet voice of God
without having everything figured out ahead of time.”*

— Rachel Held Evans

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

May 7, 2023

Fifth 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

He is Risen! He is Risen!

Joachim Neander/
Edward Broughton

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

Leader: From near and far, we gather in God's name,

**People: to pray, to worship, to sing,
to celebrate at God's table.**

Leader: We give thanks that we are a multi-generational family of faith.

**People: We are youthful. We are aging.
We are learning and growing together.**

Leader: We give thanks that God's family is one of many beliefs and backgrounds.

**People: We are seekers. We are doubters. We are believers.
We are children of God.**

Leader: We give thanks for the resurrection, for God creating anew.

People: Come, let us worship and gather at God's wide and wonderful table!

*HYMN

Gather Us In

inside back pages

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

The congregation may be seated.

God of resurrection power,
you called Jesus out of the tomb
and in so doing, called the whole creation into new life.
Even now, you call us to join your way of resurrection,
you lift our eyes and raise our hearts,
you transform our minds and renew our spirits.

Bring us once again into awareness of your presence,
that we may offer you our worship,
and be nourished for the work of your reign.

God in Community, Holy in One,
hear us as we pray as Jesus 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.

*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.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We welcome all people to join in receiving this sacrament. Children may participate at the discretion of their parents.

CALL TO COMMUNION

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God most high.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION and CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Communion at CCA is open to anyone who would like to partake. When you receive the bread, eat at your own pace, symbolizing our individual relationship with God. When you receive the juice, drink with the whole congregation, symbolizing our communion as the Body of Christ. The bread is gluten, egg, and dairy free and the juice is non-alcoholic, so that there may be no barriers to Christ's table.

ORGAN MEDITATION

Jesus Paid It All

John T. Grape/James Pethel

Here, O My Lord

Edward Dearle/David Paxton

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

We give thanks, loving God, for feeding us at this table. Send us out into the world as your children, full of courage, compassion, and commitment, and eager to be Christ's church in the world. Amen.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Be Thou My Vision
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 14:1-14

Jesus said to them, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

"Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

SERMON

"Believe"

*HYMN

O Jesus, I Have Promised

No. 388

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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT and OFFERING INVITATION

Kathy Skoglund

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Siciliana on "The Call"

Ralph Vaughan Williams/
Douglas E. Wagner

*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)

For the blessings of this and all our days, we thank you, gracious God. We pray that you may use our time, our talent, our treasure, and our lives, freely offered in gratitude for all you have done for us. May every seed that we plant in your name take root and thrive, in this place and wherever you might take us. Amen.

*HYMN

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

No. 417

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

To God Be the Glory

William H. Doane/
Robert J. Powell

*(*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.*

*Portions of the liturgy are adapted from
the Rev. Stephen M. Fearing and the Rev. Teri Peterson,
as posted on LiturgyLink.net*

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
Kathleen Bouchard
Susan Holden
Don and Carol Lyon
Tim Wiegand

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

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
Jessica Bortolotto
Dave Hagerstrom

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

TODAY IS LEVI SUNDAY: 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. Many hands make light work!

GOOD STUFF SALE THANKS: The Woman's Association wants to thank all the members and friends of the congregation who supported our recent Good Stuff Sale in any way. We appreciate all who donated items and those who came to shop at the sale. Also, we are grateful to everyone who generously spent time helping with set-up, sales, or clean-up. The Sale proceeds, which totaled \$3,1170, will be used to support both our church and community organizations.

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	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<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.

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, MAY 21, 2023

11:00 AM



In accordance with the By-laws of the Congregational Church of Amherst, NH United Church of Christ, the call for the Annual Meeting is hereby made for Sunday morning, May 21, 2023, immediately following worship services.

The meeting will be held in the community room at the church and also via Zoom (details will be emailed and also available on the church website).

Your officers and council members look forward to your attendance and input at this important meeting.

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 an info session on 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.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for May include canned ham, canned meats, side dishes (seasoned pasta mix, hamburger helper, etc.), ravioli & beefaroni. 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!

Our Church Calendar

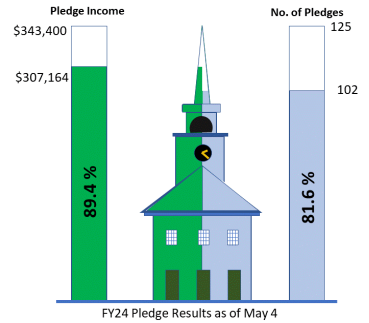
May 7—13, 2023

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.	Small Group Ministry
	2:00 p.m.	Middle High Youth
	4:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
	6:00 p.m.	Budget & Finance Team
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	WA Board
	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees of the Facility
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Congregational Care
	4:00 p.m.	Communications Team
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:00 p.m.	New Member Info
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

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/>.



Gail Agans
 Patricia Ansdell
 Shayna Appel
 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
 Scott & Sandra Comstock
 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
 Brian & Alice Handwerk
 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 and 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

Gather Us In

Unison D A C G Gm/B \flat Dm

1. Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, sha-dows of doubt are
 2. We are the young—our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who
 3. Here we re-ceive new life in the wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
 4. Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

C G D A C G

van-ish-ed a-way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and yourdaugh-ters,
 light years a-way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing;

Gm/B \flat Dm C Am7 D

brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.

WORDS and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1981

GATHER US IN
Irr.

A C/G D/F# G A C/G

Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath-er us in; our
 Gath-er us in— the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in— the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pass-ion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath-er us in and

D/F# G A D A C G

spir - its in-flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,

Gm/Bb Dm C Am7 D C/D Gm/D D

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Sunday, May 7, 2023

Jesus said,
"Believe in God. Believe in me."

