

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



*“When Jesus let go of his last breath –
that breath hovered in the air in front of him for a moment
and then it was set loose on earth.*

*It was a breath so full of passion, so full of life,
that it did not simply dissipate as so many breaths do.
It grew, in strength and in volume, until it was a mighty wind,
which God sent spinning through an upper room in Jerusalem
on the day of Pentecost.”*

—Barbara Brown Taylor

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

May 28, 2023

Pentecost Sunday

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

Veni Creator Spiritus (Come, Creator Spirit)

Plainchant/Robert Lau

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: People of God, the Spirit is here among us.

Many: Within us, around us, between us.

One: The Spirit is here to comfort us.

Many: Holding us up, calming our fears, drying our tears.

One: The Spirit is here to strengthen us.

Many: Bringing courage, bringing conviction, bringing joy.

One: The Spirit is here to challenge us.

Many: Pushing us outside the lines we've drawn around our lives.

One: The Spirit is here to move us.

Many: Inspiring us to bring God's love into the world.

One: The Spirit is here!

All: May we be filled with God's Spirit as we worship and serve together!

*HYMN

On Pentecost They Gathered

No. 128

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

The congregation may be seated.

Spirit of gentleness,

we invite you to move, swirl, and dance among us.

Remind us that you are always present:

encouraging, comforting, and inspiring us

to be the loving people you created us to be.

Stir us during this hour

to walk humbly with you,

to embrace your love,

to do justice in our unjust and fragmented world.

May your sacred presence fill this place,

and fill our hearts,

as we pray the words that 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove
Chancel Choir

Joe Cox and Jody Lindh

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?"

Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.”

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.” But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these people are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

SERMON

“Leaving Church”

*HYMN

Open My Eyes That I May See

No. 324

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

Breath of the Almighty

James Southbridge

*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)

Holy One, you have given yourself to us in Creator, in Christ, in Spirit. We now give back to you. Receive what we offer and transform it by the power of your Spirit into a means of spreading your peace, justice, and love in the world. May many lives be touched by this offering, and may we see the signs of your presence birthed all around us, so that we may be inspired to follow you all the days of our lives. Amen.

*HYMN

Spirit
verses 1, 3 & 4 only

No. 319

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Voluntary for a Festival

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.*

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:

- 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

Roger and Sally Hooper

Paul Schellenberg

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Ushers

Videographer

ICE CREAM SOCIAL: Join us after the Children's Sunday worship on June 4 for our annual ice cream social, when we'll celebrate the end of the church school year. The Fellowship Team welcomes donations to offset costs, \$3 for individuals / \$10 for families.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is August 14th-18th! For more information regarding registration, volunteering, or donating with our Amazon Wish List, see the Church School Website: www.ccamherst.org/church-school

Our Church Calendar

May 28—June 3, 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
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
	7:00 p.m.	World Service Team
Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	7:30 p.m.	Dinner and Rehearsal
		Chancel Choir

Financial Summary

(as of April 30, 2023)

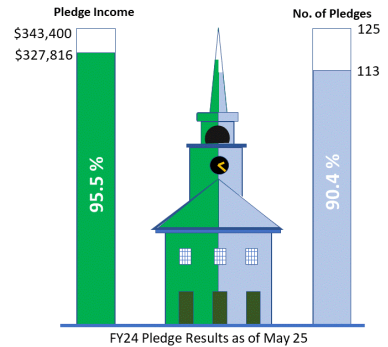
	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$377,284	\$361,724	\$15,560
Expenses	\$382,472	\$385,593	\$ (3,121)
Net Income	\$ (5,187)	\$ (23,869)	\$18,682

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.

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
 Gabe & Becky Bolin
 Jessica & Joao Bortolotto
 Kathleen Bouchard
 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
 Cheryl Gagne
 Andre & Nancy Gagnon
 Edith Gambee
 Joe & Shannon Gascoyne

Sheryl Gottwald
 Nathan & Jessica Greer
 Brian & Alice Handwerk
 Patricia Harris
 Michael Havay
 Gene Heighton
 Leona Hendrickson
 John & Linda Herrin
 Scott & Sally Hewett
 Susan & Don Holden
 Roger & Sally Hooper
 Jana Howe
 Mary Howe
 Kelly & Stephen Isaacs
 Kathy Johnson
 Bruce & Regina Kinney
 Wilene Knight
 Rosmarie Krosch
 Peter & Irene Labombarde
 Keith & Gail Lammers
 Tedd & Carol Landon
 Linda Lannin
 Arthur & Victoria Leknes
 Elizabeth Levesque
 Donald & Carol Lyon
 Joan Lyons
 Heather MacDonald &
 William Dallas
 Elizabeth MacMillan &
 Hamilton Stewart
 Bruce & Susan Manchester
 Sarah & Bob Merrigan
 Ingrid Michaelis
 Gail Miller & Lee Bowley
 Kerri Miller
 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
 Ollie & Marianne Stone
 Richard & Susan Stout
 Audrey & Marshall Strickland
 John & Anita Swanson
 William Swift
 Kate & Keith Thompson
 Holly Tonnesen
 Jean Tonnesen
 Douglas & Adrienne Topcliffe
 Theresa van Ham
 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

God's SPIRIT moves in us!

