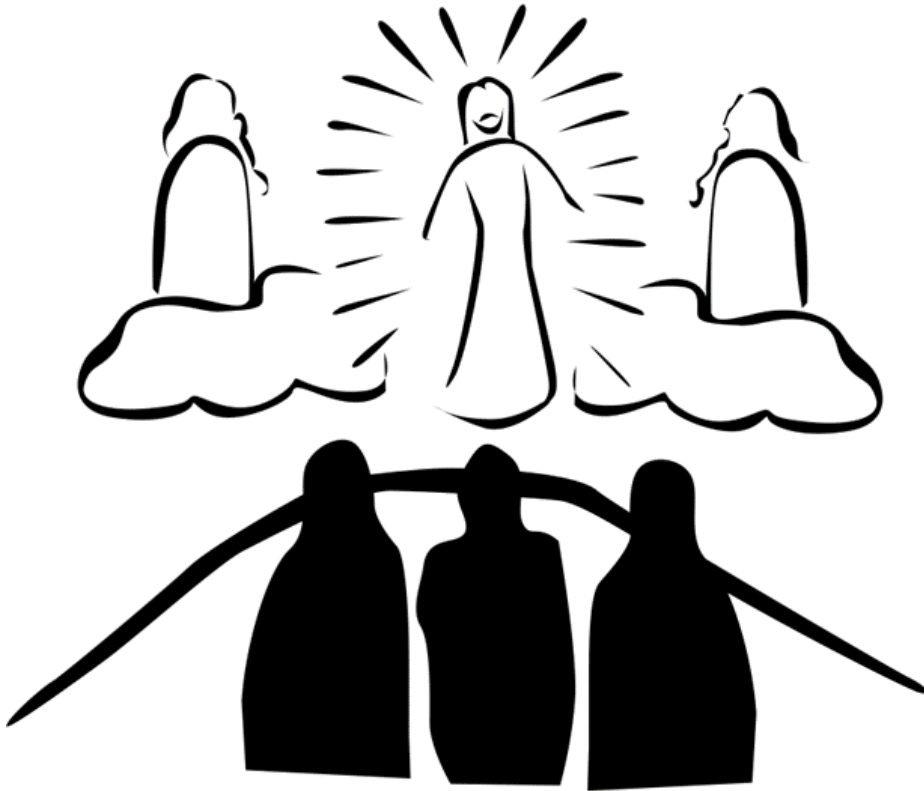


The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Amherst, New Hampshire



"To put it simply: the Holy Spirit bothers us. Because the Spirit moves us, makes us walk, pushes the Church to go forward. And we are like Peter at the Transfiguration: 'Ah, how wonderful it is to be here like this, all together!'...But don't bother us. It's so much nicer to be comfortable."

—Pope Francis

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

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

February 11, 2024

Transfiguration 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

Variation Set on "Swabia" (This is the Day of Light)

Johann M. Spiess/
David Lasky

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: Designer of sunrises: You are with us,
**Many: you awaken us with each bright new day,
overflowing with promise.**

One: Inviting Spirit: You are with us,
**Many: calling us to respond to all opportunities
to share your spirit of grace and hope.**

One: Compassionate Teacher: You are with us,
**Many: gathering us into the presence of your peace,
listening to the longings of our hearts.**

One: Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer,
**Many: We come together as your people to celebrate
your mystery and majesty, in awe!**

*HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth
verses 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

No. 473

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)
The congregation may be seated.

**Gathering Shepherd, you bring us together in this place,
we come to be fed, to be renewed, to seek understanding.
Provoking Presence, you challenge us in this place,
we embrace your prodding, trusting that through discomfort we grow in faith.
Illuminating Light, you are revealed in this place,
sometimes in shining glory, sometimes in tears and struggle.
In this hour, as we worship in this place,
refresh, inspire, and strengthen us,
so that we may know you
as you know us.**

May we feel you moving among us now, 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.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANTHEM

Still, Still with Thee
Chancel Choir

John Ness Beck

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 9:2-10

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

SERMON "Awe-some!"

*HYMN *Bring Many Names* side 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 *Sun of My Soul* James Southbridge

*DOXOLOGY (Tune: *OLD HUNDREDTH*, No. 592)
**Praise God whose many names abound:
Our Guide, our Rock, our Holy Ground.
Creator of Earth's Majesty,
Love, Spirit, Light, and Mystery. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Holy One, your love for us is so unfathomable. Open our ears to hear the cries of your children in need. Open our eyes to see human injustice. Open our hearts to feel compassion in all circumstances. We place these offerings upon your altar in gratitude for your guidance, your grace, and your love. Amen.

*HYMN *Open My Eyes That I May See* No. 324

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE *Recessional on "Deo gracias"* Douglas E. Wagner
(O Wondrous Sight! O Vision Fair)

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

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 staffed and available for parents with young children.
- 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
Kevin G. S. Marsh
Sara L. Phelps
Michael Havay
Roger Hooper
Don and Carol Lyon
Andrea Cyr

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

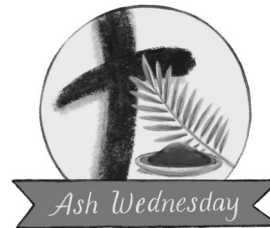
LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
Sue Werst
Dave Hagerstrom
Gretchen Davis

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

PRELIMINARY BUDGET MEETING: On Sunday, February 18 the Budget and Finance Team will provide an update on the current financial status of the church, as well as a preliminary budget overview for the next fiscal year (FY25). This meeting will be held in the community room after worship, and a Zoom link will be available for those unable to join us in person. All members are encouraged to attend; childcare will be available. The Zoom link and password for online participation will be emailed to members next week. This meeting is for informational purposes only, we will not be voting on anything.

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



Ash Wednesday Service

February 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us in the sanctuary as we begin the season of Lent with our traditional Ash Wednesday service. We will come together for a time of contemplative prayer, readings, special music, communion, and the distribution of ashes.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit." ~ Psalm 51



CCA's Annual Family Game Night and Potluck Supper



Saturday, February 17 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

All ages, friends and family are welcome.

We will have Bingo, cards, board games and trivia, and attendees are encouraged to bring their own favorite game to share with others. Prizes will be awarded too!

Pizza and beverages will be provided, and it is potluck style for salads/sides/desserts.
A-M please bring salad/side N-Z please bring dessert

A voluntary donation is welcome: \$5 for individuals/\$10 for families.

RSVP to [Meredith Dart](mailto:meredith.dart@astellas.com) at meredith.dart@astellas.com.

AUSCHWITZ—Not long ago. Not far away. Our Racial Justice Group encourages all to visit this event opening soon in Boston for a limited engagement. Tickets and more information are available at theauschwitzexhibition.com.

THE WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION VALENTINE LUNCHEON will take place on Monday, **February 12**. WA members **and** non-members are invited to join in this event. The event will kick off at 10:30 a.m. with time to socialize. Lunch will begin about 11:30, and potluck items will be provided by attendees. If you would like to attend and have not registered, please contact Carol St. Jean at clstjean27@gmail.com or 919-605-7067.

BEWARE OF FALLING SNOW AND ICE: During the winter months, we want to remind everyone that snow and ice may fall from our roof at any time. Please use caution when in our driveway, and do not walk too close to the building.

PREPARED TO SERVE is a fun learning event for everyone in our church, sponsored by the New Hampshire Conference, UCC. With over 50 workshops, this promises to be a very special time for those who gather. Prepared to Serve takes place on Saturday, **February 24** at Pembroke Academy in Pembroke, NH. Information is available through the church office, and online at www.nhcucc.org.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for February 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!

Lenten Series

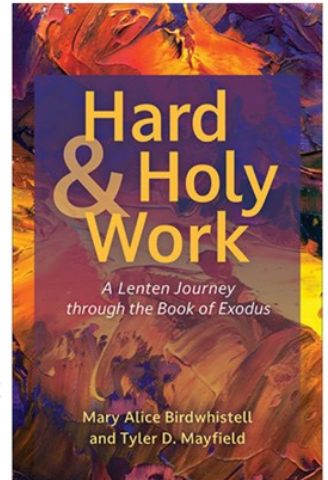
Wednesday Evenings on ZOOM

February 21 and 28

March 6, 13, 20, 27

6:30-8:00 p.m.

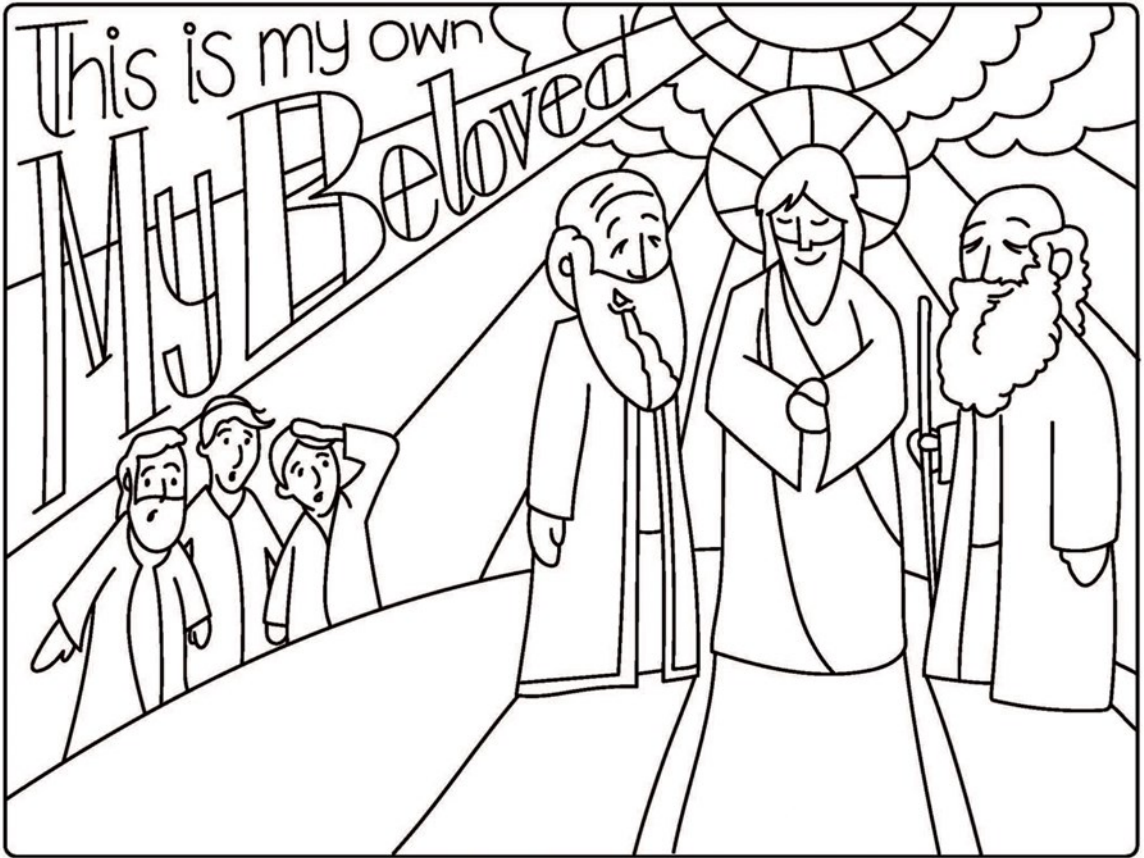
On six Wednesday evenings during Lent, we'll gather on Zoom to explore a wonderful and unique guide for our Lenten journey: ***Hard and Holy Work***, by Mary Alice Birdwhistell and Tyler D. Mayfield. While the "work" of Lent often has us looking inward, to enact change in our hearts, this book also encourages us to look outward, to enact change in our world.



Framed as a journey through the book of Exodus and the story of the Hebrew people wandering in the wilderness, the authors encourage us to reflect on our own wilderness moments and our search for God in the troubling times of our lives and our everyday joys and uncertainties. At the same time, we're encouraged to pay attention to the stories and needs of the people whose journeys are much different than our own – the marginalized, the oppressed, the underserved and overlooked; the people Jesus calls us to walk alongside and serve in his name.

The book is available for order online and we'll have copies in the church office for purchase for \$15. The book takes us from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week and offers opportunities for reflection, discussion, and action, depending on what you're seeking from your Lenten journey. If you don't have the time or space to add a weekly reading to your plate join us anyway! We'll pull out passages to seed our discussion, and there's a weekly video to guide us as well. All are welcome to participate! RSVP to pastormaureen@ccamherst.org to receive the Zoom link, or find it on our church website in the Member's Section.

Jesus is transformed before our eyes!



SAVE THE DATE!

*Vacation Bible School
will be August 12–16, 2024*

SCUBA
diving into friendship with god

Our Church Calendar

February 11—17, 2024

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.	Racial Justice Group
	11:30 a.m.	Christian Ed
Monday	10:30 a.m.	WA Valentine Luncheon
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
	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Congregational Care
	4:00 p.m.	Communications Team
	6:00 p.m.	Budget & Finance Team
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Family Game Night and Potluck Supper

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Blankets for Bruce

Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, homelessness and poverty are always with us. When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone.



This program was very near and dear to former long-time member Bruce Beckley's heart. As a congregation, our heart for mission remains strong. This is an opportunity to help make a difference, change lives, and honor Bruce's passion for mission work.

As a church family, let's join together as we take up a 'Blankets for Bruce' offering. You can donate using the Blankets pew envelopes, mail a check to Andrea with 'blankets' in the memo line, or donate online at our custom CWS Blankets secure donation page: <https://cwsblankets.org/virtual/ccamherst/>

Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations, and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters.

When our neighbors are in need, even \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way.

*"And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three:
and the greatest of these is love."*

—1 Corinthians 13:13