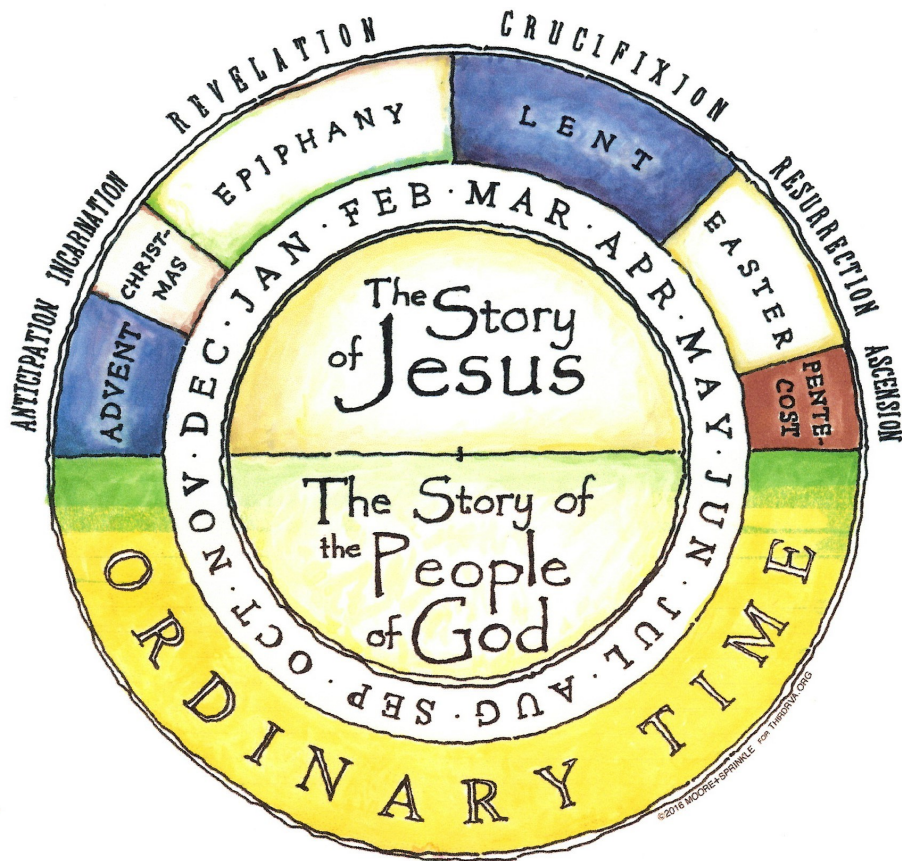


The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Amherst, New Hampshire



*"Faith and prayer are the vitamins of the soul;
man cannot live in health without them."*

— Mahalia Jackson

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 25, 2024

Second Sunday in Lent

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

Song of the Dawn

Robert J. Powell

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: Come, let us worship together.

**Many: Let us open our minds to the challenge of reason,
open our hearts to the healing of Christ's love,
open our lives to the calling of conscience,
open our souls to the comfort of joy.**

One: Astonished by the miracle of life,
grateful for the gift of fellowship,
confident in the power of living faith,
we are here gathered.

Many: Come, let us worship together.

*HYMN

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

back cover page

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

The congregation may be seated.

Gracious and loving God,

You knew us before we were. You know our hearts, our minds, our souls and whole selves. This morning we set aside this precious hour in order to know You, and to see, feel and hear how You are seeking to move within each and every one of us. Be with us now and always. Light our way that we might live into Your call to be builders of Your kin-dom, as we pray the words Jesus taught us 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.

LENTEN LITANY OF CONFESSION and WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Your story stretches from age to age, O God, and you call us to be a part of it.

Many: **But we have forgotten your story, left the book to gather dust on the shelf, hoping the bits we remember here and there will be enough.**

One: And still you speak, bringing life and love into being.

Many: **But so often we want to write our own story, taking center stage as star of our own play.**

One: Forgive us, O God, for we have not sought your word as a light to our path.

Many: **Forgive us, O God, for we have assumed your word was captive on an ancient page.**

One: Forgive us, O God, for we have relied on our own strength, rather than on your living wisdom.

Many: **Forgive us, O God, and guide us as we return to you.**

One: People of God, hear this good news.

God's covenant with us is true.

God is faithful even when we fail.

Many: **Through the Holy Spirit, God gives us the gift of grace and forgiveness.**

We believe in the good news

that we are set free to live as children of God.

Thanks be to God, and 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.

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANTHEM

Set Me as a Seal
Chancel Choir

Rene Clausen

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Timothy 4:6-16

A Good Minister of Jesus Christ

If you put these instructions before the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with profane myths and old wives' tales. Train yourself in godliness, for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, especially of those who believe.

These are the things you must insist on and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.

SERMON

"What Are We Doing Here"

***HYMN**

Praise the Source of Faith and Learning
verses 1, 3 and 4 only

inside pages 8 and 9

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

Meditation No. 1

Robert E. Rushton

***DOXOLOGY (Tune: *OLD HUNDREDTH*, No. 592)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that Love has done;
Creator, Christ and Spirit one. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

Generous God, you remind us that you "anoint our heads with oil" and that our "cup overflows" with your abundance. We do not take for granted all that you provide. Take these gifts and use them for the healing and tender care of your hurting world. Amen.

*HYMN

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

inside pages 10 and 11

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Postlude in C minor

Fenton Groden

*(*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.*

Our Church Calendar

February 25—March 2, 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
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
	7:00 p.m.	World Service Team
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Study Series
	7:00 p.m.	CAV Planning
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

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 on break this week for school vacation and will resume next Sunday.
- Our church nursery is open, but not staffed today, and is available for parents with young children to use.
- 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.

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. Shayna Appel
 Sara L. Phelps
 Michael Havay
 Roger Hooper
 Fred Dyke, Dick Stout
 Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World
 Guest Preacher
 Director of Music
 Organist/Accompanist
 Deacon in Charge
 Ushers
 Videographer

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott
 Kevin G. S. Marsh
 Larissa Riley

Senior Pastor
 Acting Associate Pastor
 Church School Coordinator

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given by Anita and John Swanson, in celebration of their 52nd wedding anniversary.

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.

GOOD STUFF SALE DONATIONS: It's time to spring clean your home and collect good stuff for the Woman's Associations' Annual Good Stuff Sale, which will be held Friday, April 26, 4:00—7:00 p.m., and Saturday, April 27, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. It would be helpful to have all clothing cleaned, sorted, bagged and possibly labeled for men, women, children and infants. We are collecting fine jewelry, costume and fun jewelry, good purses, backpacks, shoes, boots etc.; all accessories too. Household items: linens, sheets, towels, bedspreads, curtains, drapes, home decorative items, kitchen pots and pans, utensils, dishes, glassware, small appliances that work, small furniture, lamps, toys, games, puzzles, CDs, DVDs, books etc. You may leave bagged linens and clothing behind the curtain on the stage in the community room. Housewares, toys, glass, pots and pans etc. may be left in the vestry by the partition that says "Rummage Here." Please do NOT donate bicycles, large sports equipment, big furniture, computers, TVs, textbooks, car seats or baby furniture. All proceeds go to our charities and other needs within our church. Thank you so much! If you have any questions please contact Sally Bowkett, 603-673-7409 or Alicia Wight 603-345-0155.

Financial Summary (as of January 31, 2024)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$280,781	\$282,003	\$(1,223)
Expenses	\$270,232	\$279,808	\$(9,576)
Net Income	\$ 10,549	\$ 2,196	\$ 8,354

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: Ken Bell, Don Lyon, Paul Spiess (Treasurer), Doug Topliffe, and Todd Whitney.

Lenten Series

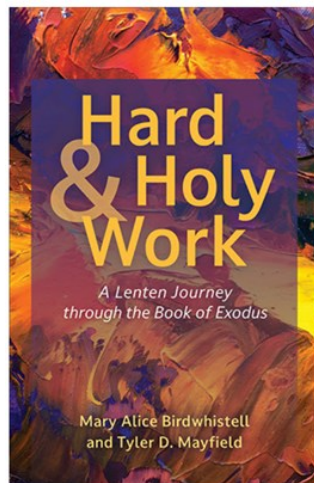
Wednesday Evenings on ZOOM

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.

Join Us for a Second Hour Presentation on Caregiving



Sunday, March 10, 2024, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

"Honor your gifts." 1 Timothy 4:14

The Congregational Care Team will be holding an informational event on Caregiving. If you are providing caregiving to a family member, an adult child, in your home or living away or long distance, or perhaps a neighbor, being a caregiver brings many emotional, physical, and financial tolls on the most loving person. We will discuss support, coping, advocacy, and resources, locally and websites all related to caregiving.

The Rev. Charlotte Bell, MDIV, MSW is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ and a member of CCA. She has spent over 25 years as a medical social worker, specializing in end-of-life support, bereavement, grief, geriatrics, oncology, and perinatal loss. Charlotte worked as a clinical social worker with a focus on gerontology, having worked in a variety of senior residential settings. She is trained and certified to support Alzheimer's patient's families, and caregivers. She facilitates a monthly Caregivers Support Group for Woodfords Congregational Church, UCC in Portland, ME.

Join us after worship and fellowship; get that extra cup of coffee and meet up in the parlor on the second floor opposite the church office at 11:30 am. If there are more people than chairs we will move to the sanctuary and meet informally there. Resources will be available for you to take.