

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.”*

March 17, 2024

Creative Worship—David and Goliath
Faith Promise 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

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Marilyn Thompson

INTROIT

*GATHERING IN GOD’S PRESENCE

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: Our God gives us all that we have,

Many: Life, love, grace, hope.

One: Our God gives us all that we can see,

Many: Mountains, trees, oceans, all the creatures of the earth.

One: Our God gives us all that we treasure,

Many: Family, friends, and time to be with those we love.

One: Our God gives us all that we need,

Many: Food, shelter, comfort, and the things that bring us joy.

One: Our God gives us the opportunity to share all that has been given to us.

Many: We give back to God by giving to others.

One: We give back to God by giving of ourselves.

Many: We give back to God with gratitude and with joy!

All: Always giving God, we welcome your Spirit as we gather here in your name.

Be with us as we lift our voices up in song and praise!

*HYMN

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

No. 414

LENTEN LITANY OF CONFESSION and WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The congregation may be seated.

One: Generous and Giving God, we are not perfect beings.

Many: We confess that we are often resistant to hearing your call.

One: So often we are not listening, and sometimes we choose not to hear.

Many: We're comfortable with the way things are and we're weary of the call to change.

One: Sometimes we hear, and we turn away, making excuses.

Many: But you call us to respond, to open our hearts to the needs of others.

One: Forgive our status-quo caution, our focus on self-preservation.

Many: Forgive our hesitation, our belief that we're too small to make a difference.

One: Open us to the movement of your Spirit,

Many: and give us hearts ready to be generous in response to your call.

One: Our ever-merciful God leads us into new life,
where we are restored to grace, to hope, and to peace.

**Many: We are grateful for what God has done for us, through us, and in us.
This is good news for everyone. Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

The Story of David and Goliath

ANTHEM

Arise, My Soul, Arise
Chancel Choir

Dan Forrest

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

REFLECTING ON THE STORY

"No Matter How Small"

OFFERING OUR GIFTS and PRAYERS

*All are invited to come forward and place offerings of time, talent, and treasure in the plates in front.
Prayer cards may also be brought forward at this time and placed in the provided basket.*

OFFERTORY MUSIC

O Jesus I Have Promised

John Ernest Bode/
Robert J. Powell

*FAITH PROMISE LITANY

One: Generous God, we give you thanks this day as we gather our offerings in support of this faith community in the coming year.

We bring them before you with anticipation and hope.

Many: Hear us, O God, as we give you our thanks and praise.

One: For those whose lives have been touched by your Spirit and who have given of themselves generously,

Many: We give you thanks and praise.

Continued next page.

One: For those who are responding to your creative grace with a gift of time, talent, or treasure towards our mission,

Many: We give you thanks and praise.

One: For those who are unable to give at this time, but who continue to be a vital part of our community,

Many: We give thanks and pray for their comfort and peace.

One: That each one of us, and your whole Church, become more faithful to the call of service through Jesus,

Many: We ask for your continuing guidance and care.

One: We pray that these offerings may emerge as true gifts, enabling the mission and ministry of this church to come to life as we serve others,

Many: In the name of Jesus Christ, we commit our whole selves to you, O God. Amen.

*BLESSING OF THE OFFERING (TUNE: AR HYD Y NOS)

For the fruit of all Creation, Thanks be to God.

For the gifts to every nation, Thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,

Future needs in earth's safe-keeping, Thanks be to God!

SHARING OUR COMMUNAL PRAYERS

PRAYER RESPONSE – THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

*HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

No. 422

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

An Irish Blessing

James Mansfield

*(*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
 John Swanson
 Linda Lannin, Ingrid Michaelis, Doug Topliffe
 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
 Lyndsay Curtis

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

FRIENDSHIP BASKETS: On behalf of the congregation, your Diaconate is planning to provide grocery gift cards to families in our community who need a little help putting food on the table for the Easter holiday. We will be passing our Friendship Baskets during today's service to gather donations to support the gift card purchases. If you would like to help, but are participating in the service from home, you can also donate through the church website, and direct your donation to the Friendship Basket collection. If you'd like to help out by purchasing grocery gift cards which we can use, you may also do that on your own. Gift cards should be identified to be used for the Easter gifts and either placed in the Friendship Baskets or dropped off in the office. Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCUBA Vacation Bible School 2024 will be held August 12-16 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Registration is now open for children and/or youth volunteers at www.ccamherst.org/church-school. Contact Larissa Riley or Gretchen Davis with any questions.

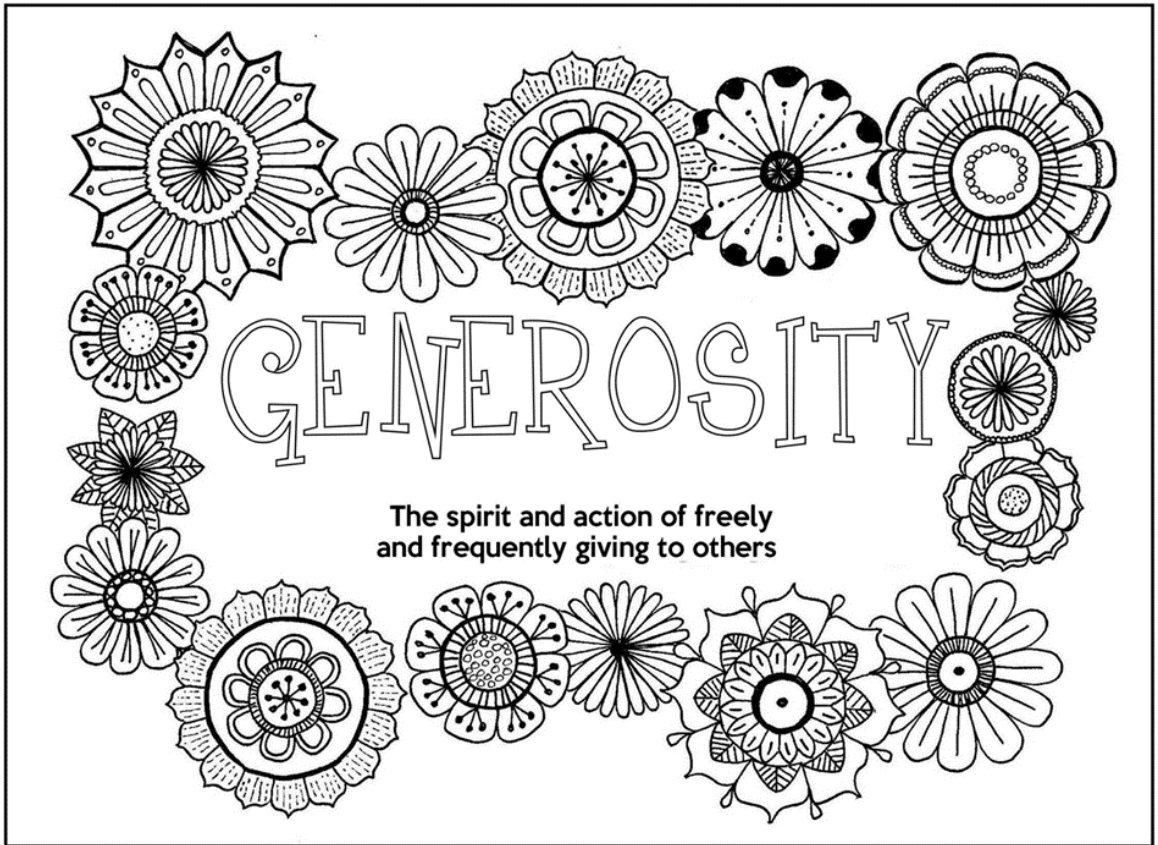
Our Church Calendar

March 17—23, 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	11:30 a.m.	Christian Ed	4:00 p.m.	Youth Group Bon Fire
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop						
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Series						
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir						
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class						
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir						

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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. We are also collecting jewelry, good purses, shoes, and all accessories too. Household items such as linens, towels, bedspreads, curtains, home decorative items, kitchen items and utensils, dishes, glassware, small appliances that work, small furniture, lamps, toys, games, puzzles, CDs, DVDs, books etc. Please do NOT donate bicycles, large sports equipment, big furniture, computers, TVs, textbooks, car seats or baby furniture. If you have any questions please contact Sally Bowkett, 603-673-7409 or Alicia Wight 603-345-0155.

OUR LENTEN SERIES, *Hard and Holy Work*, continues meeting on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. during Lent. We 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. Copies of the book are available in the church office for \$15. All are welcome to participate! RSVP to pastormaureen@ccamherst.org to receive the Zoom link.