

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

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

April 7, 2024

Second 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

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

John Darwell/
Anna Laura Page

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: In the joyousness of an Easter morning, with the precipice of spring waiting to break forth,

Many: God is here! Christ is risen!

One: In our valleys of despair and mountaintops seemingly too steep to climb,

Many: God is here! Christ is risen!

One: In all of our doubts and in all of our certainties,

Many: God is here! Christ is risen!

One: In all things and in all places,

Many: Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!

*HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

No. 339

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

**Eternal Light,
who has folded back the curtain of darkness
and caused the dawn of a new day to brighten the earth,
we ask you to shine your light on our hearts today.
Give us the light of faith, when doubts get overwhelming;
give us the radiance of hope to endure the long path to equity and justice;
give us the illumination of love, that we may perfectly love you, others, and ourselves well.
We pray this in the name of our risen savior as we speak the words he 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.**

*GLORIA PATRI

**Glorify 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

Gather by the River to Pray
Chancel Choir

Pepper Choplin

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Continued next page.

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON

"Doubting Doubt"

*HYMN

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

No. 316

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

This Joyful Day of Days

Dale Wood

*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)

Giver of every good gift, we thank you for the many ways that you have blessed us. As seekers after your path of righteousness, we long to see a world where all people have all that they need and so we ask that you will receive all that we have given to do the work of justice that you have called us to do throughout the world. 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.

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD and POURING OF THE CUP

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

The Garden Hymn

Douglas E. Wagner

A Song of Life

Lani Smith

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in 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.

*HYMN

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

No. 121

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

A Resurrection Fanfare

Lani Smith

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

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service
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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
 Sue Ruggiero
 Doug Topliffe

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

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
 Kelly Isaacs
 Dave Hagerstrom
 Gretchen Davis

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

ANNUAL REPORTS: A reminder that annual reports are due in to the church office by April 15.

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.

THANK YOU! The Deacons would like to thank the Congregation for the ongoing support of our outreach mission. Donations collected in the Friendship Baskets in March were able to provide thirteen grocery gift cards to families in our community. As parents may be making difficult decisions on purchasing food versus paying necessary bills, your gifts provided some relief and brought smiles to their faces. Contributions to Friendship Baskets can be provided at any time during the year by noting donations are to be used for this purpose.

Our Church Calendar

April 7—13, 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. 11:15 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Worship Fellowship Youth Choir Small Group Ministry Racial Justice Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Diaconate Trustees of the Facility
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting Budget & Finance Team
Thursday	9:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Congregational Care Communications Bell Choir Chancel Choir

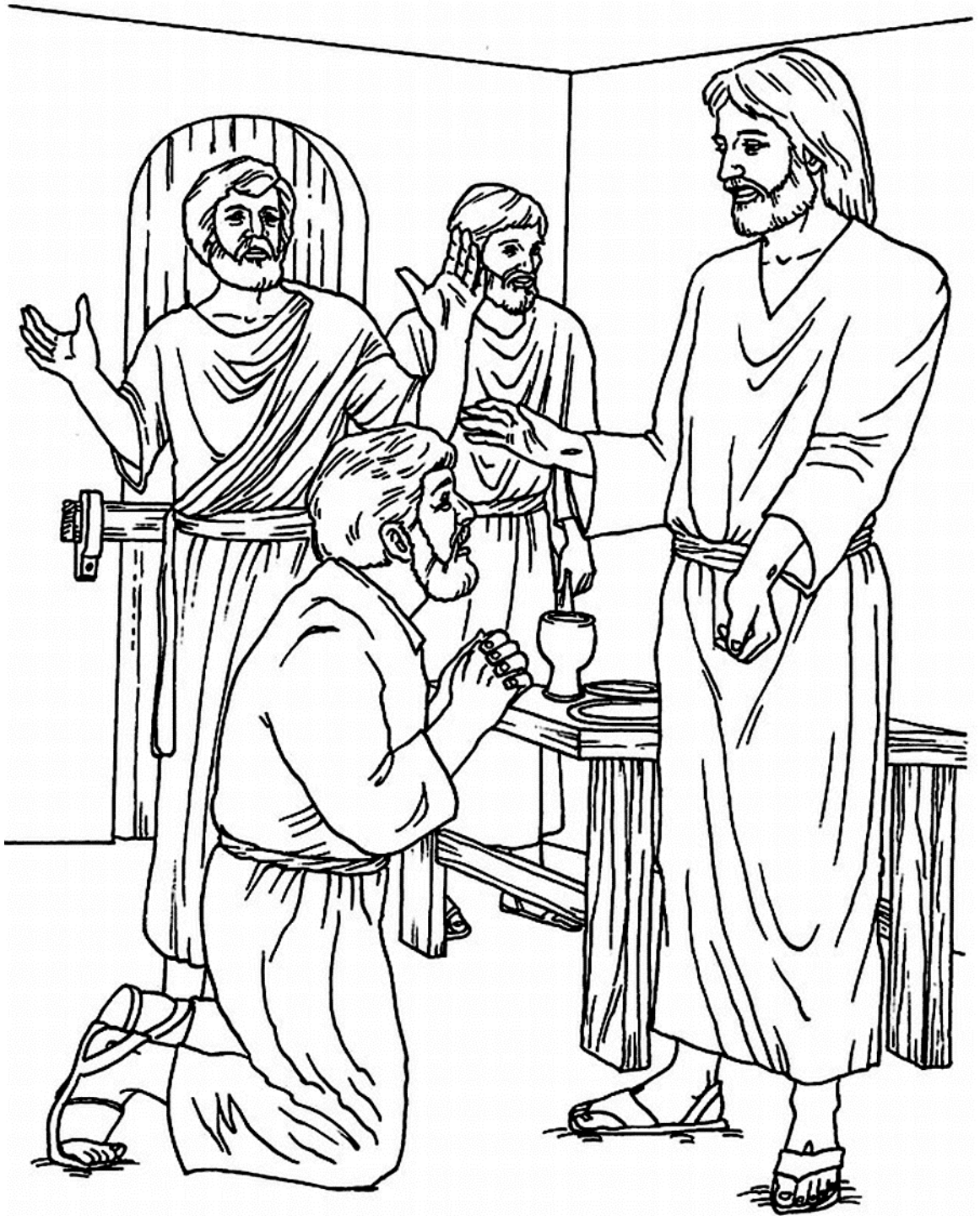
Sunday, April 7, 2024

Good Stuff Sale

April 26 & 27, 2024

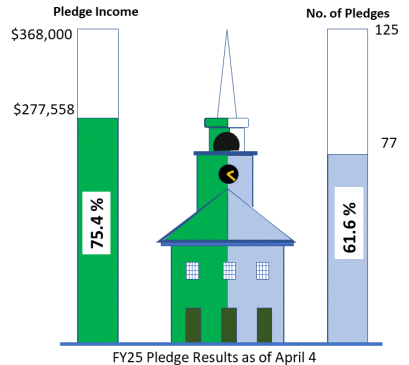
Friday 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. to Noon

The Good Stuff Sale, formerly the Spring Rummage Sale, sponsored by the Woman's Association, will take place in the Community Room and the Vestry on Friday, April 26 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., and Saturday, April 27 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The sale will feature clothing, jewelry, handbags and linens, along with all kinds of household goods, plus books, toys, puzzles and games. Please put the dates on your calendar and spread the word about this always-popular event. The WA is still accepting donations of the items included in the sale which can be dropped off in the designated area in the Vestry on Sunday or Monday mornings, or by arrangement with Sally Bowkett (sbb46@hotmail.com or 603-673-7409). Clothing should be clean and in good condition. Please sort items and label clothing bags to indicate whether they contain items for men, women, teens or children, linens, etc. Other items you can donate include fine, costume and fun jewelry, good handbags, backpacks, shoes, boots etc. and accessories. Household items to donate include 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, and DVDs. Items that are not accepted include bicycles, large sports equipment, big furniture, computers, TVs, textbooks, car seats or baby furniture. Volunteers will be needed the week preceding the sale to help with set-up and on the days of the sale. Help will also be needed on Saturday, 4/29 at 12:00 to bag up unsold clothes and take them to the Ecosmith container at the Meeting Place and to load non-clothing items into cars or trucks and drive them to Goodwill. If you have any questions about donations for the sale or assisting with the sale, please contact Sally Bowkett at 603-673-7409 or Alicia Wight at 603-345-0155. All proceeds from the sale go to local charities and to meet needs within our church



Updated Results of Our Faith Promise Stewardship Campaign

Our 2024-2025 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/>.



Patricia Ansdell
Shayna Appel
Mark & Fran Baddeley
Ken & Charlotte Bell
Steve & Deb Boczenowski
Sally Bowkett
Jack & Patricia Buben
Tim & Kelly Cackett
Camille Davis
Tyler & Gretchen Davis
Russell & Sandra Demarest
Eric Doberstein & Robin Clark
Susan Deschenes & Fred Dyke
Cynthia Dokmo
Judi Dunbar
Joan Egbertson
Stephen Egbertson
Matthew & Stephanie Emmons
Matt & Laura Endres
Judy Ferraro
Alvin & Heidi Fortune
Maureen Frescott
Andre & Nancy Gagnon
Sheryl Gottwald
Nathan & Jessica Greer

John & Linda Herrin
Scott & Sally Hewett
Susan & Don Holden
Roger & Sally Hooper
Nye & Angela Hornor
Jana Howe
Mary Howe
Kelly & Stephen Isaacs
Bruce & Regina Kinney
Wilene Knight
Romi Krosch
Peter & Irene Labombarde
Keith & Gail Lammers
Linda Lannin
Arthur & Victoria Leknes
Donald & Carol Lyon
Joan Lyons
Heather MacDonald & William Dallas
Elizabeth MacMillan & Hamilton Stewart
Bruce & Susan Manchester
Ingrid Michaelis
Howell Mitchell
Avis Moller
Mary Moore
David & Sara Phelps
David & Joan Poltack

Nancy & Daniel Protzmann
Chris & Gretchen Pyles
Craig & Katherine Richardson
Travis & Larissa Riley
Sue Ruggiero
Vic & Carolin Sanchez
Paul & Maggie Schellenberg
Beth Secor
Kathy & Skip Skoglund
Paul & Susan Spiess
Richard & Kathleen Steeves
Sean & Ann Stevenson
Marianne & Ollie Stone
Richard & Susan Stout
Marshall & Audrey Strickland
John & Anita Swanson
Holly Tonnesen
Jean Tonnesen
Douglas & Adrienne Topliffe
Sally & Michael Varanka
Charles & Rolinda Vars
Thomas & Susan Werst
Todd & Jennifer Whitney
Tim & Gail Wiegand
Alicia Wight
Ken & Barbara Wolfe