

"Belonging Sunday"

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

Congregational Church of Amherst, United Church of Christ

*"A deep sense of love and belonging is an irreducible need of all people.
We are biologically, cognitively, physically, and spiritually wired
to love, to be loved, and to belong.
When those needs are not met, we don't function as we were meant to.
We ache. We get sick. We hurt others.
We break. We fall apart."*

*"True belonging doesn't require you to change who you are;
it requires you to be who you are."*

-- Brené Brown

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 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m.

Belonging Sunday

GATHERING CHIMES

Let us be gathered in silence so that we may prepare to worship.

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Thine Be the Glory

G.F. Handel/Lani Smith

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: Creating God, you are the gathering One
who calls us into community in this sacred space,

**Many: to love and listen,
to support and heal.**

One: You are the gathering One
who calls us into community with all people in all places;

**Many: to bring justice and hope,
liberation and truth.**

One: You are the gathering One
who calls us into community with the whole of creation;

**Many: to live in peace and harmony,
to cherish and renew.**

One: You are the gathering One
who calls us into community as the body of Christ;

Many: **knowing that all parts of the body
belong to the whole.**

All: **Let us worship our God
who brings us together as one!**

*HYMN

Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race

inside back page 11

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

**Loving God, as we gather in your presence,
we remind ourselves that as a church
we are committed to welcoming all people,
all races and ethnicities,
all mental and physical abilities,
all social and economic standings,
all families and orientations,
all gender identities and gender expressions.
We celebrate all of the diverse attributes
you've woven into the fabric of humankind.
With your grace, O God,
we invite all to share in the life and leadership,
ministry and fellowship,
worship and sacraments,
responsibilities and blessings of this faith community.**

Be with us in our work and our worship, 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

Prayer for Peace
Chancel Choir

Harlan

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be?

As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

SERMON

“Belonging”

***HYMN**

Just As I Am

No. 370

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

Canticle of Faith

Fenton Groden

***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)

Receive our joy, O God, along with our gifts. We reach out with this offering to be your hands and feet and heart - in and through our church. Through our shared life in this community of faith, create in us the image of Christ. Let us share with the whole world the blessings we receive from you. Amen.

*HYMN

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

No. 343

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Postlude on "St. Dunstan's"

Charles Winfred Douglas/
Douglas E. Wagner

*(*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. **The next new member informational sessions will be held May 1 and May 9.** New members will be formally received on Sunday, May 19. 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
 Tim Wiegand

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
 Sue Werst
 Dave Hagerstrom
 Gretchen Davis

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

SECOND HOUR PRESENTATION: After worship, join us in the community room, as we ask ourselves, "What does it mean to belong?" The presentation will be led by **Lisa Beaudoin**, a disability equity professional who helps organizations to foster inclusion, widen perspectives, and create a culture of belonging. How might we widen our welcome and remove barriers to belonging? Who is not here because they believe or fear they won't feel welcome? How might we be more intentional about offering the HOPE and LOVE of God to ALL? We hope you can join us; lunch and childcare will be provided.

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

KENTUCKY DERBY SOCIAL: Wear your favorite derby hat/attire and join us on May 4 for this fun annual event hosted by the Sue & Bruce Manchester, along with the Fellowship team. We will have activities for kiddos as well so please know all generations are welcome and encouraged to attend! This is a potluck style event, and is BYOB. Please RSVP to Meredith Dart by May 1st, meredith.dart@astellas.com.

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.

Financial Summary (as of March 31, 2024)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$355,173	\$340,601	\$ 14,573
Expenses	\$334,785	\$347,519	\$(12,734)
Net Income	\$ 20,388	\$ (6,618)	\$ 27,306

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.

“Good Stuff Sale” Update from the Woman’s Association

This popular WA event is a fundraiser for the Woman’s Association and the church. Here is what you should know:

- This event takes place in the Vestry and the Community Room on Friday, April 26, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., and on Saturday, April 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- The sale features clothing for all ages, linens, handbags, jewelry, household items, books, toys and games, all at bargain prices.
- Donations of clothing, toys, books, jewelry and handbags, linens and household items can be dropped off in the Vestry by April 21.



Help is needed with set-up during the day on Monday, April 23, through Thursday, April 25, and at the event on Friday and Saturday. More hands will be needed on Saturday at noon to bag up unsold items (many of which will be taken to the Ecosmith container at the Meeting Place) and to load non-clothing items into cars or trucks to be delivered to Goodwill.

If you can help at any of these times, please contact Sally Bowkett at sbb46@hotmail.com or 603-673-7409.

Our Church Calendar

April 14—20, 2024

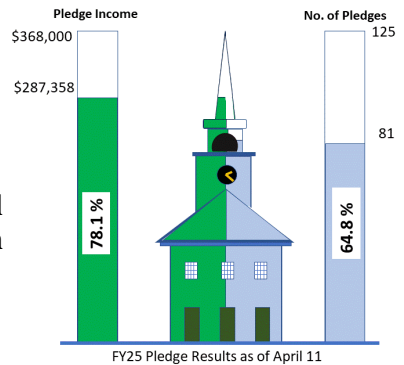
Some events are taking place virtually.

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.	Second Hour	
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop	
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday AM Adult Ed	
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir	
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class	
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir	
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Memorial Service	

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
 Sydney Conti
 Camille Davis
 Tyler & Gretchen Davis
 Russell & Sandra Demarest
 Eric Doberstein &
 Robin Clark
 Susan Deschenes &
 Fred Dyke
 Cynthia Dokmo
 Judi Dunbar
 Greg & Jennifer Eccleston
 Joan Egbertson
 Stephen Egbertson
 Matthew & Stephanie
 Emmons
 Matt & Laura Endres
 Judy Ferraro
 Alvin & Heidi Fortune
 Maureen Frescott
 Andre & Nancy Gagnon
 Edith Gambee*

*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
 Kate & Keith Thompson
 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*



Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race

485

1. Di - verse in cul - ture, na - tion, race, we
 2. God, let us be a bridge of care con -
 3. When cha - sms wid - en, storms a - rise, O
 4. God, let us be a ta - ble spread with

come to - geth - er by your grace. God, let us be a
 nect - ing peo - ple ev - 'ry - where. Help us con - front all
 Ho - ly Spir - it, make us wise. Let our re - solve, like
 gifts of love and bro - ken bread, where all find wel - come,

meet - ing ground where hope and heal - ing love are found.
 fear and hate and lust for pow'r that sep - a - rate.
 steel, be strong to stand with those who suf - fer wrong.
 grace at - tends, and en - e - mies a - rise as friends.

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1991
 MUSIC: Thomas Tallis, 1561

TALLIS' CANON
 LM

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Congregational Church of Amherst Fundraiser



Ecosmith Recyclers Inc. and Congregational Church are proud to partner in hosting a fundraising clothing and shoe drive.

Raise money to support your local church by donating new or used articles of clothing, pairs of shoes, and household textiles.



CLOTHING & SHOE DRIVE

WHAT TO DONATE

- Shirts
- Jeans
- Pants
- Shorts
- Sweaters
- Jackets
- Socks
- Dresses
- Skirts
- Bed linen
- Purses
- Backpacks
- Hats
- Scarves
- Belts
- Sneakers
- Sandals
- Dress Shoes
- Boots
- Towels

PLEASE BAG SHOES AND CLOTHING
SEPARATELY

WHEN

April 26th through May 10th

WHERE

Meeting Place Plaza

199 Route 101, Amherst, NH

CONTACT

Mark & Fran Baddeley

baddeley@comcast.net

All collected material is destined for export to less advantaged persons in developing nations around the world.

info@ecosmithrecyclers.com • 11 Byam Road, New Boston, NH 03070 • 603-647-1088