

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



*"When we die, God will not ask,
'How many good things have you done in your life?';
rather God will ask, 'How much love did you put into what you did?'"*

— Mother Teresa

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 28, 2024

Fifth 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

Amazing Grace
Bell Choir

arr. Sandra Eithun

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: We are God's household, crafted by the Architect of creation:

Many: our hearts a shelter for the outcast; our hands open to the stranger.

One: We are God's people, created in the divine image:

Many: to tell others of God's love, to offer mercy as freely as we have received it.

One: We are God's children, called to give of ourselves:

Many: called to serve the lost and lonely, gifted to minister to a hurting world.

One: We are followers of Christ, commissioned to serve in his name:

Many: let us rejoice and be glad in it!

*HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

No. 263

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

**Generous God, you gift us with this new day –
alive in your Creation, surrounded by your love.
We seek your continued presence in our lives,
that we might know your will for us.
Open us more fully to your live-giving love.
Take all of who we are and hope to be.
Build us into a strong spiritual community
that moves in the world with courage.
Inspire us to boldly proclaim and live the good news
of your unconditional love given for all.
Be with 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

**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

This is the Day the Lord Has Made
Chancel Choir

Mark Hayes

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 John 4:7-9, 12-13, 16-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

continued next page

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

SERMON "Visible Signs of an Invisible God"

*HYMN *Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?* next 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 *This is My Father's World* arr. Linda R. Lamb
Bell Choir

*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)

Gracious God, you open your hand in blessing and give us life. Signs of your love are all around us. Take these gifts we offer and use them to spread your blessings far and wide. Make us living symbols of your compassion for this world. However we are able, may we reach out in love and mercy to help bring your healing and light into this world. Amen.

*HYMN *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* No. 376

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

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

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29

1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
 5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
 We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
 I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
 Richard Gillard, 1977
 Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

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
 Paul Schellenberg

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
 Vicky Leknes

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

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.

LEVI SUNDAY IS MAY 5: Wear your work clothes to church and join us after worship for our annual spring cleaning day. We have our usual spring projects such as yard clean up, spreading mulch and sweeping/cleaning the parking lot. Bring your own tools for the jobs you want to tackle. Many hands make light work!

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.

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

Our Church Calendar

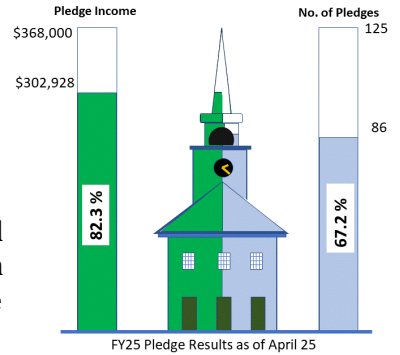
April 28—May 4, 2024

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
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
	7:00 p.m.	World Service
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday AM Adult Ed
	7:00 p.m.	New Member Info Session
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Kentucky Derby Party

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
Lee Bowley & Gail Miller
Jack & Patricia Buben
Tim & Kelly Cackett
Sydney Conti
Colleen Cushing
Camille Davis
Tyler & Gretchen Davis
Russell & Sandra Demarest
Eric Doberstein & Robin Clark
Susan Deschenes & Fred Dyke
Cynthia Dokmo
Judi Dunbar
Joan & William Dunn
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
Leona Hendrickson
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
Tedd & Carol Landon
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

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.

Milford Rotary 100 Holes of Golf Raffle Tickets



- 10 cash prizes range from \$500—\$5,000. Yes, you could win \$5,000!
- Ticket price is \$20, and \$10 comes straight back to the church.
- Drawing Friday, June 14, 2024 — you do not need to be in attendance to win.
- Bonus: each ticket comes with great local coupons, including Giorgios, Aroma Joes, and more.

Each year this event raises considerable funds that are distributed to local, regional and international community and non-profit organizations, and are used to provide \$30,000 in scholarships to area students.

To purchase tickets, follow this link:

<https://golf100holes.com/product/raffle-ticket?ref=59>

Judi Dunbar will also be selling tickets in the community room after worship.



Sunday, April 28, 2024