

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



"In the silence of the heart, God speaks."

—Mother Theresa

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."*

June 2, 2024

Confirmation 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

*Variations on "Hendon"
(Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated)*

César Malan/
David Lasky

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

adapted from Isaiah 6

One: Then I heard the voice of God say to me, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"

Many: And I said to the God of hosts, "Here I am, send me!"

One: God calls us to love our neighbor when it is easy and difficult,

Many: Here I am, send me!

One: God calls us to stand up for the vulnerable and the oppressed,

Many: Here I am, send me!

One: God calls us to worship together,

Many: Here we are, to worship you!

*HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

No. 281

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

**Loving God,
From the beginning of time, you have sought us,
You create life and sing songs of joy over that creation,
We ask that this morning you will sing over our hearts as we worship,
Beckon us deeper into relationship with you,
Speak to our souls with the gentle whisper of your holy spirit
And in Christ, inspire us, as we pray the words that 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**

**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.**

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

INVITATION

Confirmand

Eric Davis

James Riley

Sophia Stone

Stella Theriault

Mentor

Obadiah Dart

Steve Boczenowski

Dave Hagerstrom

Deb Boczenowski

QUESTIONS OF COMMITMENT

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (compiled from the reflections of the confirmands)**

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, and to that we testify:

God worked through time and with ingenuity creating the world and everyone in it, motivated
by the desire to love that creation unconditionally.

Out of that great love and desire to connect with us, God sent Jesus, our teacher and friend.
A man whose life and ministry were divinely inspired and created a movement of love that
lasted millenia.

That movement is continued by the work of the Holy Spirit.

The dwelling of God that is with us and is different for all of us.

Our guide who inspires feelings of resonance and dissonance to prompt us on the path of faith.

Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the church was brought forth into the world.

Continued next page.

God's church was entrusted to us to become a place where all are welcome, where all can meditate on belief and where all can discover who they are in the safety of community. We are a diverse community who are drawn together under the gospel of Jesus which asks us to simply center our lives on love.

In the family of God's church, we are called to be learners who take what we learn and use it as tools to make the world a better, more just place. God asks us to harness the goodness that we are born with and let it multiply. And as we walk our journeys of life, God promises to walk with us, to be a constant presence of peace and love, who will hold us, empower us, and forgive us out of God's infinite love for us all.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be to God forever,
Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT AND WELCOME (in unison)

We welcome you with joy in the common mission and life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as together we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of Jesus' ministry in the world.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION and THANKSGIVING

GREETING AND PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

We Walk by Faith
Chancel Choir

Lloyd Larson

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Samuel 3:1-10; 19-21

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and

if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.' " So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord. The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.

SERMON

"The Voice of God"

*HYMN

Here I Am, Lord

No. 525

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

Consecrate My Life to Thee, O Lord

John B. Dykes/
Mark Roberts

*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)

Still Speaking God, as your children, we listen for your call, and we seek to be a blessing in your world. And so, we ask that you will receive all that we offer you, our resources, our time, and our talent, as an act of worship and faith. Please take what we have, multiply it, and use it, and continue to lead us step by step on our faith journeys. Amen.

*HYMN

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

back pages 10 and 11

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Go Therefore

Robert F. Smith

*(*Please rise 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
Sally Hooper
Roger Hooper, John Swanson
Patricia Bodan

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

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
Sue Werst
Dave Hagerstrom
Gretchen Davis

Church School Coordinator, Teacher Grades 1 to 4
Teacher, Preschool /Kindergarten
Teacher, Grades 5 to 7
Nursery Attendant

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are from the wedding of Kara Doberstein and Lawrence Spector, who were married Saturday in our sanctuary.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL: Join us after the Children's Sunday worship on June 9 for our annual ice cream social, when we'll celebrate the end of the church school year.

JULY 4 HELP WANTED: The Fellowship Team is looking for volunteers to donate unfrosted cookies, 2 per baggie. We especially need volunteers on July 4, 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. to pass out cookies and brochures on the village green during the town activities. Please email Carol Landon at carollandon@gmail.com for more information or to sign up to help.

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.

Financial Summary

(as of April 30, 2024)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$381,109	\$374,058	\$ 7,051
Expenses	\$366,603	\$381,154	\$(14,552)
Net Income	\$ 14,506	\$ (7,097)	\$ 21,603

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

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>

Our Church Calendar

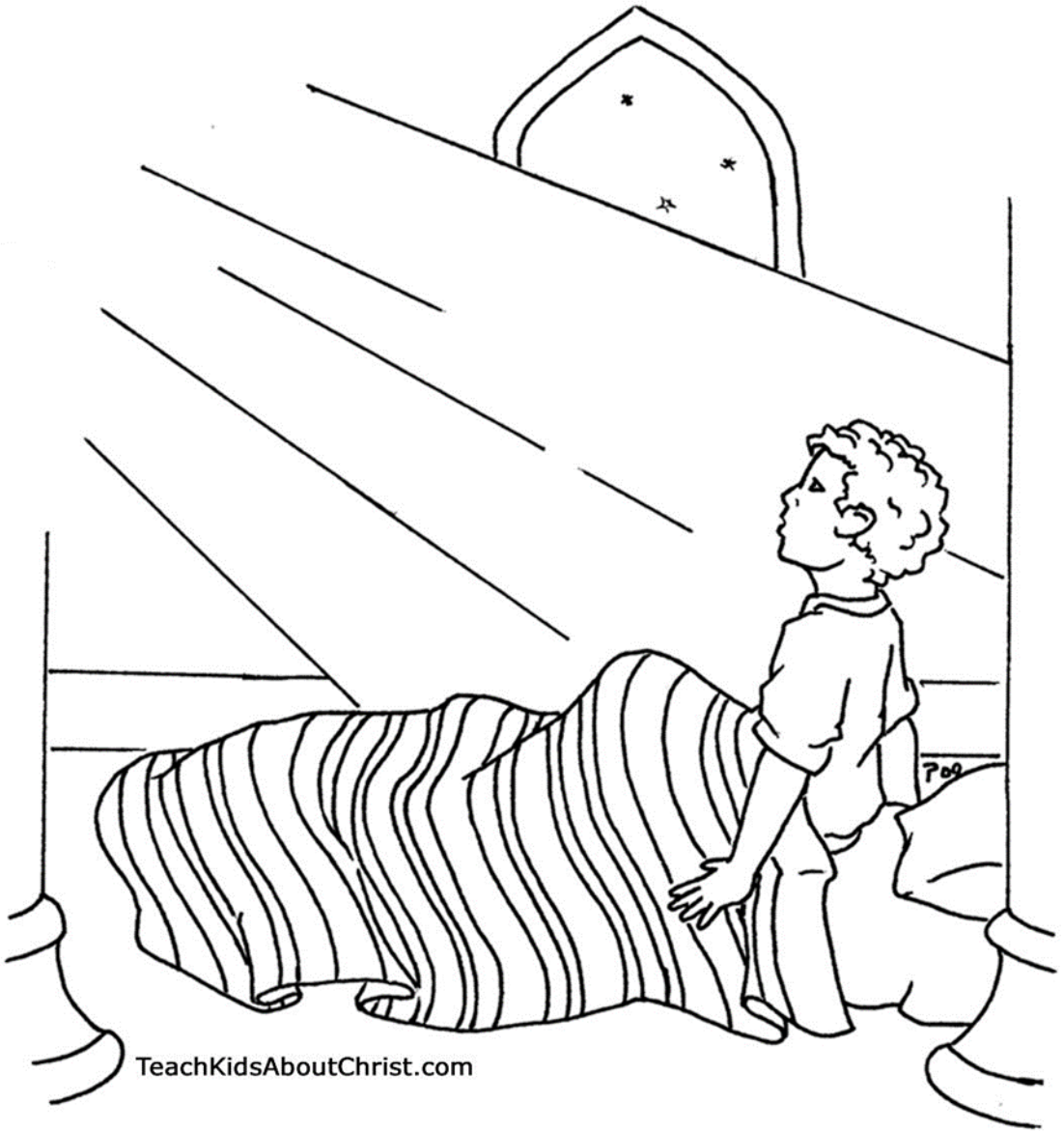
June 2—8, 2024

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
	1:00 p.m.	Racial Justice Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
	7:00 p.m.	World Service Team
Tuesday	4:30 p.m.	Church Council
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

Samuel Hears God



TeachKidsAboutChrist.com

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

John Ylvisaker, 1985; alt

Unison

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
 2 When you found the won - der of the Word, I was
 3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too
 4 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you
 there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you

were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.
 liv - ing God, to whom you now be - long.
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold. *St. 4, end*

I was there when you were but a child, with a
 Should you find some-one to share your time and you
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you

John Ylvisaker is the composer of a number of collections of music in the "contemporary" or "folk" idiom, as well as soundtracks for various media productions. This is perhaps his best-known song.

Tune: BORNING CRY 9.7.9.6.D.
John Ylvisaker, 1985

CONFIRMATION

The musical score is written for a voice and guitar. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal staff in treble clef and a bass staff in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The first system of music includes the following lyrics and chords:

Chords: Am, D, G, G/B, C

Vocal line: faith to suit you well; I'll be there in case you
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

The second system of music continues the vocal and bass lines. The chords are G, A7, and D, followed by the instruction "to beginning".

Chords: G, A7, D to beginning

Vocal line: wan - der off and find where de - mons dwell.
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

Sunday, June 2, 2024