

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



*"Let this be a season for wandering
for trusting the breaking
for tracing the tear that will return you
to the One who waits
who watches
who works within the rending
to make your heart whole."*

- Jan L. Richardson

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 9, 2025

First Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m.

Woman's Association Sunday

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Choral and Fuga from Sonata VI, Op. 65, No. 6

Felix Mendelssohn

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP and PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: Jesus began his ministry to the world,
led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

**Many: As we enter the season of Lent,
let us be led by the Spirit.**

One: In those forty days where his fortitude was tested,
Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and desire.

**Many: Let us be led by the Spirit,
as we face our own hungers, doubts, and desires.**

One: Jesus left the wilderness, trusting in you, O God,
led by the Spirit into the world.

**Many: Let us be led by the Spirit
as we follow Jesus, trusting in you, O God,
knowing you are with us, always!**

*HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

No. 281

LENTEN LITANY OF CONFESSION (inspired by Psalm 51)

The congregation may be seated.

One: On this first Sunday of Lent
we pause and look within
to examine our hearts.

**Many: Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

One: Where we have neglected prayer,
found reasons to avoid generosity,
or lacked compassion:

**Many: Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

One: Where we have colluded
in the oppression of those
who become invisible in their suffering:

**Many: Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

One: Where anxiety has eroded the gift of your peace,
and where we have cared too much
about what others think:

**Many: Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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.

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANTHEM

Ave Verum
Chancel Choir

W. A. Mozart

Hail, true body born of the Virgin Mary,
Who truly suffered, sacrificed on the Cross for man,
Whose pierced side overflowed with water and blood,
Be for us a foretaste in the test of death.

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

SERMON

"An Opportune Time"

***HYMN**

When Peace, Like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)
verses 1, 2 and 4 only

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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

Sally Bowkett

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Teach Us How to Pray

James Southbridge

***DOXOLOGY (Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH, No. 592)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Holy one, receive these offerings for the work and being of your church. In this season we also dedicate to you our Lenten commitments. May they be openings and opportunities for us to experience anew the rich reality you have in mind for our lives. May we seek to recreate the world by recreating ourselves. Amen.

*HYMN

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

No. 81

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Postlude on "The Glory of These Forty Days"

Matthew McConnell

*(*Please rise 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
 Rev. Charlotte E. Y. Bell
 Shellie Brook
 Sara L. Phelps
 Michael Havay
 Roger Hooper
 John Swanson, Doug Topliffe
 Avis Moller, Adrienne Topliffe
 Kay Steeves
 Tim Wiegand

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

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
 Sue Werst
 Larissa Riley
 Dave Hagerstrom
 Deb Boczenowski, Sheryl Gottwald
 Melissa Lewis

Director of Youth Ministries
 Teacher, Preschool /Kindergarten
 Teacher, Grades 1 to 4
 Teacher, Grades 5 to 7
 Assistant Teachers
 Nursery Attendant

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given by the Woman's Association in honor of WA Sunday, as we celebrate 160 years of the Association in the life of our church, and remember all those members who have come before us.

GOOD STUFF SALE DONATIONS: This year's Woman's Association's "Good Stuff Sale" will be held on May 2 and 3. It's not too early to look around your home for things you might want to donate to this fundraiser to support the church and community organizations. The sale includes clothing and accessories, jewelry, household items, toys and much more.

Questions? Contact Sally Bowkett, sbb46@hotmail.com or 603-673-7409, or Alicia Wight, wightalicia@gmail.com or 603-345-0155.

Financial Summary

(as of February 28, 2025)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$330,400	\$318,794	\$11,606
Expenses	\$318,976	\$316,999	\$ 1,977
Net Income	\$ 11,424	\$ 1,795	\$ 9,629

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), Paul Spiess, Doug Topliffe, and Todd Whitney.

THE LENTEN SUPPER SERIES, *Questions Jesus Asked*, begins this coming Wednesday, March 12, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Join us on six Wednesday evenings during Lent as we gather for a simple supper of soup and bread and explore six questions that Jesus asked in our Gospels that reflect the joys and challenges of being human. We'll gather in the second floor parlor for soup and then watch a short video before engaging in an informal discussion facilitated by Pastor Maureen. Those who can't be present in person are welcome to Zoom in for the video and discussion, and for supper as well if you'd like to eat with us from afar! Email pastormaureen@ccamherst.org to RSVP or to receive the Zoom link.

144 ENVELOPES FUNDRAISER CONTINUES: Our Senior Youth Group's *144 Envelopes Fundraiser*, to help pay for the 2025 Hurricane Helene Relief Mission Trip, is now underway. After worship, be sure to visit the bulletin board in the Community Room to learn more about the trip and check out the numbered envelopes decorated by the teens. It's easy to support the trip: just choose an envelope from 1 to 144 and make a donation in the amount equal to the number you chose. If you only have \$5 to give, or your child wants to donate \$1, that's great! We need every envelope to be selected in order to reach our goal of \$10,000. We are grateful for every dollar given.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for March include canned fruit, flour, sugar, coffee and tea, juice, instant rice, cold cereal, instant oatmeal packets, individually wrapped snacks. Donations should be brought directly to the SHARE Center in Milford; if you are unsure where, please call their office at 673-9898. Many thanks for your continuing support!

CCA Celebrates Pastor Charlotte!

All Congregational Church of Amherst
Members and Friends are invited to join us on
Sunday, March 23 at 3:00 p.m.
for the Installation of
The Rev. Charlotte E.Y. Bell
as our settled Associate Pastor!

A celebration of the Hillsborough Association
and the New Hampshire Conference of
the United Church of Christ

The Rev. Dr. Mary Luti, Guest Preacher
Our Chancel Choir will sing as well!

A reception will follow in our Community Room

Our Church Calendar

March 9—15, 2025

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
	11:15 a.m.	Racial Justice
	6:00 p.m.	Senior Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	WA Board
	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Budget & Finance Team
	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Supper Series
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Congregational Care
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Alternative Worship

THE WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

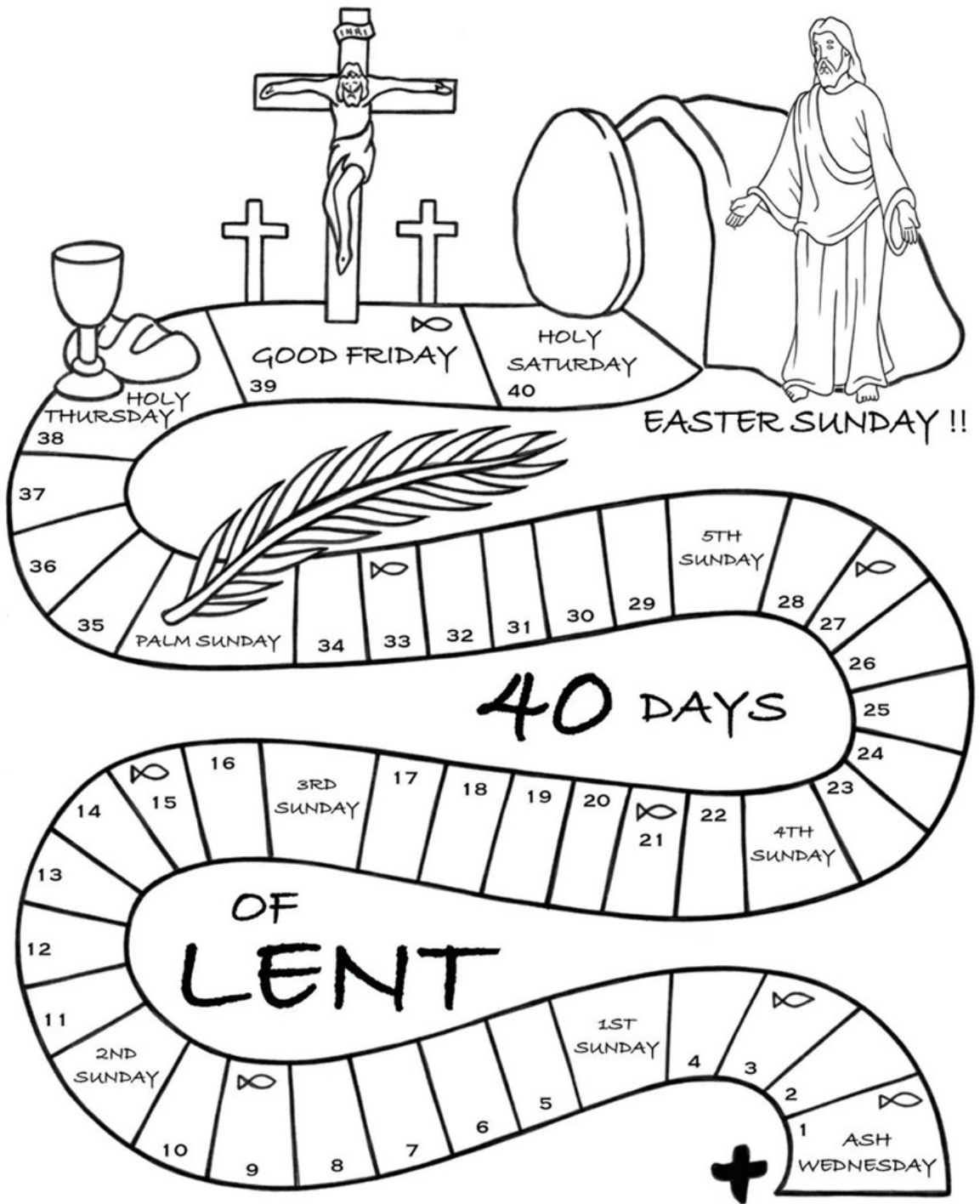
"For it is in giving, that we receive."

—Francis of Assisi

The Woman's Association has been a part of the church and community since 1865. The Good Stuff rummage sales and the Holiday Fair have been the sources of income for our merry band of women for decades. You, the congregation, have played an important role helping us reach our goals by generously sharing your time, talent, treasures, and rummage, helping us make the following monetary contributions over the past year:

CCA Annual Pledge	\$13,000
Senior Youth Group Mission Trip	\$1,000
CCA Kitchen Supplies	\$100
CCA Choir Sheet Music	\$100
SHARE	\$500
Bridges Domestic & Sexual Violence	\$300
Pass Along Project	\$500
Souhegan Valley Transport (Blue Bus)	\$300
New Hampshire Food Bank	\$300
American Red Cross Hurricane Relief	\$500
Home, Health & Hospice	\$100
Nashua Center	\$100
UCC California Wildfire Appeal	\$250
Holiday Toy Store	\$300
Meals on Wheels	\$250
Grand Total	\$17,600

In addition, we give the full-time staff and the custodians a monetary gift at Christmas.



Sunday, March 9, 2025

*Saturday March 15
5pm*

Congregational Church of Amherst UCC

Join us for a night of JOY including:
kazoo's, tambourines, maracas, bubbles,
painting a canvas of joy,
pancakes in the community room
following the service. Wearing bright
colors encouraged!!