

The Congregational Church of Amherst, NH  
United Church of Christ



*An Altar  
in the World*

The Practice of...

*Paying Attention*

Encountering Others

**Carrying Water**

*Wearing Skin*

**Living with Purpose**

*Being Present*

*Getting Lost*

*Walking on the Earth*

*Feeling Pain*

*Saying No*

# 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 16, 2025

An Altar in the World

10:00 a.m.

## *The Practice of Being Present to God*

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

*O Thou in Whose Presence My Soul Takes Delight*

Gilbert Martin

INTROIT

\*GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

One: It is in this place of discovery  
that we come searching.

**Many: We come to this sanctuary, to find  
the One who has been searching for us.**

One: It is in this place of welcome  
that we come knocking.

**Many: We come to this sanctuary, to be embraced  
by the One whose heart is always open.**

One: It is in this place of peace  
that we come longing.

**Many: We come to this sanctuary, to hear Good News  
from the One who calms the storm.**

One: Always present God, it is in this place of worship  
that we come to speak to you and listen for your response.

**Many: We come before you now, O God, with our prayers –  
of gratitude, remorse, yearning, and praise –  
in word and song!**

\*HYMN

*O Grant Us, God, a Little Space*

page 11

LENTEN LITANY OF CONFESSION

*The congregation may be seated.*

One: Reconciling God,

**Many: Creator of all.**

One: In this Lenten season, we look deeply into our hearts,

**Many: To better understand the ways we fall short of your call.**

One: We admit that we too often focus on our own needs  
rather than on the well-being of all your children.

**Many: We're quick to judge others and name their failings  
but often struggle to see our own shortcomings.**

One: We dehumanize those we don't understand,  
making it easier to dismiss them.

**Many: We distance ourselves from those who disappoint us  
or remind us of our own frailty.**

One: Forgive us, O God, lift us to a higher, holier purpose.

**Many: Help us to draw as close to each other as you drew to us in Christ.**

**All: Our God is a forgiving God  
and offers us mercy and healing, today and always!**

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANTHEM

*To Sing Once More*  
Chancel Choir

Craig Courtney

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE LESSONS and REFLECTIONS

**"Help!"**

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?  
My help comes from God, who made heaven and earth.

**“Wow!”**

Psalm 118

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is God’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**“Whoops!”**

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, wash me thoroughly from my iniquity.  
Create in me a clean heart, and put a new and right spirit within me.

**“Thanks!”**

Psalm 28

God is my strength and my shield; in God my heart trusts,  
and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS and PRAYERS

*All are invited to come forward and place their offerings and prayer cards in the plates.*

LENTEN PRAYER STATIONS

*All are invited to visit the prayer stations set up around the sanctuary.*

*Those who wish to remain seated may write their prayers in the Lenten Journal in the bulletin.*

- Help!        What worry or weight are you seeking to set down?  
                 Say a prayer and place a stone in the burden bowl.
- Wow!        What takes your breath away or brings you joy?  
                 Add your artful color to our canvas.
- Whoops!    Where are you seeking forgiveness?  
                 Write it on dissolving paper, place it in water, and stir.
- Thanks!     What are you thankful for?  
                 Light a candle of gratitude.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

*All the Way My Savior Leads Me*

Robert Lowry/  
James Southbridge

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Contemporary Language Version

**Holy One, you made the earth, sky, and sea.**

**You made the universe and all that's in it.**

**You are truly amazing.**

**Help us to look after our world,  
teach us to be kind and merciful to others,  
and inspire us to live into your image,  
in which we are created.**

**Through us, provide food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless,  
companions for the lonely and healing for those who seek it.**

**Grant us the courage to admit when we have hurt others,  
and the mercy to not hold grudges when others have hurt us.**

**Help us to do what is right and just,  
and not to be led into things that are harmful or hateful.**

**With your help, all things are possible, O God,  
today, tomorrow, and forever.**

**Amen.**

\*HYMN

*Just as I Am, Without One Plea*

No. 370

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

One: People of God, may we carry our prayerful hearts into the world.

**Many: To offer good news to all who long to hear it.**

One: In the midst of a brokenness and division,

**Many: We proclaim the God of Healing.**

One: In the midst of despair and sorrow,

**Many: We proclaim the God of Hope.**

One: In the midst of unkindness and apathy,

**Many: We proclaim the God of Love and Compassion.**

**All: We go now, as servants in Christ,  
as God's living response to all our prayers. Amen!**

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE

*Aperto (Open)*

Lynn Trapp

*(\*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](mailto: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](http://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  
 Russ Demarest, Sue Ruggiero  
 Joan and Stephen Egbertson  
 Andrea Cyr

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

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## LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley  
 Kelly Isaacs  
 Larissa Riley  
 Dave Hagerstrom  
 Matt Emmons  
 Melissa Lewis

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

**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.

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

### Financial Summary

(as of February 28, 2025)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <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***, continues on Wednesday, March 19, 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](mailto: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 16—22, 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
	11:30 a.m.	Christian Ed
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Caregivers Circle
	7:00 p.m.	Communications
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Supper Series
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir





**One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.

Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.

Please consider giving to One Great Hour of Sharing. There are several ways to donate:

- 1) One Great Hour of Sharing envelopes are in the pews for your convenience mid-March. Our OGHS Sunday will be celebrated on March 30<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) **Donate Online** through our church website, select the 'Missions' offering and type OGHS in the memo box)
- 3) Send a check to the office; make your check payable to *The Congregational Church of Amherst*, with *OGHS* on the memo line of your check.

***THANK YOU!***

# Teach Me To Pray



Dear Lord, you are awesome! \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for \_\_\_\_\_

I'm sorry for \_\_\_\_\_

Help me \_\_\_\_\_

Help \_\_\_\_\_

*Sunday, March 16, 2025*



*Saying psalms in the morning  
is a good way to head into the day more prayerfully.  
So is going to church, where I can add my voice  
to those of a whole congregation aiming to woo  
God's ears with their ancient, beautiful cadences.  
Still, prayer is more than saying set prayers at set times.  
Prayer is waking up to the presence of God  
no matter where I am or what I am doing.  
When I am fully alert  
to whatever or whoever is right in front of me;  
when I am electrically aware  
of the tremendous gift of being alive;  
when I am able to give myself  
wholly to the moment I am in,  
then I am in prayer.*

— Barbara Brown Taylor

