

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



*“Did I offer peace today?
Did I bring a smile to someone's face?
Did I say words of healing?
Did I let go of my anger and resentment?
Did I forgive?
Did I love?
These are the real questions
to ask of yourself, every day.”*

— Henri Nouwen

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 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

Prayer (Be Still My Soul)
Bell Choir

Eric Whitehill

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: People of God, what do we seek
as we gather to worship?

Many: **Love that is unconditional.
Hope that carries us forward.
Reconciliation that leads to healing.**

One: In this season of Lent,
we remember what carried Jesus to the cross:

Many: **Anger, betrayal, and fear.
But also trust in God, love for humanity,
and the promise of new life.**

One: In this season of Lent, as we make our way to the cross,
we strive to follow Jesus' example:

Many: **Accepting that anger, betrayal and fear are part of life.
Embracing trust in God, love for humanity,
and the promise of a new life.**

All: **Let us continue our Lenten journey,
and let us worship God!**

LENTEN LITANY OF CONFESSION and WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The congregation may be seated.

One: Still Speaking God, your story stretches from age to age,
and you call us to be a part of it.

**All: But we have forgotten your ways, O God,
as the book that tells your story gathers dust on the shelf.**

One: Still you speak, O God, bringing life and love into being.

**All: But so often we're consumed with our own story,
taking center stage with our own needs, worries, and fears.**

One: Forgive us, O God, for we have not sought your word as a light to our path.

All: Forgive us, O God, for we have assumed your word was captive on an ancient page.

One: Forgive us, O God, for we have relied on our own way, rather than on your wisdom.

All: Forgive us, O God, and guide us as we return to you.

One: People of God, hear this good news.

God's covenant with us is true.

God is faithful even when we fall short.

All: God gives us the gift of grace and mercy.

We believe in the good news!

Thanks be to God, and Amen!

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

Lord, Here Am I
Chancel Choir

John Ness Beck

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

SERMON

“Ambassadors for Christ”

*HYMN

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

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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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT and OFFERING INVITATION

Maude Lemaire and Avery Morin

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Chorale Prelude on “St. Peter”
(In Christ There is No East or West)*

Gordon Young

*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)

Creating God, you call us to join in your work of love in the world, and you equip us with all we need to follow your lead. Make us as generous of hand, heart, and mind, as you are. As we return to you a portion of your gifts, we pray you receive them as a sign of our gratitude for your unending love. Guide us as we offer our whole selves in your service. Amen.

*HYMN

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

pages 10 and 11

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Go Forth for God

Robert J. Powell

*(*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

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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 April 22 and 23.** New members will be formally received on Sunday, May 4. 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
 Sara L. Phelps
 Michael Havay
 Roger Hooper
 Sue Ruggiero, Doug Topliffe
 Reid Cunningham
 Fran Baddeley, Christie Gould
 Andrea Cyr

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

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
 Sue Werst
 Larissa Riley
 Dave Hagerstrom
 Melissa Lewis

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

Rev. Charlotte E. Y. Bell
 Shellie Brook

Associate Pastor
 Student Pastor

DEACON'S FRIENDSHIP BASKETS: This morning our Deacons will be passing our Friendship baskets. This collection will support community outreach through Easter grocery gift cards provided to local families in need. Thank you very much for your generosity!

ANNUAL REPORTS are due to Andrea in the church office by April 15.

COOKIE WALK: The Senior Youth Group will be holding a Cookie Walk Fundraiser in the vestry after worship on April 13! Purchase a box for \$5 and fill it with your favorite cookies from our cookie buffet. Proceeds support the 2025 Mission Trip.

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, April 2, 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.

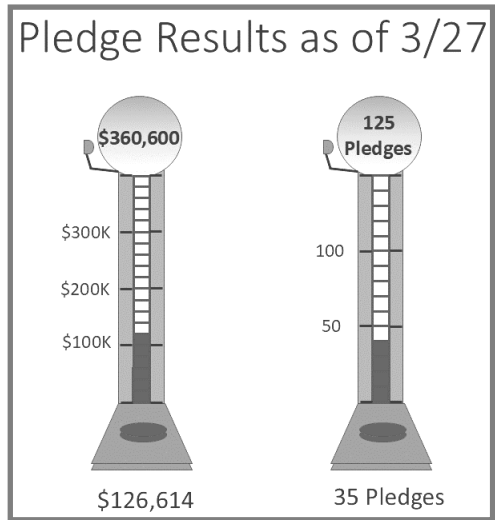
DID YOU KNOW: March is the start of New Hampshire's Pow Wow season. A Pow Wow is a cultural event where Native Americans from various tribes gather to celebrate their heritage through traditional drumming, dancing, singing, and feasting, often including vendors selling handmade crafts. People of all cultures are welcome at most Pow Wow's. The next local Pow Wow is on April 12, Sugar Run Powwow, Winnisquam High School, 435 West Main Street, Tilton, NH lihaofnh.net.

For more info about NH Pow Wow's see <https://calendars.powwow.com>.

From the Racial Justice Group

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.



Our Church Calendar

March 30—April 5, 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
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
	7:00 p.m.	World Service
Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	4:30 p.m.	Church Council
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees of the Facility
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Supper Series
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class

Sunday, March 30, 2025



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 30th.
- 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!