

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



*“You shall take the fruit of majestic trees, branches of palm trees,
boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook;
and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God.”*

- Leviticus 23:40

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 13, 2025

Palm/Passion 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

Ellacombe (Hosanna, Loud Hosanna)

J. Wayne Kerr

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: We gather together...

Many: Waving palms of joy, waving branches of peace.

One: Eager to see Jesus, anxious for his healing touch, hoping to receive a blessing,
we gather together...

Many: Waving palms of joy, waving branches of peace.

One: Longing for a savior, longing for justice, longing to belong,
we gather together...

Many: Waving palms of joy, waving branches of peace.

One: Readying ourselves for what is to come:

Many: the night of anguish, the hours of darkness, the hope of dawn.

One: We gather together.

Many: Waving palms of joy, waving branches of peace, walking towards Easter.

*HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

No. 88

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

**With great joy we welcome you, O God,
through Jesus' triumphant entry,
singing "Hosanna!" and waving palms.
You come into our lives, offering us hope and mercy.
You urge us to seek wisdom and healing.
You patiently encourage us to grow and to serve.
Open our hearts this day to the meaning of your words,
and the power of your story, as told in the Gospels.
Today we sing: "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord."
Fill us with the spirit of worship as we pray:**

**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 ALL AGES

ANTHEM

The Palms
Chancel Choir

Jean-Baptiste Faure

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS AND PRAYER CARDS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Saw Ye My Savior?

Ellen Jane Lorenz

*DOXOLOGY (*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*, TUNE: ELLACOMBE)

**Hosanna in the highest! That ancient song is ours.
We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers:
Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.
Hosanna! In your presence forever we'll rejoice!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

**Generous God, take this offering that we give today, and let it be a prayer of hope. Hope that
the world can change, that what is wrong can be made right, that resurrection is just around
the corner. Take this offering and use it to fulfill not our will, but yours. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and PASTORAL PRAYER

ORGAN RESPONSE

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO THE GOSPELS

SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Passover Meal

Matthew 26:20-25

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.' And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, 'Surely not I, Lord?' He answered, 'The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.' Judas, who betrayed him, said, 'Surely not I, Rabbi?' He replied, 'You have said so.'

SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Flock will Scatter

Mark 27:27-31

Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Cantabile Sacra 51
("He was despised and rejected of men")

Paul F. Page
(paulpage.org)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Praying in the Garden

Luke 22:39-42, 45-46

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.' Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.' When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, 'Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.'

SCRIPTURE

Judas Betrays Jesus

Mark 15:43-50

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." All of them deserted him and fled.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Peter Denies Jesus

Matthew 26:57, 69-75

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, 'You also were with Jesus the Galilean.' But he denied it before all of them, saying, 'I do not know what you are talking about.' When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, 'This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.' Again he denied it with an oath, 'I do not know the man.' After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, 'Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.' Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, 'I do not know the man!' At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: 'Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Holy One, our Creator and our Redeemer,

**Many: When Jesus asks us
to love our neighbors,
to forgive our persecutors,
to welcome strangers,
to protect children,
to turn over tables of injustice,
we deny that we know him, and walk away.**

One: In so many ways, on so many days,

Many: we are closer to Judas and Peter than we are to Jesus.

One: When we are stressed, we try to take control.

Many: When we are afraid, we try to fight or hide.

One: When it's time to trust you, we find good reasons to betray you.

Many: When it's time to follow you, we find good reasons to deny you.

Many: Forgive us, O God, and give us courage and hope. Remind us that just like you loved Judas and Peter, you love us, even with our failings. Strengthen us as we walk with you to the cross, through the night, and into the dawning resurrection that you promise us. In the light we are forgiven. Amen.

ORGAN RESPONSE

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.'

Then they all shouted out together, 'Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!' (This was a man who had been put in prison for insurrection and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, 'Crucify, crucify him!' A third time he said to them, 'Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death.' But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released Barabbas and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

SCRIPTURE

Jesus Crucified

Luke 23:33-35, 44-47

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!'

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent.'

TOLLING OF THE BELL

CARRYING CHRIST INTO HOLY WEEK

*HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This

No. 85

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ciacona in E minor, BuxWV 160

Dietrich Buxtehude

(*Please rise in body or spirit.)

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obtained from One License with license #A-731944.*

*Cantabile Sacra 51, and Cantabile Sacra 93,
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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
 Rev. Charlotte E. Y. Bell
 Shellie Brook
 Sara L. Phelps
 Michael Havay
 Steve Boczenowski
 Kathleen Bouchard, Sue Ruggiero
 Hannah Grace Brook, Reid Cunningham
 Eric Davis, Pheobe Handwerk, Ella Normandin, Stella Theriault
 Andrea Cyr

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

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
 Kelly Isaacs
 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

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

LEVI SUNDAY IS APRIL 27: Save the date for our annual spring cleaning Sunday. Come dressed to worship in your work clothes and after the service we'll head outside to tackle a number of annual spring tasks. Many hands make light work; we hope you will join us.

KENTUCKY DERBY SOCIAL: Wear your favorite derby hat/attire and join us on May 3 for this fun annual event hosted by Sue and 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: m_getler@hotmail.com.

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

Financial Summary (as of March 31, 2025)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$377,337	\$364,799	\$12,537
Expenses	\$357,022	\$353,061	\$ 3,962
Net Income	\$ 20,314	\$ 11,739	\$ 8,576

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*, concludes on Wednesday, April 16, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Join us 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.

NEW MEMBER INFO SESSIONS: Are you NEW (or not-so-new) to our church and interested in learning more about our congregation? Are you interested in learning more about becoming a member? Do you want to know more about the United Church of Christ? If so, please join us for one of our INFO SESSIONS on either Tuesday, April 22 or Wednesday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m. to learn more about all of the above! The sessions will be held on ZOOM to make it easier for all to attend.

For those who've already joined our mailing list and/or inquired about becoming a member, you'll be hearing from us soon! If you've joined us for our in-person or online worship over the last year and are interested in attending one of our info sessions, please reach out to Andrea in our church office at andrea@ccamherst.org or contact Pastor Maureen at pastormaureen@ccamherst.org.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for April include condiments, cooking sauces and seasonings, cooking oil, pasta sauce, tomato sauce, tomato paste, diced tomatoes. 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!

DID YOU KNOW: Dorothy Lee Bolden founded the National Domestic Workers Union of America (NDWUA) in 1968, organizing workers who had long been excluded from labor protections. Ms. Bolden followed in her mother's footsteps and became a housekeeper at 9 years of age, which she continued for 49 more years. She understood the multiple roles domestic workers played stating that, "A domestic worker is a counselor, a doctor, a nurse. She cares about the family she works for as she cares about her own." With this experience and understanding, as well as innovative organizing strategies, Ms. Bolden developed a model for empowering and protecting marginalized workers. From 28 Days of Black History, shared by CCA Racial Justice Group.

Our Church Calendar

April 13—19, 2025

Some events are taking place virtually.

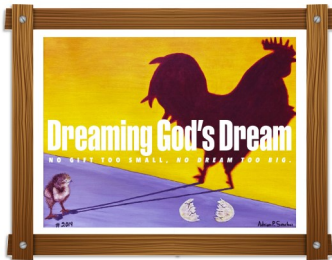
Links are sent out directly by email, and a list of recurring meetings with their links can be found in the member section of our website.

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:15 a.m.	Youth Choir
	11:15 a.m.	Racial Justice Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Caregivers Circle
	6:30 p.m.	Diaconate
	7:00 p.m.	Communications
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Supper Series
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service
Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Palms and Peeps Service



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Updated Results of Our Faith Promise Stewardship Campaign



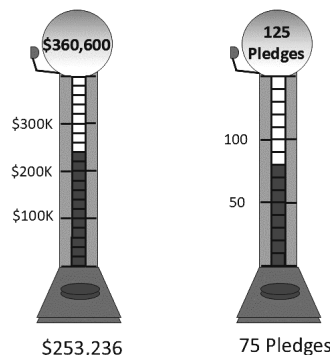
Our 2025-2026 fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is underway. Thank you to all that have responded so far. To those who are still considering your pledge, you can email your intents to Andrea at andrea@ccamherst.org, mail in your pledge intentions, call Andrea (673-3231) or go to the church website <https://www.ccamherst.org/stewardship-pledge/>.

*Kate Ackerman
Patricia Ansdell
Shayna Appel
Mark & Fran Baddeley
Ken & Charlotte Bell
Steve & Deb Boczenowski
Jessica Bortolotto
Kathleen Bouchard &
Christie Gould
Sally Bowkett
Jeff & Patti Brown
Jack & Patricia Buben
Tim & Kelly Cackett
Sydney Conti
Wayne & Audrey Crowell
Colleen Cushing
Eric Davis
Tyler & Gretchen Davis
Cynthia Dokmo
Judi Dunbar
Greg & Jennifer Eccleston
Joan Egbertson
Stephen Egbertson
Judy Ferraro
Alvin & Heidi Fortune
Maureen Frescott
Andre & Nancy Gagnon
Edith Gambee
Sheryl Gottwald
Leona Hendrickson
Scott & Sally Hewett*

*Roger & Sally Hooper
Jana Howe
Kelly & Stephen Isaacs
Patty Jillson
Bruce & Regina Kinney
Romi Krosch
Peter & Irene Labombarde
Tedd & Carol Landon
Linda Lannin
Arthur & Victoria Leknes
Elizabeth Levesque
Donald & Carol Lyon
Elizabeth MacMillan &
Hamilton Stewart
Bruce & Susan Manchester
Howell Mitchell
Avis Moller
Mary Moore
Avery & Maude Morin
Jeanne Neverisky
Dan & Samantha Pawlowski
Judy Peterson
David & Sara Phelps
David & Joan Poltack
Nancy & Daniel Protzmann
Travis & Larissa Riley
Robert Rowe
Sue Ruggiero
Carol St. Jean
Vic & Carolin Sanchez
Paul & Maggie Schellenberg*

*Beth Secor
Kathy Skoglund
Paul & Susan Spiess
Richard & Kathleen Steeves
Sean & Ann Stevenson
Richard & Susan Stout
John & Anita Swanson
Kate & Keith Thompson
Holly Tonnesen
Jean Tonnesen
Douglas & Adrienne Topliffe
Sally & Michael Varanka
Todd & Jennifer Whitney
Tim & Gail Wiegand
Jodi Woroski & Gwenael Busnel*

Pledge Results as of 4/10



Sunday, April 13, 2025

Holy Week Services



Palm/Passion Sunday

April 13 - 10:00 a.m.

We begin with the traditional waving of the palms and end with a presentation of the Passion story.

Maundy Thursday

April 17 - 7:00 p.m.

A prayerful reflective service with Communion and Tenebrae – a commemoration of Jesus' last night with his disciples.

Holy Saturday – Palms and Peeps

April 19 - 5:00 p.m.

Moving from darkness to light –
from inside to outside –
celebrate the resurrection to come
with a burning of palms and peeps!

Easter Sunday

April 20

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service on the Amherst village green.

Celebrate the Resurrection at daybreak
followed by coffee and donuts on the green.

10:00 a.m. Easter celebration service in our sanctuary
with our Chancel and Bell Choirs.

Join us as we praise God with a joyful noise!