

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



*"If you want to go quickly, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together."*

—African proverb

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."*

May 4, 2025

Third Sunday of Easter

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

Thine Be the Glory

G.F. Handel/Lani Smith

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: We are God's household, crafted by the Architect of Creation:

Many: our hearts a shelter for the outcast; our hands open to the stranger.

One: We are God's people, created in the divine image:

Many: to tell others of God's love, to offer mercy as freely as we have received it.

One: We are God's children, called to give of ourselves:

Many: chosen to serve the lost and lonely, gifted to minister to a hurting world.

One: We are followers of Christ, commissioned to serve in his name:

**Many: We are an Easter people, believing that through us,
God makes all things new!**

*HYMN

Christ Is Alive!

No. 108

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

**Wondrous God,
you are present with us when we do not know it,
you value us when we do not value ourselves,
you plant in us the seed of your word,
even when the soil of our hearts is unyielding.
Open our eyes to recognizing you all around us.
May we sense your presence next to us.
May we hear your voice above all others.
May we see you in our neighbor and the stranger,
and in the beauty all around us.
May your love emerge deep within each of us,
transforming our hearts and minds.
We pray in the name of the Risen Jesus who taught us to say:**

**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**

**Glorify 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.**

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

OUR COVENANT WITH NEW MEMBERS

Invitation to our New Members:

Danielle Batey
Shellie Brook
Laurie Elwin

Jen Batey
Kelly Cackett

Rebecca Brook
Tim Cackett

Questions of Commitment

***Congregational Covenant and Welcome (in unison)**

**We welcome you with joy to 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 Thanksgiving

Greeting and Presentation of Certificates

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 21:1-19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

SERMON

"Epilogue: After Easter"

*HYMN

Now the Green Blade Rises

page 11

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

*Prelude on "Kelvingrove"
(Will You Come and Follow Me)*

Jason D. Payne

*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)

For the hospitality of your good earth, for the people you have given us to love, for the tasks you have called us to do, we give thanks, gracious God. Our offerings are a measure of our faith and evidence of our gratitude. We dedicate ourselves with our gifts, that your reign of light may be realized in the places where we live and work, and far beyond our personal reach. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We welcome all people to join in receiving this sacrament. Children may participate at the discretion of their parents.

CALL TO COMMUNION

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God most high.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION and CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Communion at CCA is open to anyone who would like to partake. When you receive the bread, eat at your own pace, symbolizing our individual relationship with God. When you receive the juice, drink with the whole congregation, symbolizing our communion as the Body of Christ. The bread is gluten, egg, and dairy free and the juice is non-alcoholic, so that there may be no barriers to Christ's table.

ORGAN MEDITATION

Easter Song

James Mansfield

Awake, My Soul

William Caldwell/Lani Smith

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

We give thanks, loving God, for feeding us at this table. Send us out into the world as your children, full of courage, compassion, and commitment, and eager to be Christ's church in the world. Amen.

*HYMN

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

No. 399

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Centennial Tryptich: 1. Rigaudon

David Lasky

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

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

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. Prescott
Shellie Brook
Sara L. Phelps
Michael Havay
Sue Ruggiero
Russ Demarest, Roger Hooper, John Swanson, Doug Topliffe
Sandy Demarest
Paul Schellenberg

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

Rev. Charlotte E. Y. Bell
Larissa Riley
Melissa Lewis

Associate Pastor
Director of Youth Ministries
Nursery Attendant

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING will be Sunday, May 18. After the worship service, we'll enjoy a brief time of fellowship and coffee, and the meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the community room and on Zoom. All members are encouraged to attend; childcare will be provided. The Zoom link will be emailed to members the week of May 12.

A REMINDER that we are still taking responses to the survey about the residual funds from the Capital Campaign. Ballots are available on the table in the narthex, and can be put in the offering plate or returned to the church office. You can also take the survey online on our church's website. The survey closes May 16 so that we can announce the results at the annual meeting. We value your input, so please take a moment if you haven't already to let us know your preferences.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for May 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!

CELEBRATING AN END AND A BEGINNING: On Sunday, May 4th, CCA will host the final gathering of the Hillsborough Association and a celebration of the founding of the new Granite State Association.

As some of you may know, the New Hampshire Conference had, until March 31 of this year, seven associations which facilitated the work of our local congregations. Two and a half years ago the Association Capacity Task Force (ACTF) was formed to imagine a new way forward and after lots and lots of meetings, listening sessions, discernment and prayer the new Granite State Association has arrived!

To celebrate this arrival and to give thanks for all that has been, we will host a celebration on May 4th, here at CCA, starting with a short service at 3:00 and then proceeding to a catered meal, a wicked fun game of team trivia pursuit, (brush up on denominational and conference trivia y'all), and plenty of time for sharing memories and hopes.

Please come as you are! The table will be set for you!



LGBTQ+ Ally Training

In an effort to widen the welcome our congregation can offer to those who come through our doors, the Widening our Welcome team (WOW) has arranged for an LGBTQ+ Ally 101 training on Wednesday, May 14 at 6:30 in the evening. What does it mean to be an effective LGBTQ+ Ally? How can we widen the circle of support for a community currently up against a great deal of oppression? How might unconscious biases get in the way of our passing on God's extravagant welcome?

In keeping with WOW's core values, this training is open to ALL, though it is geared towards those who identify as straight. And, while the training's purpose circles around the LGBTQ+ community, principles of inclusion can be applied to other marginalized communities as well.

Please save the date: Wednesday, May 14th at 6:30 PM here in the church parlor.

And please let Shayna Appel know if you are planning on attending so we can plan accordingly. KShaynaAppel@gmail.com.

See you there!

Our Church Calendar

May 4—10, 2025

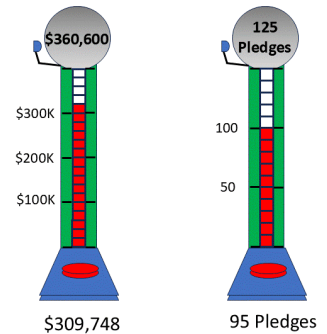
Some events are taking place virtually. Links are sent out directly by email, and a list of recurring meetings with their links can be found in the member section of our website.

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:15 a.m.	Youth Choir
	11:30 a.m.	Small Group Ministry
	11:30 a.m.	Junior Youth Group
	3:00 p.m.	Hillsborough Assoc. Celebration
	6:00 p.m.	Senior Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	4:30 p.m.	Church Council
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees of the Facility
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Congregational Care
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	6:00 p.m.	Budget & Finance Team
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

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/>.

Pledge Results as of 5/1



Kate Ackerman
 Patricia Ansdell
 Shayna Appel
 Herb & Emily Archer
 Mark & Fran Baddeley
 Ken & Charlotte Bell
 Steve & Deb Boczenowski
 Patricia Bodan
 Jessica Bortolotto
 Kathleen Bouchard &
 Christie Gould
 Sally Bowkett
 Lee Bowley & Gail Miller
 Jeff & Patti Brown
 Jack & Patricia Buben
 Tim & Kelly Cackett
 Sydney Conti
 Wayne & Audrey Croswell
 Colleen Cushing
 Eric Davis
 Tyler & Gretchen Davis
 Eric Doberstein, Robin Clark,
 Kara & Scott Spector
 Meredith & Obadiah Dart
 Susan Deschenes & Fred Dyke
 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
 Dan Grainger
 Nathan & Jessica Greer
 David & Kim Hagerstrom
 Brian & Alice Handwerk
 Leona Hendrickson
 Scott & Sally Hewett
 Susan & Don Holden
 Roger & Sally Hooper
 Jana Howe
 Kelly & Stephen Isaacs
 Patty Jillson
 Bruce & Regina Kinney
 Wilene Knight
 Ted Krantz
 Romi Krosch
 Peter & Irene Labombarde
 Keith & Gail Lammers
 Tedd & Carol Landon
 Linda Lannin
 Arthur & Victoria Leknes
 Elizabeth Levesque
 Donald & Carol Lyon
 Elizabeth MacMillan &
 Hamilton Stewart
 Heather MacDonald &
 Bill Dallas
 Bruce & Susan Manchester
 Kerri Miller
 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
 Craig & Kathe Richardson
 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
 Marti Warren
 Todd & Jennifer Whitney
 Tim & Gail Wiegand
 Ken & Barbara Wolfe
 Jodi Woroski & Gwenael Busnel

Sunday, May 4, 2025

Jesus: "Bring some of the fish you've just caught!"



Congregational Church of Amherst Fundraiser



Ecosmith Recyclers Inc. and Congregational Church are proud to partner in hosting a fundraising clothing and shoe drive.

Raise money to support your local church by donating new or used articles of clothing, pairs of shoes, and household textiles.



CLOTHING & SHOE DRIVE

WHAT TO DONATE

- Shirts
- Jeans
- Pants
- Shorts
- Sweaters
- Jackets
- Socks
- Dresses
- Skirts
- Bed linen
- Purses
- Backpacks
- Hats
- Scarves
- Belts
- Sneakers
- Sandals
- Dress Shoes
- Boots
- Towels

PLEASE BAG SHOES AND CLOTHING
SEPARATELY

WHEN

May 2nd through the 16th

WHERE

Meeting Place Plaza

199 Route 101, Amherst, NH

CONTACT

Sally Hooper

sallyhoop@comcast.net

All collected material is destined for export to less advantaged persons in developing nations around the world.

info@ecosmithrecyclers.com • 11 Byam Road, New Boston, NH 03070 • 603-647-1088