

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



*“Music gives a soul to the universe,
wings to the mind,
flight to the imagination
and life to everything.”*

— attributed to Plato

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 11, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m.

Music Sunday

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

O Happy Morning
Bell Choir

Cathy Moklebust

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: Our Creator God is the Divine Voice,
who sings and the universe comes into being;

**Many: Our God is the Divine Breath,
who breathes and all things spring to life;**

One: Our God is the Divine Word,
who calls and creation continues to sing;

**Many: Our God is the Divine Flesh,
born among us, clothing the Creator in creation;**

One: Our God is the Divine Spirit,
who fills all that has been created with music;

**Many: Our God is the Divine Life,
who is the symphony of all that is.**

All: In praise, we lift up our voices in song!

*HYMN

When the Morning Stars Together

No. 486

PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

The congregation may be seated.

**Always Creating God,
in amazement and awe,
in wonder and celebration
we marvel at your mystery.
In you all things live and move and have being.
In all things, you express your Divine artistry.
And so we join with creation
in the eternal song of worship and wonder.
Be with us in this hour and always.
And hear us now, as we pray the words that Jesus taught us:**

**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

Ride The Chariot
Chancel Choir

William Henry Smith

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

SCRIPTURE LITANY

Psalm 150

One: *Halleluiah!*
Many: Halleluiah!
One: Praise God in God's sanctuary!
Many: Praise God in God's mighty expanse!
One: Praise God for God's acts of power!
Many: Praise God for God's surpassing greatness!
One: Praise God with a blast of the *shofar*!
Many: Praise God with lute and lyre!
One: Praise God with tambourines and dancing!
Many: Praise God with flutes and strings!
One: Praise God with a clash of cymbals!
Many: Praise God with resounding cymbals!
One: Let everything that has breath praise *Adonai*!
Many: Halleluiah!
All: Halleluiah!

SERMON

“Preaching to the Choir”

*HYMN

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

No. 460

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Early in the Morning, Our Song Shall Rise to Thee

John B. Dykes/
Douglas E. Wagner

*SONG OF BLESSING (Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN)

Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!

Sing praise my soul, in profound and complete adoration!

Gladsome rejoice – organ and trumpet and voice – joining God’s great congregation.

Sing praise my soul, the great name of your high God commending.

All that have life and breath join you, their notes sweetly blending.

God is your light! Soul, ever keep this in sight: Amen, Amen never ending!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Loving God, your abundant gifts are offered to all of your children. You wait expectantly to hear our response. In this hushed moment, we respond by giving in return. We respond in word, melody, and harmony. We respond by praising your name in prayer. We respond by singing, “Glory be to God!” Amen.

*HYMN

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

No. 264

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

One: We go from this place, speaking of what God has done.

Many: Reminding everyone that God loves us, always.

One: We go from this place, singing of what God is doing.

Many: Rejoicing that God’s Spirit is singing with us.

One: We go from this place, imagining what God will do.

Many: Witnessing to the hope that carries us forward.

All: We go, making a joyful noise! Amen!

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE

Prelude in C Major (“Fanfare”), BWV 531

J.S. Bach

*(*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. 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
Sue Ruggiero
Steve Boczenowski, Doug Topliffe
Fran Baddeley, Hannah Grace Brook
Paul Schellenberg

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

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
Sue Werst
Vicky Leknes
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

OUR CHANCEL CHOIR

Richard Affolter	Tish Ansdell	Mark Baddeley	Charlotte Bell
Steve Boczenowski	Becky Bolin	Reid Cunningham	Camille Davis
Susan Deschenes	Scott Hewett	Jana Howe	Zach Hoyt
Bruce Kinney	Heather MacDonald	Howell Mitchell	Dave Phelps
Kathe Richardson	Beth Secor	Kathy Skoglund	Heather Stone
Joan Stone	Susan Stout	Sue Werst	Tom Werst
Barb Wolfe	Ken Wolfe	Susan Youngdale	

OUR BELL CHOIR

Nancy Gagnon	Cheryl Greany	Kim Hagerstrom	Katie Henderson
Rita King	Avis Moller	Joan Poltack	Jenn Rogers
Beth Secor	Susan Stout	Anita Swanson	Barb Wolfe



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!

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are in celebration of Music Sunday.

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.

Our Church Calendar

May 11—17, 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 Team
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	WA Board
	7:00 p.m.	Communications
	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	LGBTQ+ Ally Training
Thursday	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Alternative Worship

Milford Rotary 100 Holes of Golf Raffle Tickets



- 10 cash prizes range from \$500—\$5,000. Yes, you could win \$5,000!
- Ticket price is \$20, and \$10 comes straight back to the church.
- **Drawing Friday, June 20, 2025** — you do not need to be in attendance to win.
- Bonus: each ticket comes with great local coupons, including Giorgios, Aroma Joes, and more.

Each year this event raises considerable funds that are distributed to local, regional and international community and non-profit organizations, and are used to provide \$30,000 in scholarships to area students.

Raffle tickets are on sale now, and can be purchased by following this link: <https://golf100holes.com/product/raffle-ticket?ref=59>. This link is specific to our church and we will receive direct credit from all tickets purchased through this link. The drawing will be Friday, June 20, 2025 during the 100 Holes of Golf event, and you do not need to be present to win.

DID YOU KNOW: There is still time for you to participate in the 2025 statewide reading of the Frederick Douglas speech, **“What, to the slave, is your Fourth of July.”** His speech was a blistering indictment of an American idealism that ignored and accepted the inhuman treatment of enslaved African Americans as part of the country’s identity and economy.

The reading will take place on Saturday, June 28, 2025 at noon outside of the Congregational Church of Amherst, 11 Church Street, Amherst NH. This is the fourth year that the Congregational Church of Amherst is hosting this event. For more information about this reading or to volunteer to be a reader, please contact Gail Miller (sisduras@yahoo.com).

Submitted by CCA Racial Justice Team

THE WOMAN’S ASSOCIATION invites any interested women - church members or others - to attend this year’s Annual Luncheon on Tuesday, May 20. Beginning at 10:30 attendees will gather for pre-luncheon socializing. Following the luncheon, a brief annual meeting will review the group’s 2024-25 activities and induct officers for the new year. For more information or to sign up to attend, please contact Sue Werst at sue.w.0323@gmail.com or 603-759-5344.

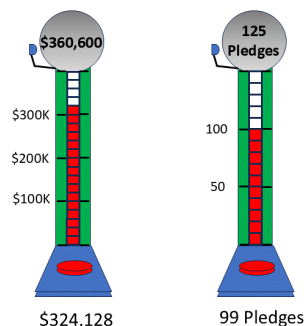
SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for May include condiments, cooking sauces and seasonings, cooking oil, pasta sauce, tomato sauce, tomato paste, diced tomatoes. Donations should be brought directly to the SHARE Center in Milford; if you are unsure where, please call their office at 673-9898. Many thanks for your continuing support!

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

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 5/8



Kate Ackerman
 Patricia Ansdell
 Shayna Appel
 Herb & Emily Archer
 Mark & Fran Baddeley
 Terri Behm & Ken D'Ambrosio
 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
 Matt & Laura Endres
 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
 Tom & Sue Werst
 Todd & Jennifer Whitney
 Tim & Gail Wiegand
 Alicia Wight
 Ken & Barbara Wolfe
 Jodi Woroski & Gwenael Busnel

MAKE A
JOYFUL NOISE



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

Sunday, May 11, 2025