

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



“When it rains look for rainbows. When it is dark look for stars.”

— attributed to Oscar Wilde

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 25, 2025

Sixth 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

O Comforter, Draw Near

Ralph Vaughan Williams/
Kevin Uppercue

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: In the beginning, the voice that whispered us into being still whispers, saying...

Many: Let there be light!

One: In the wilderness, the voice that fed us from the heavens still feeds us, saying...

Many: Let there be light!

One: In the story we share with this God of mystery and amazing love, the voice calls to us each and every morning, saying ...

All: Let there be light!

*HYMN

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

No. 417

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

The congregation may be seated.

God of the stars and galaxies, God of the seed and Earth, we thank you that you continue to come to us, to amaze us, to laugh with us, to cry with us, to comfort us, and to show us that your love shines through us and your creation, bringing light to a darkened world. May this beauty and peace be reflected in this sacred circle. In the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to 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.

*GLORIA PATRI

**Glory 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 ALL AGES

SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

Grace Mae Pyle

Scriptural Setting

Questions of Commitment

Response of Members and Friends (in unison)

We receive Grace as a new person in Christ. We offer our guidance, understanding, and support as she continues to explore and learn about our world as a child of God. We enfold her in our love, seeking together to grow in wisdom and grace, with God's help. We join with her parents and her family in telling the Gospel in our midst, so that we may all live for Christ, showing forth God's love for all people. Amen.

Pouring of the Water

The Act of Baptism

Prayer of Blessing

Presentation of Baptism Certificate

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Grace
Chancel Choir Men

Mark Hayes

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

SERMON

“The Tree of Life”

*HYMN

Come Down, O Love Divine

No. 313

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

To Be at Peace

Franklin Ritter

*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)

God of all gifts, of all bounty, of every tree and plant and every fruit and vegetable, everything we have comes from you. We give you thanks for this abundance. We pray that what we give might be used as a balm to heal where healing is needed, to restore your love-grounded peace among all creation. Amen.

*HYMN

Forward through the Ages

pages 10 and 11

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

One: Peace ... peace I leave with you,

Many: Peace ... peace I offer you,

**All: Peace ... as we walk into the world to be the presence of the Holy to all we meet.
Our worship has ended, and our service begins. Amen.**

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Go Therefore

Robert F. Smith

*(*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. 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 on break this week and will resume next Sunday.
- 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, Kathleen Bouchard
 Sandy Demarest, Kate Thompson
 Tim Wiegand

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

Larissa Riley
 Melissa Lewis

Director of Youth Ministries
 Nursery Attendant

CAN YOU HELP, SIGN UP NOW: At the Annual Meeting held on May 18th, it was decided that it was best to finance the proposed front lawn signage for the church through a special fundraiser. At this point, virtually everything is ready to go except how to pay for it. Within hours of the meeting, an inspired member of the church stepped up and offered a donation of \$1000 toward the sign project. If any other members are also feeling inspired, please send us a sign (pun intended). You can contact Andrea (andrea@ccamherst.org or 603-673-3231) to make a donation or just write a check and note that it is for the sign. Thanks in advance for your support.

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!

WE REJOICE TODAY in the baptism of Grace Mae Pyle, daughter of Tom and Sarah Pyle. Grace's godparents are Caroline Turner and Brandon Lund.

Financial Summary

(as of April 30, 2025)

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference
Income	\$411,800	\$395,487	\$16,314
Expenses	\$391,201	\$386,668	\$ 4,533
Net Income	\$ 20,600	\$ 8,819	\$11,781

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.

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.

Our Church Calendar

May 25—31, 2025

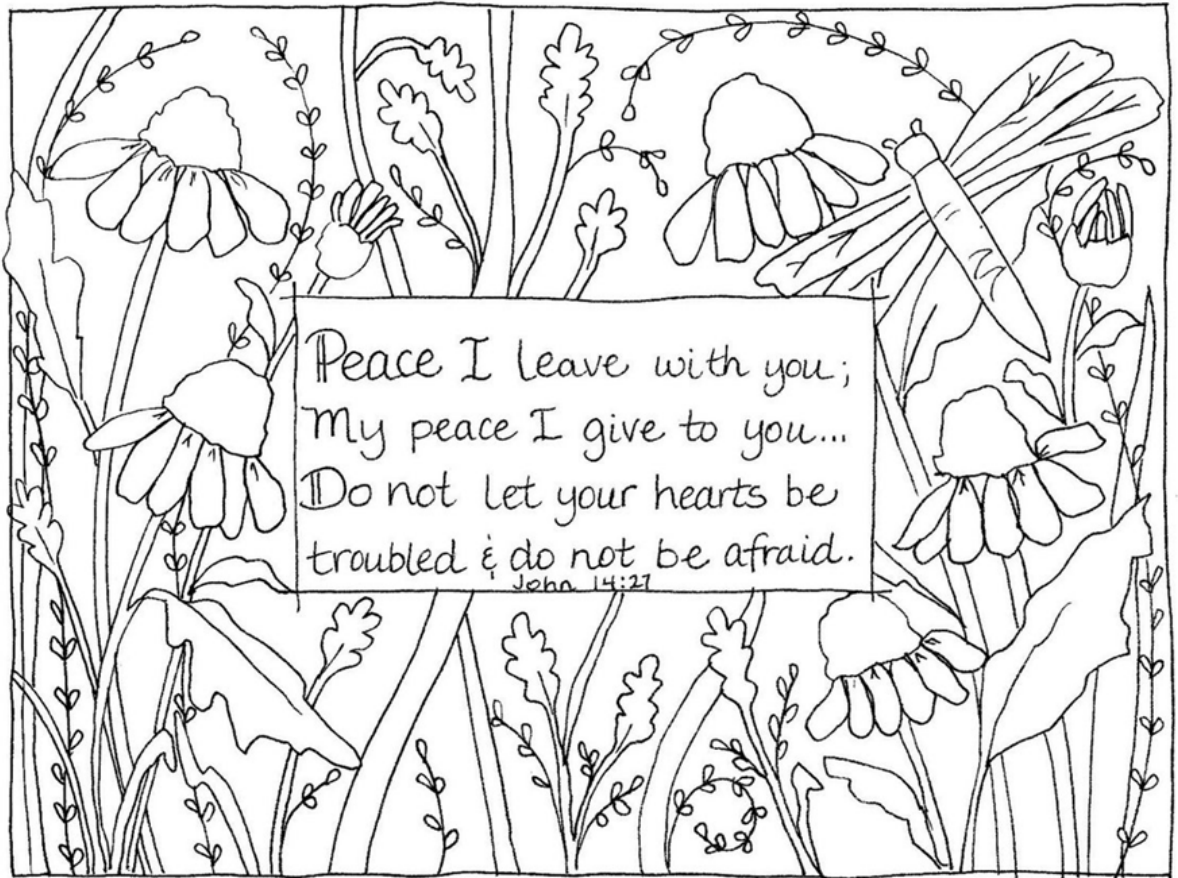
Some events are taking place virtually. Links are sent out directly by email, and a list of recurring meetings with their links can be found in the member section of our website.

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Thursday	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

READERS OF ALL AGES WANTED! Every year on the Saturday before Independence Day, the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire sponsors an event known as the Frederick Douglass Statewide Reading. At the gathering, participants take turns reading from his 1852 speech, “What, to the Slave, is Your Fourth of July?” The Racial Justice Team at the Congregational Church of Amherst has hosted this event for the past three years.

This year, Amherst’s reading will be held on Saturday, June 28 at noon here at our church. We will also have community members singing before and after the speech. If you would like to read and/or to sing, we would be happy to have you join us!

Please email Gail Miller at sisduras@yahoo.com for more information and to let us know how you would like to participate in this inspiring event! Thank you, *Your Racial Justice Team*



Vacation Bible School True North



This year's VBS will be filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences that kids can see, hear, and touch! Hands-on science experiments, team-building games, unforgettable music, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. *VBS is open to all in the community, so spread the word to friends and neighbors!*

August 4th - 8th, 2025, 9:00 a.m. to noon each day

Register Online: ccamherst.org/vbsreg/

Contact Larissa Riley at churchschool@ccamherst.org with questions about any of our Youth Programs.

Sunday, May 25, 2025