

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



*“If you want others to be happy, practice compassion.
If you want to be happy, practice compassion.”*

—The Dalai Lama

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."*

June 1, 2025

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Ascension 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

Crown Him with Many Crowns

George J. Elvey/
Anna Laura Page

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: From near and far, we gather in God's name,

**Many: to pray, to worship, to sing,
to celebrate at God's table.**

One: We gather as a community of faith,

**Many: as seekers, questioners, and believers,
learning and growing together.**

One: We gather as witnesses to Jesus' mission,

**Many: to spread the Good News
of God's healing love for all of creation.**

One: We gather to give thanks, for God's creating Spirit.

**Many: Come, let us worship together
at God's wide and wonderful table!**

*HYMN

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

No. 504

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

**Living, Breathing, Creating Spirit,
as we prepare to worship today,
we ask that you stretch our imaginations
beyond what we can see before us.
Help us to sense the mystery of your presence
so that we might trust in your movement,
even as we wait for it to unfold.
Be with us in the liminal spaces:
Between the present and what is to come.
Between unrest and rest.
Between not knowing and knowing.
Comfort us. Guide us. Inspire us.
And hear us now, as we pray as 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

Let Us Break Bread Together
Chancel Choir

Jay Althouse

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 24:36-53

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and

forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

SERMON “Clothed with Power”

*HYMN *Open My Eyes That I May See* No. 324

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 *Pastorale on “My God, Thy Table Now is Spread”* Edward Miller/
Franklin D. Ashdown

*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)

Creating God, who made us who we are, we offer all of ourselves to you. Take our talents, our energy, and our joy, and use us to share your love. Take our mistakes, our regrets and our pain, and use us to bring your healing. Magnify the gifts we offer before you today, to spread your peace in the world. 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.

One: On this Ascension Sunday, we gather at the table of Christ,
where divine light breaks through our human understanding.

Many: **At this table, we are invited to participate in God’s transforming love.**

One: Here, we remember that Jesus revealed God's love to the world — a love that is inclusive, expansive, and justice-seeking.

Many: We come to this table not only to be nourished, but to be changed.

One: So come now to this table that has been prepared for you.
Come not because you must, but because you may.

Many: For here, all are welcome to share in God's love and bounty!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD and POURING OF THE CUP

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

Two Scriptural Contemplations

Lester H. Groom

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

We give thanks, loving God, for this communal meal that links us to all who have called upon your name. May your wisdom grow within us. May your word inspire us. May the nourishment of this bread and cup strengthen us for the journey, as you send us out into the world as people of courage, compassion, and commitment. Amen.

*HYMN

Spirit
verses 1, 2 & 3

No. 319

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune on "Salve festa dies"
(Hail, Festival Day)

Ralph Vaughan Williams/
Douglas E. Wagner

*(*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
 Kathleen Bouchard
 Sally Hooper, John Swanson, Gail Wiegand
 Andrea Cyr

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

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
 Kelly Isaacs
 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

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 June include toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorants, shampoo and conditioner, bar soap, feminine hygiene products, diapers and wipes. 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.

Financial Summary

(as of April 30, 2025)

| | YTD | YTD | |
|------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
| 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.

Sunday, June 1, 2025

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.

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*

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH: Each day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through the *Strengthen the Church* offering, they can become a reality. As God calls our congregations to be “church” in new ways, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that “God is still speaking.” Your offerings are directed to your church’s Conference, and Local Church Ministries. Checks may be written to *The Congregational Church of Amherst*, with *Strengthen the Church* noted on the memo line.

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.

Our Church Calendar

June 1—7, 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 |
| | 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 | 6:30 p.m. | Confirmation Class |
| | | Dinner and Rehearsal |
| | 7:30 p.m. | Chancel Choir |



BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE
HOLY SPIRIT COMES ON YOU

Acts 1:8