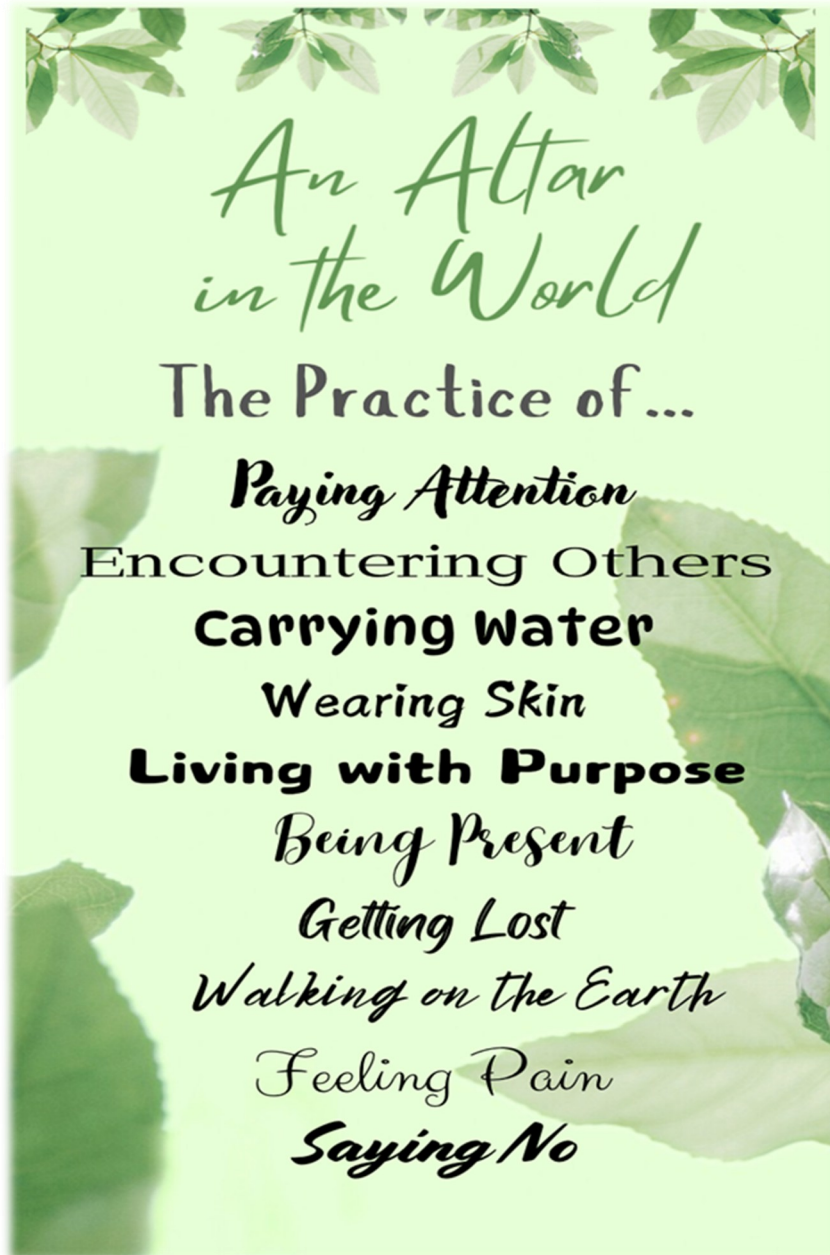


The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
Amherst, New Hampshire



*An Altar  
in the World*

The Practice of...

*Paying Attention*

Encountering Others

**Carrying Water**

*Wearing Skin*

**Living with Purpose**

*Being Present*

*Getting Lost*

*Walking on the Earth*

*Feeling Pain*

*Saying No*

# 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 15, 2025

An Altar in the World

10:00 a.m.

## *The Practice of Saying No*

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

*Fanfare on "Nicaea" (Holy, Holy, Holy)*

John B. Dykes/  
Nancy Hill Cobb

INTROIT

\*GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

One: Come all who are weary:

**Many: of struggle, of division,  
of suffering, of grieving.**

One: Come all who are heavy-laden:

**Many: with anxiety, with fear,  
with anger, with despair.**

One: Come all who are seeking rest:

**Many: for tired bodies,  
for overburdened minds,  
for weary souls.**

One: Come all who have hope:

**Many: for liberation, for peace,  
for harmony, for healing.**

One: Hear these words of Jesus:  
Many: **“My yoke is easy,  
my burden is light,  
and in me you will find rest.”**

\*HYMN

*O Come to Me, You Weary*  
verses 1, 2 and 3

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MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
*The congregation may be seated.*

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

*Our Lord's Prayer*  
Chancel Choir

Lloyd Larson

## THE PRACTICE OF SAYING NO

SCRIPTURE

Mark 6:30-34

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him everything they had done and taught. Many people were coming and going, so there was no time to eat. He said to the apostles, “Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while.” They departed in a boat by themselves for a deserted place. Many people saw them leaving and recognized them, so they ran ahead from all the cities and arrived before them. When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things.

REFLECTION

“Rest”

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Keep the Sabbath day and treat it as holy, exactly as the Lord your God commanded: Six days you may work and do all your tasks, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. Don't do any work on it—not you, your sons or daughters, your male or female servants, your oxen or donkeys or any of your animals, or the immigrant who is living among you—so that your male and female servants can rest just like you. Remember that you were a slave in Egypt, but the Lord your God brought you out of there with a strong hand and an outstretched arm. That's why the Lord your God commands you to keep the Sabbath day.

REFLECTION

“Resist”

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND PRAYERS

*All are invited to place their offerings and prayer cards in the plates as they're passed.*

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

*Holy Spirit, Light Our Darkness*

Robert J. Powell

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Transliteration from Aramaic

**Oh Thou, from whom the breath of life comes,  
who fills all realms of sound, light and vibration.  
May Your light be experienced within us.  
Your Heavenly Domain approaches.  
Let Your will come true - in the universe just as on earth.  
Give us wisdom for our daily need,  
detach the chains of faults that bind us,  
as we release the guilt of others.  
Let us not be lost in superficial things,  
But let us be freed from what keeps us from our true purpose.  
From You comes the all-working will, the lively strength to act,  
the song that beautifies all and renews itself from age to age.  
Sealed in trust, faith and truth,  
Amen.**

\*HYMN

*This Is My Father's World*

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\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

One: People of God, may we carry our re-charged hearts into the world.

**Many: To offer good news to all who long to hear it.**

One: In the midst of brokenness and division,

**Many: we proclaim the God of Healing.**

One: In the midst of despair and sorrow,

**Many: we proclaim the God of Hope.**

One: In the midst of unkindness and apathy,

**Many: we proclaim the God of Compassion.**

**All: We go now, as servants in Christ,  
as conduits of God's Love, offered to all. Amen!**

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE

*O Worship the King*

Johann M. Haydn/  
Franklin Ritter

*(\*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 on break for the summer, and resumes on Rally Day, September 7, 2025.
- 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.

The church office is open 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](mailto: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](http://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  
 Sue Ruggiero, Doug Topliffe  
 Shayna Appel, Christie Gould  
 Patricia Bodan

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

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are given with love and celebration for Don and Carol Lyon, longtime church members who will soon be moving away from Amherst. We are so blessed and thankful for their many years of service and devotion to our church. We wish them well as they settle into their new home.

**CAN YOU HELP, SIGN UP NOW:** At the Annual Meeting held on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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.

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

*The prayer on the back of the bulletin is from Gates of Prayer: The New Union Prayer Book (Weekends, Sabbaths, and Festivals), ed. Chaim Stern.*

### Financial Summary

(as of May 31, 2025)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$429,585	\$426,274	\$3,311
Expenses	\$425,586	\$421,742	\$3,844
Net Income	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,533	\$ (533)

*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.
- 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.

**FREDERICK DOUGLASS SPEECH READING:** On Saturday, June 28, CCA's Racial Justice Team is hosting a reading of Douglass' historic protest speech. The reading will take place on the steps of the church opposite the Village Green. Come and listen to part or all of the speech and then join us for refreshments and discussion in the Memorial Garden. The reading will begin at 12:00 noon.

**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.

**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!

## Our Church Calendar

June 15—21, 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
	6:00 p.m.	Senior Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Caregivers Circle
	6:00 p.m.	Diaconate

# Vacation Bible School

## August 4-8, 2025

The Congregational Church of Amherst, UCC

It's time for kids to hit the trail...for adventure! True North 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.



Dates: August 4th - 8th, 2025

Time: 9 AM - Noon each day

Ages: preschoolers through 5th graders

Cost: \$25 per child (scholarships available)

Youth Volunteers: Rising 6th - 12th graders



Register Online at: [ccamherst.org/church-school](https://ccamherst.org/church-school)

Registration closes July 23rd

Donate supplies from our wishlist:

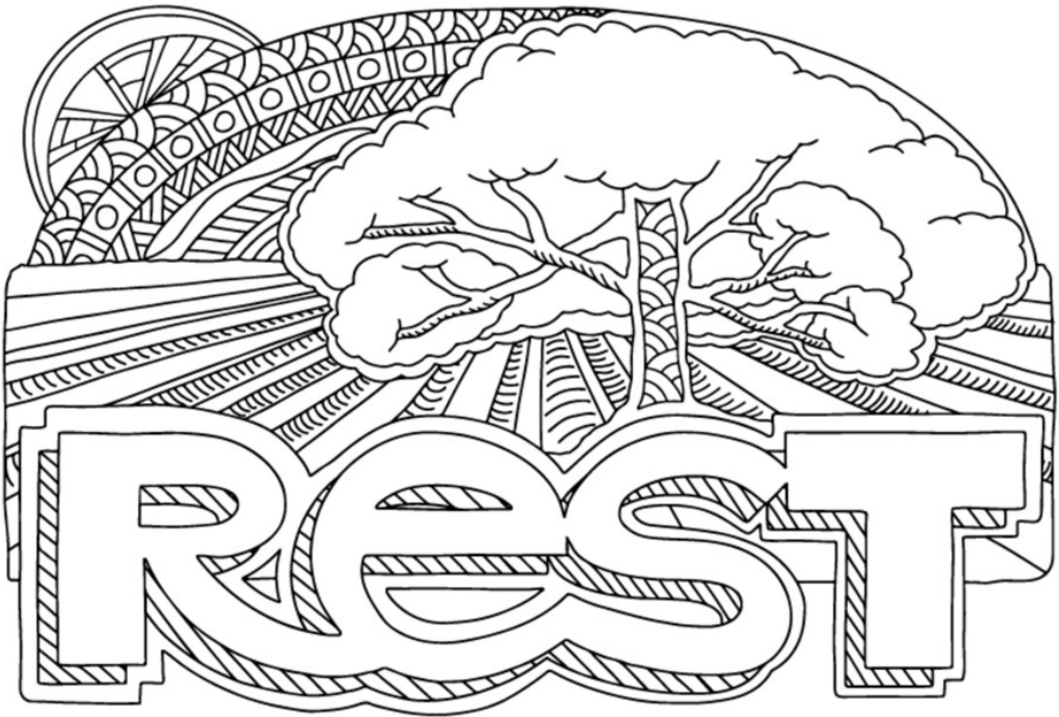
<https://a.co/1Lo0wK6>

Questions? Contact Larissa Riley or Gretchen Davis

Email: [churchschool@ccamherst.org](mailto:churchschool@ccamherst.org)



“After God made the heavens and the earth,  
and all that’s in them, God rested.”  
– Exodus 20:11



*Sunday, June 15, 2025*



***Prayer: Welcoming Sabbath***

*Our noisy day has now descended with the sun beyond our sight.*

In the silence of our praying place  
we close the door upon the hectic joys and fears,  
the accomplishments and anguish of the week we left behind.

What was but moments ago the substance of our life  
has become memory;  
what we did must now be woven into what we are.

*On this day we shall not do, but be.*

We are to walk the path of our humanity,  
no longer ride unseeing through a world  
we do not touch and only vaguely sense.

*No longer can we tear the world apart to make our fire.*

On this day heat and warmth and light must come from deep within us.

