

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



*“If you go to the desert to be rid of all the dreadful people
and all the awful problems in your life, you will be wasting your time.
One goes to the desert especially to take a closer look
at the things and people one would rather not see,
to face situations one would rather avoid,
to answer questions one would rather forget.”*

—Alessandro Pronzato

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 22, 2025

Second Sunday after Pentecost

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

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Anna Laura Page

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: We gather in the presence of our Always-Creating God,

Many: to pray, to sing, to re-connect.

One: We gather in the presence of our Still-Speaking God,

Many: to be renewed, to be inspired, to be sent out.

One: We gather in the presence of our Life-Giving God,

**Many: to prepare us for the week to come,
to empower us to be people who live in love.**

One: We gather to worship our Ever-Present God!

All: Let us raise our voices in song!

*HYMN

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

No. 411

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

The congregation may be seated.

**Healing and comforting God, you are always working in our lives,
bringing hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty,
new life out of destruction.**

Help us to perceive your unseen hand in the unfolding of our lives.

Help us to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit.

Help us to know the joy you offer to us all.

May your Spirit move among us, 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 ALL AGES

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

I'll Walk With God
Michael Havay, piano

Nicholas Brodzsky

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 8:26-39

Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me," for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

SERMON

"I am Legion"

*HYMN

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

insert

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.

ORGAN RESPONSE

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Healer of Our Every Ill

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)

Receive our offering, O God, that our church may come alive in the Spirit. Help us to use the resources that you have given us to further carry Christ's message into the world, in word and in deed. Guide us, inspire us, transform us, so that we may build and sustain the peaceable community that you call us to be. Amen.

*HYMN

Live Into Hope

No. 332

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Crown Him Lord of All!

James Ellor/
Gilbert M. Martin

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

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service
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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 for the summer, and resumes on Rally Day, September 7, 2025.
- Our church nursery is open, but not staffed during the summer months. It is available when parents with young children feel the need for a quiet, safe space to go to during worship. A monitor is available to watch and listen to the service.
- 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 for visitors 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

Michael Havay

Reid Cunningham

Kathleen Bouchard

Sally Hooper, Doug Topliffe

Stephen and Joan Egbertson

Patricia Bodan

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Organist/Accompanist

Liturgist

Deacon in Charge

Deacons

Ushers

Videographer

Rev. Charlotte E. Y. Bell

Sara L. Phelps

Larissa Riley

Melissa Lewis

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

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 June include toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorants, shampoo and conditioner, bar soap, feminine hygiene products, diapers and wipes. Donations may be left in our new SHARE collection container in the vestry. Many thanks for your continuing support!

JULY 4th HELP NEEDED for cookies, baked or store bought, 2 per baggie. Please leave in kitchen refrigerator anytime or bring to table in center of green if after 8:30 a.m. on July 4th. Volunteers, including kids, are welcome to drop by or stay 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to rest in the shade, pass out cookies and visit with folks! Please contact Carol Landon, 603-494-7734, text or call with any questions.

Our Church Calendar

June 22—28, 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. 11:15 a.m.	Worship Fellowship
Saturday	12:00 p.m.	Frederick Douglass Speech Reading

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is going to Alaska this summer! In order to transform our sanctuary into the Alaskan Wilderness, we are looking to borrow artificial Christmas trees for the week of VBS. All trees will be carefully labeled and returned at the conclusion of our fun-filled week. If you are able to drop a tree off, please put your name on the box and leave it on the stage in the Community room by July 20th. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Larissa Riley at churchschool@ccamherst.org.

WHAT, TO THE SLAVE, IS YOUR FOURTH OF JULY: Part of your July 4th celebrations might include listening to this reading taking place on the steps of our church on Saturday, June 28 at 12:00 p.m. Please come and enjoy music performed by members of a variety of local churches, while listening to a speech written more than a century ago that continues to resonate in our world today. *Submitted by The CCA 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.

Financial Summary			
(as of May 31, 2025)			
	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<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.

Sunday, June 22, 2025



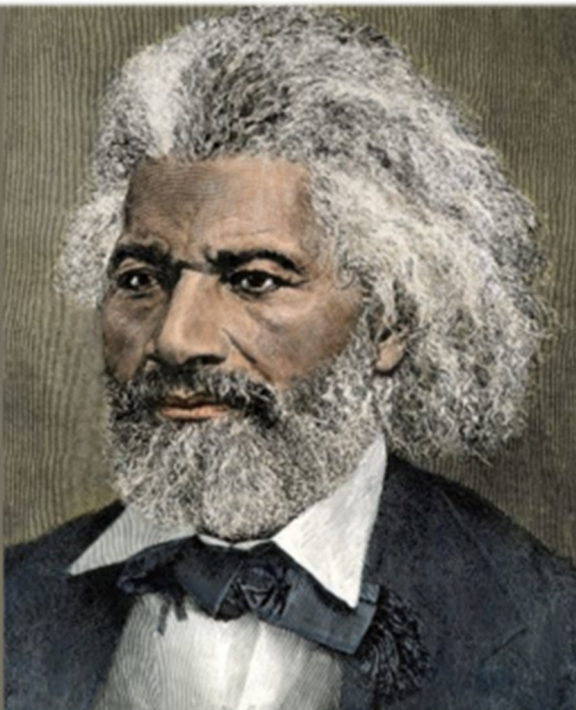
STATEWIDE COMMUNITY READING

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

**"WHAT, TO THE
SLAVE, IS YOUR
FOURTH OF JULY"**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2025
12:00, NOON**

WWW.BLACKHERITAGETRAILNH.ORG



PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES

PORTSMOUTH - STRAWBERRY BANKE

AMHERST - CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AMHERST

ANDOVER - POTTER PLACE, ANDOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CANTERBURY - CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE

CONCORD - CITY PLAZA

DOVER - DOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

EXETER - THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN EXETER

HOPKINTON - HOPKINTON TOWN HALL

LEBANON - COLBURN PARK

MANCHESTER - MANCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

NASHUA - NASHUA LIBRARY GARDENS

ROCHESTER - ROCHESTER PERFORMANCE AND ARTS CENTER

ROLLINSFORD - COLONEL PAUL WENTWORTH HOUSE

PETERBOROUGH/JAFFREY/RINDGE/HANCOCK - MONADNOCK
CENTER FOR HISTORY AND CULTURE

TAMWORTH - COOK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

WARNER - WARNER TOWN HALL

God
is Love

