

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



*"I wish I could show you, when you are lonely or in darkness,
the astonishing Light of your own Being."*

— Hafez, 14th century Persian poet

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."*

March 8, 2026

Third Sunday in Lent

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

Pie Jesu
Bell Choir

Gabriel Faure/
arr. David Sanders

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP and PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: Jesus calls us to the well,
**Many: inviting us to drink of life-giving water,
to soothe our parched spirits.**

One: Jesus calls us out of the shadows,
**Many: to be entirely known,
and entirely filled with God's presence.**

One: Jesus calls us all:
**Many: all who were made in God's own image,
all who breathe the breath of God's spirit.**

One: Holy One, we're here to respond to your call.
**Many: Hear our response, in our words, in our prayers,
in our song, in our giving, in our service in your name!**

*HYMN

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

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LENTEN LITANY OF CONFESSION and WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The congregation may be seated.

One: God of living water,

Many: we invite you to flow into our lives

One: Into the dry and parched places,

Many: that we neglect or propagate:

One: the brittle words we have thought and spoken . . .

Many: the arid perspective that centers on self . . .

One: the relationships that are crumbling . . .

Many: the cracked and jagged edges of our world . . .

One: Hear our confession, O God, in our words and in our hearts...

Many: and rain down your mercy upon us.

One: Your forgiveness assures us, O God,

Many: that healing and wholeness is possible.

All: Thanks be to God, and Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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

ANTHEM

Ave Verum
Chancel Choir

William Byrd

Hail, true body born of the Virgin Mary,
Who truly suffered, sacrificed on the Cross for man,
Whose pierced side overflowed with water and blood,
Be for us a foretaste in the test of death.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 4:3-29, 39-42

He left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

SERMON

"Springing to Life"

*HYMN

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

No. 370

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

Encounter at Jacob's Well

Rex Koury

*DOXOLOGY (Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH, No. 592)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

All that we present to you now, O God, we have received from your hand. We give so the hungry may eat and the thirsty may receive pure water. We share to send the good news of your love to those who are in need of hearing it. We invest in just causes, that your mercy may be known among all people. We give because passing on your gifts is what makes us happy, whole, and renewed. Amen.

*HYMN

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

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*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Postlude in C minor

Fenton Groden

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

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

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. **The next new member informational sessions will be held April 15 and 23.** New members will be formally received on Sunday, May 3. 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
 Sara L. Phelps
 Michael Havay
 Sally Bowkett
 Kathleen Bouchard, Colleen Cushing
 Patricia Bodan

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

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
 Deb Boczenowski
 Linda Lannin
 Matt Emmons, Vicky Leknes
 Larissa Riley
 Melissa Lewis

Director of Youth Ministries
 Teacher, Preschool/Kindergarten
 Assistant Teacher, Preschool/Kindergarten
 Teachers, Grades 1 to 4
 Teacher, Grades 5 to 7
 Nursery Attendant

FRIENDSHIP BASKETS: On behalf of the congregation, your Diaconate is planning to deliver grocery gift cards to families in our community who need a little help putting food on the table for the Easter holiday. Last Easter we had requests from, and were able to help, 14 families. We will be passing our Friendship baskets during the service on March 8th and 15th to gather donations to support the gift card purchases. If you would like to help, but are participating in the service from home, you can also donate through the church website and direct your donation to the Friendship Basket collection. Thank you very much for your generosity!

BEWARE OF FALLING SNOW AND ICE: During the winter months, we want to remind everyone that snow and ice may fall from our roof at any time. Please use caution when in our driveway, and do not walk too close to the building.

YOUTH CHOIR resumes their weekly rehearsals today in the vestry after worship. Come and sing with us!

Financial Summary (as of January 31, 2026)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$328,624	\$311,819	\$16,805
Expenses	\$307,122	\$306,678	\$ 444
Net Income	\$ 21,503	\$ 5,141	\$16,362

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.

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL! This summer's program will run August 3rd - 7th from 9:00 a.m. to noon daily. VBS is open to preschoolers through rising 5th graders. Middle school and high school students can be Youth Volunteers. More information and online registration is available at: www.ccamherst.org/vbsreg.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for March include canned fruit, flour, sugar, coffee and tea, juice, instant rice, cold cereal, instant oatmeal packets, individually wrapped snacks. Donations may be left in our SHARE collection containers found in the narthex, the church office, and outside the community room. Donations may also 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!

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES MAY 2026: The Ad Hoc Bylaws Review Team recently shared that proposed changes to our church's current bylaws are ready for the congregation's review. These proposed changes, which have been approved by Council, will be on the Annual Meeting agenda, scheduled for May 17, 2026 (after worship), and are available in the member's section of our church website. Anyone preferring a hardcopy, please contact Andrea Cyr at andrea@ccamherst.org or (603) 673-3231 ext. 0.

- Two Informational Sessions** have been scheduled to address any questions/inputs:
- Monday, March 16, 7: 00 p.m. on Zoom, (contact Andrea in the church office for the Zoom link)
 - Sunday, March 22 11:30 a.m. in person in the parlor.

We look forward to seeing you at either/ both of these sessions, Ad Hoc Bylaws Review Team: *Steve Boczenowski, Pastor Maureen Frescott, Heather MacDonald, Susan Manchester, Doug Topliffe, Sue Werst*

The Senior Youth Group's
Spaghetti Supper & Variety Show
Saturday, March 21
6:00 p.m. in the Community Room



All are invited to join us for an evening of food, fellowship, and entertainment!

If you have an act or talent that you'd like to share in the variety show, contact Larissa Riley (churchschool@ccamherst.org) by March 15th. All ages can participate!

Our Church Calendar

March 8—14, 2026

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 11:30 a.m. Racial Justice Team 11:30 a.m. Youth Choir
Monday	10:00 a.m. WA Workshop
Tuesday	10:00 a.m. WA Board 7:00 p.m. Communications Team 7:00 p.m. Diaconate
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Budget & Finance Team 7:00 p.m. Adult Confirmation
Thursday	10:00 a.m. Congregational Care 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Saturday	10:00 a.m. Preparing for the Future



Preparing for the Future— End of Life Planning

Saturday, March 14, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
in the Community Room

Have you ever thought, “I really should get my end-of-life stuff sorted...” and then promptly put it in the too-hard basket? Or realize you don’t know where to start?

You are not alone. Plan on starting by attending this no-cost workshop to learn more about End-of-Life Planning from local professionals. An attorney, along with medical and funeral home representatives will discuss documents and decisions, and assisting people in their time of need every day. You’ll come away with information on where to begin, and in a way that feels calm, empowering and uplifting. Let’s get it done, so you can focus on living!

For additional questions or inquiries contact the Rev. Charlotte Bell, pastorcharlotte@ccamherst.org or leave a message to 603-3231 x14.

Safety-Related Educational/Training Opportunities

All are welcome!

If you are interested in participating in one or both opportunities, use this link to sign up: <https://www.ccamherst.org/safety/> or contact Andrea in the church office.

ALICE Training Webinar

Alert Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate

This training webinar is presented via Zoom on Monday, March 23 at 9:00 a.m. It is a 3-hour presentation meant to provide an overview of ALICE, an active shooter response training program delivered with a trauma-informed approach. It helps prepares people to survive the unimaginable and is used extensively by our school system to help keep students and teaching staff prepared. Information with details on training and the Zoom link will be available soon.

CPR / AED / First Aid Training

Led by staff from the Amherst Fire Department, this is an informational training program that is intended to provide participants with a general knowledge of the current practices and procedures associated with CPR, AED equipment usage, and general first aid. It will most likely be a mix of on-line training and a hands-on session on a Saturday morning. It is not a certification program.

Once we have a level of interest established, we will be able to schedule this program.

Sunday, March 8, 2026



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.

Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.

Please consider giving to One Great Hour of Sharing. There are several ways to donate:

- 1) One Great Hour of Sharing envelopes are in the pews for your convenience mid-March.
- 2) **Donate Online** through our church website, select the 'Missions' offering and type OGHS in the memo box)
- 3) Send a check to the office; make your check payable to *The Congregational Church of Amherst*, with *OGHS* on the memo line of your check.

THANK YOU!

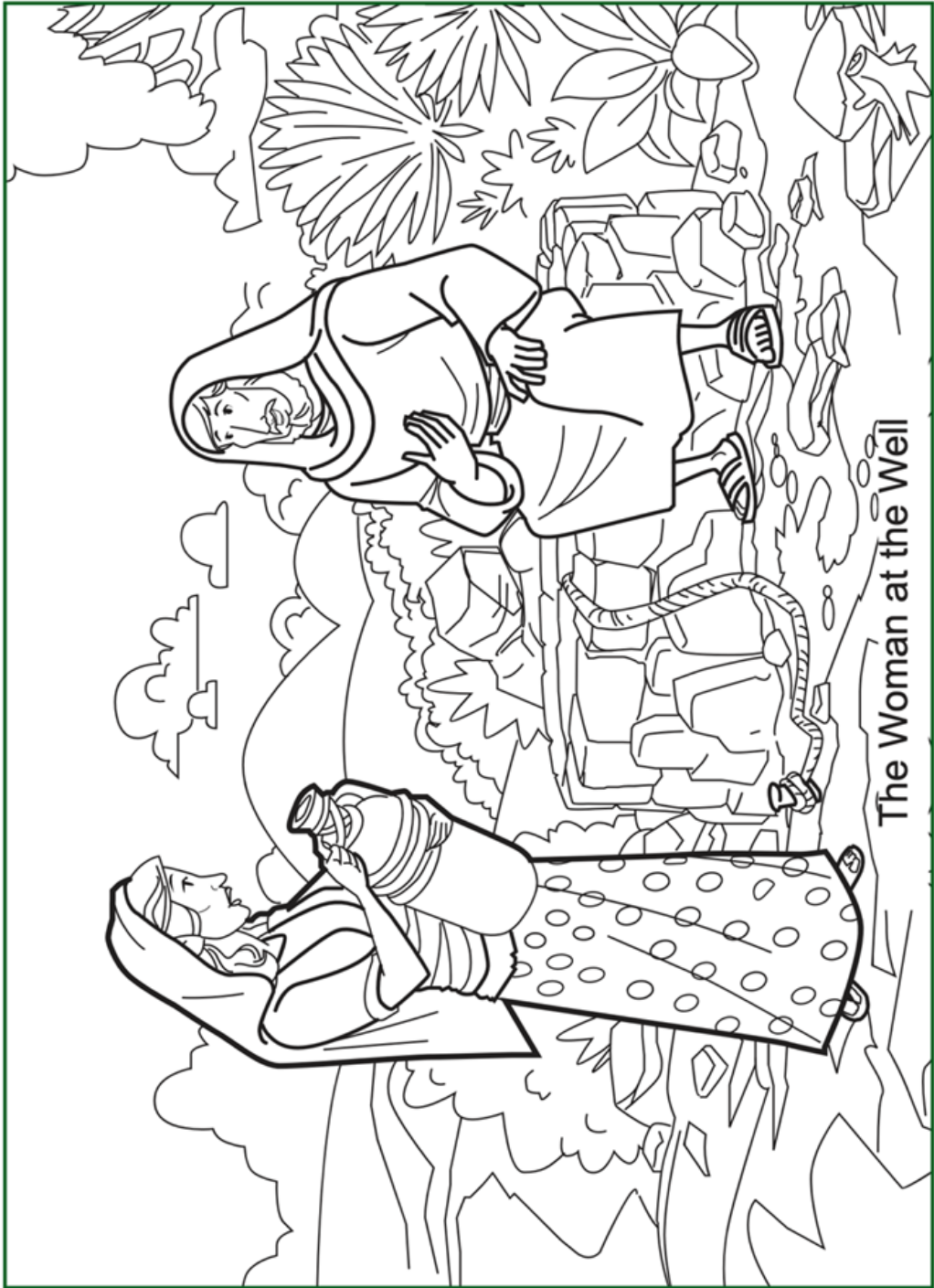
CCA Worship Service Reflection

The theme of the service was...

I learned...

I did not understand or still wonder about...

Something that helped connect my faith to my everyday life was...



The Woman at the Well