

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

LOVE
⇒ JESUS ⇐
grows
in faith
CHANGE
THE WORLD

SHINE
LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT

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 15, 2026

SHINE SUNDAY

10:00 a.m.

"Making Amends"

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

O Could I Speak the Matchless Worth

Marilyn Thompson

INTROIT

*GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: Be still...

Many: we come to quiet ourselves in this haven of holiness.

One: Be still and know...

Many: we come to discern the Word that can set us free.

One: Be still and know that God is...

Many: our Hope, our Help, our Refuge, and our Redeemer.

One: Be still and know that God is here!

**Many: We come before you, Giving God,
seeking renewal and reconciliation,
lifting our voices in prayer and song!**

*HYMN

Bring Many Names

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LENTEN LITANY OF CONFESSION and WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The congregation may be seated.

One: Creator God, you have set a path before us,

Many: but we often prefer to wander off and find our own way.

One: Sometimes we hear your call and return to you.

Many: Sometimes we ignore your call, to see how far we can go.

One: Sometimes we are full of youthful rebellion, testing your limitations.

Many: Sometimes we have greater faith in our own wisdom than we do in you.

One: May we hear your call every day, Still Speaking God.

Many: May we find our way back to you.

One: People of God, hear this good news.

God rolls away everything that stands in our way –
our past, our pain, our hesitation,
and redeems and renews us.

Many: Broken, we are made whole;

Lost, we are brought home;

Empty, we are filled with grace.

We rejoice and give thanks to God. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANTHEM

You Are Not Alone
Chancel Choir

Molly Ijames

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

"To Forgive and to be Forgiven"

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND PRAYERS

All are invited to come forward and place their offerings and prayer cards in the plates.

LENTEN PRAYER STATIONS

All are invited to visit the prayer stations set up around the sanctuary.

Tree of Life

Prayers for healing for our world

Write your prayer on a leaf and attach it to our tree

Light and Stone

Prayers for healing for others

Light a candle of hope, or release a burden by dropping a stone

Water Cleansing

Prayers for healing for yourself

Write what you wish to release and watch it dissolve in the water

Images of Reconciliation

Reflecting on moments of healing

Choose an image that speaks to you and put yourself in the story

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Folk Song

Gilbert M. Martin

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Contemporary Language Version

Holy One, you made the earth, sky, and sea.

You made the universe and all that's in it.

You are truly amazing.

Help us to look after our world,

teach us to be kind and merciful to others,

and inspire us to live into your image, in which we are created.

Through us, provide food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless,

companions for the lonely and healing for those who seek it.

Grant us the courage to admit when we have hurt others,

and the mercy to not hold grudges when others have hurt us.

Help us to do what is right and just,

and not to be led into things that are harmful or hateful.

With your help, all things are possible, O God,

today, tomorrow, and forever.

Amen.

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

One: Together, we carry Jesus' reconciling light into the world,

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

One: When faced with brokenness and division,

Many: we proclaim the God of Healing.

One: When faced with despair and sorrow,

Many: we proclaim the God of Hope.

One: When faced with 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

Christus, der uns selig macht
(Christ, Who Makes Us Happy)

Johann Walther

*(*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. **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
 Reid Cunningham
 Sara L. Phelps
 Michael Havay
 Sally Bowkett
 Sue Ruggiero, John Swanson
 JoAnn and Ric Magro
 Doug Topliffe

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

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
 Kelly Isaacs
 Sue Werst
 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 spring-thaw 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.

ANNUAL REPORTS are due to the church office by April 15.

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.

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!

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*

144 ENVELOPES FUNDRAISER: This month, the Senior Youth Group will be kicking off the *144 Envelopes Fundraiser* to help offset the cost of the 2026 Mission Trip to Savannah, GA. After worship each Sunday, be sure to visit the bulletin board in the Community Room to learn about the SYG and check out the numbered envelopes decorated by the teens. It's easy to participate: just choose an envelope and make a donation in the amount of the number on the envelope. No amount is too small! We need every envelope from 1 to 144 to be selected in order to reach our goal of \$10,000.

Our Church Calendar

March 15—21, 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.	Youth Choir
	11:45 a.m.	Christian Ed
	6:30 p.m.	Senior Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
	4:30 p.m.	Christmas In Amherst Village
	7:00 p.m.	Proposed Bylaw Changes Info Session
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Caregivers Circle
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Adult Confirmation
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Saturday	6:00 p.m.	SYG's Spaghetti Supper & Variety Show

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL! This summer's program will run August 3—7 from 9:00 a.m. to noon daily. VBS is open to preschoolers through rising fifth 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!

DID YOU KNOW: Both free Black and enslaved Black Americans were often buried at the edge of or just outside of local cemeteries during the 18th and 19th centuries. During excavation to expand the Amherst, NH, Town Hall in 2003, workers discovered the skeletal remains of a young woman and a child, both of African descent. This woman and child were likely victims of tuberculosis sometime between 1779 and 1823. These burials just outside the walls of the Old Burying Ground reflect the presence of enslaved people in 18th century Amherst, where 8 of 633 slaves in the Province of NH lived in 1767. Both the woman and child were reinterred in 2007 near the southeast corner of the Town Hall building. Although no markers were placed when the individuals were reinterred, their histories have been preserved through local historical archives and cemetery surveys. *Submitted by The CCA Racial Justice Team*



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm/Passion Sunday: March 29 - 10:00 a.m.

We begin with the traditional waving of the palms and end with a presentation of the Passion story.

Maundy Thursday: April 2 - 7:00 p.m.

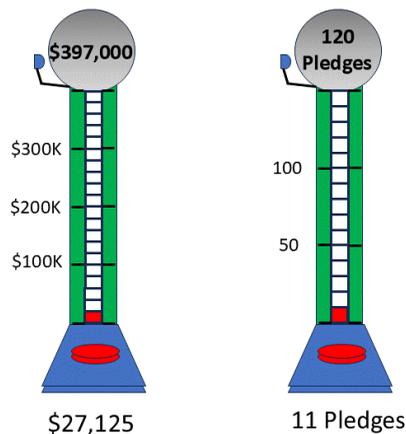
A prayerful reflective service with Communion and Tenebrae – a commemoration of Jesus' last night with his disciples.

Easter Sunday: April 5

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service on the Amherst village green. Celebrate the Resurrection at daybreak followed by coffee and donuts on the green.

10:00 a.m. Easter celebration service in our sanctuary with our Chancel and Bell Choirs. Join us as we praise God with a joyful noise!

Pledge Results as of 3/13



STAY ALERT STAY PROTECTED

WWW.CCAMHERST.ORG/SAFETY

EVACUATION PLAN

INTRUDER/ACTIVE SHOOTER PLAN

MEDICAL EMERGENCY PLAN

safety
first

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.



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!

ZACCHAEUS

LUKE 19:1-10



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...

Sunday, March 15, 2026



"Atonement is powerful;
it is the lock on the door you closed against the past."

–Stephen King, *The Green Mile*

"The quickest way to change a child's behavior and attitude
is to get them involved in fixing their mistake.
The best way to inspire a child to do better in the future
is to give them an opportunity to do better in the present.
A punishment makes them feel bad about themselves.
Making amends helps them feel good about themselves,
and helps them to see themselves as a person who can do good."

–Joanna Faber, *How to Talk So Little Kids Will Listen*

"We have it in us to be Christs to each other.
We have it in us to work miracles of love and healing
as well as to have them worked upon us.
We have it in us to bless with him and forgive with him
and heal with him and once in a while maybe even to grieve
with some measure of his grief at another's pain
and to rejoice with some measure of his rejoicing
at another's joy almost as if it were our own."

–Frederick Buechner