

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



*“If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal,
not to people or things.”*

—Albert Einstein

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 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Woman's Association 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

Psalm Prelude

Stanley E. Saxton

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP and PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: Lenten travelers, why are you here?

Many: We gather to do the work of worship.

One: Lenten travelers, what happens when we gather to worship?

**Many: We listen and proclaim. We sing and pray.
We forgive and encourage.**

One: Lenten travelers, how do we do the work of worship?

Many: We bring all that we are to be present to God and one another.

One: Lenten travelers, what work does God do in worship?

**Many: God raises us up so that we can delight in life together
with God and one another.**

One: Lenten travelers, come, let us worship God together!

All: Come, let us worship God together! Amen.

*HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

No. 138

LENTEN LITANY OF CONFESSION and WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The congregation may be seated.

One: With hearts of sorrow, we come before you, O God, to confess what you already know—

Many: We have failed to keep your laws.

One: Again and again.

**Many: We have followed our own selfish will,
rather than your holy and life giving will for our lives.**

One: We have twisted your decrees and institutions to suit our preconceptions and interests rather than your own.

Many: Forgive us, O God, and cleanse us from hidden faults.

**All: That the words of our mouths, and the mediations of all our hearts,
may be acceptable to you, our Rock and our Redeemer.**

One: God shows steadfast love and blesses to the thousandth generation those who follow God.

Many: In love, God sent Jesus to bless and redeem God's people.

**All: God forgives us our wrongdoings and restores us to new life.
Let us rejoice in God's mercy. 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

Sing Me To Heaven
Chancel Choir

Daniel Gawthrop

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 11:15-18

Then they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves, and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. He was teaching and saying, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'. But you have made it a den of robbers."

Continued page 4

And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him, for they were afraid of him because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching.

SERMON "Turning Life Upside Down"

*HYMN *Have Thine Own Way, Lord!*

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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

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS

Carol St. Jean

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Westminster Abbey
(Christ is Made the Sure Foundation)*

Richard Proulx

*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)

We give with joy, loving God, in thanks for all you have allowed us to experience. By your love, we have learned, grown and helped your beloved children here in this community and in the world. Equip us to be an inviting, caring community in which all who come through our doors find a genuine welcome and come to know true acceptance, warmth, and joy in our midst and beyond these walls. Amen.

*HYMN *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

No. 434

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE *Sortie*

George Blake

*(*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. **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
Doug Topliffe, Gail Wiegand
Joan Egbertson, Avis Moller
Deb Boczenowski, Kay Steeves
Patricia Bodan

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

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
Sue Werst
Gretchen Davis
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

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given by the Woman's Association in honor of WA Sunday, as we celebrate 160 years of the Association in the life of our church, and remember all those members who have come before us.

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.

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!

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

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

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.

Today at 11:30 a.m. in the parlor we will hold an informational session to address any questions/inputs. Hard copies of the proposed changes are available on the desk in the office, online through the members' section of our website, or by contacting Andrea Cyr in the church office. We look forward to your input.

Ad Hoc Bylaws Review Team: *Steve Boczenowski, Pastor Maureen Frescott, Heather MacDonald, Susan Manchester, Doug Topliffe, Sue Werst*

CALLING ALL READERS: The Congregational Church of Amherst and the CCA Racial Justice Team will once again sponsor a reading of Frederick Douglass' moving speech, "**What, To the Slave, Is Your Fourth of July.**" The reading will take place in the CCA sanctuary at noon time on June 27, 2026. If you would like to participate in this stirring and poignant reading, please contact Gail Miller at: five0vnine@yahoo.com.

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.

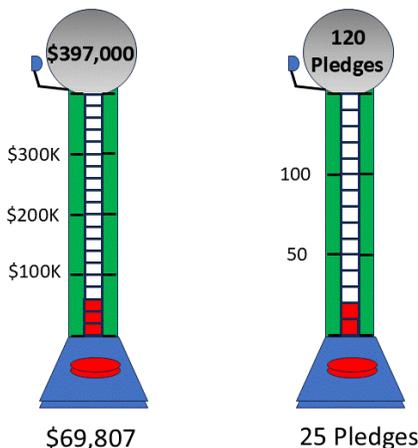
A prayerful reflective service with Communion and Tenebrae – a commemoration of Jesus' last night with his disciples.

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 3/20



THE WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

"For it is in giving, that we receive."

—Francis of Assisi

The Woman's Association has been a part of our church and community since 1865. The Good Stuff rummage sales and the Holiday Fair have been the sources of income for our merry band of women for decades. You, the congregation, have played an important role helping us reach our goals by generously sharing your time, talent, treasures, and rummage, helping us make the following monetary contributions over the past year:

CCA Annual Pledge	\$12,000
Senior Youth Group Mission Trip	\$1,000
CCA Kitchen Supplies	\$50
Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity	\$250
SHARE	\$500
Bridges Domestic & Sexual Violence	\$350
Pass Along Project	\$500
Souhegan Valley Transport (Blue Bus)	\$350
New Hampshire Food Bank	\$750
Amherst Jr Women's Club	\$100
Animal Rescue League of NH	\$200
Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter	\$300
Holiday Toy Store	\$500
Grand Total	\$16,850

STAY ALERT STAY PROTECTED

WWW.CCAMHERST.ORG/SAFETY

EVACUATION PLAN

INTRUDER/ACTIVE SHOOTER PLAN

MEDICAL EMERGENCY PLAN



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 is available by contacting Andrea Cyr in the church office.

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.

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 22, 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.

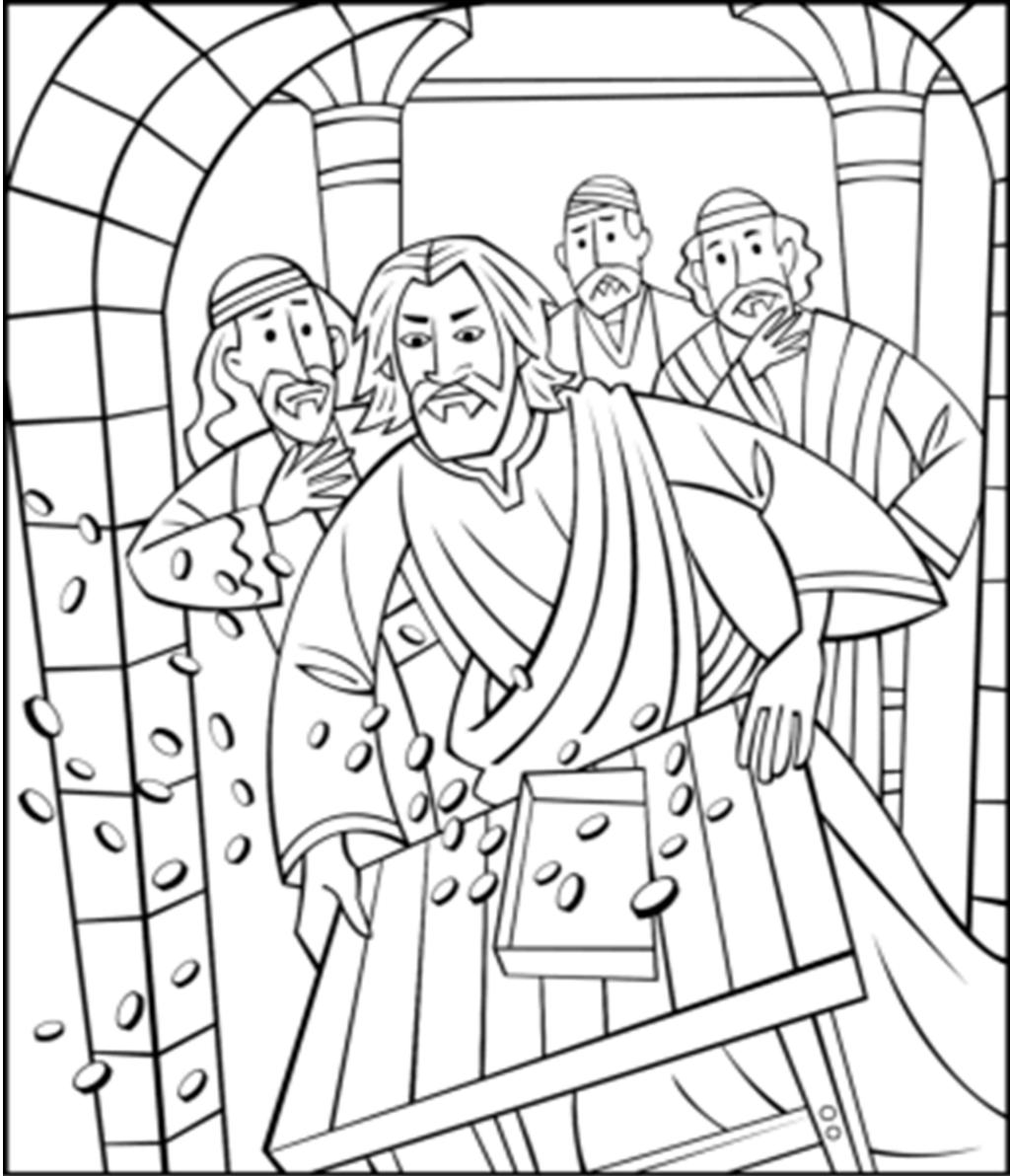
Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help 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:

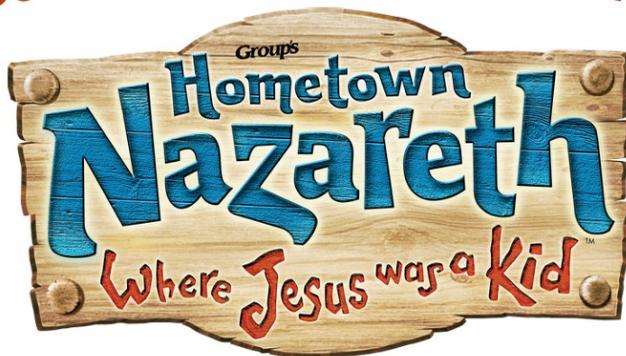
- 1) One Great Hour of Sharing envelopes are in the pews for your convenience mid-March.
- 2) **Donate Online** through our church website, select the 'Missions' offering and type OGHS in the memo box)
- 3) Send a check to the office; make your check payable to *The Congregational Church of Amherst*,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

THANK YOU!

Jesus Cleansing the Temple



Vacation Bible School



The Congregational Church of Amherst, UCC

Join us for a Holy Land Adventure as we travel back in time to learn what life was like when Jesus was growing up. Each day, kids will be immersed in a different Bible story through games, music, crafts, snacks, and more!



Dates: August 3rd- 7th 2026

Time: 9 am - noon daily

Ages: Preschoolers - Rising 5th graders

Cost: \$30 per child

Rising 6th - 12th graders can be Youth Volunteers!



Register Online by July 27: ccamherst.org/vbsreg