



easter
SUNDAY

Christ Is Risen!

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."*

April 5, 2026

Easter 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

Easter Rejoicing
Bell Choir

Michael Helman

EASTER PROCLAMATION

One: Rejoice in the good news! Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Death has been conquered, love has won!

Many: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Let all the earth proclaim this joy!

Many: Christ is risen indeed!

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: This is the day:

**Many: when tears are wiped away;
shattered hearts are mended;
fear is replaced with joy...**

One: This is the day the Lord:
**Many: rolls away the stone of despair;
throws off death's clothes;
goes ahead of us into God's future...**

One: This is the day the Lord has made:

Many: let us rejoice and be glad in it!

One: This is the day - Easter Day!

Many: Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!

*HYMN

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

page 11

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

The congregation may be seated.

**Living God, long ago faithful followers of Jesus
proclaimed the good news of the Resurrection,
and the world was changed forever.**

**Teach us to keep faith with them,
that our witness may be as bold,
our love as deep, and our faith as true.**

**Help us to be an Easter people;
believing that out of despair will come hope,
out of darkness will come light,
out of sadness will come joy,
and out of death, new life will rise.**

May we feel your Spirit moving among us now, O God, as we pray the words of Jesus:

**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.**

*SONG OF PRAISE (tune: LLANFAIR)

**Christ appears in full array, Alleluia!
Sing with joy this Paschal day, Alleluia!
Christ now from the dead is raised, Alleluia!
Holy Trinity be praised, Alleluia!**

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Victory
Chancel Choir

John Ness Beck

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

SERMON

"To Be Continued..."

*HYMN

Thine Is the Glory

No. 122

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

Voluntary in F, IV. Allegro

John Garth

*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)

Generous and surprising God, when we thought that death had claimed our teacher and brother Jesus, you amazed us with the resurrection. Surprise us again with your ability to turn these humble offerings into gifts that will transform the world through our witness to your love. We lay our very lives at your feet, O God, knowing that you will use us to proclaim and embody the gospel. Amen.

*HYMN

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

No. 104

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Hallelujah, Amen from Judas Maccabeus
Chancel Choir

G.F. Handel

*POSTLUDE

Toccata

David H. Hegarty

*(*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 on break this week for the holiday.
- 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 nursery.

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
 Kathleen Bouchard
 Colleen Cushing, Sally Hooper, Doug Topliffe, Gail Wiegand
 Eric Davis, Owen Davis
 Patricia Bodan

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

Larissa Riley
 Melissa Lewis

Director of Youth Ministries
 Nursery Attendant

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

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

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for April include condiments, cooking sauces and seasonings, cooking oil, pasta sauce, tomato sauce, tomato paste, diced tomatoes. 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!

THANK YOU! The Diaconate would like to thank the Congregation for your generosity in support of our Easter Friendship Basket collection. With the over \$1100 in donations received, we were able to provide grocery gift cards to twelve families in our community. Parish outreach is an important part of our mission, and we could not do it without your support.

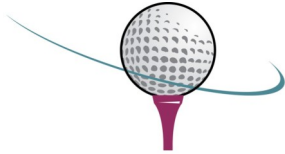
Financial Summary (as of February 28, 2026)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$350,511	\$344,113	\$6,398
Expenses	\$344,129	\$343,121	\$1,008
Net Income	\$ 6,382	\$ 993	\$5,389

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's 100 Holes of Golf



Raffle Tickets

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 19, 2026 during the 100 Holes of Golf event, and you do not need to be present to win.

- 10 cash prizes range from \$500—\$5,000. **Yes, you could win \$5,000!**
- Ticket price is \$20, and \$10 comes straight back to the church.
- **Drawing Friday, June 19, 2026**— you do not need to be in attendance to win.
- Bonus: each ticket comes with great local coupons, including Giorgios, Aroma Joes, and more.

NEW MEMBER INFO SESSIONS: Are you NEW (or not-so-new) to our church and interested in learning more about our congregation? Are you interested in learning more about becoming a member? Do you want to know more about the United Church of Christ? If so, please join us for one of our INFO SESSIONS on either Wednesday, April 15 or Thursday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m. to learn more about all of the above! The sessions will be held on ZOOM to make it easier for all to attend.

For those who've already joined our mailing list and/or inquired about becoming a member, you'll be hearing from us soon! If you've joined us for our in-person or online worship over the last year and are interested in attending one of our info sessions, please reach out to Andrea in our church office at andrea@ccamherst.org or contact Pastor Maureen at pastormaureen@ccamherst.org.

Our Church Calendar

April 5—11, 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	7:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Sunrise Service Worship Fellowship
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Church Council Confirmation Class Trustees of the Facility
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting Adult Confirmation
Thursday	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Congregational Care Bell Choir Chancel Choir

Jesus is Alive!

Alleluia



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, April 5, 2026 – Easter

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