

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



“Our fear of others only ends when we bring them in from the terrifying darkness to our fireside and share our bread and companionship with them. Then, and only then, may we find the light together.”

— Stewart Stafford, Irish 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."*

April 12, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter

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

Llanfair - Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Robert J. Powell

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: We are God's household, crafted by the Architect of Creation:

Many: our hearts a shelter for the stranger; our hands open to all.

One: We are God's people, created in the divine image:

Many: to tell others of God's love, to offer mercy as freely as we have received it.

One: We are God's children, called to give of ourselves:

Many: chosen to serve the lost and lonely, gifted to minister to a hurting world.

One: We are followers of Christ, commissioned to serve in his name:

**Many: We are an Easter people, believing that through us,
God makes all things new!**

*HYMN

I Come with Joy

insert

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

The congregation may be seated.

**Wondrous God,
you are with us at all times:
when we feel joyous and hopeful.
when we feel sorrowful and weary.**

**May we sense your presence among us now.
May we hear your voice above all others.
May we see you in our neighbor and the stranger,
and in the beauty all around us.
May your love move deep within us,
in our worship, in our breaking bread together,
in our service, in our hearts. Amen.**

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*We welcome all people to join in receiving this sacrament.
Children may participate at the discretion of their parents.*

INVITATION AND CALL TO COMMUNION

One: In this season of Easter, we come together at this sacred table,
where Jesus meets all who gather in his name.

Many: **At this table, we come to be served, and to serve.**

One: Here, we remember that Jesus revealed God's love to the world —
a love that is inclusive, expansive, and transforming.

Many: **We come to this table to connect, to belong, and to grow.**

One: So come now to this table that has been prepared for you.
Come not because you must, but because you may.

Many: **For here, all are welcome to share in God's bounty!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION and CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Communion at CCA is open to anyone who would like to partake. When you receive the bread, eat at your own pace, symbolizing our individual relationship with God. When you receive the juice, drink with the whole congregation, symbolizing our communion as the Body of Christ. The bread is gluten, egg, and dairy free and the juice is non-alcoholic, so that there may be no barriers to Christ's table.

ORGAN MEDITATION

Offertory on "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

William H. Doane/
Matthew McConnell

O Love Divine, What Has Thou Done

Isaac B. Woodbury/
Robert J. Powell

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

We give thanks, loving God, for this communal meal that links us to all who have called upon your name. May your wisdom grow within us. May your word inspire us. May the nourishment of this bread and cup strengthen us for the journey, as you send us out into the world as people of courage, compassion, and commitment. Amen.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

With a Voice of Singing
Chancel Choir

Martin Shaw

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

SERMON

“Breaking Bread”

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Sue Ruggiero, Diaconate

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND PRAYERS

All are invited to place their offerings and prayer cards in the plates as they're passed.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Saw Ye My Savior?

Ellen Jane Lorenz

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

*HYMN

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

insert

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Postlude on “St. Dunstan’s”

Charles W. Douglas/
Douglas E. Wagner

*(*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
 Kathleen Bouchard
 Sally Bowkett, Sue Ruggiero, John Swanson, Doug Topliffe
 Doug Topliffe

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
 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

THANK YOU! The Fellowship team would like to thank the Woman's Association for their donation of a double-burner Bunn decanter warmer and two decanters for coffee service. Their generosity is much appreciated.

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!

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

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.

THE GOOD STUFF SALE IS COMING: Spring is coming, and so is the WA Good Stuff Sale! This event will be held in the Community Room and the Vestry on Friday, May 1st from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The sale will feature clothing, jewelry, handbags and linens, along with all kinds of household goods, plus toys, puzzles and games. Please put the dates on your calendar and spread the word about this always-popular event.

The WA is still accepting donations which can be dropped off in the designated area in the Vestry on Sunday or Monday mornings, or by arrangement with Sally Bowkett (sbb46@hotmail.com or 603-673-7409). Clothing should be clean and in good condition. Items that are **not** accepted include bicycles, large sports equipment, big furniture, computers, TVs, car seats or baby furniture - also **no** books this year.



Updated Results of Our Faith Promise Stewardship Campaign

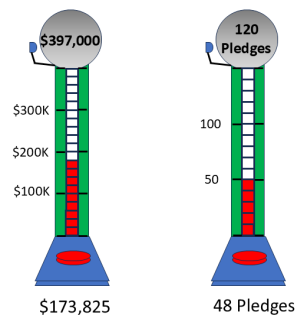
Our 2026-2027 fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is underway. Thank you to all that have responded so far. To those who are still considering your pledge, you can email your intents to Andrea at andrea@ccamherst.org, mail in your pledge intentions, call Andrea (673-3231) or go to the church website <https://www.ccamherst.org/stewardship-pledge/>.

*Herb & Emily Archer
Mark & Fran Baddeley
Cynthia Baker
Gregg Berube
Steve & Deb Boczenowski
Patricia Bodan
Jessica Bortolotto
Jack & Pat Buben
Obadiah & Meredith Dart
Joan Egbertson
Matt & Laura Endres
Alvin & Heidi Fortune
Maureen Frescott
Nancy & Andy Gagnon
Edith Gambee
Sheryl Gottwald
Dave & Kim Hagerstrom
Scott & Sally Hewett
Susan & Don Holden
Roger & Sally Hooper
Jana Howe*

*Kelly & Stephen Isaacs
Patty Jillson
Rita & Leigh King
Bruce & Regina Kinney
Romi Krosch
Peter & Irene Labombarde
Keith & Gail Lammers
Elizabeth Levesque
Heather MacDonald &
William Dallas
Elizabeth MacMillan
Ric & JoAnn Magro
Bruce & Susan Manchester
Kerri Miller
Howell Mitchell
Mary Moore
Avery & Maude Morin
Dan & Samantha Pawlowski
Judy Peterson
David & Joan Poltack
Nancy & Daniel Protzmann*

*Sue Ruggiero
Paul & Maggie Schellenberg
Kelly Schmidt
Kathy Skoglund
Sean & Ann Stevenson
Douglas & Adrienne Topliffe
Sally & Michael Varanka
Marti Warren
Tim & Gail Wiegand
Jodi Woroski & Gwenael Busnel*

Pledge Results as of 4/9



Jesus Breaks Bread on the Road to Emmaus



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 12, 2026

Our Church Calendar

April 12—18, 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
	3:00 p.m.	The Nexus of Health and Racism
	6:30 p.m.	Senior Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Communications
	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Adult Confirmation
	5:30 p.m.	Budget & Finance Team
	7:00 p.m.	New Member Info Session
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Congregational Care
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir