

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."*

April 19, 2026

SHINE SUNDAY

10:00 a.m.

## *Our Faith Promise*

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

*Thine Be the Glory*

G.F. Handel/Lani Smith

INTROIT

\*GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

One: God gives us all that we have,

**Many: Life, love, grace, hope.**

One: God gives us all that we can see,

**Many: Trees, mountains, oceans, all the creatures of the earth.**

One: God gives us all that we treasure,

**Many: Family, friends, and time to be with those we love.**

One: God gives us all that we need,

**Many: Food, shelter, clothing, and the things that bring us joy.**

One: God gives us the opportunity to share all that has been given to us.

**Many: We give back to God by giving to others.**

One: We give back to God by giving of ourselves.

**Many: We give back to God with gratitude and with joy!**

**All: Always giving God, we welcome your Spirit as we gather here in your name.  
Be with us as we lift our voices up in song and praise!**

## MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

## ANTHEM

*God is Seen*  
Chancel Choir

Alice Parker

## \*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

## SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

## THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 21:1-17,19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And Peter said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." After this Jesus said to him, "Follow me."

## SERMON

"Our Faith Promise"

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND PRAYERS

*All are invited to come forward and place offerings of time, talent, and treasure in the plates in front. Prayer cards may also be brought forward at this time and placed in the provided basket.*

OFFERTORY MUSIC      *Pastorale on "My God, Thy Table Now is Spread"*      Franklin D. Ashdown

### \*FAITH PROMISE LITANY

One:      Generous God, we give you thanks this day as we gather our offerings in support of this faith community in the coming year. We bring them before you with anticipation and hope.

**Many:      Hear us, O God, as we give you our thanks and praise.**

One:      For those whose lives have been touched by your Spirit and who have given of themselves generously,

**Many:      We give you thanks and praise.**

One:      For those who are responding to your creative grace with a gift of time, talent, or treasure towards our mission,

**Many:      We give you thanks and praise.**

One:      For those who are unable to give at this time, but who continue to be a vital part of our community,

**Many:      We give you thanks and praise.**

One:      That each one of us, and your whole Church, become more faithful to the call of service through Jesus,

**Many:      We ask for your continuing guidance and care.**

One:      We pray that these offerings may emerge as true gifts, enabling the mission and ministry of this church.

**Many:      With open and giving hearts, we commit our time, talent, and treasure to you, O God. Amen.**

### \*BLESSING OF THE OFFERING (Tune: *AR HYD Y NOS*)

**For the fruit of all Creation, thanks be to God.**

**For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.**

**For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,**

**Future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God!**

## SHARING OUR COMMUNAL PRAYERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER (unison)

**Mother and Father God, all around us,**

**Holy is Your name.**

**May your Reign come, may Your will be done**

**In our world and in Yours.**

**Give us strength and sustenance for this day,**

**and forgive our wrongdoings**

**as we forgive those who have wronged us.**

**Help us to resist harmful distractions,**

**and keep our hearts from being swayed by fear.**

**All of Creation is Yours, O God.**

**May we see You and feel You with us, always. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

insert

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

One: As we leave this sanctuary, may we carry Jesus’ 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

*Easter Dialogue*

Melchior Vulpus/  
Gilbert M. Martin

*(\*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 session will be held April 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](mailto: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](http://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  
 Sue Ruggiero, Gail Wiegand  
 Kelly and Tim Cackett  
 Andrea Cyr

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley  
 Deb Boczenowski  
 Sheryl Gottwald  
 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 in loving memory of Mary Larson Howe, a longtime member of this congregation whose birthday is on April 23rd, as was William Shakespeare's (she loved telling people that). Yellow was her favorite color. The flowers are from Mary's daughter Jana and son Steve.

**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!

### Financial Summary

(as of February 28, 2026)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<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.

**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.

## Our Church Calendar

**April 19—25, 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
	11:30 a.m.	Junior Youth Group
	11:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Racial Justice Team Senior Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Caregivers Circle
	10:00 a.m.	WA Board
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Adult Confirmation
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	New Member Info Session



## Updated Results of Our Faith Promise Stewardship Campaign

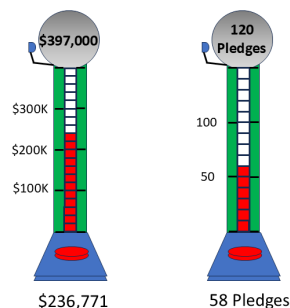
Our 2026-2027 fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is underway. Thank you to all that have responded so far. To those who are still considering your pledge, you can email your intents to Andrea at [andrea@ccamherst.org](mailto:andrea@ccamherst.org), mail in your pledge intentions, call Andrea (673-3231)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

*Herb & Emily Archer*  
*Mark & Fran Baddeley*  
*Cynthia Baker*  
*Ken & Charlotte Bell*  
*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 Gambée*  
*Sheryl Gottwald*  
*Nathan & Jessica Greer*  
*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*  
*Art & Vicky Leknes*  
*Elizabeth Levesque*  
*Heather MacDonald & William Dallas*  
*Elizabeth MacMillan*  
*Ric & JoAnn Magro*  
*Bruce & Susan Manchester*  
*Kerri Miller*  
*Howell Mitchell*  
*Avis Moller*  
*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*  
*Paul & Sue Spiess*  
*Dick & Kay Steeves*  
*Sean & Ann Stevenson*  
*Douglas & Adrienne Topliffe*  
*Sally & Michael Varanka*  
*Marti Warren*  
*Tom & Sue Werst*  
*Tim & Gail Wiegand*  
*Jodi Woroski & Gwenael Busnel*

Pledge Results as of 4/16



# 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...

Jesus says, "Come and eat, and follow me."



## Vacation Bible School

Join us for a Holy Land Adventure as we travel back in time to learn what life was like when Jesus was growing up.

**August 3—7, 2026**

9:00 a.m. to noon daily

Ages Preschool through Rising 5th graders

\$30 per child

Rising 6th—12th graders can be Youth Volunteers.

Register online by July 27: [ccamherst.org/vbsreg](http://ccamherst.org/vbsreg)

Sunday, April 19, 2026



“The trouble with deep belief is that it costs something.  
And there is something inside me, some selfish beast of a subtle thing  
that doesn't like this truth at all because it carries responsibility,  
and if I actually believe these things I have to do something about them. “

— Donald Miller, *Blue Like Jazz: Nonreligious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality*

“Jesus of Nazareth always comes asking disciples to follow him—  
not merely "accept him," not merely "believe in him,"  
not merely "worship him," but to follow him:  
one either follows Christ, or one does not.  
There is no compartmentalization of the faith,  
no realm, no sphere, no business, no politic  
in which the lordship of Christ will be excluded.  
We either make him Lord of all lords, or we deny him as Lord of any.”

— Lee Camp, *Mere Discipleship: Radical Christianity in a Rebellious World*

“Rest in your God-breathed worth.  
Stop holding your breath, hiding your gifts, ducking your head,  
dulling your roar, distracting your soul, stilling your hands, quieting your voice,  
and satiating your hunger with the lesser things of this world.”

— Sarah Bessey, *Jesus Feminist: An Invitation to Revisit the Bible's View of Women*

## Congregational Church of Amherst Fundraiser



Ecosmith Recyclers Inc. and Congregational Church are proud to partner in hosting a fundraising clothing and shoe drive.

Raise money to support your local church by donating new or used articles of clothing, pairs of shoes, and household textiles.



# CLOTHING & SHOE DRIVE

### WHAT TO DONATE

- Shirts
- Jeans
- Pants
- Shorts
- Sweaters
- Jackets
- Socks
- Dresses
- Skirts
- Bed linen
- Purses
- Backpacks
- Hats
- Scarves
- Belts
- Sneakers
- Sandals
- Dress Shoes
- Boots
- Towels

PLEASE BAG SHOES AND CLOTHING  
SEPARATELY

### WHEN

**April 29<sup>th</sup> through May 18<sup>th</sup>**

### WHERE

**Meeting Place Plaza**

199 Route 101, Amherst, NH

### CONTACT

**Colleen Cushing**

**colleencushing54@gmail.com**

All collected material is destined for export to less advantaged persons in developing nations around the world.

**info@ecosmithrecyclers.com • 11 Byam Road, New Boston, NH 03070 • 603-647-1088**