

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



*“The intuitive mind is a sacred gift,  
and the rational mind is a faithful servant.  
We have created a society that honors the servant  
and has forgotten the gift.”*

— 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."*

April 26, 2026

Fourth 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

*Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier*

J. S. Bach

INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

One: Easter people, we gather to worship and to listen,  
to learn the sound and feel the rhythm of the Shepherd's voice.

**Many: We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.**

One: We gather to worship and to discern,  
to learn how to recognize our Shepherd's voice amidst the busyness and noise of our lives.

**Many: We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.**

One: We gather to worship and to find shelter,  
to learn to trust our Shepherd's voice to guide us to safety and provide for us in all things.

**Many: We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.**

One: Come, let us worship as we listen for the voice of Jesus,  
who guides us, protects us, provides for us, and draws us together in community.

**ALL: We come to worship as the family of Christ,  
a flock seeking and following our Shepherd's voice.**

\*HYMN

*The Strife is O'er*

page 11

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

**Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us. When we face darkness and death, journey beside us. When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence. When we are fearful, feed us at your table. May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. Hear us now, as we pray the words that Jesus taught us:**

**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

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

*For the Beauty of the Earth*  
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 10:1-10

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

SERMON

“Why Follow?”

\*HYMN

*The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want*  
verses 1, 2, 4 & 5

No. 170

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

*Aria*

Noel Rawsthorne

\*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)

**Faithful Shepherd, who calls us by name, you invite us into a life that is rich in meaning, deep in joy, and bold in compassion. You speak, and we long to follow – although the world is noisy and the path unclear. In this moment of offering, we quiet our hearts to listen again. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in you. May they be used to bring abundance to others, to feed the hungry, to strengthen the lost, and to proclaim your voice of love. In coming and going, in worship and service, make us more like Christ, in whose name we give and pray. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*I Danced in the Morning*  
verses 1, 2, 4 & 5

No. 302

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

One: Beloved, may God bless you with open hearts and minds.

**Many: So that together we may pay attention, discern, and follow the Shepherd's voice.**

One: For that is the way,

**Many: that leads to abundant life on earth as it is in heaven!**

**ALL: Our worship has ended, and our service begins. Amen.**

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE

*Postlude on "Creation"*

Charles Callahan

*(\*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. 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 and resumes next Sunday.
- 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.

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  
 Sandra LaBarge-Neumann  
 Kathleen Bouchard  
 Colleen Cushing, Gail Wiegand  
 Sally Bowkett  
 Don and Susan Holden  
 Tim Wiegand

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Michael Havay  
 Larissa Riley  
 Melissa Lewis

Organist/Accompanist  
 Director of Youth Ministries  
 Nursery Attendant

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** This year's theme is *Hometown Nazareth*. Join us for a Holy Land adventure, as we travel back in time to learn what life was like when Jesus was growing up. Registration is ongoing for this year's VBS week: August 3-7, 2026. Visit [ccamherst.org/vbsreg](http://ccamherst.org/vbsreg) for more information and registration details.

**SAVE THE DATE:** This year's annual meeting will be on Sunday, May 17, 2026.

**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 March 31, 2026)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$398,346	\$390,358	\$7,988
Expenses	\$383,834	\$382,608	\$1,226
Net Income	\$ 14,512	\$ 7,750	\$6,762

*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.*

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

## 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.

## Good Stuff Sale

This popular WA event is a fundraiser for the Woman's Association and the church. Here is what you should know:

- ❖ The event takes place in the Vestry and the Community Room on Friday, May 1, from 3:00 to 7:00 pm, and on Saturday, May 2, from 9:00 am to Noon.
- ❖ The sale features clothing for all ages, linens, handbags, jewelry, household items, books, toys and games, all at bargain prices.
- ❖ Donations of clothing, toys, jewelry and handbags, linens and household items can be dropped off in the Vestry by April 28.

Help is needed with set-up on Monday, April 27 through Thursday, April 30, both days from 10am to 3pm, and at the event on Friday and Saturday.

More hands will be needed on Saturday at noon to bag up unsold items (many of which will be taken to the Ecosmith container at the Meeting Place) and to load non-clothing items into cars or trucks to be delivered to Goodwill or another location.

If you can help at any of these times, please contact Sally Bowkett at [sbb46@hotmail.com](mailto:sbb46@hotmail.com) or 603-801-9267.





## Updated Results of Our Faith Promise Stewardship Campaign

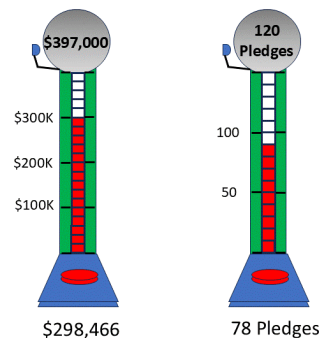
Our 2026-2027 fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is underway. Thank you to all that have responded so far. To those who are still considering your pledge, you can email your intents to Andrea at [andrea@ccamherst.org](mailto:andrea@ccamherst.org), mail in your pledge intentions, call Andrea (673-3231) 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  
 Gabe & Becky Bolin  
 Jessica Bortolotto  
 Kathleen Bouchard &  
 Christie Gould  
 Sally Bowkett  
 Lee Bowley & Gail Miller  
 Jack & Pat Buben  
 Peter & Liz Cipparone  
 Sydney Conti  
 Colleen Cushing  
 Obadiah & Meredith Dart  
 Eric Davis  
 Gretchen & Tyler Davis  
 Joan Egbertson  
 Matt & Laura Endres  
 Alvin & Heidi Fortune  
 Maureen Frescott  
 Nancy & Andy Gagnon  
 Edith Gambee  
 Sheryl Gottwald  
 Nathan & Jessica Greer  
 Dave & Kim Hagerstrom  
 Katie & Reid Henderson  
 Leona Hendrickson  
 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 & Sara Phelps  
 David & Joan Poltack  
 Nancy & Daniel Protzmann  
 Travis & Larissa Riley  
 Sue Ruggiero  
 Paul & Maggie Schellenberg  
 Kelly Schmidt  
 Beth Secor*

*Kathy Skoglund  
 Paul & Sue Spiess  
 Dick & Kay Steeves  
 Sean & Ann Stevenson  
 Dick & Sue Stout  
 John & Anita Swanson  
 Kate & Keith Thompson  
 Holly Tonnesen  
 Jean Tonnesen  
 Douglas & Adrienne Topliffe  
 Sally & Michael Varanka  
 Marti Warren  
 Tom & Sue Werst  
 Todd & Jennifer Whitney  
 Tim & Gail Wiegand  
 Jodi Woroski & Gwenael Busnel*

Pledge Results as of 4/23



# Jesus the Good Shepherd



# 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 26, 2026

## 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](mailto:colleencushing54@gmail.com)

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

[info@ecosmithrecyclers.com](mailto:info@ecosmithrecyclers.com) • 11 Byam Road, New Boston, NH 03070 • 603-647-1088