

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



*"God intends our care of Creation to reflect
our love for the Creator."*

—John Stott

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."*

May 3, 2026

Fifth 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

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

John Darwall/
Anna Laura Page

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP and INVOCATION

based on the hymn *For Beauty of Meadows*

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: For beauty of meadows, for grandeur of trees,

Many: for flowers of woodlands, for creatures of seas,

One: for all God created and gave us to share,

Many: we praise our Creator, extoling God's care.

One: As stewards of beauty received at God's hand,

Many: as creatures who hear God's most urgent command,

One: we ask God to teach us to be gardeners of peace,

Many: all nature around us is ours but on lease.

One: Hallowed is your name, O God, in all that we do,

Many: may we fulfill our sacred calling, creating with you!

*HYMN

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

No. 288

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The congregation may be seated.

OUR COVENANT WITH NEW MEMBERS

Invitation to our new members:

Rebecca Fitzgerald Dan Grainger Jeanne Hochstetler Melissa Lewis

Questions of Commitment

*Congregational Covenant and Welcome (in unison)

We welcome you with joy to the common mission and life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as together we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of Jesus' ministry in the world.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Greeting and Presentation of Certificates

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
Chancel Choir

J. S. Bach

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Leviticus 25:1-12, 18-24

At Mount Sinai, YAHWEH instructed Moses to tell the Israelites these things: When you enter the land I am giving you, the land itself must observe a Sabbath for YAHWEH. For six years you may sow your fields and prune your vineyards and gather their crops. But in the seventh year the land is to have a Sabbath of rest. Do not sow your fields and do not prune your vineyards. Do not harvest what grows of itself, or store the grapes of your untended vines. It will be a year of complete rest for the land. On the other hand, what the land produces on its own will be food for you, for your bonded workers, for your hired hands, for the foreigners living among you, for your livestock and for the wild animals in your land. You may eat whatever the land volunteers.

Count off seven weeks of years—that is, seven times seven—so that the seven weeks of years totals forty-nine years. Then have the ram's horn blown throughout your land on the Day of Reconciliation. You will make the fiftieth year holy, proclaiming freedom throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It will be a Jubilee year for you: each of you must return to the land of your family.

Keep my statutes, obey my laws, and you will live securely on the land. The land will yield its bounty, and you will eat your fill and dwell there in safety. You must not sell land in perpetuity, for the land belongs to me, and you are only immigrants and foreign tenants. You must provide for the right of redemption for any of the land that you own.

SERMON

“The Land at Rest”

OFFERING OUR GIFTS and PRAYERS

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Andante Tranquillo from Organ Sonata No. 3

Felix Mendelssohn/
Robert Lau

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.

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 fifty-day 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

Two Scriptural Contemplations

Lester H. Groom

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in 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.

*HYMN

Restless Weaver

pages 10 and 11

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Arthur S. Sullivan/
Edward Broughton

*(*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. 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
Colleen Cushing
Sue Ruggiero, John Swanson, Doug Topliffe, Gail Wiegand
Paul Schellenberg

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
Sheryl Gottwald
Sue Werst
Matt Emmons
Vicky Leknes
Larissa Riley
Melissa Lewis

Director of Youth Ministries
Teacher, Preschool/Kindergarten
Assistant Teacher, Preschool/Kindergarten
Teacher, Grades 1 and 2
Assistant Teacher, Grades 3 and 4
Teacher, Grades 5 to 7
Nursery Attendant

IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY: There is a new, temporary addition to the sanctuary, a tall microphone stand in the front row of pews. This is only temporary while we are running tests to see how best to improve the audio experience of our Livestream system. The Livestream system currently cannot "hear" the choir, piano, or bell choir very well. These audio tests should be completed in the month of May timeframe. Thanks for your understanding and sorry to the displaced folks who normally sit in the pew commandeered by the microphone stand.

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 for more information and registration details.

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

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH: Each day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through the *Strengthen the Church* offering, they can become a reality. As God calls our congregations to be "church" in new ways, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that "God is still speaking." Your offerings are directed to your church's Conference, and Local Church Ministries. Checks may be written to *The Congregational Church of Amherst*, with *Strengthen the Church* noted on the memo line.



Updated Results of Our Faith Promise Stewardship Campaign

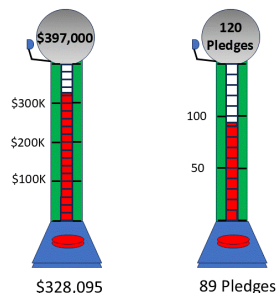
Our 2026-2027 fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is underway. Thank you to all that have responded so far. To those who are still considering your pledge, you can email your intents to Andrea at andrea@ccamherst.org, mail in your pledge intentions, call Andrea (673-3231) or go to the church website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

*Patricia Ansdell
 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
 Susan Deschenes & Fred Dyke
 Joan Egbertson
 Stephen Egbertson
 Matt & Laura Endres
 Alvin & Heidi Fortune
 Maureen Frescott
 Nancy & Andy Gagnon
 Edith Gambee
 Sheryl Gottwald
 Nathan & Jessica Greer
 Dave & Kim Hagerstrom
 Brian & Alice Handwerk
 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
 Tedd & Carol Landon
 Linda Lannin
 Art & Vicky Leknes
 Elizabeth Levesque
 Don & Carol Lyon
 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
 Craig & Kathe Richardson
 Travis & Larissa Riley*

*Sue Ruggiero
 Vic & Carolin Sanchez
 Paul & Maggie Schellenberg
 Kelly Schmidt
 Beth Secor
 Kathy Skoglund
 Paul & Sue Spiess
 Dick & Kay Steeves
 Sean & Ann Stevenson
 Dick & Sue Stout
 John & Anita Swanson
 Bill Swift
 Kate & Keith Thompson
 Holly Tonnesen
 Jean Tonnesen
 Douglas & Adrienne Topliffe
 Sally & Michael Varanka
 Charlie & Rolinda Vars
 Marti Warren
 Tom & Sue Werst
 Todd & Jennifer Whitney
 Tim & Gail Wiegand
 Jodi Woroski & Gwenael Busnel*

Pledge Results as of 4/30



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, May 3, 2026

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.

God Makes All Things Grow!



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 29th through May 18th

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