

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



*“When Jesus let go of his last breath –
that breath hovered in the air in front of him for a moment
and then it was set loose on earth.*

*It was a breath so full of passion, so full of life,
that it did not simply dissipate as so many breaths do.
It grew, in strength and in volume, until it was a mighty wind,
which God sent spinning through an upper room in Jerusalem
on the day of Pentecost.”*

- Barbara Brown Taylor

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 24, 2026

PENTECOST 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

O Comforter, Draw Near

Ralph Vaughan Williams
arr. Kevin Uppercue

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: People of God, the Spirit is here among us.

Many: Within us, around us, between us.

One: The Spirit is here to strengthen us.

Many: Bringing courage, bringing conviction, bringing joy.

One: The Spirit is here to comfort us.

Many: Holding us up, calming our fears, drying our tears.

One: The Spirit is here to challenge us.

Many: Pushing us outside the lines we’ve drawn around our lives.

One: The Spirit is here to move us.

Many: Inspiring us to bring God’s love into the world.

One: The Spirit is here!

All: May we be filled with God’s Spirit as we worship and serve together!

**The congregation is invited to rise in body or in spirit.*

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

The congregation may be seated.

Spirit of gentleness,
we invite you to move, swirl, and dance among us.
Remind us that you are always present:
encouraging, comforting, and inspiring us
to be the loving people you created us to be.
Stir us during this hour
to walk humbly with you,
to embrace your love,
to do justice in our unjust and fragmented world.
May your sacred presence fill this place,
and fill our hearts, 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 CHILDREN AND YOUTH

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove
Chancel Choir

Joe Cox and Jody Lindh

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? *continued pg. 4*

Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.”

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.” But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these people are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

SERMON

“Our Native Language”

HYMN

Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song

no. 314

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Holy Spirit, Light Our Darkness

Robert J. Powell

*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 (in unison)

Holy One, you have given yourself to us in Creator, in Christ, in Spirit. We now give back to you. Receive what we offer and transform it by the power of your Spirit into a means of spreading your peace, justice, and love in the world. May many lives be touched by this offering, and may we see the signs of your presence birthed all around us, so that we may be inspired to follow you all the days of our lives. Amen.

*HYMN

Spirit (verses 1, 3, 4)

No. 319

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

*Komm, Gott, Schöpfer, Heiliger Geist
(Come, Creator God, Holy Spirit)*

Johann Gottfried Walther

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

The cover art for this bulletin is licensed by iStock.com. The artist is Amar Tanveer.

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
 Liz MacMillan, Gail Wiegand
 Ken Bell, Roger Hooper
 Paul Schellenberg

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

NO CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY: Due to the Memorial Day holiday weekend, no Church School classes will be held today. Children are welcome to stay in worship with their parents.

LEVI SUNDAY IS MAY 31: Wear your work clothes to church and join us after worship for our annual Spring cleaning day. We have our usual spring projects such as yard cleanup, spreading mulch, and sweeping and cleaning the parking lot. Bring your own tools for the job you want to tackle. Many hands make light work!

100 HOLES OF GOLF RAFFLE: Don't miss out on your chance to win big cash prizes in the Milford Rotary 100 Holes of Golf raffle. Half of the money collected for tickets sold through our church comes right back to us! And the Rotary donates their portion of the proceeds to organizations locally, regionally, and internationally for scholarships and programs benefitting our communities. The raffle drawing will be on Friday, June 19. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased through the link on the ccamherst.org website. Scroll through the images in our Welcome banner to access the 100 Holes of Golf link.

Our Church Calendar

May 24—30, 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 Time 6:30 p.m. Senior Youth Group
Monday	Memorial Day Holiday
Tuesday	4:00 p.m. WOW Team
Wednesday	7:00 p.m. World Service Team 7:00 p.m. Adult Confirmation Class
Thursday	6:00 p.m. Safety Review Team 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

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.

Updated Results of Our Faith Promise Stewardship Campaign

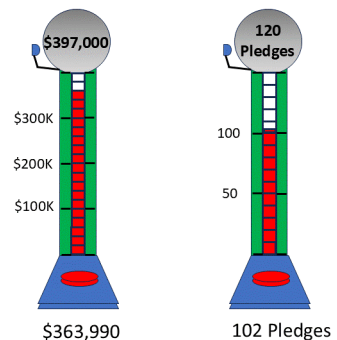
Our 2026-2027 fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is underway. Thank you to all that have responded so far. To those who are still considering your pledge, you can email your intents to Michael at officeadmin@ccamherst.org, mail in your pledge intentions, call (673-3231), or go to the church website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

Patricia Ansdell
 Shayna Appel
 Herb & Emily Archer
 Mark & Fran Baddeley
 Cynthia Baker
 Alison Batey
 Terri Behm & Ken D'Ambrosio
 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
 Tim & Kelly Cackett
 Peter & Liz Cipparone
 Sydney Conti
 Wayne & Audrey Crowell
 Colleen Cushing
 Obadiah & Meredith Dart
 Eric Davis
 Gretchen & Tyler Davis
 Susan Deschenes & Fred Dyke
 Cynthia Dokmo
 Judi Dunbar
 Joan Egbertson
 Stephen Egbertson
 Matthew & Stephanie Emmons
 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
 Jeanne Hochstetler
 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
 Ingrid Michaelis
 Kerri Miller
 Howell Mitchell
 Avis Moller
 Mary Moore
 Avery & Maude Morin
 Dan & Samantha Pawlowski
 Judy Peterson
 David & Sara Phelps
 David & Joan Poltack
 Chris & Gretchen Pyles
 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
 Carol St. Jean
 Dick & Kay Steeves
 Sean & Ann Stevenson
 Dick & Sue Stout
 John & Anita Swanson
 Bill Swift
 Kate & Keith Thompson
 Holly Tonnesen
 Jean Tonnesen
 Douglas & Adrienne Topliffe
 Theresa van ham
 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 5/21



Sunday, May 24, 2026

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...

God's SPIRIT moves in us!

