

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



“If the idea of God as both Three and One seems far-fetched and obfuscating, look in the mirror someday. There is (a) the interior life known only to yourself and those you choose to communicate it to (the Father). There is (b) the visible face which in some measure reflects that inner life (the Son). And there is (c) the invisible power you have in order to communicate that interior life in such a way that others do not merely know about it, but know it in the sense of its becoming part of who they are (the Holy Spirit). Yet what you are looking at in the mirror is clearly and invisibly the one and only you.”

— Frederick Buechner

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 31, 2026

TRINITY SUNDAY
First Sunday After Pentecost

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

Prelude on “Old Hundredth”

Kevin Uppercue

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: In the laughter of children, we hear the voice of the Gate of the Way,
and find our way home.

**Many: In the lap of a parent,
God’s compassion cradles us in the still waters of love.**

One: The Shepherd of our lives leads us through that door
into life with them forever.

**Many: We are baptized with living waters which refresh us,
restoring us to follow Jesus all our days.**

One: The Holy Spirit, Keeper of Truth, is the Light which guides us
Through every shadowed moment.

**ALL: The Breath of life stills our worries and fears,
as we are led to that peaceful place of God’s heart.**

*HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy

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**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.

Buoyed by your living waters, we are at peace in seas of stress and success; detoured onto those walkways leading to your joy, we find our way out of mazes of meetings and deadlines; nourished at your picnic in that garden of grace, our shredded souls are anointed by your healing; you slow us down just enough, as we try to escape the very lives we think we want, so goodness and mercy can catch up with us and carry us into your heart. God in Community, Holy in One, may you always be with us on our journey. As we pray as Jesus taught us, saying:

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

ANTHEM

Set Me As a Seal
Chancel Choir

René Clausen

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

my whole life long.

SERMON

“Guardian of the Soul”

HYMN

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

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JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Father Most Holy

David Cherwien

*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)

God of love, you abide with us; you provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways. Out of gratitude for your care, we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of caring, that all may feast at the table of abundance, walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of compassion. Amen.

*HYMN

Come, Great God of All the Ages

No. 132

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

One: Day by day, God will lead us:

Many: To those pools of peace where we can gather with our friends and strangers.

One: Day by day, Jesus will call us:

Many: To give of ourselves in service, to anoint others with hope.

One: Day by day, the Spirit shows us:

Many: The people we might be, the community we might become.

ALL: May we go in peace to bring peace to all we meet. Amen.

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Our Refuge and Strength

Edward Broughton

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PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church
 Rev. Charlotte E. Y. Bell
 Rev. Maureen R. Frescott
 Sara L. Phelps
 Michael Havay
 Colleen Cushing
 Liz MacMillan, Sally Hooper
 Sue and Paul Spiess
 Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World
 Associate Pastor
 Senior 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
 Linda Lannin
 Gretchen Davis
 Larissa Riley
 Melissa Lewis

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

Our Church Calendar

May 31—June 6, 2026

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	11:30 a.m.	LEVI Sunday
	6:30 p.m.	Senior Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	5:30 p.m.	Church Council
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class Dinner & Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	NEW Walking Group
Thursday	8:15 a.m.	Wilkins School History Tours
	6:00 p.m.	Safety Review Team
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

CELEBRATION OF CHILDREN AND

YOUTH: Next Sunday, June 7 the 10:00 am worship service will celebrate Children's Sunday and Confirmation, a time to recognize all the children, youth, and adult volunteers who bring life to our Youth Ministries programs at CCA. Our 2026 Confirmation Class will affirm their faith and be welcomed into full membership to our church community. The children and youth will be actively involved in the service, leading prayers and reading Scripture, providing special music, and sharing about their mission work.



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

Sunday, May 31, 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...

The Lord is My Shepherd!

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