

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."*

May 17, 2026

SHINE SUNDAY
"God's Will Be Done"

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

Crown Him with Many Crowns

George J. Elvey
arr. Anna Laura Page

INTROIT

*GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: It is in this place of discovery
that we come searching.

**Many: We come to this sanctuary, to find
the One who has been searching for us.**

One: It is in this place of welcome
that we come knocking.

**Many: We come to this sanctuary, to be embraced
by the One whose heart is always open.**

One: It is in this place of peace
that we come longing.

**Many: We come to this sanctuary, to hear Good News
from the One who calms the storm.**

One: Always present God, it is in this place of worship
that we come to open our hearts and listen for your response.

**Many: We come before you now, Still Speaking God –
may your voice be heard, may your will be done!**

*HYMN

God Our Author and Creator

page 5

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 1:1-21

Theophilus, the first scroll I wrote concerned everything Jesus did and taught from the beginning, right up to the day when he was taken up into God's presence. Before he was taken up, Jesus instructed the apostles he had chosen, and he showed them that he was alive with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days, speaking to them about God's kingdom. He told them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what God had promised. He said, "John baptized with water, but in only a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, "Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?" Jesus replied, "It isn't for you to know the times or seasons that God has set. Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going away, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. They said, "Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward the sky? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into God's presence, will come in the same way that you saw him go."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives—a sabbath day's journey away. When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter, John, James, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James, Alphaeus' son; Simon the zealot; and Judas, James' son— all were united in their devotion to prayer, along with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

During this time, the family of believers was a company of about one hundred twenty persons. Peter stood among them and said, "Brothers and sisters, the scripture that the Holy Spirit announced beforehand had to be fulfilled. This was the scripture concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus. This happened even though he was one of us. Judas must now be replaced. The replacement must come from the company of men who stayed together with us from the time Jesus was baptized by John up to the day of his ascension."

So they nominated two: Joseph Barsabbas, nicknamed Justus, and Matthias. They prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's deepest thoughts and desires. Show us clearly which one you have chosen from among these two to take the place of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas turned away." When they cast lots, the lot fell on Matthias. He was added to the eleven apostles.

SERMON

"God's Will Be Done"

WIDENING OUR WELCOME

Alison Batey

OFFERING OUR GIFTS and PRAYERS

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

An Ascension Canticle

Valeriy Antonyuk

SHARING OUR COMMUNAL PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER LITANY

One: Always Present God, be with us now, as we pray the way Jesus taught us:

Many: Our Father, who art in heaven,

One: Creator and Sustainer of all that is.

Many: Hallowed be thy name,

One: May we never use your name in vain.

Many: Thy kingdom come,

One: We invite you to recreate our world anew.

Many: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,

One: and help us to align our actions with your loving ways.

Many: Give us this day our daily bread,

One: Sustain us with all that we need to grow and flourish.

Many: And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,

One: Grant us mercy, and help us to do the same with those who wrong us.

Many: And lead us not into temptation,

One: Help us to avoid the snares and distractions of the world.

Many: But deliver us from evil,

One: Keep us safe—body, mind, and spirit—from all that seeks to harm us.

Many: For thine is the kingdom,

One: Your Creation is ours to serve,

Many: and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*HYMN

Open My Eyes That I May See

No. 324

*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

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune on "Salve festa dies"

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

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
John Swanson, Sally Hooper
Joan and Steve Egbertson
Patricia Bodan

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
Sue Werst
Kelly Isaacs
Matt Emmons
Gretchen Davis
Larissa Riley
Melissa Lewis

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

ANNUAL MEETING TODAY: The Annual Meeting immediately follows worship services today. The meeting will be held in the community room at the church. Your officers and council members look forward to your attendance and input at this important meeting.

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!

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for May include toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorants, shampoo and conditioner, bar soap, feminine hygiene products, and diapers and wipes. 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!

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



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.

Our Church Calendar

May 17—23, 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
	11:30 a.m.	Annual Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Senior Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Luncheon Set-Up
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	WA Annual Luncheon
	10:00 a.m.	Caregivers Circle
	6:30 p.m.	Youth Confirmation Class
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Adult Confirmation Class
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Safety Review Team
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

Milford Rotary's 100 Holes of Golf



- 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.

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

Updated Results of Our Faith Promise Stewardship Campaign

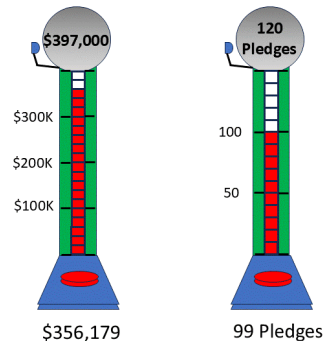
Our 2026-2027 fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is underway. Thank you to all that have responded so far. To those who are still considering your pledge, you can email your intents to Michael at officeadmin@ccamherst.org, mail in your pledge intentions, call (673-3231) or go to the church website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

Patricia Ansdell
 Shayna Appel
 Herb & Emily Archer
 Mark & Fran Baddeley
 Cynthia Baker
 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 Crosswell
 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
 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
 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 5/14



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

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...



“We, certainly would be shocked
if the roof was shattered and the Spirit descended.
We do tend to be professional in our approach to God,
and we are also certainly uncomfortable with the more visceral expressions
of the Spirit’s power, that you might see in charismatic church,
with speaking in tongues and waving of hands.
We much prefer the benign summoning of the Spirit
and the quiet expectation that it will somehow descend in a dignified manner.

Yet if we know anything, we know that the wind of the Spirit blows where it wills,
we know that there is nothing that we can do to predict or restrict
the movement of the Spirit, and that God is good, but not safe,
and certainly not predictable.

The litany of interactions between the human race and God
are a litany of surprises, of Damascus roads, of burning bushes
and of God choosing to work through flawed, or dubious people
to bring about the fulfilling of God’s purpose.

*Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke?
Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it?
The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets,
mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning.
It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church;
we should all be wearing crash helmets.
Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares;
they should lash us to our pews.
For the sleeping god may wake someday and take offense,
or the waking god may draw us out to where we can never return.”*

— Annie Dillard

**Choosing a new Disciple:
Jesus said, "God's Spirit will guide you!"**

