

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



“Prayer does not change God, but it changes the one who prays.”

—Søren Kierkegaard

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

September 22, 2019

Fifteenth 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

How Firm a Foundation

Jason Payne

INTROIT

Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Blessing God, you bless us richly.

People: Loving God, you love us wholly.

Leader: Forgiving God, you forgive us entirely.

People: Calling God, you call us tenderly.

Leader: Nurturing God, you nurture us patiently.

People: Challenging God, you challenge us tenaciously.

Leader: Moving God, you move us profoundly.

All: God of our lives, we invite you among us and listen for your word!

*HYMN

God of Our Life

No. 275

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

Seeking God, we have come to this place to find you; yet, you have been beside us all the time. Our prayer, then, does not so much ask for you to be here, as it asks that you make our own hearts more aware of you. Creator, you are as present as the sun above us and the air around us, yet it is so easy to take your love and grace for granted. Fill this moment with awe, and help us move from this reverent hour, this moment of devotion, into a life of presence and prayer. Here our petition, praise, gratitude, and longing 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.**

***GLORIA PATRI (Tune #579)**

Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and Holy Spirit, One;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

ANTHEM

God Be With You
Bell Choir

arr. Susan Geschke

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

SERMON

“Thoughts and Prayers”

***HYMN**

Sweet Hour of Prayer

insert

You are invited to write your joys and concerns on the prayer cards in the pews, and pass to the minister to be lifted in prayer at this time.

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Along with our offering collected this morning, we dedicate the generous contributions of those who give monthly or electronically. All of our offerings support the work and witness of Jesus Christ here in this place and in the wider world. Each is given to the glory of God in faithful appreciation for many received blessings. Thanks be to God!

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Devotion
Chancel Choir

John Ness Beck

***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)**

Receive these gifts, O God, and with them we offer ourselves. Use us and all we have, to bring a message of hope to those who cannot imagine a future free from despair, to bring a message of love to those who cannot imagine what it is to feel your embrace, to bring a message of forgiveness to those who cannot imagine grace is meant for them. In the name of the One who is both gift and giver we pray. Amen.

***HYMN**

O Grant Us, God, a Little Space

insert

***THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD**

***COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

Chancel Choir

***POSTLUDE**

Praising!

Gilbert Martin

(*Indicates that those who are able may stand.)

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

September 29:	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
OR	Amos 6:1a, 4-7 Psalm 146 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31
October 6:	Lamentations 1:1-6 Lamentations 3:19-26 or Psalm 137
OR	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 37:1-9 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AMHERST

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 this morning. Our membership is open to all those who choose to walk with us in our witness. **The next new member orientations will be held October 17 and November 13.** New members will be formally received on Sunday, November 17. Please speak with any of our deacons or pastors should you have any questions regarding our church or our membership.

Worship Notes:

- **Nursery Care** is provided for children ages two and under at the beginning of worship.
- **Church School** is available for children in Pre-K through grade 7 immediately following Children’s Time.
- **Joys and Concerns** may be written on the cards found in the pew racks. Cards will be collected by one of the pastors during the middle hymn and shared during the Prayers of the People.
- **Nametags** – 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.
- **Fellowship** – Please join us in the community room following worship to welcome visitors and friends.
- **Emergencies** – 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 nursery and in the church school.

The church office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Here’s how to reach us: by telephone 673-3231, or by email andrea@ccamherst.org. If we are unavailable by phone, please feel free to leave a message using the personal directory, 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 at Facebook.com/ccamherst.

Grounded in God’s Love—Serving Neighbors Near and Far—Welcoming to All

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Maureen R. Frescott
 Katherine R. Kennedy
 Sara L. Phelps
 Michael Havay
 Wendy Valeri
 Kate Thompson
 Heather, Tom and Zachary Elmer
 Chris, Gretchen, Emma, Audrey and Declan Pyles
 Bridget Thompson
 Marilyn Gibson
 Heather Stone
 Leona Hendrickson
 Rebekah Bolin
 Gretchen Davis
 Dave Hagerstrom

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor
 Associate Pastor
 Director of Music
 Organist/Accompanist
 Bell Choir Director
 Deacon In Charge
 Greeters
 Ushers
 Liturgist
 Church School Coordinator
 Nursery Coordinator
 Pre-K/K Church School Teacher
 Grades 1-2 Church School Teacher
 Grades 3-4 Church School Teacher
 Grades 5-7 Church School Teacher

CHURCH SCHOOL: Registration is required for all church school children, no matter how often your child attends. You can register online through our secure website: <https://www.ccamherst.org/>; follow the Church School Information link.

Volunteers needed: We in church school would like to share out time with children. But we would like to have an extra set of hands and eyes to assist in grades 1-4. Assisting as a volunteer is flexible, not requiring you every Sunday. If interested, please contact Marilyn Gibson at mgibson@ccamherst.org.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for September include canned ham, canned meats, side dishes (seasoned pasta mix, Hamburger Helper, etc.), ravioli and Beef-a-Roni. Donations can be left in the SHARE cupboard in the narthex or in the container by the community room entrance. Many thanks for your continuing support!

TRICYCLE NEEDED: A local teacher is in need of a large tricycle for a special needs student to use during their Physical Ed class. If you have one, or know of one not being used, please contact Sue Werst at 759-5344 or sue.w.0323@gmail.com.

Financial Summary

(as of August 31, 2019)

	YTD <u>Budget</u>	YTD <u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$115,000	\$120,429	\$ 5,429
Expenses	\$101,622	\$94,014	\$ 7,608
Net Income	\$13,378	\$26,415	\$13,036

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: Gail Agans (chair), Paul Spiess, Doug Topliffe, Todd Whitney and Tim Wiegand (Treasurer).

DIACONATE: *None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful.* – Mother Teresa

Will you consider joining a loving group of church members doing small things on our part to make our church a wonderful place to be? Let us talk to you about the role of a Deacon to see if it might be a fit for you and an opportunity to serve others. We are looking to fill 6 Deacon openings! See us at Fellowship today, or reach out anytime. Thank you!

Our Church Calendar September 22—28, 2019

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:10 a.m.	Fellowship— Community Room
	11:30 a.m.	Christian Ed— Meeting Room
	6:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group— Youth Room
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop—Vestry
Tuesday	8:30 a.m.	Men's Fellowship— Youth Room
	10:00 a.m.	Memorial Service for Glen Whitehouse
	1:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl Knitters— Parlor
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting—Parlor
	7:00 p.m.	Budget & Finance Team— Meeting Room
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir—Sanctuary
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir—Vestry
Saturday		Habitat for Humanity Build Day

Woman's Association's Good Stuff Fall Rummage Sale



**Friday, October 4, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
and Saturday, October 5, 9:00 a.m. – noon**

Rummage still being accepted!

We need winter clothing, household items and décor, jewelry, antiques and collectables, toys, games and puzzles.

Please leave clean, sorted and labeled items in the WA workroom in the vestry, and clothing can go on the stage in the community room.

Please no large sports equipment, electronics, computers, TVs, car seats, large furniture or appliances.

SUCCESS AS YOU SHOP: Everyone makes purchases now and then, whether for groceries, gas, eating out, coffee, pharmacy items, home repairs, or clothing. Chances are good that you could make some of these purchases using a SUCCESS card, and earn money for our church while you shop.

We have cards available TODAY at Coffee Hour for Amazon, CVS, Dunkin Donuts, Home Depot, iTunes, Lowe's, Michael's, Shaw's, Starbuck's, Marshall's/TJ Maxx/HomeGoods, and Walmart. If you recognize any of these as places you shop, consider using a card to make your purchases. It's easy and convenient! If you don't, come check out the lengthy list of local participating establishments. Cards are mainly \$25, with a few \$10. You may order today, and they will be available next week. Cash or checks are accepted for purchases. You can also order online, stop by and ask us how.

Sunday, September 22, 2019

Wrapped In Beauties

*For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.
– F. Pierpoint*

Here we come to the doorway of a new season; a season brimming with its own rainbow of colors. For this we sing our hymns of praise.

Abounding Beauty

Nature's beauty: abounding beside us, sweeping over us,
spreading wide from horizon to horizon
and down to enfold the clasping purple pitcher plant.
The beauty reaches from the cerulean sky,
void of visible life, save the hovering hawk,
to a steely gray ocean, frosted with wind-driven froth.
Beauty in the tall Grand Monadnock,
shaped by eons of glaciers and wind,
burned bald by sheep farmers, climbed and climbed.
And in the low, sand dunes, home of earthstars and plovers,
washed by waves, attacked by ATVs, restored by rosemary,
restoring those who hear sand grains striking the rugosa.
Nature, the artist, paints for us
the red eft and yellow-spotted salamander,
children of the vernal pool, resting
atop a green sphagnum-wrapped piece of ancient granite.
A leaf, flecked in orange, falling onto the pool's black water
sends ripples across eternity to distant shores.

BBB – *Lickings of Many Fires*