

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



*“The trouble with deep belief is that it costs something.
And there is something inside me, some selfish beast of a subtle thing
that doesn't like the truth at all because it carries responsibility, and
if I actually believe these things I have to do something about them.”*

—Donald Miller, *Blue Like Jazz*

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

June 21, 2020

Third Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Partita on "Showalter"
(Leaning on the Everlasting Arms)*

Jon Spong
Belwin Mills/ CPP Belwin Inc.

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP and PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

What does our God require of us
this Sabbath day?

To be present
when our thoughts and plans and worries are elsewhere.

To bring our whole selves before our Creator
and our broken selves.

To listen, to learn, to lean in
as we seek comfort to calm our fears,
and discomfort to stir our souls.

What does our God require of us?

To love our neighbor

To forgive ourselves

To speak our truth

To live mercifully

To act justly

To walk humbly with our God.

Let us pray:

Bountiful God, you give us so much – life, love, grace. Today we ask what we might give in return:
Open our hearts to hear your words, to feel your touch, to be moved by your Spirit. Clear our minds,
sharpen our focus, and remove our stumbling blocks so we might see the ways in which you intend
for us to live and be of service to you by serving the world. Amen.

May your Spirit move among us now, O God, in this sanctuary and in our homes, as we pray the
words that Jesus taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

SERMON

"What Does God Require of You?"

ANTHEM

Deep Settled Peace
Jeanne and Michael Neverisky

American Folk Gospel

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

For the abundance of your love and grace, which rescues and revives us, O God, we are most grateful. We present here practical expressions of thanksgiving—our time, our money, our energy, our talents—to extend your purposes in the world. May this offering scatter seeds of justice and mercy and kindness in life-changing ways. May we be good and loving neighbors to all. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

All Creatures of Our God and King

Don Hustad
Hope Publishing Co.

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obtained from One License with license #A-731944.*

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



June 28: Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13
OR Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

July 5: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45:10-17
OR Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30



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. Please speak with any of our deacons or pastors should you have any questions regarding our church or our membership.

Here’s how to reach us: by telephone 673-3231, or by email info@ccamherst.org. If we are unavailable by phone, 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 at [Facebook.com/ccamherst](https://www.facebook.com/ccamherst).

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

Financial Summary (as of May 31, 2020)			
	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$401,711	\$373,190	\$28,521
Expenses	\$387,015	\$390,163	\$(3,148)
Net Income	\$ 14,695	\$(16,973)	\$31,668

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: Keith Lammers, Paul Spiess, Doug Topliffe, Todd Whitney and Tim Wiegand (Treasurer).

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church
 Rev. Maureen R. Frescott
 Michael Havay
 Kate Thompson

Ministers to the World
 Senior Pastor
 Organist/Accompanist
 Liturgist

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy
 Sara L. Phelps
 Wendy Valeri
 Marilyn Gibson

Associate Pastor
 Director of Music
 Bell Choir Director
 Church School Coordinator

HC@HOME, a virtual summer camp program of the New Hampshire Conference, UCC's Horton Center, is open to all for fun and games in a faith formation environment. More information can be found on their website: <https://hortoncenter.org/>

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for June include canned fruit, flour, sugar, boxed cake mixes and baking supplies, coffee, tea, juice, and granola. Donations should be brought directly to the SHARE Center in Milford. In this time of social distancing, please call their office at 673-9898 for guidance. Many thanks for your continuing support!

PRAYERFUL PLAYGROUP is still meeting every week throughout the summer! Join us Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. to chat, vent and connect with other parents of younger children who are all managing this new world of social distancing. If you have a friend who could use this place of connection, feel free to invite them to join us! Email pastorkate@ccamherst.org for more information.

THE ANNUAL REPORT is now available on our church's website. Printed copies are available; contact Andrea in the church office if you would like one sent to you.

Our Church Calendar

June 21—27, 2020

All events are taking place virtually,
 please check your email for the links.

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship—Facebook
	10:40 a.m.	Fellowship
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Fellowship
	6:00 p.m.	World Service Team
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
Wednesday	5:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group Check In
Thursday	1:30 p.m.	Prayerful Playgroup
	6:00 p.m.	<i>Waking Up White</i> Adult Ed series

Adult Ed Summer Series

Waking Up White

Thursdays 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

As Christians, we are called to love all of God's creation and resist the powers of evil and injustice in our midst. In the wake of the most recent public killings of black and brown Americans in our country, you may be wondering—what can I possibly do? Let's start by looking inward, and discovering how we have been shaped by the systems of oppression in our world.



Starting Thursday, June 25, join Pastor Kate for a new Adult Ed program on the book *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, by Debby Irving. For four weeks, from June 25 through July 16, we will dive into the challenging and important topic of racism and whiteness together. Reach out to Pastor Kate with questions or to sign up for the group by June 22.

CHURCH SCHOOL

The Fruit of the Spirit



Church school continues to post faith formation moments on Facebook. The posts support faith formation in an informal format.

Recent posts:

Joy: *“My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed.”* (Psalm 71:23)

The second Fruit of the Spirit tells of when joy enters us in place of sorrow and disappointment. Through prayer we seek guidance, through prayer we rejoice. Bible stories of Jesus' birth and resurrection confirm joy's presence replacing sadness.

Peace: *“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”* (Romans 12:18).

Peace is the third Fruit of the Spirit. When fear fills our heart, we trust in God to provide peace. Prayer communicates to God for guidance and peace. Bible stories retell the fear felt by Jesus' disciples in many events. The storm is familiar to children and adults to share. Their call to Jesus for help parallels our call through prayer.

Church School Blog: Each week children are invited to share their creativity through pictures and poetry on the page, journaling church school faith formation. Please contribute yours!

Sunday, June 21, 2020

In The Beauty of Holiness

Today, with not even two worshippers allowed per pew cushion, no congregants gathered under the spire rising above the village green. Horrors! Well, not exactly. There's hope; there always is.

Today, those faithful congregants may still worship sitting on their own cushions with unseen others, a communion cup of coffee in hand, to view the pastor preaching to a camera from the website sanctuary of The First Covid Church of Anyplace. After the "service," some attendees may Zoom in for a cup of airwaves-warmed Java. Good luck, sounds messy to me.

Today is a new kind of Sunday On The Farm. I'll join the feathered and furred flock to worship Creation's Creator in a sanctuary among the everlasting hills where breezes play the organ, birds sing the scriptures and anthems, and all together, we pray for peace in our time. O Lord, Amen.

***Come let us worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness.
Come let us worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness.
Give Him the honor, give Him the praise;
Come let us worship the Lord, let's give Him the praise.***

BBB