

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



*"In the darkness, when you cannot see the ground under your feet and
when your fingers touch nothing but night, you are not alone.
I will stay with you as moonlight stays on water."*

—Nadia Hashimi, *When the Moon is Low*

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

July 19, 2020

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

I've Been in the Storm So Long

arr. David Kidwell
(Lorenz Publishing Co.)

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP and PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

We worship the God who inhabits our world
and indwells our lives.

We need not look up to find God,
we need only to look around:

 within ourselves,
 beyond ourselves,
 into the eyes of another.

We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God,
we need only listen to the music of life,

 the words of children,
 the questions of the curious,
 the rhythm of a heartbeat.

We worship the God who inhabits our world
and who indwells our lives.

May this hour together open our eyes
 to God's presence all around us.

Let us pray:

Creating God,

We come to know You this morning.

You who loved us before we were yet born,

You who knows us even better than we know ourselves,

You whose presence never leaves us,

and whose love for us never ceases.

You are our God.

May we know that you are with us, wherever we may go.

May your Spirit move among us now, Oh God, 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

Genesis 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

SERMON

"Know That I Am With You"

ANTHEM

The Gift of Love

Hal Hopson

Chancel Choir

(Hope Publishing)

Sara Phelps, director

Michael Havay, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Generous God, we dedicate our offerings, not just for the good they can accomplish and the mission they will support, but also because giving helps us to gain perspective on what really matters in our world. May our lives and all we give honor your works, O God. Build us up in love for one another and for all your children everywhere. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

God of Our Fathers

George W. Warren/
Mary McDonald
(Lorenz Publishing Co.)

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



July 26: Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128
Or 1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 2: Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Or Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21



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

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

***Portions of the liturgy have been adapted from
The Presbyterian Church USA website. [https://www.pcusa.org/
site_media/media/uploads/peacemaking/pdf/mlk-resources.pdf](https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/peacemaking/pdf/mlk-resources.pdf)***

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Colleen Cushing

Wendy Valeri

Marilyn Gibson

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Liturgist

Bell Choir Director

Church School Coordinator

SOS—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to mow our church's lawns during August, September and October. The front lawn needs to be cut weekly, but over the summer the rest of the lawn only needs to be cut once every 2-3 weeks. To sign up for a week, contact Tom Werst at tom-w@pobox.com or 603-759-8191. The church has a lawn tractor. Instruction on operating the lawn tractor, and boundaries of the church lawn are available upon request.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for July include pancake mix and syrup, condiments, cooking sauces and seasonings, cooking oils, jelly, and cold cereal. 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!

Financial Summary

(as of June 30, 2020)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$96,970	\$79,569	\$17,401
Expenses	\$27,760	\$32,915	\$(5,155)
Net Income	\$69,210	\$46,654	\$22,556

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).

Church School News



Goodness is our sixth Fruit of the Spirit. Goodness is meeting a standard, it is different than kindness, it has a benefit. Goodness fulfills an expectation. To have goodness is having morality. In Galatians 3:1-11, Paul delivers goodness when interacting with the Christians in Galatia. The Christian moral code is the standard of right and wrong that was established by Jesus Christ and then taught by his disciples.

Faithfulness is the seventh Fruit of the Spirit. *“Be imitators of God as dear children.”* [Ephesians 5:1](#). We as Christians are to do what God would want us to do. The Holy Spirit guides us in life to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Reopening church and church school is assigned to our ad hoc team. The recommendations of the team are anticipated for our council meeting in August.

Worship service invites you and your child to take part. Contact Pastors Maureen or Kate to be part of our spiritual formation.

Our Church Calendar

July 19—25, 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
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men’s Fellowship
	5:00 p.m.	Building Team
Thursday	1:30 p.m.	Prayerful Playgroup

Sunday, July 19, 2020

Returning To Our Roots ***The Winnepesaukee Center***

Such a deal: to bring the headquarters of the United Church of Christ, a denomination with its roots in New England Congregationalism, back to the region.

A twenty-eight acre hilltop site is calling. The property currently is home to a Catholic school with classrooms, dormitories, dining hall, chapel, gymnasium, meeting rooms and SPACE.

Such a deal! For \$10 per UCC member (\$8.9-million asking price) a new denomination center may be secured where people of faith may gather for the denomination's management plus worship, study and renewal. All this while wrapped in pure Lakes Region air off New Hampshire's mountain spires and Heaven-sent waters.

The Winnepesaukee Center could be complimented by facilities at the Horton Center of the NH Conference on nearby Pine Mountain.

Such a deal? Maybe not, or maybe an unnecessary, even an undesirable one; but, it looked interesting to this rebel on the Eastern Front.

A Pilgrim Song

Psalm 121.1-2

***I look up to the mountains;
does my strength come from mountains?
No, my strength comes from God,
Who made heaven, and earth, and
mountains.***

