

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



*"Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty
and the test of our civilization."*

—Mahatma Gandhi

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

September 20, 2020

Creative Worship

10:00 a.m.

Embrace Diversity

PRELUDE

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Sy Miller and Jill Jackson,
arr. Carol Tornquist
(©1955 Alfred Publishing Co.)

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP and PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER

O God, you are the gathering One
who calls us into community with each other;
to love and work,
to support and heal.

You are the gathering One
who calls us into community with all people;
to bring justice and hope,
freedom and truth.

You are the gathering One
who calls us into community with the whole creation;
to live in harmony,
to cherish and renew.

Let us worship the God
who makes us one.

Let us pray:

Gift-giving God, you call us together,
with our different gifts,
our different ideas,
our different tastes.

You call us together,
to share what makes us special,
to build each other up,
to serve each other in love.
You call us together,
knowing that we need all parts of the body
if we are to be whole.
You call us together,
to sing, to pray, to listen, to speak.
To be refreshed
so that we can go out and serve.
You call us together
in the name of the One
who taught his friends to pray 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

HYMN

O Christ, the Great Foundation

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

SERMON

“Embrace Diversity”

ANTHEM

Children of the Heavenly Father

Wendy Valeri, bells
Michael Havay, piano

Swedish folk tune,
arr. Cathy Moglebust
(© 2017, 2020 Choristers Guild)

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

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 BLESSING

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Chester G. Allen,
arr. Mary McDonald
(©2013 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



September 27: Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Or Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

October 4: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Or Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46



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 our liturgy are adapted from the
Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid website.***

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

and Rev Gord, Worship Offerings.

<http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/>

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

Wendy Valeri

Heather MacDonald

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Bell Choir Director

Liturgist

WHAT WAS THE LINK? Many of our programs are taking place virtually these days. To help you keep track, the **members section** of our website now has a list of recurring meetings with their Zoom links and passwords. Meetings scheduled as one-time are not found here, but recurring group meetings such as virtual coffee hour, Woman's Association, Church Council, Prayerful Playgroup, etc. are all here.

Please note that at the end of September Zoom will be requiring passwords for all meetings. If you are no longer able to access a meeting, please check this list for an updated link or password.

If you haven't yet signed up for access to the members section, its easy to do and you'll have access to our other interesting "clicks," like our church school blog, our photo galleries, our SOS needs, and more. Sign up today at ccamherst.org.

PARENTS, this year's **BACKPACK TAG** is available for download through our website: <https://www.ccamherst.org/church-school/>. Attach one to all your children's bags. This year's theme, **Be The Church**, is on there, along with a special blessing.

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 should 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!

Financial Summary

(as of August 31, 2020)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$151,913	\$108,707	\$ 43,206
Expenses	\$ 87,391	\$ 97,817	\$(10,426)
Net Income	\$ 64,522	\$ 10,889	\$ 53,632

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).



What is Small Group Ministry?

Small Group Ministry is where 8-10 people meet with the intention of establishing deeper connections with each other and with God.

The groups meet once a month from October to June, and are led by lay members of the congregation.

The group meetings run 1.5 hours and include a check-in, a short topic reading, discussion of the topic, and closing prayer.

We have a weekday group, an evening group, and a weekend group to allow members to pick a time that best fits their schedule.

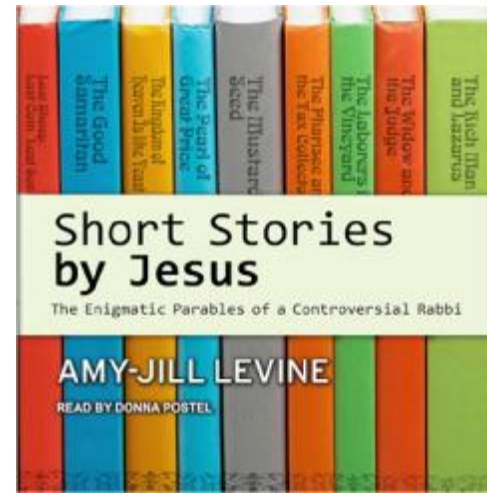
This year we're focusing on
Short Stories by Jesus

Using the book by Amy-Jill Levine as a guide, we'll explore the parables of Jesus and the many ways they have to guide, comfort, inspire, provoke, and change us!

There's no need to purchase the book and no prep-time is needed! The readings and discussion questions for each month will be emailed ahead of time and are short enough to be read when the group is gathered.

Schedule for 2020-2021

October:	The Good Samaritan
November:	The Rich Man
December:	The Persistent Widow
January:	The Laborers in the Vineyard
February:	The Talents
March:	The Prodigal Son
April:	The Sower
May:	The Mustard Seed
June:	The Lost Sheep



Choose a Group!

First Tuesday	1:30–3:00 p.m.
Second Wednesday	6:30-8:00 p.m.
First Sunday	12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

All groups will meet on Zoom in October. Plans for in-person meetings may be arranged after that point if possible!

How To Get Involved

You may join a group at any time of the year as long as your choice is still open. Each group is limited to ten members.

Sign up online at ccamherst.org or contact Pastor Maureen at 603-673-3231 x11, pastormaureen@ccamherst.org

Sunday, September 20, 2020

Our Church Calendar

September 20—26, 2020

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

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship—Facebook
	10:40 a.m.	Fellowship
	6:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group— Outdoor Gathering
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
Thursday	2:00 p.m.	Woman's Association— Memorial Garden
	2:30 p.m.	Prayerful Playgroup
	6:00 p.m.	Waking Up 2.0