

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



"The beginning of love is the will to let those we love be perfectly themselves, the resolution not to twist them to fit our own image. If in loving them we do not love what they are, but only their potential likeness to ourselves, then we do not love them: we only love the reflection of ourselves we find in them."

—Thomas Merton, *No Man Is an Island*

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

October 25, 2020

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

Arthur H. Messiter/
arr. Douglas E. Wagner
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GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

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

What does the Lord require of you?
To do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.

What does God command of us?
To love God with all our heart,
and all our soul,
and all our mind,
and all our strength,
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

What does God offer us
as we struggle to live into this?
Presence, and abundance,
Strength, and grace.
Let us worship the God who believes in us,
and trusts in us, and abides with us.
Let us worship the God who will ask much of us,
but will be beside us every step of the way.

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 wherever we are gathered,
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.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

HYMN

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

SERMON

"The Greatest Commandment"

ANTHEM

There are Many Roads
Jeanne and Mike Neverisky

Carla Sciaky

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 BLESSING

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

Praising!

Gilbert M. Martin
(©1977 Lorenz Publishing Co.)



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
Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy.***

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

Jeanne and Mike Neverisky

Charlie Vars

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Musicians

Liturgist

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH: We'd like to let our hard working, caring, and inspiring pastors know how much we appreciate them! It has been especially trying during these crazy times and we are so grateful for their dedication and creativity.

Pastor Maureen and Pastor Kate, in your spiritual duties you are not only our pastors, but also our advisors, our advocates, our teachers, and our friends. **THANK YOU** for always going above and beyond to fulfill each and every one of these roles!

LEVI SUNDAY has been scheduled for **November 8**, 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. Many hands make light work!

END 68 HOURS OF HUNGER is now working with very small groups of volunteers to continue their important work of packaging and providing food bags for students. Packing is done inside with just your group. If you are interested in this hands-on mission opportunity, please reach out to Nancy Protzmann (uvmcats84@gmail.com or 603-321-7099) for more details on how you can help, or visit the SOS section on our website: <https://www.ccamherst.org/sos/>

NEIGHBORS IN NEED is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice. Grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. For more information visit the Neighbors in Need UCC Special Offering Page: <http://www.ucc.org/nin>.

Our Church Calendar

October 25—31, 2020

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

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship—Facebook
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship
	6:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association
	7:00 p.m.	World Service Team
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
Wednesday	5:00 p.m.	Reopening Team
	7:00 p.m.	Pastoral Relations Team
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	2:30 p.m.	Prayerful Playgroup

Christmas Gift Drives

Due to COVID, our partner organizations have made some changes, with differing due dates. We will be rolling out the Christmas gift drives in stages, based on the organization's deadlines.



Our first program is the SHARE Gift Drive for children (and some single adults). Last year SHARE served 422 children and many single adults through their Christmas drive – we are excited to help them again this year! SHARE is only requesting donations of gift cards this year, rather than specific gift items. The gift cards will then be used by the families to purchase the specific gifts. The World Service team has pre-purchased these gift cards through our SUCCESS program, to help both SHARE and the church at the same time! We will be using SignUPGenius for people to signup. Please visit our Christmas Drives page for more information: <https://www.ccamherst.org/christmasgifts/>

REOPENING INFORMATION AVAILABLE: Our ad hoc Reopening Team has been hard at work thinking through and putting in place plans for our congregation to regather in person for worship and small group meetings.

Are you wondering where things stand? Through the **members** section on our **website**, we have a page dedicated to communicating with our church family on both current policies and procedures for use of the building during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the progress of our ad hoc Reopening Team. Documents will be posted as they are made available. If you have any questions or concerns about any of this information, please reach out to any member of the team: Pastor Maureen Frescott, Jessica Greer, Pastor Kate Kennedy, Keith Lammers, Susan Manchester, Kathy Skoglund, Paul Spiess, Kate Thompson, Doug Topliffe, Sue Werst, Tom Werst.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for October 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; if you are unsure where, please call their office at 673-9898. Many thanks for your continuing support!

Financial Summary

(as of September 30, 2020)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$177,173	\$138,276	\$38,897
Expenses	\$121,258	\$130,732	\$(9,475)
Net Income	\$ 55,915	\$ 7,543	\$48,372

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: Today's **lesson** is from Matthew 22:37-40, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

To sign up for **Brown Bag Lessons**, go to the church school section on our website: <https://www.ccamherst.org/church-school/>. Use the Sign Up button to record your family name and the comments section should contain your email address.

It's not too late to participate in the **Virtual CROP Walk**. Go to <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/nashuanh/Team/View/139841/Congregational-Church-of-Amherst> for more information.

Sunday, October 25, 2020

A Prayer for Clergy Appreciation Month *(an improvisation on Reinhold Niebuhr's "Serenity Prayer")*

God, grant clergy the serenity
to accept churches and the people in them
the way they really are,
the courage to challenge them every week
and pray for them every day,
and wisdom that's based
in nimble and resilient love ...
Live-streaming one worship at a time,
zooming one meeting, one visit,
one wedding or funeral at a time,
absorbing anxieties of this coronavirus season,
around illness, isolation,
education, financial well-being,
and the daily risks of essential workers
and medical personnel
while still holding a course for peace,
taking on as Jesus did
the fearsome realities of political life,
believing in reconciliation
in spite of divisiveness,
speaking the Names
and never surrendering truth.
Let those clergy be reasonably happy,
in this pandemic autumn,
(for you are the source of miracles)
and able to point others
to both daily joy and eternal grace. amen.