

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



*“Rats and roaches live by competition under the laws of supply and demand;
it is the privilege of human beings to live under the laws of justice and mercy.”*

– Wendell Berry

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

June 27, 2021

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Matt Limbaugh

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

One: People of God, gather round,
we have a story to tell -

**Many: of one who reached inside himself
and took a heap of love
and a pile of grace
and said: "This is for you."**

One: He said, "This is all you need -
it is all you will ever need,

**Many: for there is enough here
to change the whole world -
take it."**

One: Many laughed at him
mocked him

**Many: but some dared to take it
and those who did
noticed that this love and grace changed them.**

One: They found they could do what the gift-giver could do -
they could stand with the lost
eat with the hungry
welcome the stranger,

**Many: and they found by doing what the man did to them -
by giving of themselves to others,
they became like the man.**

One: And as they gave of themselves
others took the invitation to give as well,
**Many: and many still do
and many still trust
it is enough to change the whole world.**

Let us pray:

Loving God, as people, as a community of faith, as members of the world wide community of humanity – we gather in this place to listen, to learn, to worship, to pray, to be with you. Because we know it is out of your generosity, it is out of your love, it is because of your grace, that we have life. May our lives be a reflection of you, in this hour, and in all the hours that we live.

May we feel you moving among us now, O God, 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

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright
verses 1, 2 & 4

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.”

SERMON

“Poor is Not a Four-Letter Word”

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

O God of light, our hearts overflow with thanksgiving for the bounty of this world that you’ve given to us. As you have led us down the path of wholeness and grace, we seek to offer grace to others. We reach out to help, expecting no reward but the satisfaction of sharing what you have so richly entrusted to us. Bless our offering of self and substance, we pray. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Processional

Daniel E. Gawthrop

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



July 4: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 and Psalm 48
Ezekiel 2:1-5 and Psalm 123
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

July 11: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 and Psalm 24
Amos 7:7-15 and Psalm 85:8-13
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AMHERST, NH, UCC



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. 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.

The church office is reachable by telephone 673-3231, or by email info@ccamherst.org. Please feel free to leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Visit our [church's website](#), and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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 Roddy Hamilton,
and posted on Listening to the Stones.*

<http://newkilpatrickblog.typepad.com/nk-blogging/mucky-paws/>

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Colleen Cushing

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Wendy Valeri

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Liturgist

Associate Pastor

Bell Choir Director

SUMMER WORSHIP TIME: During the months of July and August our Sunday worship services begin at 9:00 a.m. This year, however, the July 4 holiday falls on Sunday. Since the town's reverse parade begins at 9:00 a.m., we have decided to keep our worship time at 10:00 a.m. on July 4 so that folks can attend the parade before worship. We will move to the 9:00 a.m. start time on July 11.

WANTED—NURSERY COORDINATOR: We are looking for someone who can provide consistent, quality care for young children in the nursery during Sunday morning worship services. The hours are 9:30—11:30 a.m. starting on Rally Day, September 12. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older. For more information, please speak with Pastor Maureen, Pastor Kate, Sue Werst, or leave a message on the church office voice mail (673-3231, ext. 0) and we will be back in touch with you.

LOOKING FOR HANDS-ON SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES but don't have a lot of time? Here are some great opportunities! Visit our [SOS page](#) for a full listing:

Our Little Free Farmstand is now ready for produce, volunteers, and shoppers! We are looking for farmstand 'Greeters' - those folks who will help setup, staff, and put away the farmstand on Sunday afternoons. Shifts are 12:00-2:30pm and 2:00-4:30pm. Visit <https://www.ccamherst.org/sos/> and use the SignUp Genius link or contact [Terri Behm](#).

Lawn Mowing: It's that time of year when the church lawn is beautiful but does require attention! We are looking for folks to sign up to mow the lawn - many hands make light work! We will need help now through the end of October so pick a slot and smell that freshly cut grass! Visit <https://www.ccamherst.org/sos/> and use the SignUp Genius link. Details will be sent in a confirmation email.

Questions? Contact [Tim Wiegand](#).

Please Help Raise the Flag

on the church's new flag pole

We are currently looking for donations to help pay for a 30-foot tall, free standing flag pole to be placed in the front lawn just west of the church. With this new flag pole, we will be able to proudly fly the American flag in the proper manner. This project is expected to cost roughly \$2,000, with the church's Preservation Fund financing up to \$1,000 of that amount. Donations from the congregation will be greatly appreciated to make this project a reality. Should donations exceed this financial gap, excess receipts will be rolled back into the Preservation Fund for future long term capital expenditure for the church; a win-win for all. To donate, please contact Andrea in the church office at 673-3231, email andrea@ccamherst.org, or go online to our website, and under the Giving tab, click Donate. Thanks in advance for your support of this project.



CHURCH SCHOOL: Church school families are invited to participate in the Little Free Farm Stand: "Grow and Give" every Sunday throughout the summer. For more information for how you can participate as a family please visit: <https://www.ccamherst.org/farmstand/>

Today's Church School Lesson: Be faithful in your giving to others. In the Bible's book of 2 Corinthians, Chapter 8, verses 7-15, Paul writes in this letter that as a church, and a child of God, we should always try to be giving in spirit as well as in material ways. Just how can we do that? If you think about the Fruits of the Spirit, being loving, joyful, peaceful, patient in moments of trouble, kind to all we meet, and showing goodness to those around us, it does not have to cost a lot of money. Paul asks that we share whatever we can, for example, in food, but not so much that we would go hungry. Simply by participating in donating vegetables to the farm stand when you are able is one way. Sharing food with a neighbor is another. We never know when we might need someone else to help us. This is the beautiful message shown to us in this Bible passage.

SEEKING HOSTS/HOSTESSES for In-Person Fellowship: As we continue to open up with more opportunities for in-person connection, we are excited to offer the option to enjoy a cold water or lemonade in the Memorial Garden following our church service. This will be held weather permitting each Sunday throughout the summer months unless our re-opening approach changes. This said we are looking for volunteers to host now through September 5. If you are interested please contact Meredith Dart via cell or text at 603-305-9065, or email Andrea in the church office.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for June include canned fruit, flour, boxed cake mixes, baking supplies, sugar, 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!

Sunday, June 27, 2021

Our Church Calendar

June 27—July 4, 2021

Many events are taking place virtually.
Links are sent out directly by email, and a list
of recurring meetings with their links can be found
in the member section of our website.

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship—Sanctuary
	10:00 a.m.	Worship—Online
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship—Memorial Garden
	11:15 a.m.	Summer Book Group
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
	7:00 p.m.	World Service Team

Financial Summary

(as of May 31, 2021)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$398,233	\$374,827	\$ 23,406
Expenses	\$370,379	\$391,127	\$(20,748)
Net Income	\$ 27,854	\$(16,300)	\$ 44,154

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).