

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



*“Conversations change. Relationships realign. Responsibilities shift.
So it is when Christ moves in to the hearts of Christians.
This isn't merely tweaking old patterns; everything changes.”*

~ Karen Chakoian

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

July 25, 2021

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Let Us With a Gladsome Mind

Robert J. Powell/
arr. John Bernard Wilkes

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

One: Rejoice, folks, Jesus is in our midst.

Many: Feed us, Jesus, and fill us with hope.

One: Be glad, friends, Jesus has bread and fish to spare.

Many: Free us, Jesus, from the pursuit of food that does not satisfy.

One: Tune in, beloved, because there is more here than bread alone.

Many: Forgive us, Jesus, for not seeing the depth of your abundance.

One: Sing for joy, people of God;

God gives us all that we need and then some,
so that none will go hungry in our midst.

Many: Thanks be to God!

God of all good things, we are here in this time and place to worship in your name. We come carrying all sorts of heavy weights, with so many things drawing our attention outside of this room, outside of your sanctuary, away from a feeling of worship. May we take a moment to set all distractions aside. May we leave the bills to be paid and the calls to be returned and the dinners to be prepared at the door. May we lay our guilt and fears and grief at your steadfast feet. May we let go of the grip we have over our lives, just for a moment, trusting that when we do, the very act will indeed give us new energy, new perspective, new clarity when we take up the troubles of our world again.

May we feel your Spirit filling the cracks in our hearts, 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

God of Our Life

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 6:1-21

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

SERMON

"God helps those who..."

ANTHEM

Tendre Souvenir
Sue Werst, flute
Michael Havay, piano

Johannes Donjon

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God of all beings, you have given the world enough to live and thrive on. You have made an earth that is plentiful and good. May we honor your creation by doing our part to distribute your gifts justly, today in this offering, and for the days and years to come in all the ways we do your work in this world. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

An Affirmation of Faith

Franklin Ritter

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



August 1: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a and Psalm 51:1-12
Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 and Psalm 78:23-29
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

August 8: 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 and Psalm 130
1 Kings 19:4-8 and Psalm 34:1-8
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

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

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PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Sue Ruggiero

Lee Bowley

Sue Werst

Ministers to the World

Associate Pastor

Director of Music/Liturgist

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Musician

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Wendy Valeri

Senior Pastor

Bell Choir Director

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.

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](#).

THE ROSEBUD ON THE ALTAR is in celebration of the birth of Alanna Edith Mindel, born July 17. Alanna's parents are Sasha and Scott Mindel, and her grandparents are Sally and Mike Varanka.

Financial Summary

(as of June 30, 2021)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$67,695	\$75,290	\$(7,595)
Expenses	\$32,684	\$35,287	\$(2,603)
Net Income	\$35,011	\$40,003	\$(4,992)

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: What does your garden grow? Church school families are invited to participate in the Little Free Farm Stand: "Grow and Give." Drop off vegetables on any Sunday before 11:00 a.m. at the back door of the church. For more information for how you can participate as a family please visit: <https://www.ccamherst.org/farmstand/>

This week's Church School Reading: Did you know Jesus fed 5,000 people with only a few loaves of bread and two fish? That sounds impossible, doesn't it? This week's lesson is from the book of John, chapter 6, verses 1-21. In this story, the disciples couldn't see how the people would all get fed. The young boy had enough faith in God that he shared his food with Jesus, and Jesus performed the miracle to be able to make the food provided enough for all the people. Trust that God can perform miracles through you as well as the people you care about around you.

THE FLAG IS UP! Many thanks to all those who donated for the flag pole and flag. A special thanks to J. L. Sickler Construction for the excavation of the enormous hole, and to Redimix for donating and pouring the concrete base.

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

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: <https://www.ccamherst.org/sos/>

Our Little Free Farmstand is now OPEN 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. Visit <https://www.ccamherst.org/sos/> and use the SignUp Genius link or contact Terri Behm (Terri.behm@gmail.com).

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 (nhwiegand@comcast.net).

Our Church Calendar

July 25—31, 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	9:00 a.m.	Worship—Sanctuary
	10:00 a.m.	Recorded Worship— Online
	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship— Memorial Garden
	10:15 a.m.	Summer Book Group— Memorial Garden
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship

Sunday, July 25, 2021