

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



*“Don’t ask what the world needs.
Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it.
Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”*

— Howard Thurman

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

August 1, 2021

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love
(We Are One in the Spirit)

Peter Scholtes,
arr. Lani Smith

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

One: We are not called to this place because we are worthy,

Many: We are called because we are loved by God, totally and unconditionally.

One: We are not called to this place because we are especially good,

Many: We are called because we are loved by God, no matter what we have done or not done.

One: So, beloved, how shall we respond to God's unending love?

Many: We will try every day to lead a life worthy of our calling.

One: We will show up with patience and love,

Many: Humility and gentleness,

One: To share the grace offered to us,

Many: And rejoice in our oneness with God.

**All: Let us worship the God who made us,
and celebrate the love we have found in Christ.**

Gentle God, we have traveled through many waters to reach this place, but share one baptism;
we arrive from different backgrounds and traditions, yet share one faith;
we are, each of us, unique and precious to God, and are still members of one Body;
we have different dreams and doubts, yet our hearts beat with one hope;
we are graced with different gifts, so we may offer them in service to one Lord.

God in Community, Holy in One, equip us for the work of ministry, as we pray together with one voice, as Jesus has taught us, 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

Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure
verses 1, 3 and 4

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 4:1-16

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.' (When it says, 'He ascended,' what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

SERMON

"And Therefore..."

ANTHEM

Be Thou My Vision
Sara Phelps, soprano
Michael Havay, piano

arr. Alice Parker

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Almighty God, who made us who we are, we offer all of ourselves to You. Take our talents, our energy and our joy, and use us to share Your love. Take our mistakes, our regrets and our pain, and use us to bring Your healing. Magnify the gifts we offer before You today, to spread Your peace in the world. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD, POURING OF THE CUP

CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

We give thanks, loving God, for the bond of this ritual and communal meal that links us to all who have called upon your name. May your wisdom grow within us. May your word inspire us. May the nourishment of this bread and cup strengthen us for the journey, as you send us out into the world as people of courage, compassion, and commitment. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Our Lord, Master of All

Rex Koury

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



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

August 15: 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14 and Psalm 111
Proverbs 9:1-6 and Psalm 34:9-14
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

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 at www.ccamherst.org, and follow us on Facebook.com/ccamherst and Instagram.com/ccamherstnh

Grounded in God's Love—Serving Neighbors Near and Far—Welcoming to All

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service
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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

Gene Heighton

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Wendy Valeri

Ministers to the World

Associate Pastor

Director of Music/Liturgist

Organist/Accompanist

Liturgist

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](#).

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for August include toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorants, shampoo and conditioner, bar soap, feminine hygiene products, diapers and wipes. 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 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).

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.

CHURCH SCHOOL: How are your veggies growing? 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: [farmstand - Congregational Church of Amherst, NH \(ccamherst.org\)](http://farmstand - Congregational Church of Amherst, NH (ccamherst.org))

This Week's Church School Reading: This week's lesson is from the book of Ephesians 4: verses 1-16. In this story in the Bible, Paul is telling believers that they should live a life that is worthy of what they have received in gifts from God. What does that mean? A good start is to look at what you are good at, which might be art, music, math, gardening, and even being a helper to friends and family. When you share your gifts without expecting anything in return, then that's being worthy. When we are very small we have different gifts than when we grow up and mature to an adult. Let's try our hardest to share our gifts with someone this week, and who knows, you might just make a new friend.

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 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 [farmstand - Congregational Church of Amherst, NH \(ccamherst.org\)](http://farmstand - Congregational Church of Amherst, NH (ccamherst.org)) 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](#).

Our Church Calendar

August 1—7, 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
	6:00 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Capital Campaign Steering Team—Parlor

Sunday, August 1, 2021 recorded