

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



*“Life is fleeting, yes, but also eternal;
it will always find a way to begin again.”*

– Kelseyleigh Reber, *If I Resist*

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

August 22, 2021

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

He Leadeth Me

William B. Bradbury/
arr. Jason D. Payne

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

One: Everlasting God, in the beauty of your created world

Many: we gather to worship as your community,

One: we gather here to be aware of and know your Holy Presence.

Many: We come together into this our beloved place of prayer and praise,

One: where we are surrounded by the signs and symbols of your presence,

Many: where we are surrounded by the memories of those who have come before us

One: those who have inspired us with their faith,

Many: pointing to us and nurturing us to carry the faith forward.

One: We come to listen, to pray, to be present for one another.

Many: We come not seeking an easy path, but a joyous one.

Let us pray:

Welcoming God, we come as your children,
to offer ourselves to you with all our frailties and faults;
with all our struggles with life's complexities.

You open your arms to all in need of your presence;
to all in need of your generous love and strength.

As the wise Psalmist wrote:

"Even the sparrow finds a home there,
the swallow builds her nest and raises her young near your altar."

We come together today, to gain strength, hope and encouragement
from you - the Source of all power and life - our God.

May we feel your Spirit 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

Open My Eyes, That I May See

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 6:51-69

Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

SERMON

"Does This Offend You?"

ANTHEM

From a Distance
Jim and Jean Gottwald

Nanci Griffith

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Our offerings are a response of gratitude for all that you have given us, O God. May our lives serve as a witness to the importance we place on hearing and sharing your Word, ministering to one another, and reaching out to make a difference in the lives of others. As we have been gifted by your love through Jesus, help us to carry and communicate that love in our words and actions. May all that we do and say and give serve as worship to you. Amen.


COMMISSION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Praise to God, Immortal Praise!

Francis H. Champneys/
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

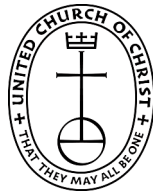


The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

August 29: Song of Solomon 2:8-13 and Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 and Psalm 15
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 5: 1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43 and Psalm 84
Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 and Psalm 34:15-22
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

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](mailto: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
obtained from One License with license #A-731944.*

*Portions of the liturgy have been adapted from Joan Stott,
Geelong City Parish UCA: © 2012 Joan Stott - "The Timeless
Psalms" RCL Psalm Year B, used with permission.*

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Roger Hooper

Tom Werst

Sue Werst

Jean and Jim Gottwald

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Wendy Valeri

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Children's Time

Vocalists

Associate Pastor

Bell Choir Director

A REMINDER—our worship service returns to 10:00 a.m. on September 5.

RALLY SUNDAY IS SEPTEMBER 12! Join us as we mark the start of a new program year. More information is available in the September *Spire*.

RUMMAGE SALE CANCELLED: Due to the on-going-ness of COVID, and out of an abundance of caution, the Woman's Association has regretfully decided to cancel the fall Good Stuff (Rummage) Sale.

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!

THE SUNDAY JOYS AND CONCERNS are emailed to those who want to include them in their daily personal prayers. If you would like to receive them each week, please let [Andrea](#) in the church office know.

Our Church Calendar

August 22—28, 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

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.

MASK POLICY: As the reopening committee continues to reassess the current COVID situation, we have come to the conclusion that we must return to mandatory mask wearing during our church service and during any other events or group meetings that are held in the church.

This conclusion is based on the most recent CDC guidelines that are now applicable to Hillsborough county which recently reached “sustained” levels of transmission. At this level, the recommendation is quite clear that all indoor activities require mask wearing of unvaccinated as well as vaccinated people. It is clear that both unvaccinated and vaccinated people can transmit the new delta variant at about the same degree. We feel strongly that we must, as a church and organization, do what we can to protect those who are at highest risk - children, unvaccinated and those with a compromised immune systems. We are truly sad we must return to this mandate, but we look forward to the time when we can meet together safely again.

CHURCH SCHOOL: How are your zucchinis and green beans growing? Church school families are invited to participate in the Little Free Farm Stand: “Grow and Give.” Drop off vegetables on any Sunday before 10:00 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 John 6: 51-59. The people surrounding Jesus in this story think what he is telling them is too hard to hear. Jesus continues, explaining that he is “the bread of life.” For us to grow up strong, we need to have food and drink, but in this story Jesus is talking about feeding our spirit. We can do this through prayer and trying to live each day the way Jesus taught us.

Financial Summary

(as of July 31, 2021)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$89,221	\$103,764	\$(14,544)
Expenses	\$67,737	\$ 71,157	\$(3,420)
Net Income	\$21,483	\$ 32,607	\$(11,124)

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).

Sunday, August 22, 2021, recorded