

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



*"I slept and dreamt that life was joy.
I awoke and saw that life was service.
I acted and behold, service was joy."*

~ Rabindranath Tagore

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

September 19, 2021

Creative Worship

10:00 a.m.

Be a Blessing

GATHERING CHIMES

Let us be gathered in silence so that we may prepare to worship.

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Pastorale on "Blessed Assurance"

Phoebe Palmer Knapp/
arr. Robert Lau

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O God, you are the gathering One
who calls us to bless those gathered here in body and spirit;

**Many: to love and listen,
to support and heal.**

One: You are the gathering One
who calls us to bless all people in all places;

**Many: to bring justice and hope,
freedom and truth.**

One: You are the gathering One
who calls us to bless the whole of creation;

**Many: to live in peace and harmony,
to cherish and renew.**

**All: Let us worship the God
who calls us to be a blessing to all!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Gift-giving God, you call us to be a blessing,
with our different gifts,
our different understandings,
our different experiences.

You call us to be a blessing,
to share what makes us unique,
to build each other up,
to serve each other in love.
You call us to be a blessing,
to pray, to listen, to speak.
To be refreshed
so that we may go out and serve.

You call us to be a blessing
in the name of the One
who taught us to pray 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.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE
The peace of God be with you. AND ALSO WITH YOU.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 12:9-16, 20-21

Your love must be real.
Hold on to what is good.
Love each other like siblings.
Give others more honor than you want for yourselves.
Do not be lazy but work hard.
Serve God with all your heart.
Be joyful because you have hope.
Be patient when trouble comes.
Pray at all times.
Share with God's people who need help.
Bring strangers in need into your homes.

Wish good for those who do bad things to you.
Wish them well and do not curse them.
Be happy with those who are happy.
Be sad with those who are sad.
Live together in peace with each other.

If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
If your enemy is thirsty, give him a drink.
Do not let evil defeat you.
Defeat evil by doing good.

MESSAGE

“Be a Blessing”

INVITATION TO BE A BLESSING

DEDICATION OF OUR BLESSING (in unison)

Generous God,

you call us to Be A Blessing

in so many ways.

Help us to see how we might bless others and our world
in this coming church year.

Help us to speak and act with a loving heart as we:

Do Good

Give Thanks

Be Joyful

Work for Justice

Lead With Love

Pray Often

Have Courage

Be The Light

Encourage Others

Be Kind

Practice Peace.

Accept this gift that we offer of ourselves, O God.

As we bless others as you have blessed us.

Amen.

ANTHEM

Evocacion (Prelude to Suite del Recuerdo)

Jose Luis Merlin

Mike Neverisky, guitar

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

If you have a prayer to share, fill out a prayer card in your pew and place it in the “Joys and Concerns” plate at the back of the sanctuary. Ushers will bring the cards forward to the pastor during the Anthem.

ORGAN PRAYER RESPONSE

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Arthur H. Messiter/
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

(*Indicates that those who are able may stand.)

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-731944.

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.

Worship Notes:

- Church school is available for children Pre-K through grade 7.
- The nursery is not currently staffed. Parents with very young children are welcome to use it during worship.
- Joys and Concerns may be written on the cards found on the small table as you entered the sanctuary. You are also welcome to submit your prayer request through our website in advance of the worship service.
- Offering plates can be found at the front and the rear of the sanctuary.
- Please join us in the memorial garden for fellowship after the worship service, weather permitting.
- In the event of an emergency, please remain seated until instructions have been given. An emergency plan is in place for the children in the church school.

The church office is available 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

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Sally Hooper

Mike Neverisky

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Director of Music/Liturgist

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Musician

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Wendy Valeri

Gretchen Davis

Associate Pastor

Bell Choir Director

Interim Children's Coordinator

OUR CHURCH NURSERY IS OPEN! We welcome our tiniest members to attend services, and when parents feel the need for a quiet, safe place to go to our church nursery is available. It is located on the ground floor, and can be found by walking through the double doors in back of the staircase.

The nursery has been fully cleaned, all linens washed, and has a changing table and portable play pen, as well as many early childhood toys. A monitor is now available to watch and listen to the service. The church is currently requiring mask use for all people.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for September include canned ham, canned meats, side dishes (seasoned pasta mix, Hamburger Helper, etc.), ravioli and Beef-a-Roni. 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!

SINGERS AND RINGERS: Choir rehearsals have resumed on Thursdays in the sanctuary; the Bell Choir rehearses at 6:00 p.m. and the Chancel Choir at 7:30 p.m. Are you interested in singing or ringing? We'd love to have you join us. Contact Sara Phelps, Director of Music (kalben1@comcast.net), or Wendy Valeri, Bell Choir Director (wendy.valeri@fmr.com).

Financial Summary

(as of August 31, 2021)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$111,743	\$132,381	\$(20,638)
Expenses	\$ 99,594	\$102,280	\$(2,686)
Net Income	\$ 12,149	\$ 30,101	\$(17,952)

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).

ONLINE WORSHIP: We recently installed a new video system in our sanctuary, and we are now **live-streaming** our worship service on Facebook and uploading the recording of the live-stream to our website and YouTube by noon every Sunday.

The ability to watch and listen to the sermons, enjoy the music and participate in the prayers from home, any time we want, is something many of us value. Donations of any amount to help fund this technology are welcomed and appreciated. If you would like to contribute, please make checks payable to *The Congregational Church*, with *Technology* noted on the memo line. You can also make a donation online through our website.

Thank you in advance for your generous support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Doug Topliffe, Dave Phelps, Pastor Maureen or any of the other members of the ad hoc AV Streaming-Recording Team (Pastor Kate, Don Holden, Tim Wiegand, Tom Werst, and Nancy Protzmann).

POLAR FLEECE BLANKET BONANZA! Do you have new anti-pill polar fleece in your house? Our Church School "Be A Blessing" mission project this September is no-sew polar fleece blankets to support Sleep In Heavenly Peace (SIHP) for the NH-Hillsborough Chapter. This will run from Creative Worship Sunday, September 19 to mid-October. We are in need of donations of new anti-pill polar fleece as well as any 1/2 yd to 2 yds pieces. There is a designated drop off bin at the back door of the church.

You can also help by donating online through our website; under *Giving, Donate*, choose *Missions* and specify SIHP. Any funds not used to purchase the polar fleece will be sent to the SIHP Chapter: NH-Hillsborough, for mattress purchases. You can also send a check to the church office, make it payable to *The Congregational Church of Amherst*, with *SIHP* noted on the memo line.



The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

September 26: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 and Psalm 124
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 and Psalm 19:7-14
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

October 3: Job 1:1, 2:1-10 and Psalm 26
Genesis 2:18-24 and Psalm 8
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

Sunday, September 19, 2021

Our Church Calendar

September 19—25, 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
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship—Memorial Garden
	4:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting—Parlor
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir—Sanctuary
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary