

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



"We live in a world where bad stories are told, stories that teach us life doesn't mean anything and that humanity has no great purpose. It's a good calling, then, to speak a better story. How brightly a better story shines. How easily the world looks to it in wonder. How grateful we are to hear these stories, and how happy it makes us to repeat them."

—Donald Miller, *A Million Miles in a Thousand Years*

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

October 31, 2021

All Saints—All Souls Day

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Shall We Gather at the River

Robert Lowry/
arr. Larry Shackley

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In all our weakness and strength,
with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies,

Many: We come to be your people, O God.

One: Strong in faith and eager with questions,
singing our praise and whispering our prayers,

Many: We come to be your people, O God.

One: Filled with saintly determination
yet mindful of our human limitations,

Many: We come to be your people, O God.

One: Made strong in your endless love for us,
we know ourselves to be yours and made in your image,

Many: We come to be your people, O God.

All: May we truly become your people today.

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

We remember, O God...

The countless saints of history who have blazed a trail of courage through time.

We remember the tender touch of loved ones,
the example of heroes, the healing words of comforters,
the remarkable acts of fearless ones.

We remember the gentle strength of grandmothers and grandfathers,
the loyalty of friends, the kindness of strangers,
the sacrifice of parents, the joy of children.

We remember the supreme love of Jesus,
the blessing of his Spirit,
the reminder of his words and deeds.
We remember in every time and place the saints
who have lived among us.
May we walk in their footsteps,
and be saints for those to come.

May your Spirit move among us now, O God, in this sanctuary and wherever we are gathered,
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.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of God be with you. AND ALSO WITH YOU.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 11:32-44

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and saw the Judeans who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Judeans said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of fabric, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

SERMON

"Raising the Dead"

ALL SOULS MEMORIAL

Steal Away
Chancel Choir

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.

INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Generous God, you surround us with saints, even when we don't recognize or appreciate them. May your Spirit of wonder move in us in this time so that we might follow in the footsteps of those who have come before us, and those who live among us now. Make use of our gifts – of time, of talent, of treasure – to make our world a more loving, compassionate, and just place for all. For all the saints of every age, we give you our gratitude and praise. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

John H. Hopkins/
arr. Robert J. Powell

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.*

*Portions of our liturgy are adapted from Seasons Online.
http://www.seasonsonline.ca/files/all-saints-day_cong-life_yr-a.pdf*

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



November 7: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 and Psalm 127
1 Kings 17:8-16 and Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

November 14: 1 Samuel 1:4-20 and 1 Samuel 2:1-10
Daniel 12:1-3 and Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25
Mark 13:1-8

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 open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m., and available Monday through Friday by telephone 673-3231 and 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

Michael Havay

Gail Wiegand

Anita Swanson

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Wendy Valeri

Gretchen Davis

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Bell Choir Director

Interim Children's Coordinator

KITCHEN KIT DRIVE: As part of this year's *Be a Blessing* theme, October is 'Do Good' month, and the World Service team is taking this to heart by hosting a Kitchen Kit drive. These kitchen kits are a staple of our **Home Starter Program** – every Home Starter recipient has needed one of these kits and we like to have several on hand. Sign up for items using our SignUp Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040e48a8ac2aa4ff2-kitchen>

(on both the SOS and Home Starter pages). We will send you a confirmation email with detailed information. You can shop on your own locally or use our Amazon Wish List.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED on Sunday mornings to help run the live-stream camera and laptop during worship. It's easy and we are hoping to train a few more folks so the rotation is easy on everyone. Contact Doug Topliffe if you'd like to learn.

BIBLE SUNDAY: Next, Sunday, November 7, we will be presenting our third grade students with new bibles during the worship service. Each child will receive a bible and a highlighted bible verse picked specifically for them. Later this spring, the third graders will share their passage by reading their verse to the congregation.

Financial Summary

(as of September 30, 2021)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$144,127	\$160,997	\$(16,870)
Expenses	\$138,490	\$135,240	\$(3,249)
Net Income	\$ 5,637	\$ 25,757	\$(20,120)

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).

A NEW LOOK AT THE OLD TESTAMENT: Is the OLD Testament still relevant today? Who wrote it and why? This fall, we continue to take a NEW look at the OLD Testament through this video lecture series produced by the Great Courses. We'll watch the video together as a group and then have a discussion facilitated by Pastor Maureen.

The class continues on November 3, and meets every first and third Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. We'll meet on Zoom, but anyone who feels comfortable gathering in-person at the church is welcome to do so (masks are required). All are welcome! Please RSVP to pastormaureen@ccamherst.org to receive the Zoom link, or access the link through the *Members* section of our church website (Go to *Zoom Mtg Links*, look for *Wednesday Morning Adult Ed*).

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for November 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!

ALTAR FLOWERS ALWAYS WELCOME: Flowers can be given to remember a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. The donor arranges with a local florist to have their chosen flowers delivered, or can create their own arrangement and deliver it on Saturday. After the service they may take the flowers home or donate them to someone in need of some cheer. There are many openings in the coming months. Contact Andrea in the church office to schedule a Sunday.



LEVI SUNDAY is November 7 after worship. We have planned a number of outdoor activities, including raking and general lawn and grounds clean up. We also have some loam that needs to be spread in the memorial garden area. Please bring your own rakes and tools to help accomplish the jobs you would like to help with. Many hands make light work!

Our Church Calendar		
October 31—November 6, 2021		
Some 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	9:50 a.m.	Church School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship—Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship— Memorial Garden
	11:30 a.m.	Senior High Youth Parents Meeting
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association— Vestry
Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	6:00 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	<i>A New Look at the Old Testament</i>
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir—Sanctuary
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class— Vestry
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir— Sanctuary

Sunday, October 31, 2021



October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Before the COVID-19 lockdown, our congregation had been truly blessed to have our Senior Pastor Maureen and our Associate Pastor Kate directing and leading our faith journey. In normal times the work that they do and the love that they show has been extraordinary. Not knowing all the day to day activities of clergy, I would imagine one of the toughest aspects is comforting people that have had a loss or some family catastrophe. This has to be emotionally exhausting.

Now that we are 18 months into the COVID-19, the variants have once again gone beyond what we could have expected. The hardship and losses of all of us has been compounded, and through it all Pastor Maureen and Pastor Kate have led us through, and have continued to lead our church and thrive all the more. We also want to thank them for working double with online services and all the Zoom activities, and now balancing that with in-person gatherings, services that are also available with online streaming. We know that this has not been easy and yet they plowed forward with smiles and grace.

We are truly blessed by God to have these two beacons of light in our storm. When darkness descended they led us with the light of hope and grace.

The Diaconate