

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



"You are loved because God loves, period. God loves you, and everyone, not because you believe in certain things, but because you are a mess, and lonely, and His or Her child. God loves you no matter how crazy you feel on the inside, no matter what a fake you are; always, even in your current condition, even before coffee. God loves you crazily...like a slightly overweight auntie, who sees only your marvelousness and need."

—Anne Lamott

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

November 7, 2021 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost 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 *Prelude on "Madrid" (Come, Christians, Join to Sing)* David Lasky

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As followers of Jesus, we are called
to a hopeful understanding of our world,

Many: declaring that God called the created universe "good."

One: We are called to bring this hope
with us wherever we go,

Many: declaring that God makes all things new again.

One: We are called to live into what Jesus taught us:
to love God and love one another as we love ourselves,

Many: declaring our commitment to living in relationship.

**All: So let's join together in our love of God and all of Creation,
to worship and give thanks.**

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

Holy One, we come together to worship,
as a people called to love you
with all our hearts and souls,
with all our might,

but there are so many other things in our lives
that clamor for our attention
that we often relegate you to Sundays
and holy days,
and times when we're in need of rescue.

We really do want to hear your voice
above all of the other voices in our lives.
But we get bogged down in our daily routines.
We forget who we are.
We forget who you are.
We forget what the church is supposed to be.

So here we are, standing before you today,
with our human foibles
and our short attention spans,
asking that you to make yourself known to us,
to help us to recognize the presence of the Holy,
to continue to challenge us and inspire us,
and make us into the people you long for us to be.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray to you using these words:

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.

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Abigail Elizabeth Endres Ivan Dean Gascoyne Evan Charles Greer

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We welcome all people to join in receiving this sacrament. Children may participate at the discretion of their parents.

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD, POURING OF THE CUP

CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

The bread will be available at the door at the beginning of the service, and the juice will be served in the pews during Communion. The bread is gluten, dairy, and egg free. We will be invited to eat the bread and drink the juice together. After receiving communion, please return the empty wrappers and communion cups to the holders on the back of the pew.

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.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ruth 1:1-18

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

SERMON

"Your People Shall Be My People"

ANTHEM

Morning Has Broken
Sara Phelps, soprano
Michael Havay, piano

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)

With joyous praise we dedicate this offering, O God, acknowledging our responsibility to share your resources in our love for all your people. In gratitude for the gifts you have given us, we pay it forward to others. We thank you for the wisdom, grace, and hope we have received, as we use these gifts to live out the gospel in the world, in Jesus' name. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Franklin Ritter

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 the liturgy have been adapted from The Minor Keys.
<http://theminorkeys.blogspot.ca/> and from Katie Cook, in Sacred
Seasons, Pentecost/Ordinary Time 2000, posted on Simple Living Work.*

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 this morning. Our membership is open to all those who choose to walk with us in our witness. **The next new member orientations will be held November 11 and November 17.** New members will be formally received on Sunday, November 21. 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

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

John Swanson

Wendy Valeri

Gretchen Davis

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Bell Choir Director

Interim Children's Coordinator

TODAY IS LEVI SUNDAY: Join us after worship as we tackle a number of outdoor chores, including raking and general lawn and grounds clean up. We also have some loam that needs to be spread in the memorial garden area. Many hands make light work!

NEW MEMBER INFO SESSIONS: Are you new (or not-so-new) to our church and interested in learning more about our congregation? Are you interested in learning more about becoming a member? Do you want to know more about the UCC? If so, please join us for one of our info sessions on either Thursday, Nov. 11 or Wednesday, Nov. 17 at 7:00 p.m. to learn more. Contact Andrea in the church office for more info.

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!

THANKSGIVING BASKETS: This Sunday and next week, the Diaconate is accepting gift cards and monetary donations for their annual Thanksgiving Baskets. This year the deacons will be supporting the World Service team's efforts with their collection. Thank you for your generosity and support of our neighbors in need.

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).

Sunday, November 7, 2021

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:



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

November 21: 2 Samuel 23:1-7 and Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18)
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 and Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

Our Church Calendar

November 7—13, 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.	Levi Sunday
	11:30 a.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association—Vestry
Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees of the Facility
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting—Parlor
	4:00 p.m.	Communications Team
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir—Sanctuary
	7:00 p.m.	New Member Info Session
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary