

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



"Wisdom begins in wonder."

—Socrates

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

September 4, 2022

Thirteenth 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

O God Beyond All Praising

Gustav Holst/
Anna Laura Page

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or in spirit.

One: God has been acting in our lives
and in our world this past week.

**Many: We have come to this place of worship
to be made more aware of God's presence
and to give thanks.**

One: God is here with us now,
ready to strengthen us,
comfort us, inspire us.

**Many: We gather in the presence of God:
who is with us when we awake,
and when we fall asleep,
and in all the moments in between.**

One: We gather in the house of God:
who has created us as one family.

**Many: We gather to be the people of God:
who urges to us to follow
in love, in faith, in service.**

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

The congregation may be seated.

God of all who labor,
we gather here from our anxious toil
and exalted hopes
for a quiet time of restoration and renewal.
We bring the burdens we carry
knowing that your love makes them seem lighter.
We bring our pretenses,
seeking to lay them aside in honest humility.
We long to lead lives worthy of the best we know.
Speak your word to us once more,
to sharpen our hearing and guide our actions.
Make us aware that you are with us, always.

May your Spirit move among us, 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

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
 you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down
 and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
 and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
 it is so high that I cannot attain it.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
 you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
 that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.

SERMON

“Time to Wonder”

ANTHEM

Come Unto Him from *Messiah*
Sara Phelps, soprano
Michael Havay, organ

G. F. Handel

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 RESPONSE

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

The Church’s One Foundation

Samuel S. Wesley/
Kevin Norris

*DOXOLOGY (Tune: *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

O God of light, our hearts overflow with thanksgiving for the bounty you’ve given us. As you have freed us from the chains of selfishness and self-interest, we seek to offer healing to others. We reach out to help, expecting no reward but the satisfaction of sharing what you have so richly entrusted to us. Bless our offering of self and substance, we pray. Amen.

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.

CALL TO COMMUNION

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to God most high.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD, POURING OF THE CUP

CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Communion at CCA is open to anyone who would like to partake. When you receive the bread, eat at your own pace, symbolizing our individual relationship with God. When you receive the juice, drink with the whole congregation, symbolizing our communion as the Body of Christ. The bread is gluten, egg, and dairy free and the juice is non-alcoholic, so that there may be no barriers to Christ's table.

ORGAN MEDITATION

Improvisation

George Brandon

Strophe in F Major

Gustav Tritant

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this Bread and the drinking of this Cup give us courage to speak and act with love, not only in church sanctuaries, but out in your precious world. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and may we become your compassionate and safe refuge for all. Amen

*HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

No. 339

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

One: God has formed us as a community of faith.

Many: Now, we go to serve our siblings in need.

One: Jesus has knit us together as partners in grace.

Many: Now, we go to bear the burdens of those around us.

One: The Spirit gives us the words we need.

**Many: Now, we go to speak for love, justice, and hope for all.
In Jesus name we pray, Amen!**

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE

A Joyful Trumpeting

Lani Smith

(*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 today's liturgy are adapted
from lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com,
from *Flames of the Spirit*, by Ruth C. Duck,
and from *Gathered by Love*, by Lavon Baylor.*



The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

September 11: Luke 15:1-10
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 18: Various
Creative Worship—Why We Worship

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 on break for the summer. Young children are welcome to choose an activity from our **"A Child in Church" Basket** to bring to the pew with their families.
- Our church nursery is open, but not currently staffed, and is available when parents with young children feel the need for a quiet, safe space to go to during worship. A monitor is available to watch and listen to the service.
- 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.
- Please remember to wear your nametag each Sunday, so that we may all greet our neighbors. If you do not have a permanent nametag, temporary nametags may be found inside the friendship registers. If you are in need of a new, permanent nametag, please see one of the deacons.
- Please join us in the memorial garden, weather permitting, following worship to welcome visitors and friends and enjoy refreshments.
- In the event of an emergency, please remain seated until instructions have been given.

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

Mark Baddeley

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Roger Hooper

Patricia Bodan

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Guest Preacher

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Videographer

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Wendy Valeri

Larissa Riley

Associate Pastor

Bell Choir Director

Church School Coordinator

GOOD STUFF SALE - September 16 & 17: The Woman's Association is still accepting donations for the sale: clothing in good condition for men, women and children; handbags and jewelry; linens. Donations can be left in the marked location in the vestry. The week of the sale, extra volunteers will be needed. See the days and times on the [WA page on the church website](#). And please help spread the word about this event! All proceeds benefit the church and local charities.

GARDEN WAGON NEEDED: Do you have a garden cart or wagon you are no longer using? Our gardener could use one in good condition. Please contact Sue Stout.

LAWN MOWING TEAM: Our beautiful lawn needs attention! If you are able to be a part of the 'mowing team' please sign up either through our website or by contacting Tim Wiegand. It doesn't take long and we would be most appreciative of your hard work! We will send you specific instructions in a confirmation email. Thank you!

GARDEN FLOWERS: Fresh cut garden flowers are lovely for simple altar arrangements during the summer. If you can provide a bouquet of cut flowers, or can simply contribute flowers for a bouquet, please contact Sue Stout or Andrea in the church office to schedule a Sunday. Thank you for sharing your flower gardens!

Financial Summary

(as of July 30, 2022)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$92,402	\$93,291	\$ (889)
Expenses	\$69,453	\$72,453	\$(3,001)
Net Income	\$22,949	\$20,838	\$ 2,111

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 (Treasurer), Doug Topliffe and Todd Whitney.

WEDNESDAY MORNING ADULT ED RETURNS

September 21 with *Understanding the New Testament: Why do we have four Gospels? Why do they contradict each other at times? What was the purpose of Paul's letters? What is the Book of Revelation really about?* Beginning this fall, we'll take a year-long look at the New Testament through this 24-part 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. All are welcome, and more information can be found on our website and in the September *Spire*.

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!

Our Church Calendar

September 4—10, 2022

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	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship
Tuesday	4:30 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Budget & Finance Team
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir



Sunday, September 11

Church school begins on September 11!

All children ages 3 years old through seventh grade are invited to join the fun.

Beginning at 9:45 a.m. on Rally Sunday, parents can register their children and meet church school teachers. Once registered, children can sit with their parents for the first part of worship. After the children's message, teachers will lead the children to their classrooms. Parents can meet their children in the community room after worship, where the Rally Day celebration will continue with a picnic hosted by the Fellowship Team.

For more information regarding our church school program, please contact Larissa Riley at churchschool@ccamherst.org.

Church Picnic!



After the worship service on September 11, we hope you will join us for an all-church picnic!

Immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service, head to the community room to enjoy good food, games, renew friendships and make new ones. The Fellowship Team will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and cold drinks. If your last name begins A-N please bring a side or salad; O-Z a desert.

All ages are welcome and donations to help with costs are appreciated.

Sunday, September 4, 2022

COVID-19 Protocols
(as of 4/2/2022)

Thank you for your ongoing patience as we navigate gathering as a community during this time of uncertainty. Here are the guidelines for in-person worship and using the church building:

- 1. Masking is optional throughout the church including worship, fellowship hour, church meetings, etc.*
- 2. Social distancing is optional in worship. Those who still prefer to keep a social distance while seated in the pews are encouraged to use the "Social Distancing Cards" (found at the back of the sanctuary) to create personal space.*
- 3. Friendship Registers are passed at the beginning of worship. We are no longer taking names at the door of the sanctuary.*
- 4. Offering plates are passed during worship.*
- 5. The Passing of the Peace will remain as it has been most recently: hug the one you're with and wave or share the "peace" sign with those around you.*
- 6. The choir is singing during worship, and we have reintroduced hymns to the service.*
- 7. During communion, bread and juice will be passed by the deacons throughout the congregation.*

If you have any questions about our COVID-19 protocols, please do not hesitate to reach out to a member of our reopening team or one of the pastors.