

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



“True worship is to be the creature of God’s creating - living into the terrifying beauty of what’s possible-without what’s possible being fettered by what’s come before”

—Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

September 18, 2022

Creative Worship Sunday
"Welcoming"

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 -*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

George J. Elvey/ arr. John Scriveyner

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or in spirit.

One: Welcome!

Many: To all seeking to be lifted up!

One: Welcome!

Many: To all seeking to be inspired!

One: Welcome!

Many: To all seeking to be comforted!

One: Welcome!

Many: To all seeking to be changed

One: Welcome!

Many: To all seeking community!

One: Welcome!

Many: To all seeking to worship God!

All: Welcome!

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

O God, we are your children
and we come to you offering our thanks.

Be among us,
open our hearts to your love and your peace.

We trust that you will work through our words
and our music and our prayers
so that we will leave this place
knowing your Spirit has touched us.

Be with us now 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 –BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

O God, bless this backpack.
Make it strong for its job.
May its straps never break,
its padding never give out,
its zippers never jam.
May it never be forgotten
in strange places.
May the burdens
in it be light.
And may the body
that bears it be strong,
and growing, and whole,
and ever blessed
By your love.

In the name of the great
Teacher

At whose knee we are all students,
Amen.

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

ANTHEM

I Come With Joy

Wendy Valeri Bells, Michael Havay, piano

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Romans 15:7

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Matthew 25:35

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

Hebrews 13:2

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Romans 12:13

Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

1 Peter 4:9

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

Leviticus 19:33-34

You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were once strangers in the land of Egypt:

Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female,
for you are all one in Christ Jesus

Acts 28:2

The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all in,
because outside it had begun to rain and was cold.

Exodus 40:34

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

Psalms 95:2

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

Matthew 18:20

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

SERMON

“Why We Worship”

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Wayfaring Stranger”

Jeanne Neverisky and Emily Archer, vocals

Mike Neverisky and Herb Archer, 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.

INVITATION TO SHARING OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC –*Ash Grove –Let All Things Now Living*

Frank Stoldt

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

For the hospitality of your good earth, for the people you have given us to love, for the tasks you have called us to do, we give thanks, gracious God. Our offerings are a measure of our faith and evidence of our gratitude. We dedicate ourselves with our gifts, that your light might shine in the places where we live and work and far beyond our personal reach. Amen.

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE –*Voluntary on Kremser*

Gordon Young

(*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.
- 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 community room for a time of fellowship after the worship service. Coffee and beverages are offered.
- 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

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Roger Hooper

Nye Horner

Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Videographer

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Wendy Valeri

Larissa Riley

Associate Pastor

Bell Choir Director

Church School Coordinator

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 <u>Actual</u>	YTD <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.

PARENTS GROUP

Are you a parent with young children (infants through second grade)? Do you want to connect with other parents to talk about raising kind, faithful, resilient children? Do you yearn for some faith formation of your own but can't seem to find the time? Then join us next Sunday, September 25 after worship to see if Parents Group might be right for you. We will meet in the nursery at 11:00 a.m. (children are welcome) for an informal gathering to talk about possible meeting times, hopes, and goals for parents group this year. Questions? Please reach out to Larissa Riley at

churchschool@ccamherst.org

Pastor Kate will be leading the group when she returns in October

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 18-24, 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
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:30 a.m.	CE (virtual)
	2:00 p.m.	Middle High Youth
	4:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Adult Ed

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.