

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



*“Money is the root of all evil,
and yet it is such a useful root that we cannot get on without it
any more than we can without potatoes.”*

— Louisa May Alcott

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

September 25, 2022

Sixteenth 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

How Firm a Foundation

Jason D. Payne

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or in spirit.

One: The word has come for us from God:

Many: Who promises to shelter us under the wings of hope and grace.

One: The word has come to us from Jesus:

Many: Who encourages us to remember the good news we have received.

One: The word flows to us from the Spirit:

Many: Who reminds us to place our hope and trust in God.

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

The congregation may be seated.

In your presence, life-shaping God,
we commit to living as your people,
planting hope and joy
where there is only despair,
bringing forth fields of flowers
where there is only emptiness.

You created us in your image.
You called to us through the prophets.
You sent Jesus to us to show us your way.
You send your Spirit to us
to bring hope and grace and mercy
to us once again.

With those who have trusted you
in every time and place,
we join our voices together in 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

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

SERMON

“Love of Money”

ANTHEM

I'll Walk With God
Michael Havay, piano

Nicholas Brodzsky

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

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

The Solid Rock

William R. Bradbury/
Ross Anderson

*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)

May our gifts this day go to serve those who need healing, those who are hungry, those who need a friend or community, and those who are on the other side of the chasm we call indifference. We may not always notice them, but you do, O God, and we pray that they might be touched by these gifts, and lifted by your grace and hope. Amen.

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above

Robert J. Powell

(*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.*

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

Michael Havay

Scott Hewett

Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Organist/Accompanist

Liturgist

Videographer

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Wendy Valeri

Larissa Riley

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Bell Choir Director

Church School Coordinator

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 after worship TODAY 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.

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 25—October 1, 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 11:00 a.m. Parents Group 4:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m. WA Workshop 7:00 p.m. World Service Team
Tuesday	10:00 a.m. WA Board Meeting
Thursday	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY: It's not too late to sign up for our Small Group Ministry. These groups meet once a month from October to June, with the intention of establishing deeper connections with each other and with God. Led by lay members of the congregation, the group meetings include a check in, a short topic reading and discussion, and a closing prayer. Sign up by contacting Pastor Maureen.

SEEKING CHURCH SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS: Do you enjoy working with children? Consider becoming a volunteer for our Church School program. We are looking for adults that can volunteer 1-2 times per month during worship on Sundays to assist our Church School Coordinator and Christian Education team. Volunteers will NOT need to prepare lessons or manage a class on their own. Background checks are required and training will be provided. Please contact Larissa Riley with any questions.

WEDNESDAY MORNING ADULT ED CONTINUES October 5 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 *Spire*.

Financial Summary			
(as of August, 2022)			
	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$118,597	\$122,123	\$ (3,526)
Expenses	\$100,397	\$106,789	\$ (6,392)
Net Income	\$ 18,200	\$ 15,334	\$ 2,865

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.

Sunday, September 25, 2022