

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



*“Jesus is for losers and for those who lose it and for those who are lost.
In Jesus, God got down on her knees and lit a lamp and swept the house
of this world and searched until she found them .”*

—Rev. Dr. Douglas Gay, University of Glasgow

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

September 11, 2022

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Rally 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

Praise God!

Hugh S. Livingston Jr.

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or in spirit.

One: People of God, we look all around us
and see the faces of those we know and love...

**Many: Neighbors and friends, siblings and cousins in faith,
a communion of kindred hearts.**

One: People of God, we look all around us
and see the faces of those we don't know...

**Many: Strangers and sojourners, the forgotten and lost,
the ones who need an outstretched hand.**

One: People of God, we look all around us
and see all the images of God gathered here today...

**Many: In me, in you, in all people, everywhere,
God's Spirit shines for all to see!**

All: People of God, come, let us worship together!

*HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

No. 464

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

The congregation may be seated.

Loving God, as we gather in your presence,
we remind ourselves that as a church
we are committed to welcoming all people,
all races and ethnicities,
all mental and physical abilities,
all social and economic standings,
all families and orientations,
all gender identities and gender expressions.
We celebrate all of the diverse attributes
you've woven into the fabric of humankind.
With your grace, O God,
we invite all to share in the life and leadership,
ministry and fellowship,
worship and sacraments,
responsibilities and blessings of this faith community.

Be with us in our work and our worship, 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.

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and Holy Spirit, One;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

COMMISSIONING OF CHURCH SCHOOL LEADERS AND TEACHERS

PASTOR:

God has given each of us a variety of gifts to equip us for the work of ministry. Today we recognize and bless those of you who have been called to the ministry of spiritual formation of our children – as teachers and leaders.

CONGREGATION:

At the celebration of baptism, we promise to love and nurture our children through our prayers, presence, encouragement, and teaching. We praise God for calling you as teachers and leaders, and we celebrate the gifts and guidance God joyfully provides to you in this ministry.

TEACHERS and LEADERS:

Church School children, we promise to welcome you, to love you, to walk with you, to wonder with you, and to model for you what it means to live in faith every day. We commit ourselves to lead you and to learn from you, as you learn from us.

PASTOR:

Church School children, as Children of God, do you promise to do your best to grow in your faith - to be curious, to ask a lot of questions, to be kind and giving to others, and to learn how to follow Jesus along with your teachers and classmates? If so please say, "We will"

CONGREGATION:

Children, Teachers, and Leaders - we have heard your promises and we commit ourselves to support you through our prayers, our gifts, our service, and our love.

PASTOR:

Teachers and Leaders, may your love and commitment to this ministry nurture your own faith, strengthen the relationships between you, increase the faithful witness and service of our congregation as a whole, and help us to live and grow in faith every day. We give thanks to God for all of you, for answering God's call.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

I Will Sing with the Spirit
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 15:1-10

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable:

"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

SERMON

"The Joy of Being Found"

*HYMN

Just As I Am

No. 370

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS

Siciliano

Robert J. Powell

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*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)

We give because you have been generous with us, gracious God. We give to feed the hungers of body and soul that are all around us and deep within. May the ministries of this church meet the needs of our congregation, our community, and our world. Amen.

*HYMN

Amazing Grace

No. 280

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

A Paean of Praise

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.*

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

Vicky Leknes

Tim Wiegand

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

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 <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.

Sunday, September 11, 2022

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 11—17, 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.	Rally Day Picnic
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees of the Facility
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Congregational Care
Friday	4:00 p.m.	Good Stuff Sale
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Good Stuff Sale