

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

VILLAGE SPIRE

October 2022



Creative Worship
Sunday, October 23
at 10:00 a.m.

Sending

Mark your calendars! "Creative Worship" is on the FOURTH Sunday this month! This year our overarching theme is WHY WE WORSHIP! Each month we'll focus on a different part of our Sunday service and explore why we include it in our worship and how it connects with our faith journey as a whole. Our Creative Worship services include special music, interactive liturgy, and a message for all ages. On these Sundays, our children will participate in the part of worship that we're focusing on that month, before heading off to Church School.

In October, our worship theme is "Sending" and the part of worship we'll be focusing on is the Benediction. This will coincide with our annual Mission Sunday where we lift up the many ways that we serve our neighbors near and far. We hope you can join us in-person or online!

Sending

Rev. Maureen Frescott, Senior Pastor
October 2022

Do you feel like you're falling into fall? Are you wondering where summer has gone, and how did we suddenly shift to morning frosts, Halloween candy in the stores, and pumpkin spice everything, everywhere? Changing seasons are inevitable, and just as the first shoots of green in March signal the coming of spring, the leaves that swirl in the wind on chilly October mornings tell us that fall is here, and winter is waiting in the wings.

Fall is a busy time in the life of our church as all our programs kick into gear - Church School, Middle and Senior High Youth Groups, Parents Group, Confirmation, Adult Ed, Small Group Ministry, our Chancel and Bell choirs, our Woman's Association, and all our Ministry Teams who do the work of our church. Church is about coming together to "do" all the things that we do to feel connected, comforted, challenged, and yes, even changed. But in our coming together we're constantly reminded that as God's people we're also charged with going out - to serve others in love.

October is traditionally when we celebrate the many ways our congregation serves our neighbors near and far with our MISSION SUNDAY, which this year falls on October 23rd. Our World Service Team is once again collecting items for kitchen and bathroom kits to distribute to those transitioning into new housing. We'll have ways for both adults and kids to get involved, either by donating needed items or by helping to assemble the kits on Mission Sunday. Of course, our Home Starter program is always looking for helping hands as well, to assist with pickup and deliveries of furniture and household goods for our neighbors in need!

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The Holiday Fair is Back!

The traditional Holiday Fair, sponsored by the Woman's Association, is returning after a two-year hiatus! It will be held on November 19, the Saturday before Thanksgiving, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and will feature traditional favorites as well as some new features.

Plan to see special craft items, wreaths and other holiday decorations, birch bark ornaments, holiday baked goods, pecans and cheese, jewelry, collectibles, gifts for all ages, a raffle of holiday baskets and a silent auction.

The WA welcomes anyone interested in getting involved in the fair preparations: crafting, donating auction items, organizing the set-up, baking, working at the fair, etc. Mark your calendar for November 19 and contact the WA (wa@ccamherst.org) with any questions or to volunteer.



VILLAGE SPIRE

A Parish Newsletter

The Congregational Church of
Amherst, NH, United Church of Christ
11 Church Street
Amherst, NH 03031

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Church school available.

How to reach us:
Office Phone (603) 673-3231,
(603) 673-6848
www.ccamherst.org
[Facebook.com/ccamherst](https://www.facebook.com/ccamherst)
[Instagram.com/ccamherstnh](https://www.instagram.com/ccamherstnh)

The church office is open
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and
is available by telephone and email
Monday through Friday.

Send in all newsletter articles
by the fifteenth of the month.

Sunday bulletin announcements
are due Thursday morning.

OUR CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott
Senior Pastor
pastormaureen@ccamherst.org

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy
Associate Pastor
pastorkate@ccamherst.org

Andrea Cyr
Church Office Administrator
andrea@ccamherst.org

Sara L. Phelps
Director of Music
kalben1@comcast.net

Michael Havay
Organist
michaelh117@gmail.com

Wendy Valeri
Bell Choir Director
wendylazott@tds.net

Larissa Riley
Church School Coordinator
churchschool@ccamherst.org

Adult Ed Series

Understanding the New Testament

**Wednesdays, October 5 and 19
10:00-11:30 a.m. on Zoom**



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. These dynamic lectures, given by Professor David Brakke, Chair of Christian History at Ohio State University, start with the earliest writings of the NT - the letters of Paul, and then move on to the Gospels and Revelation. We'll examine the original contexts of these writings and the people who wrote them, giving us a new perspective on these ancient texts.

We'll watch the video together as a group and then have a discussion facilitated by Pastor Maureen. The class will meet every first and third Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. from September through May. We'll meet on Zoom because we've found this to be a more inclusive way to be together! All are welcome! Please RSVP to pastormaureen@ccamherst.org to receive the Zoom link, or access the link on our church website in the Members Section under "Wednesday Adult Ed."

Understanding the New Testament - Series Schedule

October 5 - The Jewish Origins of Christian Faith
October 19 - Thessalonians and Paul's Ministry
November 2 - Galatians: Salvation for Gentiles
November 16 - Romans: God, Faith, and Israel
December 7 - 1 and 2 Corinthians: Community Conflicts
December 21 - Paul's Congregations
January 4 - Paul's Theology on Slavery
January 18 - Adapting Paul's Teachings to New Situations
February 1 - Gospel of Mark: Jesus as the Suffering Son of Man
February 15 - Gospel of Matthew: Jesus as the New Moses
March 1 - Gospel of Matthew: The Church
March 15 - Gospel of Luke: God's Salvation
April 5 - Luke and Acts: Luke's Inclusive Message
April 19 - Acts: The Apostles and the Church
May 3 - Gospel of John: Jesus as the Divine Word
May 17 - Gospel of John: Jesus and the Jews



Sending, continued from page 1

On Mission Sunday, we'll also have representatives from Stepping Stones with us in worship - this is a local organization that serves "unaccompanied" youth in Nashua and the surrounding communities. These are youth who have no homes because they've left home or been tossed out (typically because of abuse), or they've aged out of the foster care system. Most don't have a safe place to go and end up living in tents on the banks of the Nashua river or drift from one friend's house to another. Stepping Stones is a drop-in center where these youth can get the basics they need - a safe place to rest, food, showers/bathrooms, a place to keep their stuff, and someone to talk to. Be sure to be with us in worship on October 23rd to hear more about the good things Stepping Stones is doing and how we can get involved!

In September, we introduced our church-wide theme - "Why We Worship!" - and we began our exploration of our individual parts of worship at the beginning, with the Call to Worship and the Prayer of Invocation and the welcome we give and receive through both. In October, with our mission focus in mind, we're jumping all the way to the end to our Benediction. Every Sunday at the end of worship, we are charged with "going out into the world in peace," but in doing so we also name the ways we might be a source of peace for one another: hold onto what is good, have courage, return no evil for evil, help the suffering, strengthen the fainthearted, welcome the stranger, and rejoice in hope. These particular "charges" come directly from the letters of Paul and are based on the teachings of Jesus. The "sending" we hear every week is a reminder that our work is not done with worship. Worship is just a primer. It's where we learn and listen and practice being the people of God in our words and actions. Worship prepares us for the coming week by reminding us that we are the hands and feet, and heart, of Christ in the world.

Fall has fallen. Hopefully we are not falling with it, but instead are reveling in the cooler temperatures, the colorful changes, and the reminder of our mission as Christ's church. Join us on Mission Sunday, either virtually or in-person, and check out our website for more info on the many, many ways that we are sending one another into the world - and how you might be sent as well!

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Maureen

Good Stuff Clothing Sale Thanks!

The WA thanks all of those who helped to make the September 16 and 17 Good Stuff Sale a success. We are grateful to all those who donated clothing for the sale, who helped with set-up and/or staffing the sale, and those who spread the word and shopped. The proceeds from this sale help us to support the work of the church and of other local organizations to which we contribute. Thanks again!



New Members and Visitors Info Session **October 26 and** **November 3** **7:00 p.m.**

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 Wednesday, October 26 or Thursday, November 3 at 7:00 p.m. to learn more about all of the above!

For those who've already joined our mailing list and/or inquired about becoming a member, you'll be hearing from us soon! If you've joined us for our in-person or online worship over the last year and are interested in attending one of our info sessions please reach out to Andrea in our church office at andrea@ccamherst.org or 673-3231, or contact Pastor Maureen at pastormaureen@ccamherst.org

SHARE Food Pantry

The SHARE Food Pantry continues to be busy. Please know your donations are needed and truly appreciated.

October Pantry Requests include canned fruit, flour, sugar, boxed cake mixes and baking supplies, coffee, tea, juice, and granola.

Donations should be brought directly to the SHARE Center in Milford. Thank you for your continuous support!





The Sunday Joys and Concerns and Pastoral Prayer are emailed to those who want to include them in their daily personal prayers.

If you would like to receive them each week, please let Andrea in the church office know:
andrea@ccamherst.org.

Altar Flowers Welcome

Flowers can be given to remember a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. The donor arranges with a local florist to have their chosen flowers delivered, or can create their own arrangement. After the service they may take the flowers home or donate them to someone in need of some cheer. There are many openings in the coming months. Contact Andrea in the church office to schedule a Sunday.

Privacy Laws and Hospitalization

Due to privacy laws, our church is not automatically informed if you or a loved one is admitted to the hospital. Please be sure you let us know when and where you will be a patient so we can be in touch with you and include you in our prayers.



What is Small Group Ministry?

Small Group Ministry is where 8-10 people meet with the intention of establishing deeper connections with each other and with God.

Allows for deeper conversations that we can't always have in committee meetings or during coffee hour.

The groups meet once a month from October to June, and are led by lay members of the congregation.

The group meetings run 1.5 hours and include a check-in, a short topic reading, discussion of the topic, and closing prayer.

Choose a Group!

First Tuesday 1:30-3:00 p.m.
First Sunday 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

All groups will meet in-person or on Zoom as needed.

How To Get Involved

You may join a group at any time of the year as long as your choice is still open. Each group is limited to ten members.

Sign up online at ccamherst.org or contact Pastor Maureen at 603-673-3231 x11,
pastormaureen@ccamherst.org



This year our Small Groups will focus on the WHY WE WORSHIP theme that is guiding our Creative Worship and other church programs. Each month we'll focus on a different aspect of our worship and how it connects with our faith journey!

Schedule for 2022-2023

October:	Welcoming/Sending
November:	Communing
December:	Listening
January:	Praying
February:	Healing
March:	Giving
April:	Discerning
May:	Singing
June:	Nurturing



Mark Baddeley: Deacon, Choir Member and More

Mark Baddeley has been an active member of our church for thirty-four years. He grew up in the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran church, but became a Congregationalist when he and his wife Fran, who had been brought up in the UCC, found their church home here in 1988. Their two children, Adam and Sarah, attended Sunday School and Mark became involved in various church committees and the choir.

His involvement has continued non-stop over the past three decades. Although he had played in a band as a kid, he had never sung in a choir until he was asked to join a special Festival Choir at our church in the early 90's when the President of the UCC preached here. He has been a tenor in the Chancel Choir ever since. As a member of the Music Committee, he and Bruce Beckley interviewed Sara Phelps for the position of Children's Choir Director. Mark has also served a term on the Stewardship Committee, has been a mentor to confirmands, and is currently a member of the Pastoral Relations Team as a Pastor's Advocate, in addition to being a member of the Diaconate.

He doesn't remember exactly how many, but he has served several terms on the Diaconate over the years. He enjoys being a Deacon because that position is mainly involved in the worship service. Mark gets fed by attending church and feels the importance of working toward a sense of community within the church, building friendships and relationships, and being involved in something larger than himself.

Professionally, Mark originally planned a career as an elementary school teacher. When he was unable to find a teaching job, he ended up working in high tech. About fifteen years ago during a counseling session, Mark realized that he had been in the wrong job for the past thirty years. So, with Fran's support, he attended school part time for three years to earn his Counseling degree. He worked for Greater Nashua Mental Health for several years and now works with children at Pastoral Counseling. His mid-life career change has made his life "happier and healthier."

When not working or involved in church duties, Mark reads mostly fiction - "anything well written." He recommends a novel entitled *Snow in August* by Pete Hamill, and books by Swedish writer Fredrik Backman. He's also interested in woodworking and enjoys cooking, especially at this time of year when so many local crops are available, roasted ratatouille, being one of his specialties.

Just recently Mark took on another role as lay preacher, delivering a Sunday sermon entitled "Time to Wonder." Our congregation is blessed to have had Mark's consistent, continuing involvement in so many ways in the life of our church.

Written by Adrienne Topliffe



Levi Sunday is November 6 after worship

We have planned a number of outdoor activities, including raking and general lawn and grounds clean up. Please bring your own rakes and tools to help accomplish the jobs you would like to help with. Many hands make light work!



Financial Summary

(as of August, 2022)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <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.

The Congregational Church
of Amherst, NH, UCC
11 Church Street
Amherst, NH 03031

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Trust in the Lord, and do good;
so you will live in the land,
and enjoy security.

Psalms 37:3, NRSV