

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



*“What if church felt more like a way station than a destination?
What if the church’s job were to move people out the door
instead of trying to keep them in, by convincing them that
God needed them more in the world than in the church?”*

— Barbara Brown Taylor

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

October 23, 2022

Creative Worship—Mission Sunday

10:00 a.m.

Sending

GATHERING CHIMES

Let us be gathered in silence so that we may prepare to worship.

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

William Moore/
Lani Smith

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or in spirit.

One: This is the day the Lord has made:

**Many: a day for praise and prayer;
a day for gratitude and generosity.**

One: This is the time God has given us:

**Many: a time for singing and silence;
a time for speaking and listening.**

One: This is the life to which God calls us:

**Many: a life of humility and service;
a life of faith and trust.**

All: Let us worship together!

*HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

No. 422

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

The congregation may be seated.

Still Speaking God,
Pour out your Spirit upon us as we gather,
so your grace might strengthen us for service;
so your peace might calm our troubled souls;
so your hope might mend our broken hearts;
so your joy might send us out in love.

We come to you in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray using these words:

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

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS

Our monetary offerings and our Home Starter donations will be brought forward at this time.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Benediction

Fenton Groden

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

One: Generous God, receive these gifts

Many: – and give us open hands.

One: Make us aware of the needs of others

Many: – and give us open minds.

One: Send us to serve and welcome all people

Many: – and give us open doors.

One: Remind us of our mission to love all

Many: – and give us open hearts.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Give Me Jesus
Chancel Choir

Jack Schrader

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Luke 4:14-21

When Jesus came to Nazareth, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Mark 1:16-18

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

Luke 10:1-2

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

John 20:19-22

When it was evening on that day, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw him. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

REFLECTION ON SCRIPTURE

“Sending”

MISSION SUNDAY SPEAKER

Kathy Farland, Stepping Stones

***HYMN**

Lord, You Give the Great Commission
verses 1, 2 & 5 only

No. 429

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

If you have a prayer to share, fill out a prayer card in your pew. Cards will be collected by one of the pastors during the hymn after the sermon, and will be shared during Joys and Concerns.

CHORAL RESPONSE

***HYMN**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

No. 343

***THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD**

***COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

One: We are sent out to serve
in peace,

Many: **as Children of God.**

One: Hold onto what is good,
and have courage.

Many: **as Children of God.**

One: Help the suffering,
and strengthen the fearful,

Many: **as Children of God.**

One: Welcome the stranger
and rejoice in hope,

Many: **as Children of God.**

One: Love one another
as God loves us,

Many: **as Children of God.**

All: **Amen!**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

***POSTLUDE**

You Shall Go Out With Joy!

Douglas E. Wagner

(*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 the 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 in the pews and 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

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Russ Demarest

Paul Schellenberg

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Videographer

Wendy Valeri

Larissa Riley

Bell Choir Director

Church School Coordinator

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are from yesterday's memorial service for Bruce Beckley.

RAFFLE BASKET DONATIONS NEEDED: Raffle baskets will once again be featured at the Woman's Association's Holiday Fair on November 19th. Items are needed to fill both the Chocolate Lovers and Made in NH baskets. Anyone who would like to help out by donating a quality chocolate item or a product crafted in NH, (we already have maple syrup), can leave their donation in either the church office or at the Monday Morning Workshop by November 6th. The baskets will be assembled on Monday, November 7th at 10:00 in the vestry. All are welcome to attend and help out with this project. Contact Alicia Wight at wightalicia@gmail.com or 603-345-0155 with any questions about Raffle Basket donations.

TRICK OR TREAT IS ON this year, and we will be handing out candy to all the trick-or-treaters in the village. **Candy donations needed;** please donate bags of fun-size treats by October 31. Thank you!

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 rake and tools to help accomplish the jobs you would like to help with. Many hands make light work!

Financial Summary

(as of September, 2022)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$142,642	\$150,976	\$ (8,334)
Expenses	\$142,931	\$145,147	\$ (2,216)
Net Income	\$ (289)	\$ 5,829	\$ (6,118)

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.

NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS INFO

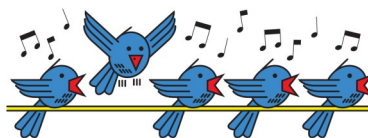
SESSIONS: Are you NEW (or not-so-new) to our church and interested in learning more about our congregation? Are you interested in learning more about becoming a member? Do you want to know more about the UCC? If so, please join us for one of our info sessions on either Wednesday, October 26 or Thursday, 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 requests for October 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; if you are unsure where, please call their office at 673-9898. Many thanks for your continuing support!

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.

Come Sing with Us!



Would you like to sing in our Youth Choir? This group, led by Mrs. Phelps, meets in the vestry after church school on Sundays. Open to all ages! Grab a snack in the community room and come join us!

Our Church Calendar

October 23—29, 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
	11:15 a.m.	Youth Choir
	4:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	New Member and Visitor Info Session
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir



*"Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields,
which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you..." James 5:4*

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion. Grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. This year, the Neighbors in Need "BEHOLD!" offering focuses on economic justice. With inflation impacting all of our households, we wanted to provide a way to discuss this topic through a faith lens. Our hope is that you will feel called to give at this important time. For more information read [Neighbors in Need Stories](#) or visit the [Neighbors in Need UCC Info Page](#)

This appeal will run for the month of October. Donate online using the button above (in the Mission text box please type NIN) or send a check to the church office (11 Church St. Amherst NH 03031) with **Neighbors In Need** in the memo line.

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**YES WE ARE!** The success and sustainability of the United Church of Christ's national ministries relies on our church's contribution to basic operating support and mission. Being **5 for 5** means that our church is a leader, providing support to [Our Church's Wider Mission](#) and the [Special Mission Offerings](#): One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen The Church, Neighbors In Need and The Christmas Fund.

**Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM):** Sixty cents of every **OCWM** dollar stays right here in the New Hampshire Conference. Forty cents is shared with the National setting of the United Church of Christ for the ministry and mission of our denomination in the United States and around the world.

**Neighbors in Need: October** (see above)

**Christmas Fund: December.** Provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks.

**One Great Hour of Sharing: March.** Supports partners in countries with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic disaster response, administered by Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources.

**Strengthen the Church: May.** Supports church growth, pastoral and lay leadership development, youth and young adult ministries within conferences and administered by Local Church Ministries.

*Sunday, October 23, 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.*