

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



"There's nothing like crisis to motivate you to tell your story. Crisis drives us to take stock and remember who we are, where we've been, and where we hope to go. We tell our story to make sense of it all and see where to go from here."

Peter Enns, *The Bible Tells Me So...*

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

July 30, 2023

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m.

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Little Prelude in C Minor

César Franck

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: We come together in gratitude for all God has done:

Many: For creation brought to life,

One: For life blossoming into abundance,

Many: For abundance unfolding into sharing,

One: For sharing giving birth to justice,

Many: For justice healing violence,

One: For violence calming into peace,

Many: For peace healing creation.

All: For all these, we say,

Thanks be to God!

*HYMN

God of Our Life

No. 275

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

The congregation may be seated.

Nurturing God,
We gather together in your presence,
hungry for an encounter with you.
Open our eyes and ears
to the movement of your Spirit.
May the seeds of your Word
scattered among us this morning
fall on fertile soil.

May they take root in our hearts and lives,
and produce an abundant harvest
of love and grace
in our actions and our words.
May your Spirit move among us now, O God,
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.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

O Welt, ich muss dich lassen

Johannes Brahms

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works!
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.
Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,
O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

He is the Lord our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.
He is mindful of his covenant forever,
of the word that he commanded,
for a thousand generations,
the covenant that he made with Abraham,
his sworn promise to Isaac,

which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan
as your portion for an inheritance."
Praise the Lord!

SERMON "The Stories We Tell"

*HYMN *Deep in the Shadows of the Past* No. 330

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 the pastor during the hymn after the sermon, and will be shared during Joys and Concerns.

ORGAN RESPONSE

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Sanctus* David Paxton

*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)

For the breath of life, for eyes to see, for insight to believe, for courage to witness, we give thanks, gracious God. The signs of your presence are everywhere. May this offering serve as our witness to your grace and peace. Breathe your Spirit into us so that it may transform, inspire, and equip us in your service. Amen.

*HYMN *Live Into Hope* No. 332

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*ORGAN RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE *Episode on "Dunlap's Creek"* David Paxton

*(*Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.)*

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 on break for the summer, and will resume on Rally Day, September 10, 2023.
- 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. 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 memorial garden for a time of fellowship after the worship service. (In case of rain, we gather in the community room.) Refreshments are offered.
- In the event of an emergency, please remain seated until instructions have been given.

The church office is open Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m., and available Monday through Friday by telephone 673-3231 and 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 WORSHIP SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Sandra LaBarge-Neumann

Sally Hooper

Ken Bell

Tim Wiegand

Sara Phelps

Larissa Riley

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Guest Organist

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Videographer

Director of Music

Church School Coordinator

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is August 14th-18th! For more information regarding registration, volunteering, or donating with our Amazon Wish List, see the Church School Website: www.ccamherst.org/church-school. ***Don't wait, registration ends July 31!***

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for July include canned fruit, flour, sugar, boxed cake mixes and baking supplies, coffee and tea, juice, 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!

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!

GRANT WRITING HELP: We are looking for someone who may be able to help us with the writing process to apply for an energy efficiency grant. Please contact [Tom Werst](mailto:Tom.Werst@astellas.com) if you can help.

END OF SUMMER PARTY: Save the date of Sunday, **August 13** and join us for some end of summer fun at the Dart family's lake house on Baboosic Lake in Amherst. The Darts will provide burgers, hot dogs and corn. Please bring a side dish, a salad, or a dessert to share, and your own beverages.

Questions? Contact Meredith Dart (meredith.dart@astellas.com or 603-305-9066).

Our Church Calendar

July 30—August 5²¹, 2023

Some events take 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 9:00 a.m. Worship
 10:00 a.m. Fellowship

Tuesday 4:30 p.m. Church Council

*Permission to podcast/stream the music
in this service obtained from One License
with license #A-731944.*



Help Local Students Get Ready for School

Support SHARE's Back to School Program

Summer is in full swing, but back to school is not far away. Please consider helping local families get their kids ready for school by donating school supplies and backpacks.

Please get items to SHARE by August 4 (that allows time to purchase what they do not have).

Most wanted items include....

- New Backpacks (Prefer large, very sturdy. Even little ones need room for snow pants and sneakers!)
- Lunch Boxes
- Durable, Tear-Resistant 2-Pocket Folders (6 colors)
- 1, 2, and 3-inch Sturdy Binders (White)/Filler Paper/ Dividers w/tabs
- Calculators (4 function)
- Notebooks 8 1/2 x 11" (1,3 and 5 subject)
- Pens: Blue, Black, and Red
- Ticonderoga Pencils
- 3- hole Pen/ Pencil Cases & Pouches
- Thin Tip Dry Erase Markers (low odor)
- Post-It Notes
- Highlighters and Black Fine Point Sharpies
- Crayons, Colored Markers and Pencils (Crayola preferred)
- Erasers: Pencil-top and Chunk
- Thick Washable Markers
- Glue Sticks (Jumbo and Lg.)/4oz. Elmers' Glue/Scotch Tape
- Rulers (Custom/Metric)
- Anti-Bacterial and Baby Wipes/Boxes of Tissues
- Hand Held Pencil Sharpeners with covers
- Marbled Composition Notebooks
- Scissors (Kid friendly)
- Index Cards



Donations may be brought to the SHARE Center Monday through Friday from 8 am - 4:30 pm by August 4.