

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



*“Our God is large, living, uncontainable...
Life with God is an adventure, a journey, a leap into the unknown.”*

— William Willimon, *“We Know”*

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

August 6, 2023

Tenth 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

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

John Hughes/David Paxton

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: Beloved disciples, welcome. Some of us come weary and hungry, while others come rested and content. Still others come ready to wrestle with the questions that keep us up at night. No matter how you enter this space, we say,

Many: Come, let us worship God together!

One: Together, we notice the fatigue we carry, the exhaustion that comes from our hunger for care and connection with one another and with God. Yet, when God says to feed one another, we answer,

Many: We have nothing but...

One: Together, then let us wrestle with our hungers that we may be transformed into people who seek and find God all around us, so that when God calls us to feed the hungry and struggle for those in need of help, we answer,

All: In you, we have everything. Use us as you will. Amen.

*HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

No. 488

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

The congregation may be seated.

Loving God, You have called us into a whole-hearted relationship with You. You have asked us to leave behind all we possess and live out our faith with passion and integrity. We thank You for the deep love You have shown toward us. Forgive us when we take our relationship with You for granted, when we let the fire of our early commitment cool, and allow other things to take priority in our lives. Give us strength to hold on to You no matter what comes our way. Give us courage to wrestle honestly with the things we do not understand;

to continually work out our salvation with fear and trembling, to grapple daily with what it means to faithfully follow You. We are Your people, chosen and named by You. Grant us Your continued blessing and mark us with Your love, as we seek to live as Your disciples in the world. We pray all this in the name of the one who came to reconcile the world to you, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying:

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.

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Grace Flows Down
Maya Gascoyne, piano

Louie Giglio, David Bell
and Rod Padgett

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 32:21-32

So the present passed on ahead of him; and he himself spent that night in the camp.

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip. Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the thigh muscle that is on the hip socket, because he struck Jacob on the hip socket at the thigh muscle.

SERMON

"Wrestling With God"

***HYMN**

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

No. 384

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

Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown

trad. Scottish melody/
Dale Wood

*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)

God of power and glory, as we bring our tithes and offerings to be dedicated to the building of your kingdom here on earth, we are reminded of all the blessings we have received. As we hear again the story of Jacob wrestling with the stranger to receive his blessing, remind us that the best blessings come when we are working hard, breaking a sweat, getting our hands dirty working for justice, compassion, and mercy for all your children. Steer us away from being content with the blessings that require little effort. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We welcome all people to join in receiving this sacrament. Children may participate at the discretion of their parents.

CALL TO COMMUNION

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God most high.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD and POURING OF THE CUP

CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Communion at CCA is open to anyone who would like to partake. When you receive the bread, eat at your own pace, symbolizing our individual relationship with God. When you receive the juice, drink with the whole congregation, symbolizing our communion as the Body of Christ. The bread is gluten, egg, and dairy free and the juice is non-alcoholic, so that there may be no barriers to Christ's table.

ORGAN MEDITATION

Aubade

James Mansfield

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Dear God, in this place, at this table, may we be as living loaves, kneaded and shaped by the hands of God. May we be as wine of the Spirit, poured out that others might know joy. Love be the leaven within. Love be the flavor of thought and word and deed. May peace be among us. Amen.

*HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

No. 376

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

*ORGAN RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Ancient of Days

J. Albert Jeffery/
Robert J. Hughes

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

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

*Portions of today's liturgy were adapted from
Touch Holiness, by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi,
and from Discipleship Ministries.*

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. Charlotte E. Y. Bell

Michael Havay

Roger Hooper

Paul Schellenberg

Patricia Bodan

Ministers to the World

Guest Preacher

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Videographer

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Sara Phelps

Larissa Riley

Senior Pastor

Director of Music

Church School Coordinator

END OF SUMMER PARTY NEXT SUNDAY:

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).

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for August include pancake mix and syrup, condiments, cooking sauces and seasonings, cooking oils, jelly, and cold cereal. 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

August 6—12, 2023

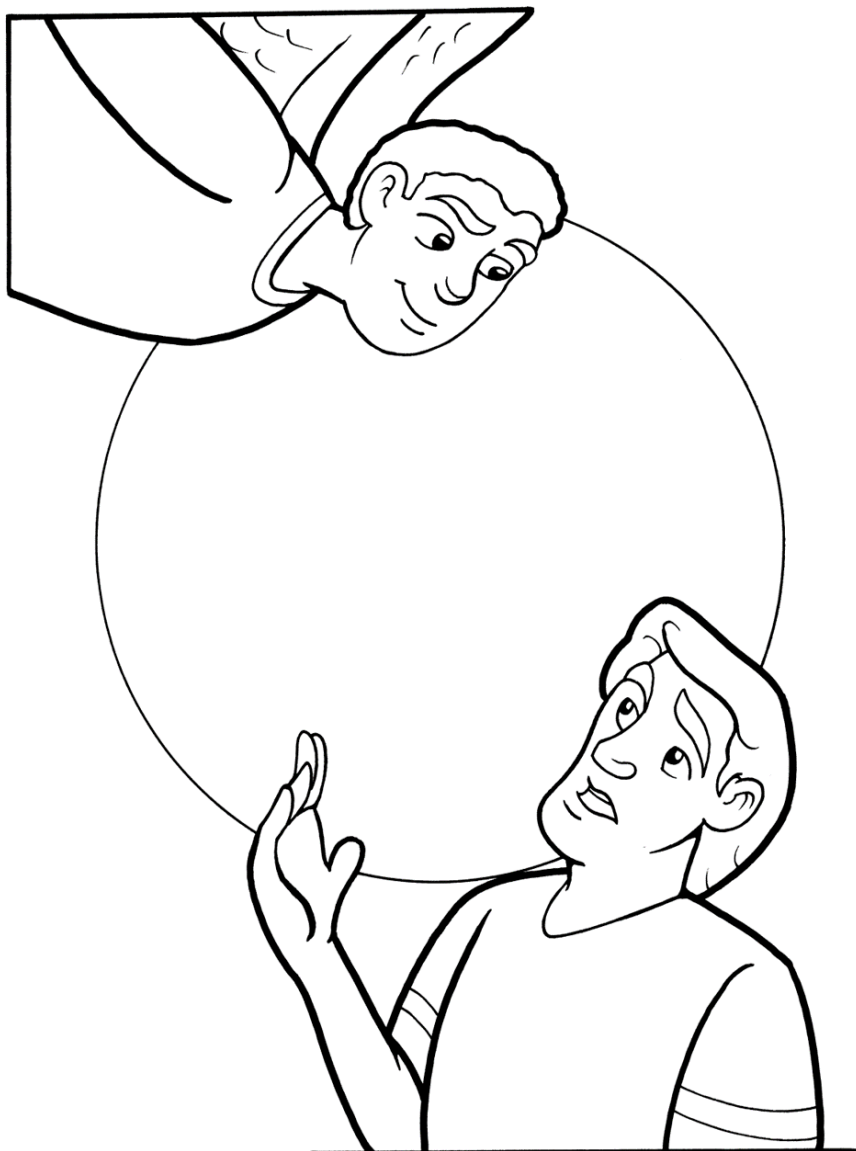
Some events take place virtually.

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	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees of the Facility
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Thursday	4:00 p.m.	Communications

Sunday, August 6, 2023

Your Name Shall Be Israel



"And he said unto him, *What is thy name?* And he said, *Jacob.* And he said, *Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.*" **Genesis 32:27-28**