

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



*“Some people think they are in community, but they are only in proximity.
True community requires commitment and openness.
It is a willingness to extend yourself to encounter and know the other.”*

— David Spangler

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

September 10, 2023

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

RALLY DAY!

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

How Firm a Foundation

Jason D. Payne

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: Where two or three gather,

Many: Christ is present.

One: Where two or three gather,

Many: the Spirit moves.

One: Where two or three gather,

Many: God rejoices.

One: Where two or three gather in community,

Many: songs are lifted, bread is broken, stories are shared.

One: Where two or three gather to serve God's creation,

Many: Peace is nurtured, Grace is offered, Hope is found.

All: People of God, let us gather and worship together!

*HYMN

Gather Us In

inside back pages

PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)
The congregation may be seated.

adapted from the
CCA Welcome Statement

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

Blessing of the Backpacks

ANTHEM

Assurance
Chancel Choir

John Ness Beck

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 18:15-20

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

SERMON

"Gathering"

*HYMN

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

No. 370

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

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

The Church's One Foundation

Samuel S. Wesley/
Todd Kendall

*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

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

No. 343

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

A Paeon of Praise

Lani Smith

*(*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.*

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 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 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 WORSHIP SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Kevin G. S. Marsh

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

John Swanson

Fred Dyke

Alice Handwerk, Leona Hendrickson

Tim Wiegand

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Acting Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Ushers

Videographer

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley

Sue Werst

Dave Hagerstrom

Gretchen Davis

Church School Coordinator

Teacher, Preschool to Elementary

Teacher, Grades 5 to 7

Nursery Attendant

TODAY IS RALLY DAY! We are so glad you are with us as we celebrate the start of our new church program year. Church school resumes and the Chancel Choir is back singing in worship.

All children in preschool through grade 7 are invited to join us each Sunday for **CHURCH SCHOOL**. The 2023-2024 Church School Registration Form must be completed for each child and is available in printed form today, or you can download one from the church website. If you have any questions, please contact Church School Coordinator Larissa Riley at churchschool@ccamherst.org.

After worship, please join us for our annual **ALL-CHURCH PICNIC**. Our Fellowship Team will be cooking up hamburgers and hot dogs, and we will have a clown and face painting. All ages are welcome, and donations to help with costs will be gratefully accepted. This is a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships and make new ones while enjoying good food and fun games.

Our Church Calendar

September 10—16, 2023

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. All-Church Picnic
Monday	10:00 a.m. WA Workshop
Tuesday	10:00 a.m. WA Board 7:00 p.m. Diaconate 7:00 p.m. Trustees of the Facility
Wednesday	6:00 p.m. Budget & Finance Team
Thursday	9:30 a.m. Congregational Care 4:00 p.m. Communications Team 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

CHOIR NOTES: The Bell Choir and the Chancel Choir have resumed rehearsals on Thursday evenings. The Youth Choir resumes Sept. 17 and meets in the vestry after worship on Sundays. If you are interested in singing or ringing, please contact Sara Phelps, kalben1@concast.net.

FELLOWSHIP TEAM NEEDS YOUR HELP: Our Fellowship Team works together throughout the year to put on the many fun church activities we enjoy: the Rally Day Picnic, Game Night, the Kentucky Derby Party, to name a few. They also put the kettle on every Sunday so that after worship we can enjoy coffee and tea while greeting friends. This small but mighty group could use a few more members to help balance the work load and to bring fresh ideas to the group. If you're interested, please contact Meredith Dart, meredith.dart@astellas.com.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for September include toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorants, shampoo and conditioner, bar soap, feminine hygiene products, diapers and wipes. 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!

Financial Summary
(as of August 31, 2023)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$121,764	\$126,702	\$(4,939)
Expenses	\$ 94,020	\$100,478	\$(6,458)
Net Income	\$ 27,744	\$ 26,224	\$ 1,520

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: Ken Bell, Don Lyon, Paul Spiess (Treasurer), Doug Topliffe, and Todd Whitney (Chair).

WEDNESDAY MORNING ADULT ED RETURNS September 20 with *Understanding the New Testament*: Why do we have four Gospels? Why do they contradict each other at times? What is the Book of Revelation really about? This fall we're continuing our year-long look at the New Testament through this 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*.

NO FALL GOOD STUFF SALE: The Woman's Association will not be holding a Good Stuff Sale this Fall. The next sale will be held on April 26 and 27, 2024. Unfortunately, due to storage limitations, we will not be able to accept any donations for that sale until sometime after the new year. Details about what, when and where to donate items to next spring's Good Stuff Sale will appear in church publications in early 2024.

WE WANT YOUR CLOTHES, SHOES & LINENS! While the WA will not be holding a fall rummage sale, we do have a way for you to donate clothing, shoes, towels, and bed linens AND help out the church! As part of our church fundraising, we are holding a clothing / shoe recycle drive. There will be an Ecosmith trailer at the Meetinghouse Plaza on Rte. 101 (where the Amherst post office is) and you can drop clothes, bed linens, and shoes off any time you want between October 2—16. The church earns a certain amount per pound. Full details can be found on the [SOS](#) webpage. **PLEASE bag shoes separately as we get a higher amount for shoes so it is really worth it for us to separate them out!**

Please feel free to pass on to family and friends that you think might be interested in cleaning out some closets! Thanks so much! Questions? Contact Nancy Protzmann at nancymvy@gmail.com

WE DON'T JUST
GO
TO CHURCH



WE
ARE
THE
CHURCH

Gather Us In

Unison D A C G Gm/B \flat Dm

1. Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, sha-dows of doubt are
 2. We are the young—our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who
 3. Here we re-ceive new life in the wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
 4. Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

C G D A C G

van-ish a - way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his - tory,
 bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a - way, here in this place the new light is shin - ing;

Gm/B \flat Dm C Am7 D

brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.

WORDS and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1981

GATHER US IN
Irr.

A C/G D/F# G A C/G

Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath-er us in; our
 Gath-er us in— the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in— the
 Give us to drink the wine of com- pass- ion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath-er us in and

D/F# G A D A C G

spir - its in- flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;
 bread that is you; nour- ish us well, and teach us to fash- ion
 make us your own; gath- er us in, all peo- ples to- geth- er,

Gm/Bb Dm C Am7 D C/D Gm/D D

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour- age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Sunday, September 10, 2023



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 STORIES OF OUR FAITH theme that is guiding our Creative Worship and other church programs. Each month we'll focus on a different beloved Bible story and how it connects with our faith journey!

Schedule for 2023-2024

October:	The Garden of Eden
November:	Noah and the Ark
December:	Abraham and Sarah
January:	Moses and the Mountain
February:	The Patience of Job
March:	David and Goliath
April:	Mary of Magdala
May:	Saul Becomes Paul
June:	Peter the Rock