

The Stories of Our Faith



“Eve’s courageous choice brought both positive and negative consequences into being. Obtaining a knowledge of good and evil brings the understanding that good and evil are actually abstract concepts. Those who seek God sometimes live in crushing poverty their whole lives, while those who exploit the meek and lowly prosper phenomenally. Sometimes the just are imprisoned and the evil go free. That is the true nature of our world. That is the substance of a knowledge of good and evil.”

—Jared Mooney

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

September 17, 2023

Creative Worship

10:00 a.m.

The Garden of Eden

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above

Robert J. Powell

INTROIT

*GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: We welcome all who wish to know our Creator God!

Many: We are here!

One: We welcome the young at heart.

Many: We are here!

One: We welcome the wise in spirit.

Many: We are here!

One: We welcome the faithful and hopeful.

Many: We are here!

One: We welcome the uncertain and doubtful.

Many: We are here!

One: We welcome the confident and courageous.

Many: We are here!

One: We welcome the hesitant and cautious.

Many: We are here!

One: We welcome all who wish to know our Creator God!

Many: We are here to worship together!

*HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth
verses 1-4

No. 473

WELCOMING GOD'S PRESENCE

The congregation may be seated.

All: Creating God, you are all around us.

Left: You are in the stars.

Right: You are in the trees.

Left: You are in the flowers.

Right: You are in the mountains.

Left: You are in the sunrise.

Right: You are in the sunset.

Left: You are in the rainstorm.

Right: You are in the rainbow.

Left: You are in the creatures of the land and sky.

Right: You are in the creatures of the lakes and seas.

Left: You are here in this sanctuary.

Right: You are in each one of us.

All: Creating God, we welcome your Spirit among us!

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN and YOUTH

ANTHEM

Look at the World
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE STORY of the GARDEN OF EDEN

Genesis 2 and 3

REFLECTING on the STORY

"Leaving the Garden"

*HYMN

Bring Many Names

inside back pages

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

All are invited to come forward and take a leaf from the TREE of LIFE.

MUSIC FOR OUR OFFERING

Siciliano

Robert J. Powell

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker,

Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom we find heaven:

May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

May the way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

May your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

May your peace and freedom sustain our hope here on earth!

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

May you reign in the power of human love,

Now and forever.

Amen.

*HYMN

God Reigns o'er All the Earth

inside back pages

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Rigaudon

Robert Lau

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

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service
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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
Leona Hendrickson, Kate Thompson
Patricia Bodan

Ministers to the World
Senior Pastor
Acting Associate Pastor
Director of Music
Organist/Accompanist
Deacon in Charge
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

CHOIR NOTES: The Youth Choir meets today in the vestry after worship—come have some fun and sing with us!

The Bell Choir and the Chancel Choir have resumed rehearsals on Thursday evenings.

If you are interested in singing or ringing, please contact Sara Phelps, Director of Music, at kalben1@comcast.net.

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*.

Our Church Calendar September 17—23, 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 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:15 a.m. Youth Choir 11:30 a.m. Christian Ed 4:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m. WA Workshop
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. Wednesday AM Adult Ed
Thursday	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class Parent's Meeting 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

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.

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!

October Community Supper



We are excited to continue our Community Suppers this fall. Our next supper will take place at our church on Monday, October 2 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. We will need many volunteers to host this event, so please consider signing up to volunteer. Full details can be found on our church's website on the [Community Supper](#) webpage.

For more information contact [Nancy Protzmann](#)

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

Financial Summary

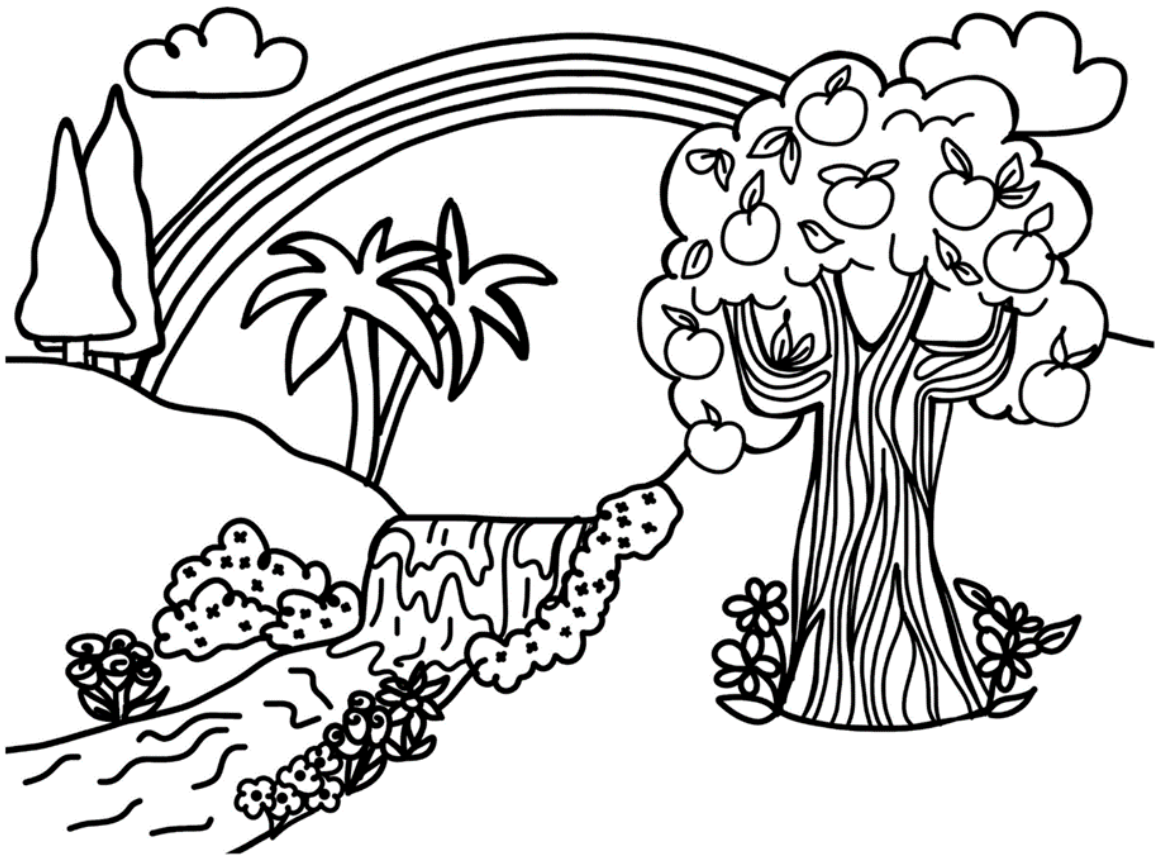
(as of August 31, 2023)

	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).

Garden of Eden





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

Sunday, September 17, 2023