



Amherst Congregational Meeting House

**Celebrating 250 Years
1774- 2024**

*"Each age gathers wisdom from the labors and researches of the preceding age.
In every science, and in every art, we are constrained to acknowledge our
indebtedness to the genius and industry of departed generations. So is it in respect to
social customs, religious institutions, and all the essential features of civilization.
We have but taken up and carried forward the work which our forebears laid down."*

The Rev. J. Gardener Davis,
Historical Discourse delivered on the 100th anniversary
of the Dedication of the Congregational Meeting House, January 19, 1874

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

September 24, 2023

10:00 a.m.

250th Anniversary of the Second Meetinghouse

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Carl G. Gläser/
Jason D. Payne

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: This is the day the Lord has made!

Many: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

One: There are many who have walked the path toward God before us,
showing us the way with how they lived and loved.

Many: We come to remember them and give thanks!

One: As they were called, so too are we called,
to respond to God's invitation to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

**Many: We come to ask for guidance and courage,
to be witnesses in faith.**

One: Like the builders of this meetinghouse,
we are building a community of faith, for today and tomorrow.

**Many: We call on God to help us create
a more loving, compassionate, and just world
for the generations to come.**

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

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

The congregation may be seated.

Still Speaking God, as our Creator
you nurture, encourage, and challenge us
to grow in love and in grace.
Through your living Spirit in our midst
we are equipped to mature in our faith
and in our commitment to you.
Forgive us our fears and failures,
and show us once again our possibilities.
Prepare us to serve others as Jesus did.
Strengthen us to be bold witnesses of the Good News.
Help us to take our place in the communion of your people,
in ages past, in the here and now, in your reign to come.

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.

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANTHEM

Sing to the Lord a New Song
Chancel Choir

Mark Hayes

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

Continued next page.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

SERMON

“Meeting House”

*HYMN

O Christ, the Great Foundation

No. 443

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

OUR COVENANT WITH NEW MEMBERS

Invitation to our New Member: Reid Cunningham

Questions of Commitment

*Congregational Covenant and Welcome (in unison)

We welcome you with joy in the common mission and life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as together we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love and be witnesses of Jesus’ ministry in the world.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Greeting and Presentation of Certificate

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Voluntary in G

Charles Zeuner

*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)

Holy One, whose generous heart abounds with gifts, receive our offering as a sign of our intention to live inspired by your spirit, as conduits of your grace, open to the joy of your presence, and with generous hearts of our own. May the gifts we give today, plant seeds of love that others will harvest for years to come. Amen.

*HYMN

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

No. 210

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

God of Our Fathers

Carlos Staszkeski

*(*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
Ken Bell
Carol Landon, Sue Ruggiero
Andrea Cyr

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

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

THE YOUTH CHOIR meets today in the vestry after worship—come have some fun and sing with us!

Financial Summary

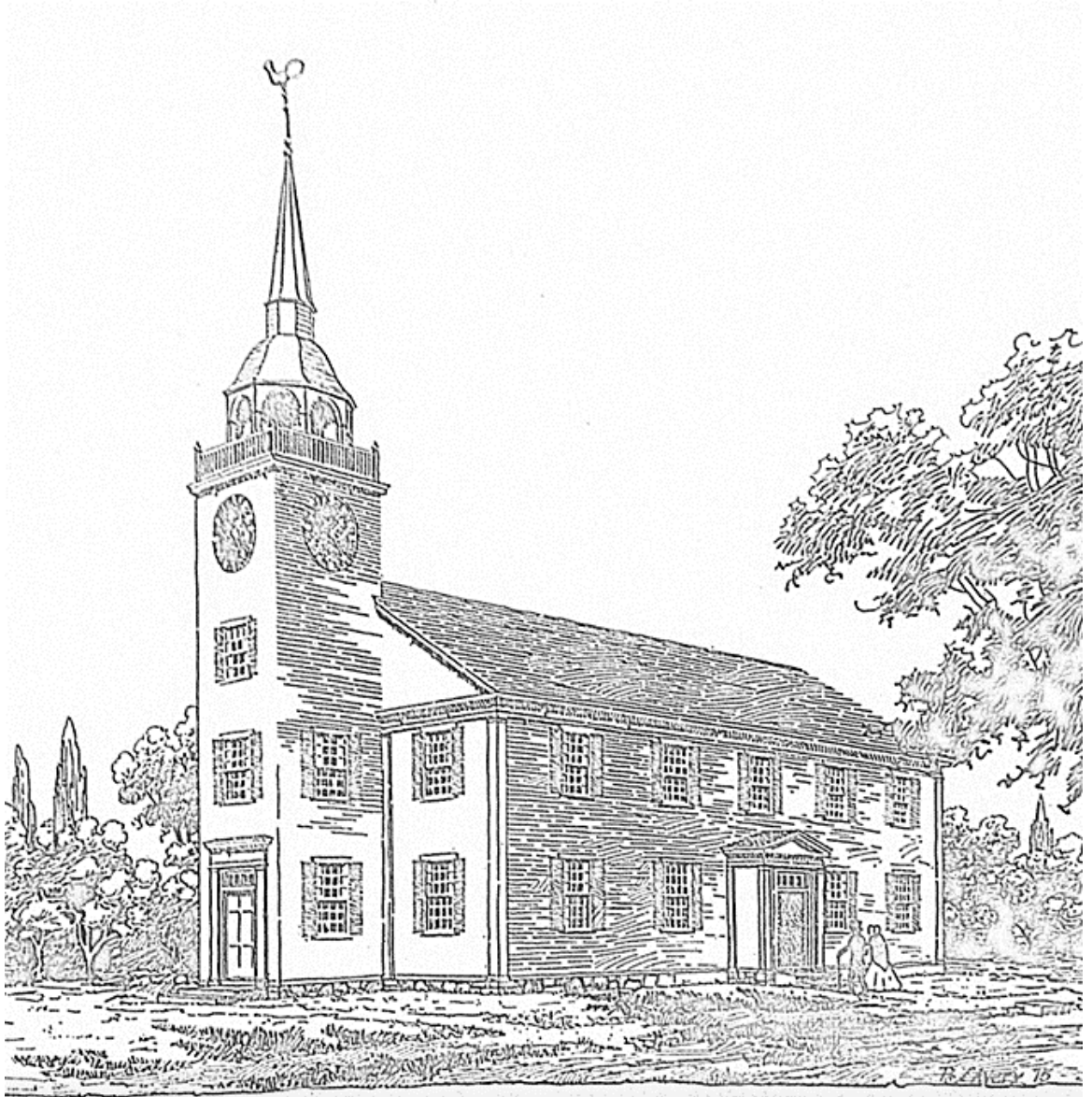
(as of August 31, 2023)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<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).

Our Church Home



★ ★ Free Community Supper

*All are welcome!
Meet new friends and
enjoy a tasty meal!*

Please join us for a free community supper at
Congregational Church of Amherst, UCC
Monday, October 2 5:30-6:30 pm
11 Church St. ~ Amherst, NH

Please contact us: (603) 673-3231 or info@ccamherst.org for more information. Our mission is to provide healthy food and friendship for all in the local community. We are a welcoming congregation of the United Church of Christ.



Free will offering appreciated

www.facebook.com/ccamherst/

<https://www.ccamherst.org/community-supper/>

Historical Notes

Reprinted from page seven of the
250th Anniversary Edition

THE MANUAL

The Congregational Church of Amherst, New Hampshire

The first settlers in Amherst, like pioneers in many other parts of the new country, had to endure many hardships before the land could be conquered, homes established, and a safe community life assured. "A howling wilderness it was, where no man dwelt, the hideous yell of wolves, the shriek of owls, the gobbling of turkeys, and the barking of foxes, was all the music we heard..." But the settlers brought with them the courage of a strong faith in God. They carried the church in their hearts, and just as soon as it was humanly possible to erect it, the church building was visibly established where all within the town might join to worship God and receive the ministry of the Word. Until the church was built preaching services were held in the homes of the people.

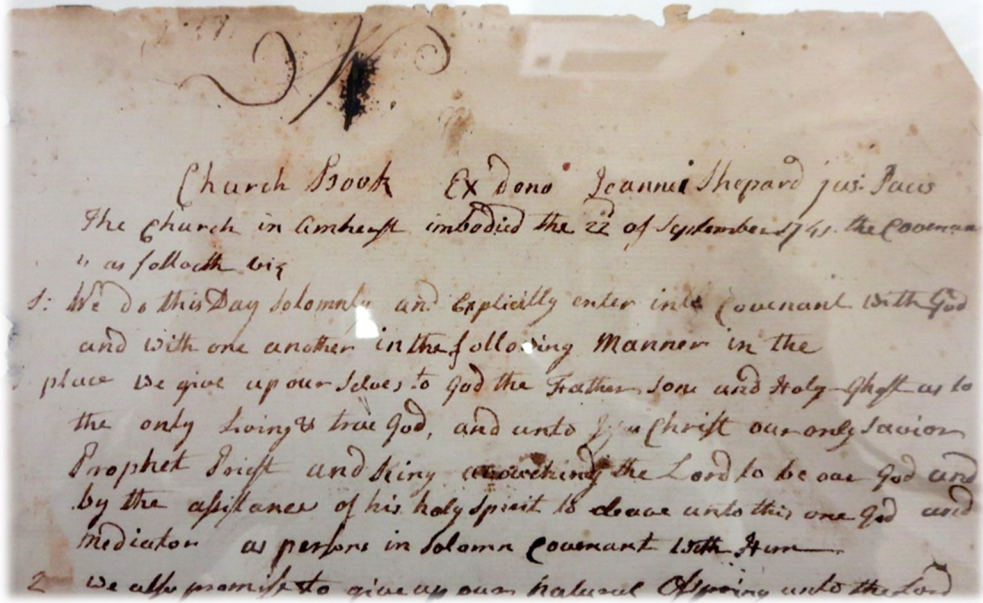
The first meeting house became a project in 1735, and in "Upper Flanders" a stone marks the site where its plain exterior, without porch or steeple, could be viewed with quiet gladness, and within, though the building was without lath or plaster until later years, the people had great comfort in the ministry of the Word. The first definite organization of the church was in the year 1741 when Daniel Wilkins was selected to be the minister of the town, and he, with Samuel Leman, Israel Towne, Samuel Lamson, Caleb Stiles, and Humphrey Hobbs, associated themselves as charter members of the church. Following the ordination and installation of the Reverend Daniel Wilkins, Mrs. Sarah Wilkins, Mrs. Grace Towne, Mrs. Abigail Lamson, Mary Leman, Hannah Lancy, and Rebecca Walton, were received into the membership of the church.

The church building, begun in 1735, was not fully completed until 1753. It saw much service in religion, law, and debate, for it was the "Town House" as well as the church, a veritable "meeting-house" serving the varied needs of the growing community, later becoming, after the building of the new and larger church, the first county court house, a close neighbor on the "Plain" of the new meeting house until it was destroyed by fire in 1788.

In 1770 the people of the town voted to build another meeting house, changing the location from Upper Flanders to the Training Field on the Plain. This new building, our present church, framed with massive timbers hewn from trees grown near by, was built a little to the southeast of its present location, with the steeple at the west end, and a porch at the east end. The pulpit was on the north side of the church with a massive sounding board high above it. The new meeting house was dedicated on January 19, 1774.

Original Covenant from 1741

The Congregational Church of Amherst was organized on September 22, 1741 (282 years ago). Below is a partial photo of the original covenant, along with a translation of the full covenant.



DW

Church Book Ex dono Ioannei Shepard jus. Pacis

The Church in Amherst imbodyed the 22 of September 1741. the Covenant is as followeth viz

"1. We do this day solemnly and explicitly enter into covenant with God and with one another in the following manner in the place we give ourselves up to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, as the only living and true God, and unto Jesus Christ our only Saviour, Prophet, Priest, and King, avouching the Lord to be our God, and by the assistance of his Holy Spirit to cleave unto this one God and Mediator, as persons in solemn covenant with him.

2. We also promise to give up our natural offspring to the Lord, solemnly binding ourselves to walk together in the ways of God's worship, and to cleave to his ordinances according to the rules of his word.

3. We promise to live in the mortification of our sin, and to endeavour the mortification of it in others, so far as the rules require, and to submit ourselves to the government of Christ in his church, and obey the orders thereof.

4. We promise to train up all under our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

5. We promise to walk before God in our houses, and maintain the worship of God therein.

6. We promise to study to maintain the peace and purity of the worship of God with us, that the blessing of God may be vouchsafed to this part of his heritage."

Sunday, September 24, 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