

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



*“When I wake up in the morning I can’t decide
whether to enjoy the world or improve the world;
that makes it difficult to plan the day.”*

– E.B. White

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

October 1, 2023

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

World Communion Sunday

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Reflection on "Love Unknown"

John Ireland/David Lasky

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: We come before God as we are in this moment.

Many: We come before God as our true, authentic selves.

One: Come, all who are joyous.

Many: Come, all who are content.

One: Come, all who are struggling.

Many: Come, all who are suffering.

One: Come to worship a God who heals.

Many: Come to worship a God who comforts.

One: Come to worship a God who delights in us.

Many: Come to worship a God who rejoices with us.

All: Come, let us worship God, who meets us wherever we are!

*HYMN

Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling

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

The congregation may be seated.

Creating God,
When we call on you
to listen to our questioning and quarrels,
you lean over,
put your finger to our lips,
whispering,
'Let me tell you a story...'

When we doubt
your presence and authority
and demand to see your resume,
you put your arms around us,
gently saying,
'I want you to meet
some friends of mine...'

When we are burned out
by our chronic anger or worry,
when our throats are parched
by our litany of laments,
you take us by the hand,
inviting,
'Let's go get a refreshing drink
down at the well of grace.'

God in Community, Holy in One,
we pray to you now, as 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

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

Elegy on "Behold a Host"

Dale Wood

Chorale Prelude on "York"

Douglas E. Wagner

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison) (based on the Prayer of St. Francis)

O Lord, through this bread and cup, make us instruments of your Peace,

Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

Where there is injury, may we offer pardon.

Where there is doubt, may we have faith.

Where there is despair, may we bring hope.

Where there is darkness, may we shine a light.

Where there is sadness, may we plant joy.

Oh Divine Master, grant that we may not

so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Let Us Break Bread Together
Chancel Choir

Gwyneth Walker

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

SERMON

"Where's the Fruit?"

*HYMN

For the Fruit of All Creation

No. 553

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

Meditation on "Omni Die"

Lani Smith

*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 thank you, O God, for the opportunity to share in your creative and restorative work among your people. Because you have given to us, we have much to give. May these gifts bring light to those who walk in darkness, hope to those who live in despair, and a healing balm to those who long for grace. These offerings express our gratitude and our aspiration to be more fully the body of Christ. Amen.

*HYMN

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

No. 514

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Exaltation

James Mansfield

*(*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. **The next new member informational sessions will be held October 25 and November 2.** New members will be formally received on Sunday, November 12. 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
Steve Boczenowski
Charlotte Bell
Doug Topliffe

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

WEDNESDAY MORNING ADULT ED CONTINUES on October 4 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 October *Spire*.

WA HOLIDAY FAIR NOTES: The Woman's Association is busy preparing for the November 18 Holiday Fair and invites interested women of any age to join us any Monday morning from 10:00 to noon to work on fair preparations. There are all kinds of activities—organization, working on crafts, sorting through donations, helping with publicity, etc. If you have questions, ask any WA member or email wa@ccamherst.org.

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 <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).

NEIGHBORS IN NEED: In 2023, the Neighbors in Need “**BEHOLD!**” theme continues. This year’s focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these egregious acts are sinful and unholy. We must be better stewards of our planet!

This appeal will run for the month of October. To donate, visit our Online Giving page or send a check to the church office (11 Church St., Amherst, NH 03031) with Neighbors in Need in the memo line.

We thank you for your support and generosity.

Our Church Calendar

October 1—7, 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.	Fellowship
	11:15 a.m.	Youth Choir
	11:30 a.m.	Small Group Ministry
	2:00 p.m.	Middle High Youth Group
	4:30 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
	5:30 p.m.	Community Supper
	7:00 p.m.	World Service
Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	4:30 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Morning Adult Ed
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

Community Supper



Monday, October 2
Serving 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Community Room

Join us for a FREE community supper—
all are welcome!

On the menu is ham and beans,
salad, bread and dessert.

*Thank you to everyone who has offered to help.
We have all the volunteers we need this time.*

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



World
Communion
Sunday



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Sunday, October 1, 2023