

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



"This is the difference between charity and justice. Justice means moving beyond the dichotomy between those who need and those who supply and confronting the frightening and beautiful reality that we desperately need one another."

– Rachel Held Evans

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

October 8, 2023

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

O God Beyond All Praising

Gustav Holst/
Anna Laura Page

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

Leader: Our God is Holy.

Many: Our God is calling us to Holiness.

Leader: Our God is Just.

Many: Our God is calling us to Justice.

Leader: Our God is Merciful.

Many: Our God is calling us to have Mercy.

Leader: Our God is leading us.

Many: Let us follow our God.

Leader: Our God is worthy of worship!

All: Let us worship our God together!

*HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

No.281

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

The congregation may be seated.

Gracious God, Eternal Spirit,

You fill up every place and space with your essence.

You are made manifest in the eyes of our neighbors in the pews and in the world,

And your spirit settles our souls, bringing peace, patience, love, and joy.

Settle your spirit on our hearts once more,
That we will know you are with us in our certainty and our doubt.
Whisper in our ears the blueprints for the world you are dreaming up,
And lead our steps so that we can be co-creators of that world.
Sacred love embodied, be with us, as we pray the words you 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.

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANTHEM

Be Thou My Vision
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 5:1-7

"I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes but it yielded rotten grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!"

SERMON

"Rotten Grapes"

***HYMN**

God the Omnipotent!
verses 1, 2 & 3 only

insert

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	<i>Romanze from Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor</i>	W.A. Mozart/ Steven Scott
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*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)

You are the source of all good things, God, and so we offer up to you this offering. Take it and use it to further your work in this church and in the world. Multiply this offering that it may be fruitful, sprouting good fruits over rotten grapes, justice and righteousness over oppression and exploitation; in your holy name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN	<i>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</i>	No. 376
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*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE	<i>Trumpet Tune</i>	Wilbur Held
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*(*Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.)*

<p><i>Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-731944.</i></p>
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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. Prescott

Kevin G. S. Marsh

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Steve Boczenowski

Mark Baddeley

Sheryl Gottwald, Adrienne Topliffe

Paul Schellenberg

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

Sue Werst

Vicky Leknes

Dave Hagerstrom

Deb Boczenowski

Teacher, Preschool/Kindergarten

Teacher, Grades 1 to 4

Teacher, Grades 5 to 7

Nursery Attendant

WA HOLIDAY FAIR NOTES: Do you have anything that would be a good item for the Silent Auction at the Holiday Fair on November 18? Popular items include experiences (tickets to an event, use of a cottage, golf outings, etc.) or special items that would make good holiday gifts. To donate or get more information, contact Kay Steeves (kksteeves@gmail.com).

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.

Financial Summary

(as of September 30, 2023)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$144,196	\$155,823	\$(11,627)
Expenses	\$128,448	\$139,083	\$(10,635)
Net Income	\$ 15,748	\$ 16,740	\$ (992)

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).

Isaiah

6:1-8



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Sunday, October 8, 2023

Our Church Calendar

October 8—14, 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
	11:15 a.m.	Racial Justice Group
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	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Budget & Finance
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Congregational Care
	4:00 p.m.	Communications
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

Congregational Church of Amherst Fundraiser



Ecosmith Recyclers Inc. and Congregational Church are proud to partner in hosting a fundraising clothing and shoe drive.

Raise money to support your local church by donating new or used articles of clothing, pairs of shoes, and household textiles.



CLOTHING & SHOE DRIVE

WHAT TO DONATE

- Shirts
- Jeans
- Pants
- Shorts
- Sweaters
- Jackets
- Socks
- Dresses
- Skirts
- Bed linen
- Purses
- Backpacks
- Hats
- Scarves
- Belts
- Sneakers
- Sandals
- Dress Shoes
- Boots
- Towels

PLEASE BAG SHOES AND CLOTHING
SEPARATELY

WHEN

October 2nd through the 16th

WHERE

Meeting Place Plaza
199 Route 101, Amherst, NH

CONTACT

Nancy Protzmann
nancymvy@gmail.com

All collected material is destined for export to less advantaged persons in developing nations around the world.