

The Stories of Our Faith



God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh."

- Genesis 9:12-15

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

October 15, 2023

Creative Worship

10:00 a.m.

Noah and the Ark

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Diane Bish

INTROIT

*GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: God created the heavens and the earth
and separated the waters above and below...

Many: And God said it was good!

One: When we are thirsty...

Many: God provides quenching wells.

One: When we are weary...

Many: God provides cooling streams.

One: When we are anxious...

Many: God provides soothing waves.

One: When we long to start anew...

Many: God provides cleansing rains.

One: When we feel adrift and alone...

Many: God provides seas teeming with life.

One: And when the waters rise too high...

Many: God provides a rainbow to lift us towards hope!

*HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

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WELCOMING GOD'S PRESENCE

The congregation may be seated.

All: Creating God, we feel your presence here among us.

Left: You who makes streams flow from solid rock.

Right: You who turns parched earth into springs.

Left: You who sends rain from the heavens...

Right: and makes the wilderness blossom and flourish.

Left: As the deer thirsts for flowing streams...

Right: so we thirst for you, O God.

Left: May your waters flow down upon us...

Right: cleansing, quenching, soothing, bringing life to us all.

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

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANTHEM

As the Deer
Chancel Choir

Nystrom/
arr. Wagner

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE STORY of NOAH AND THE ARK

Genesis 6-9

Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God. Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth. Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. Make a roof for the ark; and put the door of the ark in its side; make it with lower, second, and third decks.

Then God said to Noah, "For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark; they shall be male and female. Of the birds, of the animals, and of every creeping thing, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive.

Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him. The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth.

Then God said to Noah, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you—birds and animals and every creeping thing—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, went out of the ark.

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth. This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

REFLECTING on the STORY

"Wiping the Slate Clean"

SHARING OUR WATER PRAYERS and JOYS AND CONCERNS

All are invited to share a cleansing prayer using the paper water droplets inserted in the bulletin. Write a word or phrase naming in what way or where you seek renewal, in your life or in our world. During the Music for Reflection, you're invited to come forward and place your water droplet on our communal table. If you have an additional prayer of joy or concern to share, you may place a Prayer Card in the basket on the communal table.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Pavane

Gilbert Martin

OUR COMMUNAL PRAYERS

CHORAL RESPONSE

*HYMN

In the Midst of New Dimensions

inside back pages

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Little Prelude in D minor

attrib. J.S. Bach

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

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 staffed and available for parents with young children.
- 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
Eric Davis, James Riley
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

WA HOLIDAY FAIR NOTE: The Raffle Baskets at the Holiday Fair are always a popular event! Right now items are needed to fill both the Chocolate Lovers and Made in NH baskets. Anyone who would like to help out by donating a quality chocolate item or a product crafted in NH can leave their donation in either the church office or at the Monday morning WA Workshop by November 6th when the baskets will be assembled. Contact Alicia Wight at wightalicia@gmail.com or 603-345-0155 with any questions about raffle basket donations.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for October include canned ham, canned meats, side dishes (seasoned pasta mix, hamburger helper, etc.), ravioli & beefaroni. 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!

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

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).

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

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.

NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS INFO SESSIONS: Are you NEW (or not-so-new) to our church and interested in learning more about our congregation? Are you interested in learning more about becoming a member? Do you want to know more about the UCC? If so, please join us for one of our info sessions on either Wednesday, October 25 or Thursday, November 2 at 7:00 p.m. to learn more about all of the above!

For those who’ve already joined our mailing list and/or inquired about becoming a member, you’ll be hearing from us soon! If you’ve joined us for our in-person or online worship over the last year and are interested in attending one of our info sessions please reach out to Andrea in our church office at andrea@ccamherst.org or 673-3231, or contact Pastor Maureen at

pastormaureen@ccamherst.org

Trick or Treat

Trick or Treat on Halloween in the Amherst village is a fun, slightly chaotic night, bringing lots of ghosts, goblins and other scary (and not-so-scary) beings into town.

Once again, our church is participating in the activity in the village by passing out candy. Since we can easily see upwards of 1000 children, we are in need of lots of fun-sized candy. A donation container can be found in the narthex.

We recognize that candy is not for everyone, and so we also hope to have a few small items to give out as an alternative to candy: think party favors such as glow sticks, small coloring books, pencils, stickers, etc.

Thank you so much for your generosity!



Our Church Calendar

October 15—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
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:15 a.m.	Youth Choir
	11:30 a.m.	Christian Ed
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
	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.

Noah and the Ark



Sunday, October 15, 2023