

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



“Continue to speak out against all forms of injustice to yourselves and others, and you will set a mighty example for your children and for future generations.”

— Bernice King

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

October 22, 2023

Twenty-first 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

Psalm 47: Clap Your Hands

Robert J. Powell

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: We dare to dream of a world
in which hunger is unknown,
where everyone has a home,
and all have a place at the table.

**Many: We dare to dream of a world
in which greed is unknown,
where generosity is the norm,
and there is more than enough for all.**

One: We dare to dream of a world
in which bigotry is unknown,
where compassion is the first response,
and where love rules all hearts.

**Many: We dare to dream of a world
in which war is unknown,
where peace reigns between all people,
and suffering is no more.**

**All: We dare to dream.
We dare to pray.
We dare to believe.
We dare to let God lead the way!**

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

The congregation may be seated.

God of love and grace,
we gather before you as your community
to offer our thanks and praise
and to seek your comfort and wisdom.

Meet us here.

Breathe your Spirit into our souls;
Engrave your Word upon our hearts -
 your hopes, your dreams,
 your vision, your peace -
that our hearts might beat
as one with yours.

We come to you in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray to you using these words:

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

COMMISSIONING OF CONFIRMANDS AND MENTORS

Confirmand

Eric Davis
James Riley
Stella Theriault
Sophia Stone

Mentor

Obadiah Dart
Steve Boczenowski
Deb Boczenowski
Dave Hagerstrom

ANTHEM

The Road Not Taken
Chancel Choir

Randall Thompson

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead.

SERMON

“Who is Watching You?”

*HYMN

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

inside back page

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

A Charge to Keep I Have

Lowell Mason/
Robert J. Powell

*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)

For the abundance of your love and grace, which rescues and revives us, O God, we are most grateful. We present here practical expressions of thanksgiving – our time, our money, our energy, our talents – to extend your purposes in the world. May this offering scatter seeds of justice and mercy and kindness in life-changing ways. May we be good and loving neighbors to all. Amen.

*HYMN

Take My Life

No. 391

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Chester G. Allen/
Mary McDonald

*(*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. **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
 Charlie Vars
 Deb Boczenowski, Meredith Dart
 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
 Gretchen Davis

Church School Coordinator and
 Teacher, Elementary and Middle School
 Teacher, Preschool and Kindergarten
 Nursery Attendant

WA HOLIDAY FAIR NOTE: Did you know that the November 18 Holiday Fair will include a jewelry booth? The WA is accepting donations of jewelry of any kind - fine, costume, broken, even single earrings! Donations can be left in the church office or dropped off on Monday mornings at the WA Workshop. Questions? Contact Sally Bowkett at sbb46@hotmail.com.

LEVI SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 5: Fall is upon us and trees are dropping their colorful leaves again. Time for another Levi Sunday, this year planned for Sunday, Nov. 5, right after worship. We have a number of outdoor projects planned including leave raking and general lawn and grounds clean up. Our walkways out front need weeding again too. Everyone is invited to come out and help in the grounds clean up, please bring your favorite rake and tools to help accomplish the jobs you would like to help with. Many hands make light work! Hope to see you there.

THE ROSE ON THE ALTAR is in celebration of the birth of Caden Joseph Ruggiero, born October 12, 2023. Caden is the son of Mark and Melissa Ruggiero, and the grandson of Russ and Sandy Demarest, and Sue Ruggiero.

Financial Summary

(as of September 30, 2023)

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

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

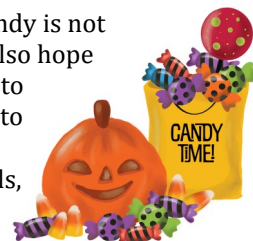
SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for October include canned ham, canned meats, side dishes (seasoned pasta mix, hamburger helper, etc.), ravioli & beefaroni. Donations should be brought directly to the SHARE Center in Milford; if you are unsure where, please call their office at 673-9898. Many thanks for your continuing support!

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, pencils, stickers, etc.



Thank you so much for your generosity!

Our Church Calendar

October 22—28, 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
	4:30 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	New Member Info Session
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

Sunday, October 22, 2023



CCA Book Drive

October 29-November 12

The World Service Committee and Church School are sponsoring a children's book drive to bring books to young readers throughout New Hampshire and Vermont. The official kickoff of the drive will be on Mission Sunday, October 29. On that day, Laura Rice, Executive Director of the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF <https://clifonline.org/>) will join our service as a guest speaker. CLiF is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire a love of reading and writing among children up to age 12 throughout New Hampshire and Vermont. Since 1998, CLiF has served over 350,000 children at higher risk of growing up with low literacy skills in communities across every region of the two states. Its programs include book giveaways, storytelling programs, author visits, and summer reading programs.

World Service and Church School chose to partner with CLiF for two reasons: to promote literacy and to support communities in New Hampshire and Vermont that were profoundly affected by flooding this past year.

We are seeking donations of **new** books from a Wish List put together by the Church School classes. CLiF accepts only **brand new books** with no signs of wear. It is important that the children they serve, many of whom have few, if any, books of their own, feel they are getting something new, special and personal.

Please note that most of the books on the gift registry are hardcover books. We ask that you purchase the hardcover when possible. CLiF prefers donations of hardcover books because hardcover books are more durable and tend to be prized by the children who receive them. There are several ways to participate in the book drive:

- Visit our Amazon gift registry below to purchase books. Choose to have them shipped to "Andrea Cyr's Gift Registry Address." <https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/1MVS0FBH3OIRR>
- Visit the Book Drive display in the Community Room after church on October 29 and November 5. The Church School Classes have prepared tags that you can take home to remind you to purchase books from the gift registry or purchase them on your own. If you purchase books on your own, please bring them to the Church office. We ask that you purchase titles that are on the gift registry or from the same series so that they meet CLiF's criteria for serving their young readers.
- Make a donation to the World Service Committee designated for the Book Drive, and we will purchase the books for you. You may do this after the service on October 29 and November 5, or by making a donation on the church website Donation Page (<https://www.ccamherst.org> use the 'Other' line and type Book Drive in the text box)

Our Church School classes have been discussing how providing books to children is one of the ways we can live our mission of "Serving Neighbors Near and Far". This expression of giving is very personal to them, as they selected the books they felt would be special and meaningful to other children. Once the books have been collected, the Church School students will sort and pack them for delivery to CLiF.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Kate Thompson (kate.thompson@gmail.com)