

# *Mission Sunday*



*"If you want to be important—wonderful.  
If you want to be recognized—wonderful.  
If you want to be great—wonderful.  
But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.  
That's a new definition of greatness.  
By giving that definition of greatness, it means that everybody can be great,  
because everybody can serve.  
You don't have to have a college degree to serve.  
You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve.  
You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve.  
You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.  
And you can be that servant."*

— The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

October 29, 2023

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

### *Mission Sunday*

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

*For the Beauty of the Earth*  
Bell Choir

arr. Kevin McChesney

INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

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

One: God invites us to share in Jesus' ministry of compassion.

**Many: We're called to open our hearts to the needs all around us.**

One: God provokes us to see and hear those we might overlook.

**Many: We're called to widen our embrace so we might cradle the lost.**

One: God challenges us to learn how to better serve others.

**Many: We're called to open our minds so we might discern God's will.**

One: God summons us to let the Spirit be planted within us.

**Many: We're called to deepen our faith so we might grow in love.**

\*HYMN

*Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*  
verses 1, 3 and 4

No. 434

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

Wise and Wonderful Spirit,

Designer of Creation,

Emmanuel, God with Us,

You humbled yourself

so that we might learn to love those swept aside

by a callous and cruel world.

Giver of Grace,  
you call us to act in ways  
of love, of peace, of compassion  
to all we meet in this life.  
God in Community, Holy in One,  
continue to be the dwelling place  
of our minds, our hearts, our souls,  
as we pray the words 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.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANTHEM

*Awake, My Soul, Give Thanks and Sing*  
Chancel Choir

Craig Courtney

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 10:25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Kate Thompson

MISSION SUNDAY SPEAKER

Laura Rice, Executive Director of Children's Literacy Foundation

\*HYMN

*I Love to Tell the Story*

inside back pages

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

*In His Love*

Scott A. Ressman

\*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)

God, whose giving knows no ending,  
Open our hands as you receive these gifts that we return to you.  
Open our minds as you remind us of our many blessings.  
Open our doors as you send us to serve all people.  
Open our hearts as you fill us with your love.  
Amen.

\*HYMN

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

No. 343

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

One: We go now in peace,

**Many: to love God with all our hearts, our minds, our souls.**

One: We go with passion, with prayer, with grace,

**Many: to love and care for our neighbor.**

One: Jesus taught us to serve in his name,

**Many: Let us go and do likewise! Amen!**

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*(\*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.*

*Portions of the liturgy are adapted from  
[lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com).*

## **Our Church Calendar**

**October 29—November 4, 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
	7:00 p.m.	World Service
Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	Halloween Trick or Treat in the Village
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday AM Adult Ed
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation
	7:00 p.m.	New Member Info Session
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

# 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 session will be held 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](mailto: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](http://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  
 Colleen Cushing  
 Terri Behm, Colleen Cushing, Craig Richardson, Kate Thompson  
 Tim Wiegand

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

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## 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:** 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](mailto: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 FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are from the memorial service for Cathy Leknes Argilagos and Libby Robinson, held Thursday at Smith and Heald Funeral Home. Cathy is Art Leknes' sister, and Libby is his mother.

### 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).*

**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.

**THE RACIAL JUSTICE GROUP** of our church would like to invite all people to a book discussion. Our first discussion will be the introduction and first chapter of *"The Black Friend"* by Frederick Joseph.

We will meet on Sunday, November 12 in the parlor, after church at 11:30 a.m. Our discussion will be from 11:30-12:00 followed by our regular meeting which ends at 1:00.

Please consider coming to the book discussion and possibly joining in our meeting that follows. All are welcome to the book discussion and the meeting. Blessings to all, your Racial Justice Group.

**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!**

**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 our next info session on 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](mailto:andrea@ccamherst.org) or 673-3231, or contact Pastor Maureen at [pastormaureen@ccamherst.org](mailto:pastormaureen@ccamherst.org)



# *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 \(CLiF\)](#) 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](#) to purchase books. Choose to have them shipped to "Andrea Cyr's Gift Registry Address."
- 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](#) (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](#)

*Sunday, October 29, 2023*



## **Breakfast with Santa**

**Saturday, December 2, 2023**

Breakfast with Santa is a special annual event sponsored by our church community and open to the public. This year's event will take place on Saturday, December 2 and will include two sittings: 9:00—10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. —12:00 noon. A hot breakfast with a variety of options will be served, there will be organized games and crafts, and of course the opportunity to visit with Santa himself. Remember to bring your phone or camera and take your own photos of your children with Santa. Santa's Bookshop is open and each child gets to choose a recycled book.

We hope many church families will participate – this is a great event for grandparents to bring their grandchildren. The money raised goes back into our church. To register please visit the [BWS Webpage](#)

BWS sales are available exclusively for church members from November 1 -7 so take advantage and register early! BWS registration opens to the public November 8. Registration is limited and is on a first come basis. Cost is \$12.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children under 14; children 12-months & younger are free. Don't wait until the last minute, we always sell out way before the event.

We will also be looking for donations of casseroles and other breakfast food from church members. Stay tuned for those details.

Questions? Contact [Sally Hooper](#)