

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



“While it is hard to fathom who we are and how we are to live when public chaos shatters our routine, the slow-motion pain of each private death and cataclysm we endure is harder. Each slams us off our feet, yet we have agreed to pretend to be fine again at some point, ideally as soon as possible, so as not to seem self-indulgent or embarrass anybody.”

— Anne Lamott, *Stitches: A Handbook on Meaning, Hope and Repair*

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

November 5, 2023

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

All Saints—All Souls

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

John Henry Hopkins/
Robert J. Powell

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: Our God is the God of the living.

Many: **God breathes life into us,
moves within us,
sends us out,
and holds us close.**

One: Our God is the God of the dead.

Many: **In God's world to come,
there is no more suffering or scarcity,
there is no more hunger or grief,
there is only rejoicing and peace.**

One: Our God is the God of the here and now.

Many: **God is with us all,
the meek and the mournful,
the poor and the peaceful,
the persecuted and the merciful.**

One: Our God is the God of the future.
Many: **When God's justice will reign,
when God's grace will abound,
when God's love will prevail,
and every prayer will be answered.**

**All: Let us worship our eternal God,
whose world has no end.**

*HYMN

For All the Saints

inside back pages

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)
The congregation may be seated.

God of all people of all ages,
join us here in this hour of our worship.
May we feel your presence in our minds,
so that we might learn and grow
through the power of your word.
May we feel your presence in our bodies,
so that we might rest and feel renewed
through song and prayer.
May we feel your presence in our hearts,
so that we might be changed by your love,
in this time of worship, and throughout our lives.
Hear us now, as we pray in the words that 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

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

ANTHEM

The Gift of Love
Chancel Choir

Hal Hopson

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

SERMON

“Blessed Are Those Who Mourn”

***HYMN**

Blessed Be the Tie that Binds

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

For All the Saints

Wilbur Held

***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)**

Generous God, you surround us with saints, even when we don't recognize or appreciate them. May your Spirit of wonder move in us in this time so that we might follow in the footsteps of those who have come before us, and those who live among us now. Make use of our gifts – of time, of talent, of treasure – to make our world a more loving, compassionate, and just place for all. 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

Invitation

James Southbridge

Benediction

Fenton Groden

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

We give thanks, loving God, for feeding us at this table. Send us out into the world as your children, full of courage, compassion, and commitment, and eager to be Christ's church in the world. Amen.

***HYMN**

O Lord of Life, Where'er They Be

No. 530

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Song for All Saints

Mary McDonald

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



All Saints/Souls Day
Remembering Those We've Lost

October 2022 – October 2023



Leon Pierce — November 21, 2022

Anne Krantz — November 26, 2022

Mary McKenzie — December 17, 2022

Mary Jane Crosby — December 26, 2022

Cynthia Mayer — June 20, 2023

Donna Comstock — June 29, 2023

Martin Michaelis — September 16, 2023

Mark McGovern — September 21, 2023

Catherine Leknes Argilagos — September 27, 2023

Don Potter — October 15, 2023

Gene Heighton — October 31, 2023

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. 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
Gail Wiegand
Sally Bowkett
Tim Wiegand

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
Vicky Leknes
Dave Hagerstrom
Gretchen Davis

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

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given by Romi Krosch, in loving memory of Martin Michaelis, who passed away September 16, 2023. Martin's remains were interred in our memorial garden yesterday afternoon.

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

TODAY IS LEVI SUNDAY: 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.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for November include canned fruit, flour, sugar, boxed cake mixes and baking supplies, coffee and tea, juice, granola. 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!

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).

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 p.m.

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*.

DON'T MISS THE WA HOLIDAY FAIR on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 9:00 to 2:00! The Community Room and the Vestry will be FULL of crafts, treasures, holiday decorations, gifts, delicious edibles and more. Check out the raffle for exciting gift baskets and the silent auction with a variety of special items. There's something for everyone, and all proceeds benefit the church and local charities.

Our Church Calendar

November 5—11, 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.	Levi Sunday
	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
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	WA Board
	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	4:30 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Congregational Care
	4:00 p.m.	Communications
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Memorial Service for Gene Heighton

Jesus said, "Blessed are..."



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, November 5, 2023



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](#)