

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



*“A wise owl sat on an oak,
the more he saw the less he spoke,
the less he spoke the more he heard.
Why aren’t we like the wise old bird?”*

—Charles M Schulz

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

November 12, 2023 Twenty-Fourth 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

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

Johann Steurlein/
Dennis Eliot

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

One: People of God, we are seekers
 on the way to a deeper understanding
 and a wider vision of our faith.

Many: **We long to hear God's voice –
 cutting through the noise of our world
 and showing us how to live and love.**

One: We gather this morning in places near and far,
 to acquire wisdom from God's Word,
 from God's Spirit, and from one another.

Many: **We gather so that Wisdom may call out to us,
 reaching into the shadows
 and beckoning us into the light.**

All: **We gather to step into the deeper, richer,
 Wisdom-filled life
 that God longs for us to have.**

*HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

No. 263

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

The congregation may be seated.

O Wise and Mighty God,
you were born into this world in the form of a vulnerable child;
you teach us that the last are first, and the first are last;
you show us a path to new life that leads through death.
Truly your wisdom is different than ours!
Meet us here and create a space within us
to hear your Word spoken in our hearts.
Open our ears to your Wisdom call,
and grant us the courage to respond.
May your wise and wonderful Spirit move among us now,
in this sanctuary and wherever we are gathered,
as we pray 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

ANTHEM

Cantique de Jean Racine
Chancel Choir

Gabriel Faure

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-20

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her,
and is found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate.

Continued next page.

To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,
and meets them in every thought.

The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction,
and concern for instruction is love of her,
and love of her is the keeping of her laws,
and giving heed to her laws is assurance of immortality,
and immortality brings one near to God;
so the desire for wisdom leads to a kingdom.

SERMON "Be Thou My Wisdom"

*HYMN *Be Thou My Vision* No. 339

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

OUR COVENANT WITH NEW MEMBERS

Invitation to our New Members: Susan Deschenes and Fred Dyke

Questions of Commitment

*Congregational Covenant and Welcome (in unison)

We welcome you with joy in the common mission and life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as together we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of Jesus' ministry in the world.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Greeting and Presentation of Certificate

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Allegretto* William Boyce

*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)

With joyous praise we dedicate this offering, O God, acknowledging our responsibility to share your resources in our love for all your people. In gratitude for the gifts you have given us, we pay it forward to others. We thank you for the wisdom and insight we have received, as we use these gifts to live out the gospel in the world, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory
verses 1—4 only

No. 420

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Fanfare Prelude on "St. Thomas"

Aaron Williams/
Douglas E. Warner

*(*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 our liturgy are adapted from Literature & Liturgy
<https://jesusscribbles.wordpress.com/>*

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 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

Russ Demarest

Alison Batey

Alvin and Heidi Fortune

Patricia Bodan

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

Dave Hagerstrom

Gretchen Davis

Church School Coordinator

Teacher, Preschool to Elementary

Teacher, Grades 5 to 7

Nursery Attendant

THANKSGIVING FRIENDSHIP BASKETS are available today only at the back of the church and at the bottom of the stairs to the balcony. Free-will offerings placed in the baskets today will support the Diaconate community outreach mission to help bridge the gap for those families or individuals in our community that are food-insecure. For those listening online or unable to join us in person, donations may be made through the church's website under the donations tab, or dropped off with Andrea in the office. Please designate these offerings for the *Friendship Baskets*.

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!

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

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 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 meet today 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*.

CCA / ECOSMITH DRIVE - THANK YOU! We are very pleased to report that our community came together to donate 4,193 pounds of clothing and 552 pounds of shoes, raising a total of \$695.30 for the church. Thank you to all who took the time to go through your items to donate to this endeavor!

KICK OFF YOUR HOLIDAYS with fun, food, and festive company! **HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS** is a unique event at one of Amherst's historic houses, Journey Cake Farm (226 Route 101), decorated for the season. On Sunday, Dec 17th, from 3:00-6:00, enjoy hot and cold hors d'oeuvres catered by *Celebrations* of Nashua, music by two local pianists, and a scavenger hunt within the sprawling 1841 home. There will be a cash bar and a 50/50 raffle. Reservations are \$75/pp and must be made at <https://www.ccamherst.org/holidays>. The venue is graciously provided by Laura and Bill Ferry and **all proceeds benefit our church**. We expect this event to sell out quickly; reservations are limited to 60 guests, so sign up today!

NEXT WEEK IS CREATIVE WORSHIP: This year we're celebrating *The Stories of Our Faith*, and each month we focus on a different beloved story from our Bible and the message it has for all ages. Next week we'll hear the story of **Abraham and Sarah**.

On Creative Worship Sundays, we step outside the box of our traditional service with interactive liturgies, music, and activities. The children participate in the beginning of the service before heading off to Church School. We hope you can join us, either in-person or online!

Our Church Calendar

November 12—18, 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.	Racial Justice Group
	4:30 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees of the Facility
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday AM Adult Ed
	6:00 p.m.	Budget & Finance Team
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	WA Holiday Fair



**The Woman's Association's
Holiday Fair
Saturday, November 18
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

WA Holiday Fair Notes:

The Woman's Association has lots of activities leading up to the November 18 Holiday Fair and welcomes your help!

The Bakery at the Holiday Fair invites church members to donate homemade items for this popular fair booth: pies, coffee cakes, holiday cookies, fudge, candy, spiced nuts, etc. would be greatly appreciated. Items can be dropped off in the Bakery, located in the vestry, on Friday, Nov. 17th before 5:00 p.m. or by 8:30 the morning of the fair. Anyone with questions about Bakery donations can contact [Anita Swanson](#) or [Joan Poltack](#).

The WA will be **decorating wreaths and making holiday greens arrangements** to sell at the fair and would welcome help on Monday, November 13 from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the vestry. Some decorations will be available, but feel free to bring decorations or greens you would like to use.

Today at Fellowship Hour the sale of tickets for the Raffle Baskets will start. Check out the wonderful baskets in the Community Room after the service! The drawing to determine winners of the baskets will take place at the close of the Holiday Fair.

Help will be needed with both Fair set-up on Thursday and Friday and at the various tables at the fair on the 18th. If you can help out for a couple hours on any of those days, please contact [Adrienne Topliffe](#). A critical part of this process is setting up tables in the Community Room at 1:00 on Thursday, Nov. 16 when help is especially needed.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Fair on Saturday!





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](#).

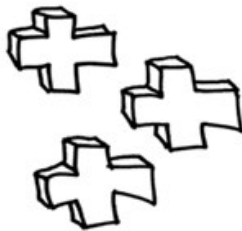
BWS registration is now open to the public. Registration is limited and is on a first come basis. Cost is \$12.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children under 14; children 12-months & younger are free. Don't wait until the last minute, we always sell out way before the event.

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](#)



LORD,
Give me
wisdom!



LORD,
Help me make
good decisions.



WISDOM



LORD,
Help me to
see both sides
of every situation.



LORD,
I want to
do better, and
be better.



Sunday, November 12, 2023

Congregational Church of Amherst
11 Church Street

Holiday Fair

Saturday November 18th



9am to 2pm
Jewelry Bakery
Raffle Baskets



Treasures

Birch Houses

Cabot Cheese Pecans



Silent Auction



Crafts Knits



Wreaths