

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



"I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It's when you know you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what."

— Harper Lee "To Kill a Mockingbird"

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

*"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here."*

June 30, 2024

Sixth 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

Let All Things Their Creator Bless

Alfred V. Fedak

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: God is my rock and my fortress.

Many: God is my rock in whom I find protection.

One: God is my shield and my safe place.

Many: When the floods of destruction sweep over me,

One: When the ropes of fear entangle me,

Many: I cry out to the God who hears me,

One: And reaches down from heaven to rescue me.

Many: Alleluia, to the God who saves!

*HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory

No. 420

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

The congregation may be seated.

Always Present God,

You have gathered us together as your people this morning,

Just as you have gathered your children together throughout time,

Calling all of us into a sacred community of courageous love inspired by your love for us.

As we live into your invitation to be a holy family, be in our midst.

Draw us closer to one another, and teach us how to hold fast in our faith,

as we pray the words that you taught us, saying,

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.**

ANTHEM

Squares Suspended
Mike Neverisky, guitar

Andrew York

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Esther 4:1-17

When Mordecai learned about all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on burlap and ashes, and went out into the city, crying with a loud and bitter wail. He went as far as the gate of the palace, for no one was allowed to enter the palace gate while wearing clothes of mourning. And as news of the king's decree reached all the provinces, there was great mourning among the Jews. They fasted, wept, and wailed, and many people lay in burlap and ashes.

When Queen Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her about Mordecai, she was deeply distressed. She sent clothing to him to replace the burlap, but he refused it. Then Esther sent for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs who had been appointed as her attendant. She ordered him to go to Mordecai and find out what was troubling him and why he was in mourning. So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the square in front of the palace gate.

Mordecai told him the whole story, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. Mordecai gave Hathach a copy of the decree issued in Susa that called for the death of all Jews. He asked Hathach to show it to Esther and explain the situation to her. He also asked Hathach to direct her to go to the king to beg for mercy and plead for her people. So Hathach returned to Esther with Mordecai's message.

Then Esther told Hathach to go back and relay this message to Mordecai: "All the king's officials and even the people in the provinces know that anyone who appears before the king in his inner court without being invited is doomed to die unless the king holds out his gold scepter. And the king has not called for me to come to him for thirty days." So Hathach gave Esther's message to Mordecai.

Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: "Don't think for a moment that because you're in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"

Continued next page.

Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die." So Mordecai went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

SERMON

"Courageous Faith"

*HYMN

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

No. 426

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 the pastor during the hymn after the sermon, and will be shared during Joys and Concerns.

ORGAN RESPONSE

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Lagrima

Francisco Tarrega

*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)

Loving God, you call us to live courageously for the sake of others. We ask that you accept these gifts and offerings, as acts of faith, and that you will help us use them to stand courageously for your justice in the world. Amen.

*HYMN

God Is My Strong Salvation

No. 179

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Recessional in C

Douglas E. Wagner

*(*Please rise 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. 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 on break for the summer, and will resume on Rally Day, September 8, 2024.
- Our church nursery is open, but not staffed during the summer months. It is available when parents with young children feel the need for a quiet, safe space to go to during worship. A monitor is available to watch and listen to the service.
- 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 memorial garden for a time of fellowship after the worship service. (In case of rain, we gather in the community room.) Refreshments are offered.
- In the event of an emergency, please remain seated until instructions have been given.

The church office is open for visitors Wednesdays and Fridays 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

Michael Havay

Sally Hooper

Charlotte Bell, Kathleen Bouchard

Paul and Maggie Schellenberg

Patricia Bodan

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Acting Associate Pastor

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Deacons

Ushers

Videographer

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are from Nancy Protzmann, to celebrate her mother Patsy, who passed away recently; her son Sam and his new bride, who were married June 29th, and to celebrate her and Dan's 34th wedding anniversary, today June 30th. "I am so grateful for my wonderful church family!"

THANK YOU Mike Neverisky, for the beautiful music this morning.

SCUBA Vacation Bible School 2024 will be held August 12-16 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. **Registration is now open** for children and/or youth volunteers at www.ccamherst.org/church-school. Contact Larissa Riley or Gretchen Davis with any questions.

Art Prep Days: We will be making decorations for VBS in the community room on July 16 & 17 from 10-2. All are welcome to help us make coral reefs, jellyfish, and more.

Seeking Supplies: We have created an Amazon wish list with supplies that are needed for VBS. Check it out at: <https://a.co/9vXGSgG>

JULY 4 HELP WANTED: The Fellowship Team is looking for volunteers to donate unfrosted cookies, 2 per baggie. We especially need volunteers on July 4, 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. to pass out cookies and brochures on the village green during the town activities. Please email Carol Landon at carollandon@gmail.com for more information or to sign up to help.

SAVE THE DATE: Our annual end of summer Baboosic Lake BBQ Event, hosted by the Dart family, will be Sunday, August 18. More details coming soon.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH! Each day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through the Strengthen the Church offering, they can become a reality. As God calls our congregations to be "church" in new ways, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that "God is still speaking." Your offerings are directed to your church's Conference, and Local Church Ministries.

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



Blood Drive
Amherst Congregational Church

Community Room
11 Church St
Amherst, NH 03031

Friday, July 26, 2024
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: ACCNH to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®

**Be a force for good: Come give blood in July for a
Fandango Movie Ticket by email to see TWISTERS on
us. Terms at rcblood.org/Twisters.**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

Be part of something big. Make an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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Sunday, June 30, 2024



ESTHER

...”AND WHO KNOWS BUT THAT YOU HAVE COME TO ROYAL
POSITION FOR SUCH
A TIME AS THIS?”
-ESTHER 4:14



Mandy Groce '22