

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



*"You are moving in the direction of freedom,
and the function of freedom is to free somebody else."*

—Toni Morrison

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."*

July 7, 2024

Seventh 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

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

John Hughes/
Gilbert M. Martin

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: O God, of heaven and earth
of all nations and all peoples,

**Many: Reveal yourself
to all gathered before you today.**

One: Reveal yourself
to those who are seeking guidance,

**Many: Reveal yourself
to those who are seeking strength.**

One: Reveal yourself
to those who are seeking comfort,

**Many: Reveal yourself
to all who are seeking relief.**

One: Reveal yourself
to those who are powerful,

**Many: Reveal yourself
to all who are powerless.**

One: Reveal yourself
 to us, in this hour,
Many: **and in our everyday lives,
 so that this world
 might reflect your unending love.**

*HYMN

God of the Sparrow

No. 272

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

**Welcoming God,
You have invited us to this place,
for this is where we gather in your name.
Here, we learn to trust you,
 and to faithfully follow where you lead us.
Here, we learn to listen to you,
 and hear words of hope, of healing.
Here, we learn to bring all that we are to you -
 our pain, our joy, our greatest longings -
 that we might be made whole.**

**May we feel your Spirit moving among us now, O God,
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.**

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Sue Werst, flute

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jonah 3:1-5, 10-4:11

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall

be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

SERMON

"Big Fish Story"

*HYMN

This Is My Song

inside back pages 8 & 9

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 and CELEBRATING OUR WELCOME

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

John B. Dykes/
Larry Shackley

*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)

As we bring our offerings, O God, we commit our lives to serving all your children - to feed the hungry, to liberate those in search of freedom, to bring justice and mercy to those in need of both, to preach the good news to those who long to hear it. Always giving God, receive our gifts and our renewed commitment to serve you in all ways. 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION and 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

A Prayer

Lani Smith

A Lamp Unto My Feet

Franklin Ritter

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

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

*HYMN

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

inside back page 10

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Festal March

James Mansfield

*(*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

Michael Havay

Gail Wiegand

Charlotte Bell, Steve Boczenowski, Roger Hooper, Sally Hooper

Bruce Kinney

The Dart Family

Paul Schellenberg

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Deacons

Liturgist

Greeters

Videographer

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>

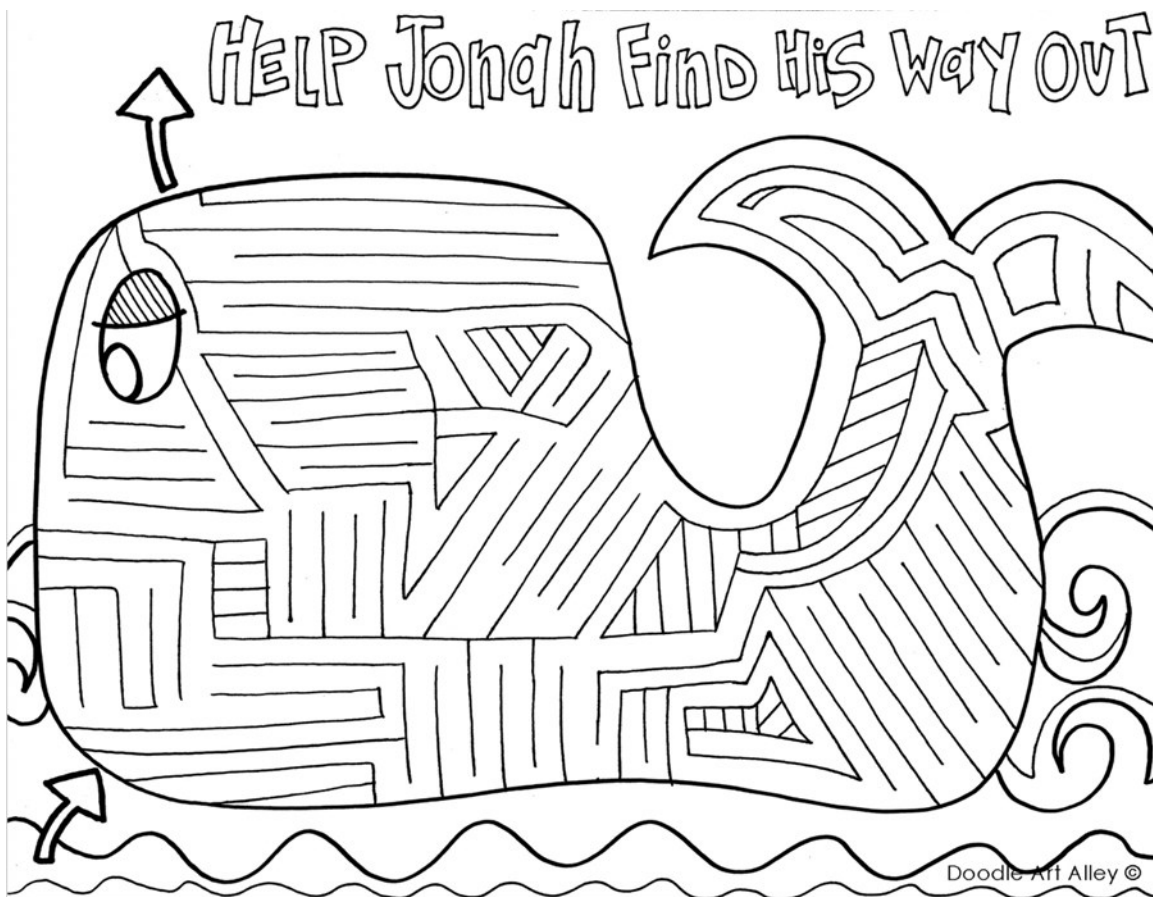
SAVE THE DATE: Our annual end of summer Baboosic Lake BBQ Event, hosted by the Dart family, will be Sunday, August 18. More details coming soon.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for July include canned fruit, flour, sugar, coffee and tea, juice, instant rice, cold cereal, instant oatmeal packets, individually wrapped snacks. 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!

GARDEN FLOWERS: Fresh cut garden flowers are lovely for simple altar arrangements during the summer. If you can provide a bouquet of cut flowers, or can simply contribute flowers for a bouquet, please contact Sue Stout or Andrea in the church office to schedule a Sunday. Thank you for sharing your flower gardens!

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

*Portions of today's liturgy have been adapted
from lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com*



Sunday, July 7, 2024



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

© 2024 The American National Red Cross | 452201-1 CW

[57] • Order ID: 1684575 • Item ID: 7949204 • Qty: 1 of 1 • 163044 • 2024-APL-2327 • AR34 • 243568