

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



*Wisdom cries out in the street;  
in the squares she raises her voice.  
At the busiest corner she cries out;  
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:  
“How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?  
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing  
and fools hate knowledge?”*

Proverbs 1:20-22

# 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."*

September 22, 2024

Eighteenth 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

*O God Beyond Praising*

Gustav Holst/  
Anna Laura Page

INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Please rise 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

*God of Grace and God of Glory*  
verses 1, 2, 3 & 4 only

No. 420

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,  
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.**

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANTHEM

*A New Song*  
Chancel Choir  
Sue Werst, flute

Tina English &  
Eric Wakefield

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Wisdom of Solomon 7:22-8:1

There is in her a spirit that is intelligent, holy,  
unique, manifold, subtle,  
agile, clear, unpolluted,  
distinct, invulnerable, loving the good, keen,  
irresistible, beneficent, humane,  
steadfast, sure, free from anxiety,  
all-powerful, overseeing all,  
and penetrating through all spirits  
that are intelligent, pure, and altogether subtle.  
For wisdom is more mobile than any motion;  
because of her pureness she pervades and penetrates all things.  
For she is a breath of the power of God  
and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty;  
therefore nothing defiled gains entrance into her.  
For she is a reflection of eternal light,  
a spotless mirror of the working of God,  
and an image of his goodness.  
Although she is but one, she can do all things,  
and while remaining in herself, she renews all things;  
in every generation she passes into holy souls  
and makes them friends of God and prophets,  
for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with wisdom.  
She is more beautiful than the sun  
and excels every constellation of the stars.  
Compared with the light she is found to be more radiant,  
for it is succeeded by the night,  
but against wisdom evil does not prevail.  
She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other,  
and she orders all things well.

SERMON

“Grant Us Wisdom”

\*HYMN

*O Word of God, Incarnate*

No. 327

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

*O God of Earth and Altar*

James Mansfield

\*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 the Spirit, Guide and Guardian*

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\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE

*A Paean of Praise*

Lani Smith

*(\*Please rise 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. **The next new member informational sessions will be held October 24 and October 30.** New members will be formally received on Sunday, November 10. 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  
 Sara L. Phelps  
 Michael Havay  
 Russ Demarest  
 Kathleen Bouchard  
 Craig Richardson, Bill Swift  
 Becky, Gabe, Emily, Maggie Bolin  
 Andrea Cyr

Ministers to the World  
 Senior Pastor  
 Director of Music  
 Organist/Accompanist  
 Deacon in Charge  
 Deacon  
 Ushers  
 Greeters  
 Videographer

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## LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley  
 Sue Werst  
 Larissa Riley  
 Dave Hagerstrom  
 Gretchen Davis

Director of Youth Ministries  
 Teacher, Preschool /Kindergarten  
 Teacher, Grades 1 to 4  
 Teacher, Grades 5 to 7  
 Nursery Attendant

**THE CHURCH IN THE VILLAGE:** It has been two years since we printed *The Church in the Village: Stories About Its People and Its History* and it was a sellout! The book is a compilation of 55 articles that Anne Krantz wrote and were printed monthly in the *Spire* over several years.

Several people have indicated interest in purchasing a copy so we are considering a reprint. If you are interested, please contact Sue Spiess (susan.spiess@gmail.com) so we can gauge the number to order.

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for September include condiments, cooking sauces and seasonings, cooking oil, pasta sauce, tomato sauce, tomato paste, diced tomatoes. 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 and sing with us!

### Financial Summary (as of August 31, 2024)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$137,149	\$145,809	\$ (8,660)
Expenses	\$104,444	\$106,883	\$ (2,439)
Net Income	\$ 32,705	\$ 38,926	\$ (6,221)

*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 (Treasurer), Don Lyon, Paul Spiess, Doug Topliffe, and Todd Whitney.*

**TWILIGHT HIKE AND GHOSTLY TALES:** Sponsored by the Amherst Parks and Recreation Department, and just in time for Fall fun and Halloween spooks! Join local author and educator Susanna Hargreaves on a Twilight hike ending with a bonfire gathering with ghostly tales and smore's. Learn about the Abenaki and how their ghostly legends still echo through forests of Amherst. This program is for all ages, Saturday, October 5 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., Peabody Mill Environmental Center. Fees apply.

For more information, visit the town's website:

[amherstnh.myrec.com/info/activities/  
program\\_details.aspx?  
ProgramID=29245#145833](http://amherstnh.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29245#145833)

**MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 22:** The Concord (NH) Multicultural Festival is a vibrant event that celebrates the rich diversity of the city. Their mission is to promote cultural understanding and appreciation through a variety of programs and events, including art demonstrations, music and dance performances, and more. They welcome everyone to come and experience the beauty and wonder of many cultures. The event takes place on Sunday, September 22 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Keach Park, 7 Newton Ave, Concord, NH.

For more information, visit the festival's website [concordnhmulticulturalfestival.org](http://concordnhmulticulturalfestival.org).

## **Our Church Calendar**

**September 22—28, 2024**

Some events are taking place virtually.

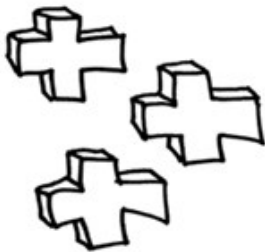
Links are sent out directly by email, and a list of recurring meetings with their links can be found in the member section of our website.

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:15 a.m.	Youth Choir
	6:00 p.m.	Senior Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir





LORD,  
Give me  
wisdom!



LORD,  
Help me make  
good decisions.



# WISDOM



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



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

*Sunday, September 22, 2024*