

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



*"No step taken in faith is wasted,
not by a God who makes all things new."*

—Rachel Held Evans

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 29, 2024

Nineteenth 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

Morning Has Broken
Bell Choir

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: As a gathered community created by Love, for the purpose of Love,
bound together by the Spirit that breathes life into all things —

Many: We believe in our sacred story and our sacred purpose:

One: To tend gently to the aches of this world,

Many: To journey as a people of courage, compassion & grace.

One: We pray for the day the Kingdom of God is born anew.

Many: On earth as it is in heaven.

One: Until it is so, we live in hope.

Many: For God is with us.

ALL: So we live in hope and we sing with joy.

*HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

No. 464

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

The congregation may be seated.

We gather together in the Light of God's love to sing praises and share our sacred story.

We gather together seeking comfort and hope; seeking to be inspired with wonder as God's story continues to unfold.

We gather together to find an invitation to covenant and to community. To be reminded and to remind each other that we are beloved ones of God.

We gather together to pray as 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

**Glorify 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

Let Me Ride in That Morning
Chancel Choir

arr. Mary McDonald

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

A narrative reading

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Tree of Life version

Ezekiel: The hand of Adonai was upon me. The Ruach Adonai carried me out and set me down in the middle of the valley. It was full of bones. He led me all around them. Behold, there were very many on the floor of the valley. Behold, they were very dry.

Adonai Elohim: Son of man, can these bones live?

Ezekiel: Adonai Elohim, only You know.

Adonai Elohim: Prophecy over these bones. Say to them: Dry bones, hear the word of Adonai! Behold, I will cause Ruach to enter you, so you will live. I will attach tendons to you, bring flesh on you and cover you with skin. Then I will put breath in you. You will live. You will know that I am Adonai.

Ezekiel: So I prophesied just as I was commanded. As I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, an earthquake. Then the bones came together, bone to its bone. I saw, and behold, there were tendons on them, flesh came up and skin covered them above, but there was no breath in them.

Adonai Elohim: Prophecy to the Ruach. Prophecy, son of man, and say to the Ruach, thus says Adonai Elohim: ‘Come from the four winds, Ruach! Breathe upon these slain, that they may live.’

Ezekiel: So I prophesied just as He commanded me. The Ruach came into them and they lived. They stood up on their feet, a vast army.

Adonai Elohim: Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say: ‘Our bones are dried up; our hope is lost; we are cut off—by ourselves.’ Therefore prophecy and say to them, thus says Adonai Elohim: ‘Behold, I will open your graves. I will bring you up out of your graves, My people. I will bring you back to the land of Israel. You will know that I am Adonai, when I have opened your graves and brought you up out of your graves, My people. I will put My Ruach in you and you will live. I will place you in your own land. Then you will know that I, Adonai, have spoken and that I have done it.’

SERMON “Holy Breath”

*HYMN *Gather Us In* inside back pages 10 & 11
verses 1 & 4 only

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.

CONGREGATION SINGS AS RESPONSE

**God is holding your life, God is holding your life,
God is holding your life, we believe.**

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* Robert Jackson/
David Paxton

*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)

God of new life and renewed purpose — we recognize and proclaim that the greatest gift is love — Love given and received. We offer these gifts trusting that You multiply all that is given in Love. May Your Spirit of abundance, which gives more than we ask or imagine, bless these gifts to be a source of hope and light to all those we are called to serve. Amen.

*HYMN

Spirit
verses 1, 2 & 3 only

No. 319

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above

Robert J. Powell

*(*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

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

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. 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
 Shellie Brook
 Sara L. Phelps
 Michael Havay
 Gail Wiegand
 John Swanson
 Fran Baddeley, Colleen Cushing
 Stephen, Kelly, Zeke and Eli Isaacs
 Patricia Bodan

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

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
 Kelly Isaacs
 Larissa Riley
 Dave Hagerstrom
 Matt Emmons, Sheryl Gottwald
 Gretchen Davis

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

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are from Nancy Protzmann, in memory of her mom Patsy, "PK," "MerryMac." Patsy was laid to rest yesterday on Martha's Vineyard, beside the love of her life, Stuart, surrounded by her family and friends. We celebrated with her favorite hymns, and many meaningful and fun stories. She would have loved nothing better than to know there was lots of love and laughter in remembering her life. RIP Mom.

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.

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.

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)

Our Church Calendar

September 29—October 5, 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.	Confirmation Info Meeting
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
	7:00 p.m.	World Service
Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	4:30 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	10:00 p.m.	Wednesday Morning Adult Ed
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

God Cares for Us

Jesus said, "Look at the birds in the air.
God provides everything they need."

Count the birds in the picture.
Trace the correct number.



or



or



?



Sunday, September 29, 2024

Wednesday Morning Adult Ed Series
Banned, Burned, and Buried:
The Books NOT in the Bible
continues Wednesday, October 2
10:00-11:30 a.m. on Zoom



The Gospel of Thomas, The Gospel of Mary, The Gospel of Judas – Why are these gospels not in our Bible? What about the Book of Enoch, the Wisdom of Solomon, and the Apocalypse of Peter? Why were these books and others like them considered to be controversial or heretical, and worthy only of inclusion in a supplemental “apocrypha” or left out of the Bible altogether?

This fall, we’ll begin a year-long video lecture series delving into the “lost” books of the Bible. We’ll look at the books of the Old Testament that are in some Bibles but not in others – including stories of giants, dragons, and fallen angels. We’ll explore the “Gnostic” gospels and other writings NOT in our New Testament – that offer alternative understandings of who Jesus was, who and what God is, and what our spiritual purpose is as created beings.

In each session, we’ll watch a video together as a group and then have a discussion facilitated by Pastor Maureen. The class will meet every first and third Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. from September through May on Zoom. All are welcome! Email pastormaureen@ccamherst.org to receive the Zoom link, or access the link on our church website in the Members Section under “Wednesday Adult Ed.”