

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



*"Choose the great adventure of being brave and afraid  
at the exact same time."*

—Brené Brown

# 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.”*

October 27, 2024

Twenty-third 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

*I've Been in the Storm So Long*

David Kidwell

INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

One: We come through the storms that rage in this world and in our hearts —

**Many: seeking the Holy One who leads us beside still waters.**

One: We bring our faith, tattered or whole as it may be —

**Many: trusting the fullness of our lives to the God who is Love.**

One: We bring our doubts, our worries, our fears —

**Many: courageously asking God to meet us where we are.**

One: We celebrate that the God who journeys with us gives

**All: strength for today & bright hope for tomorrow.**

\*HYMN

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

No. 276

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

**O Living God of past and future, we praise You for this present moment. Fill us with Your joy and empower us with Your Spirit that we may be strengthened for the journey and renewed to sing again of Your faithful promises in a world which longs for your justice and peace. God of life, of breath, of wholeness —with gratitude and hope we pray together —**

**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

COMMISSIONING OF CONFIRMANDS AND MENTORS

Confirmand

Xander Batey  
Mariellah Dart  
Hannah Grace  
Madeline Houle  
Quinn Tremblay

Mentor

Sally Bowkett  
Nancy Protzmann  
Shayna Appel  
Marti Warren  
Deb Boczenowksi

ANTHEM

*Slow Me Down, Lord*  
Zach Hoyt, tenor soloist  
Chancel Choir

Linda Spevacek

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After dismissing the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. But the boat was already over a mile from land, battered by the waves, because the wind was against them. Around three in the morning, he came toward them walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said, and cried out in fear. Immediately Jesus spoke to them. "Have courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

"Lord, if it's you," Peter answered him, "command me to come to you on the water." "Come!" he said. And climbing out of the boat, Peter started walking on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the strength of the wind, he was afraid. And beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out His hand, caught hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those in the boat worshiped him and said, "Truly You are the Son of God!"

SERMON

“What Are You Looking At?”

\*HYMN

*My Life Flows On*

insert

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

*Trust and Obey*

Daniel B. Towner/  
Robert J. Powell

\*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)

**Holy One, we give this offering to You hoping and trusting. Hoping that You will multiply what is given in Love. Trusting that the gifts of our hands, our hearts and our lives will shine the light and love of Christ Jesus in this community and the world.**

\*HYMN

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

No. 376

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE

*Be Not Afraid from “Elijah”*

Felix Mendelssohn

*(\*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](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  
Rev. Charlotte E. Y. Bell  
Shellie Brook  
Sara L. Phelps  
Michael Havay  
John Swanson  
Gail Wiegand, Doug Topliffe  
Holly Tonnesen, Jean Tonnesen  
Kathleen Bouchard and Christie Gould  
Paul Schellenberg

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

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## LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley  
Sue Werst  
Larissa Riley  
Dave Hagerstrom  
Matt Emmons  
Gretchen Davis

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

**THE YOUTH CHOIR** meets today in the vestry after worship. Come and sing with us!

**TRICK OR TREAT:** Trick or Treat on Halloween in the Amherst village is a fun, slightly chaotic night, bringing lots of ghosts, goblins and other scary (and not-so-scary) beings into town. Once again, our church is participating in the activity in the village by passing out candy. Since we can easily see upwards of 1000 children, we are in need of lots of fun-sized candy.

We recognize that candy is not for everyone, and so we also hope to have a few small items to give out as an alternative to candy: think party favors such as glow sticks, small coloring books, pencils, stickers, etc. Thank you so much for your generosity!

**LEVI SUNDAY:** Fall is upon us and trees are dropping their colorful leaves again. Time for another Levi Sunday, this year planned for **November 3** right after worship.

We have a number of outdoor projects planned including leaf raking and general lawn and grounds clean up. Everyone is invited to come out and help. Please bring your favorite rake and tools to help accomplish the jobs you would like to help with. Many hands make light work! Hope to see you there.

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for October include canned ham, canned meats/tuna/chicken, mac and cheese, pasta (all sorts), Progresso and Chunky soups. 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!

## Why Church?

Second Hour Discussion  
Sunday, October 27 at 11:30 a.m.



Why is being a part of a church community important to you?  
What role do church communities play in today's world?  
What will the church look like in years to come?

After worship on October 27, join us for a **Second Hour discussion at 11:30 a.m.** as we share our responses to the question, "Why Church?" and explore how widening our welcome may invite others to be "church" along with us. The discussion will be facilitated by Pastor Maureen and members of our WOW Team.

### All are welcome!

Lunch and childcare will be provided.

Please RSVP to [pastormaureen@ccamherst.org](mailto:pastormaureen@ccamherst.org) to ensure we have enough space and lunch for all!

**NEIGHBORS IN NEED:** In 2024, the Neighbors in Need theme is "**Mental Health Justice For All!**" This year's focus is on Mental Health Justice. In 2015, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health.

A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life's mental health journey.

This appeal will run for the month of October. To donate, visit our Online Giving page or send a check to the church office (11 Church St., Amherst, NH 03031) with *Neighbors in Need* in the memo line.

We thank you for your support and generosity.

## Our Church Calendar

### October 27—November 2, 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
	11:30 a.m.	<i>Why Church?</i> Second Hour
	6:00 p.m.	Senior Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
	7:00 p.m.	World Service
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	New Member Info Session
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

*Sunday, October 27, 2024*

**Jesus said,  
"Have courage! Don't be afraid!"**

