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

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger
while journeying through this land of woe,
But there's no sickness toil or danger
in that fair land to which I go.

I'm going there to see my Mother/Father,
I'm going home no more to roam,
I'm just going over Jordan
I'm just going over home.

- *Wayfaring Stranger,* 19th century folk song

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 11, 2026 **Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost** **10:00 am**

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 All Praising* Gustav Holst
arr. Anna Laura Page

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP
*(*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

One: We gather in this sanctuary welcomed by the Spirit.
Many: The Sprit that inspires, guides, and comforts.
One: We come as a people knowing what it is to wander.
Many: Searching and longing, seeking to belong.

One: We come to hear the stories of those who've wandered before us.
Many: The stories of God's people, searching for the Promised Land.
One: At times, we too feel like sojourners, strangers in this land.
Many: At times we too feel uncertain, seeking God as our refuge.

One: We gather now, to celebrate the One who guides us home.
Many: We gather now, to lift our voices in gratitude and song!

*HYMN *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* No. 281

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

Eternal Spirit, refuge for all your children,
we praise you for all you have given us:
shelter, sustenance, warmth, rest,
life, love, hope, peace.
Create in us a spirit of generosity
so that we may never hesitate to share
what we have been given.
May we reflect your image,
as we too offer refuge and relief for all who seek it.
Here 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.

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANTHEM *Look at the World* John Rutter
Chancel Choir

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE
The peace of God be with you. **AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 12:1-9

The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your land, your family, and your father's household for the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
those who curse you I will curse;
all the families of the earth
will be blessed because of you."
Abram left just as the Lord told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all of their possessions, and the servants who became members of their household in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, Abram traveled through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. The Canaanites lived in the land at that time. The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "I give this land to your descendants," so Abram built an altar there to the Lord who appeared to him. From there he traveled toward the mountains east of Bethel, and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and worshipped in the Lord's name. Then Abram set out toward the arid southern plain, making and breaking camp as he went.

SERMON "Abram and Sarai"

*HYMN *This is My Song* Pages 6 and 7

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 second hymn, and will be shared during Joys and Concerns.

CHORAL RESPONSE

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Like a River Glorious* Douglas E. Wagner
Handbell Choir

*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)
We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that you have given us, O God. In the upside down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what we have, but what we can give away. Let us give away generously, in this offering, in our lives, to bless your church, your people, your creation. Amen.

*HYMN *O God of Every Nation* No. 289

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE *Chant Héroïque* George Blake

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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 21 and 27 via Zoom. New members will be formally received on Sunday, November 8. 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 during the worship service for children Pre-K through Grade 7.
- Our church nursery is staffed and available during services 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 the Community Room for a time of fellowship and refreshments after the worship service.
- 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 through Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Phone (603) 673-3231 or email officeadmin@ccamherst.org. 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

Our Church Calendar

October 11-17, 2026

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 am	Worship
	11:15 am	Fellowship Time
	11:30 am	Youth Choir
	11:30 am	Racial Justice Team
	11:30 am	Christian Education Team
	6:30 pm	Senior Youth Group
Monday	10:00 am	WA Workshop
Tuesday	10:00 am	Congregational Care
	10:00 am	WA Board Meeting
	7:00 pm	Communications Team
	7:00 pm	Diaconate
Wednesday	10:00 am	Staff Meeting
	7:00 pm	Adult Confirmation
Thursday	5:30 pm	Budget & Finance
	6:00 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class
	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Neighbors in Need

NEIGHBORS IN NEED COLLECTION: The annual appeal for Neighbors in Need, a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ, continues through the month of October. Donations support ministries of justice and compassion, with special consideration given to projects which serve our immigrant neighbors and communities. Donation envelopes are available in the pews, or you may send a check to the church office, or visit our online donation page on the website <ccamherst.org>.

NEW MEMBER INFO SESSIONS: Are you NEW (or not-so-new) to our church and interested in learning more about our congregation? Are you interested in learning more about becoming a member? Do you want to know more about the United Church of Christ? If so, please join us for one of our INFO SESSIONS on Wed, October 21 or Tues, October 27 at 7:00 pm via ZOOM.

For those who have already joined our mailing list and/or inquired about becoming a member, you'll be hearing from us soon! If you've joined us for our in-person or online worship over the last year and are interested in attending one of our info sessions, please reach out to Michael in our church office at officeadmin@ccamherst.org or contact Pastor Maureen at pastormaureen@ccamherst.org.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK: Sunday, October 18 is SHINE Sunday, and our theme is "Song of Creation". It's also Mission Sunday where we'll recognize and celebrate the many ways we serve as God's compassionate presence in the world.

Our World Service Team will share how we make a difference through the five United Church of Christ appeals that we support during the year; we'll celebrate the ways that our Church School and Youth give to others in our local community and beyond; and we'll gather after worship to pack disaster kits for Church World Service, which provides clean-up and hygiene kits for those displaced by floods, fires, earthquakes, and other devastations.

NASHUA CROP WALK: The annual CROP Walk to help end hunger is scheduled for **Sunday, October 18,** beginning and ending at Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street in Nashua. Registration is from 12:00 to 1:00 pm, with opening ceremonies at 1:00, and stepping out at 1:30 pm.

This year's goal is $62,000. Last year the CROP Walk raised over $59,000 with 350 people walking from 29 faith communities. Funds raised have benefited local organizations like Corpus Christi Food Pantry, Nashua Soup Kitchen, SHARE of Milford, and St. James of Merrimack Food Pantry.

You can be involved! Get the details by going to the webpage for the Nashua CROP Walk: <events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/nashuanh>.

FOOD PANTRY LIST: SHARE Food Pantry requests for the month of October include: canned fruit, flour, sugar, coffee, tea, juice, instant rice, cold cereal, instant oatmeal packets, and individually wrapped snacks. Donations may be left in our SHARE collection containers found in the narthex, and outside the community room. Donations may also be brought directly to the SHARE Center in Milford. For directions please call their office at (603) 673-9898. Many thanks for your continued generosity!

WHAT IS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY? Indigenous People's Day is a holiday that celebrates and honors the histories, cultures, and contributions of the original inhabitants and Tribal Nations of the Americas. It is observed on the 2nd Monday in October which is October 12 this year.

The day highlights the traditions, languages, and resilience of American Indigenous People, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. In 2021, the Biden administration issued the first formal presidential proclamation to recognize Indigenous People's Day at the federal level.

In recognition of Indigenous People's Day, you might bring your family to the Mt. Kearsage Indian Museum in Warner, New Hampshire. On this special day, admission to the museum is free and there will be many family-friendly activities to explore. For more information, call (603) 456-2600.

Submitted by: The CCA Racial Justice Team

HALLOWEEN CANDY DONATIONS: The Amherst Village green will be filled with little ghosts and goblins Halloween night seeking tricks or treats from community residents and businesses. CCA will join in the fun once again, distributing candy and favors to the children. We will need lots of fun-sized candy or small gifts like stickers, glow sticks, pencils, or toys. Donations can be left in the church office, or in the caldron in the Narthex. Thanks for your generosity!

CCA Worship Service Reflection

Sunday, October 11, 2026

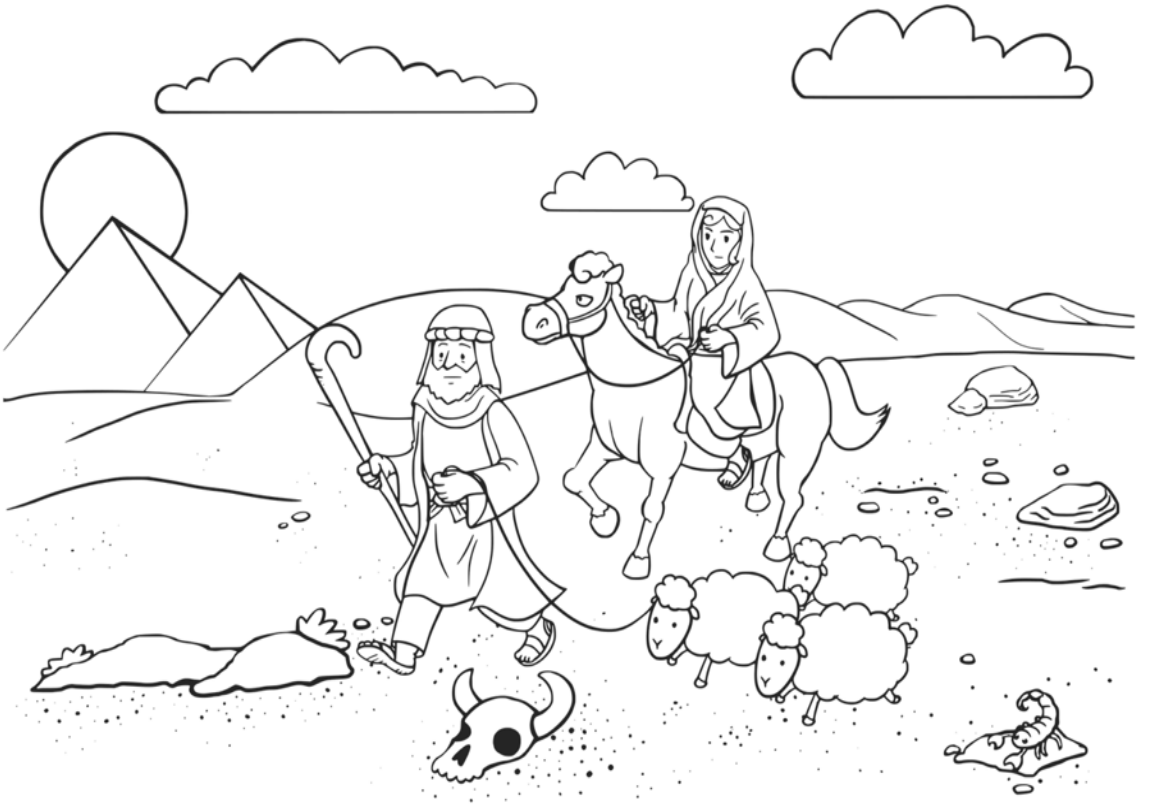
The theme of the service was…

I learned…

I did not understand or still wonder about…

Something that helped connect my faith to my everyday life was…

GOD Guides Abram and Sarai



Blessed
to Be a
Blessing