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

SHINE
LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT

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 18, 2026 SHINE SUNDAY / MISSION SUNDAY 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 *Praise God!* Hugh S. Livingston Jr.

INTROIT

*GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE
*(*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

One: This is the day that God has made:
Many: a day for praise and prayer;
a day for gratitude and generosity.

One: This is the time God has gifted us:
Many: a time for singing and silence;
a time for speaking and listening.

One: This is the life to which God calls us:
Many: a life of faith and service;
a life of humility and healing.

One: This is the way we worship you, O God:
Many: Filled with your Spirit,
Listening for your Word,
Bringing your Peace and Hope to our world!

*HYMN *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* No. 422

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Senior Youth Group

ANTHEM *This is the Day* Mark Hayes
Chancel Choir

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

INTRODUCING THE PSALM Psalm 104

SINGING THE PSALM *Bless the Lord, My Soul and Being* Pages 6 and 7
(TUNE: Austrian Hymn)

Bless the Lord my soul and being! Lord my God you have such might.
Cloaked with honor grand and glorious, You are clothed with purest light.
Stretching out the heavens like tent cloth, You are chambered on the deep.
Riding on the wings of windstorm, Flame and fire your bidding keep.

Lord, you laid the earth's foundation, That it would be always sound.
By the word of your commanding, You set forth each ocean's bound.
Springs gush forth at your bidding, Giving drink to every field.
Bird and beast and all your creatures, In that coolness find thirst healed.

Grass you cause to grow for cattle, Plants for us to cultivate.
Food you bring forth from our labor, Wine for joy and bread for plate.
Trees you give the birds for shelter, Mountain rock and cave for beast.
Sun and moon both mark the seasons, In their light we work and feast.

God how great are all your workings, Wisdom marks them through and through.
All the earth is your possession, Great and small belong to you.
Food you give in each due season, At your hand come all good things.
By your spirit you create us, Lord, your breath renewal brings.

May your glory reign forever, Lord, rejoice in all you make!
As you look on your creation, Mountain smoke, foundations shake.
May these words and thoughts be pleasing, For in you my joy is found.
Bless the Lord, my soul and being! With this song let praise abound.

REFLECTING ON THE PSALM "Song of Creation"

OFFERING OUR GIFTS and PRAYERS
All are invited to place their offerings and prayer cards in the plates as they are passed.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION *Passacaglia* Mark Roberts

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison) A Contemporary Interpretation

Holy One, always close within our hearts,
yet also present in the most distant star,
you are beyond naming.
May we recognize your powerful presence
not only in the undeniable glory of the sky,
but also in the everyday rhythms of the earth.
Give us what we need, day by day,
to keep body and soul nourished
as all that we have comes from you.
Guide us to be reconciled with you,
and to live peaceably with other human beings,
putting hate and bitterness behind us.
When we are torn between our faith in your goodness
and our awareness of the suffering in our world,
deliver us from the temptation to despair.
Yours alone is the universe, and all its majesty and beauty.
You alone have the power to make all things new.
Amen.

*HYMN *Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant* page 8

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

One: As we leave this sanctuary, may we carry Jesus' light into the world.
Many: To offer good news to all who long to hear it.
One: When faced with brokenness and division,
Many: We proclaim the God of Healing.
One: When faced with despair and sorrow,
Many: We proclaim the God of Hope.
One: When faced with unkindness and apathy,
Many: We proclaim the God of Compassion.
All: We go now, as servants in Christ,
as conduits of God's Love, offered to all. Amen!

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE *Let the Whole Creation Cry* Michael Burkhardt

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

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church	Ministers to the World
Rev. Maureen R. Frescott	Senior Pastor
Rev. Charlotte E.Y. Bell	Associate Pastor
Sara Phelps	Director of Music
Michael Havay	Organist/Accompanist
Gail Wiegand	Deacon in Charge
Stephen Isaacs, Beth Secor	Deacons
Ken Bell	Ushers
Patricia Bodan, Alison Batey	Videographers

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley	Director of Youth Ministries
Kelly Isaacs	Teacher, Preschool
Deb Boczenowski	Assistant, Preschool
Sue Werst	Teacher, Kindergarten to Grade 2
Matt Emmons	Assistant, Kindergarten to Grade 2
Vicky Leknes	Teacher, Grades 3 and 4
Alexis Baker	Assistant, Grades 3 and 4
Larissa Riley	Teacher, Grades 5 to 7
Melissa Lewis	Nursery Attendant
Julia Bortolotto	Nursery Assistant

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE DISASTER KIT ASSEMBLY: Today following the worship service the World Service Team will be packing disaster kits for those displaced by floods, fires, and other devastations. This mission of Church World Service provides hygiene and cleaning supplies to people facing the biggest challenge of their lives.

We are donating 24 emergency cleanup buckets and 120 hygiene kits. Join us in the Community Room if you are willing to help assemble the kits. This is a great project for all ages and it won't take a lot of time with many hands pitching in. Your efforts will send a powerful message that we care, that there is hope in the darkest moments, and that we are never alone.

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 are already on 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 Pastor Maureen at pastormaureen@ccamherst.org.

Our Church Calendar

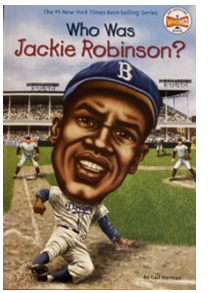
October 18-24, 2026

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
	1:30 pm	Nashua CROP Walk
Monday	10:00 am	WA Workshop
	4:00 pm	Trustees of Invested Funds
Tuesday	10:00 am	Caregivers Circle
	1:00 pm	Bylaws Team
	5:00 pm	WOW Team
Wednesday	10:00 am	Adult Confirmation
	7:00 pm	New Member Info Session
Thursday	6:00 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

GIVE THANKS WITH US! Our church is hosting a Thanksgiving Celebration on Sunday, November 15 at 5:30 pm in the Community Room. Enjoy a shared meal, great conversation, and a time to thank God for all we've been given. Bring a dish, volunteer, or simply come and celebrate. All are welcome -- every age, every family, every visitor. Sign up in the foyer or contact **Matt Emmons** (603) 494-0293, or email <memmons85@gmail.com>.

Who Was Jackie Robinson? This chapter book for young readers (or for any person interested in baseball!) by Gail Herman is about an African American who changed the face of baseball forever. Jackie Robinson was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum for his outstanding accomplishments on the baseball field, including a home run that helped his team, the Brooklyn Dodgers, win the World Series! When Jackie first joined the Dodgers, he was the only Black player on the team. In fact, no other major baseball team included a Black player! This is a story about a boy who always stood up for himself, who was a teenage sports superstar, and who made his way to the big leagues with grit and determination. To learn more about Jackie's extraordinary story, you can borrow this book, and many others just like it, from the CCA Racial Justice Team library located just outside the Sanctuary.



Submitted by: The CCA Racial Justice Team

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>.

During the month of November, our Racial Justice and Widening Our Welcome teams are inviting the congregation to participate in constructing and displaying prayer flags in memory of the more than 100 people who have died in connection with immigration enforcement activity since 2018 (the first year of mandated reporting).

Why are we doing this? Our faith calls us to see the humanity of the stranger and the suffering of our neighbors. The display is intended to be a quiet, yet powerful, prayerful act of remembrance and a visible expression of compassion and lament. Each flag will carry the name of one person to remind us that:

- Every life has sacred worth.
- Every death deserves to be named and mourned.
- No person should be reduced to a legal category.

We are not doing this alone. The project was conceived by two NH UCC pastors, the Rev. Mark Koyama and the Rev. Traceymay Kalvaitis, and is part of a broader faith community effort led by the Granite State Organizing Project. Churches around the state will be participating.

Why November? This is the month where we remember those we've lost (All Saints/ Souls) and offer up prayers of thanksgiving in celebration of ancestorial immigrants, while also recognizing the biblical proclamation that we're all "strangers in a strange land" at heart.

Construction of the prayer flags will take place on Sunday, November 1, in the Community Room after worship. The flags will be displayed in the sanctuary for three Sundays -- November 8, 15, and 22 -- (as approved by Church Council). We sincerely hope you can join us in this important project. For those interested, a GSOP sponsored flag-making workshop will be held on Sunday, October 18 at 2:00 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Milford.

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!

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 18, 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…

Serving Neighbors Near and Far!

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Psalm 104 makes it clear that God is both creator and sustainer.
In other words, God does not create and then sit back to see how it all turns out.
Rather, God is active in the renewal of all creation.
Perhaps this was the passage G. K. Chesterton had in mind
when he suggested that the sun rises every morning
because God says, "Do it again!"

We may wonder in these difficult days,
whether God's Spirit will indeed continue to sustain what it brought into being.
But perhaps the following passage from Wendell Berry's novel, *Jayber Crow*,
can speak some hope into our fears. As the character, Jayber, surveys the scene
of a flood and sees that the whole world seems "cast adrift,"
he laments that "the old life is submerged and gone, the new not yet come."

But then he says:
"I knew that the Spirit that had gone forth to shape the world and make it live was still alive in it. I just had no doubt. I could see that I lived in the created world, and it was still being created. I would be part of it forever. There was no escape. The Spirit that made it was in it, shaping and reshaping it, sometimes lying at rest, sometimes standing up and shaking itself, like a muddy horse, and letting the pieces fly."

To that, we can only say with the psalmist,
"Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!" (Psalm 104:35b).

— Carol Betchtel, Professor of Old Testament
Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI