

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



“When confronted with a challenge, the committed heart will search for a solution. The undecided heart searches for an escape.”

—Andy Andrews

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

September 8, 2019

Rally Day
Thirteenth 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 For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Carl Glaser/
Jason Payne

INTROIT

Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: People of God, look about Creation and see the faces of those we know and love...

People: Neighbors and friends, brothers and sisters, a communion of kindred hearts.

Leader: People of God, look about and see the faces of those we hardly know...

People: Strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends, the ones who need an outstretched hand.

Leader: People of God, look about and see all the images of God assembled here today...

People: In me, in you, in all people, everywhere, God's Spirit shines for all to see!

All: People of God, come, let us worship together!

*HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

No. 464

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

Our hearts overflow with longings too great for words, O God. You have been so good to us, but we often struggle to show our gratitude. We have many things competing for our attention, yet on this day we seek to spend our time with you. Meet us here and awaken us. May this time of worship help us to be a thankful and giving people, eager to live as the body of Christ, making a difference in the world as Jesus did so long ago. May your Spirit move among us, 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 (Tune #579)

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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

COMMISSIONING OF CHURCH SCHOOL LEADERS AND TEACHERS

Pastor: Jesus gave a variety of gifts to his followers to equip us all for the work of ministry. Today we recognize and bless those of you who have been called to the ministry of leading, teaching and guiding.

Congregation: At the celebration of baptism, we promise to provide children with love and nurture through our prayers, encouragement, affection and teaching. God has called you to be leaders and teachers. We praise God for calling you to this service of Christian education and for the gifts and guidance God provides for ministry.

Children: We need leaders and teachers who will welcome us and love us as Jesus loved the children. Will you welcome us, love us, and show us how to live our faith every day?

Leaders and Teachers of Children:

We promise to welcome you, to love you, to walk with you, to wonder with you, and to model for you what it means to live in faith every day. We commit ourselves to lead you and to learn from you, our children.

Congregation: We have heard your promises and we commit ourselves to support you through our prayers, our participation in education, our worship and service, and our friendship and love.

Pastor: Leaders and teachers, may your love and commitment to this ministry nurture your own faith, strengthen the relationships between you, increase the faithful witness and service of our congregation as a whole, and help us to live and grow in faith every day. We give thanks to God for all of you, for answering God's call.

All: Thanks be to God!

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Zion's Walls
Chancel Choir

Aaron Copland

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

SERMON

“Sign Me Up!”

*HYMN

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

side page

You are invited to write your joys and concerns on the prayer cards in the pews, and pass to the minister to be lifted in prayer at this time.

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Along with our offering collected this morning, we dedicate the generous contributions of those who give monthly or electronically. All of our offerings support the work and witness of Jesus Christ here in this place and in the wider world. Each is given to the glory of God in faithful appreciation for many received blessings. Thanks be to God!

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Siciliano

Robert 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 (in unison)

We give because you have been generous with us, gracious God. We give to feed the hungers of body and soul that are all around us and deep within. May the ministries of this church meet the needs of our congregation, our community, and our world. Amen.

*HYMN

Called as Partners in Christ's Service
verses 1, 2 & 3 only

No. 343

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

*POSTLUDE

Festive Rondeau

David Lasky

(*Indicates that those who are able may stand.)

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29

1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser- vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil- grims on a jour-ney, we are trav- elers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad- ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep- ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5 When we sing to God in heav- en we shall find such har- mo- ny,

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser- vant, too.
We are here to help each oth- er go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor- row till we've seen this jour-ney through.
Born of all we've known to- geth- er of Christ's love and ag- o- ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
Richard Gillard, 1977
Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AMHERST
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 this morning. Our membership is open to all those who choose to walk with us in our witness. Please speak with any of our deacons or pastors should you have any questions regarding our church or our membership.

Worship Notes:

- **Nursery Care** is provided for children ages two and under at the beginning of worship.
- **Church School** is available for children in Pre-K through grade 7 immediately following Children’s Time.
- **Joys and Concerns** may be written on the cards found in the pew racks. Cards will be collected by one of the pastors during the middle hymn and shared during the Prayers of the People.
- **Nametags** – 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.
- **Fellowship** – Please join us in the community room following worship to welcome visitors and friends.
- **Emergencies** – 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 nursery and in the church school.

The church office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Here’s how to reach us: by telephone 673-3231, or by email andrea@ccamherst.org. If we are unavailable by phone, please feel free to leave a message using the personal directory, 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 at Facebook.com/ccamherst.

Grounded in God’s Love—Serving Neighbors Near and Far—Welcoming to All

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Maureen R. Frescott

Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Kate Thompson

Alison and Xander Batey

Sally Hooper, Keith Thompson, Gail Wiegand

Skip Skoglund

Marilyn Gibson

Heather Stone

Leona Hendrickson

Sue Werst and Becky Bolin

Gretchen Davis and Larissa Riley

Dave Hagerstrom

Wendy Valeri

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon In Charge

Greeters

Ushers

Liturgist

Church School Coordinator

Nursery Coordinator

Pre-K/K Church School Teacher

Grades 1-2 Church School Teachers

Grades 3-4 Church School Teachers

Grades 5-7 Church School Teacher

Bell Choir Director

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are from the church school's flower bed.

ALL CHURCH RALLY DAY PICNIC TODAY:

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of a new church and Sunday school program year! Following this morning's worship service, join us in the community room to enjoy good food, music and games. All ages are invited to the festivities—renew friendships and make new ones!

A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS REPORT

for the congregation is scheduled for Sunday, September 15 in the community room following the worship service. The Capital Campaign team will update the congregation on all the project progress made over the summer, as well as campaign plans going forward. Child care will be available. Please plan on joining us on the 15th.

WELCOME TO CHURCH SCHOOL: We are coming together to nurture the faith growth of our children under the guidance of dedicated teachers. Please welcome our teachers (listed above). The schedule is posted on our secure church school website, <https://www.ccamherst.org/christian-education/church-school/>

After Children's Time today, children will be dismissed from worship to their classrooms. PreK/K (open to children in PreK/K and those younger who are toilet trained are welcomed) meet in the room directly next to the church office. Children in grades 1-2 and 3-4 are on the third floor, past the Bean room. Those in grades 5-7 gather in the church meeting room/library located down the hall from the church office.

When worship concludes, parents of children in PreK/K and grades 1-2 must meet their children at their classrooms. Children in the upper grades will be dismissed to the community room.

Blessing of the Backpacks

On **Sunday, September 15** we are inviting all children, youth and adults to bring their school backpacks or work bags to church for a special Back-to-School blessing during morning worship. Our pastors will offer a blessing for all the students and teachers, and both the children and adults will receive a special item to keep in their backpacks as a reminder of the blessing throughout the year.



Our Church Calendar September 8—14, 2019

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:10 a.m.	Rally Day Picnic— Community Room
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop— Vestry
Tuesday	8:30 a.m.	Men's Fellowship— Youth Room
	9:30 a.m.	WA Board—Parlor
	7:00 p.m.	Tuesday Team Time
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting—Parlor
	7:00 p.m.	Budget & Finance Team—Meeting Room
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir—Sanctuary
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir—Vestry

WA WORKSHOPS RESUME: The weekly Monday Morning Workshops of the Woman's Association will resume on **September 9**, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the church vestry. The workshops are informal meetings at which members and friends of the WA gather to prepare for the upcoming Fall Rummage Sale and Holiday Fair, or to just enjoy the fellowship of the group. Those who can stay past noon should bring their own lunch. Coffee, tea and dessert are always provided. At this first meeting on Sept. 9 we will hold a fair planning meeting, beginning around 11:00.

All church and community women are welcome to attend on any Monday. Anyone with questions about the Woman's Association or the workshop can contact Adrienne Topliffe at 673-7436 or abtopliffe@comcast.net.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for September include canned ham, canned meats, side dishes (seasoned pasta mix, Hamburger Helper, etc.), ravioli and Beef-a-Roni. Donations can be left in the SHARE cupboard in the narthex or in the container by the community room entrance. Many thanks for your continuing support!

Financial Summary

(as of July 31, 2019)

	YTD <u>Budget</u>	YTD <u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$83,202	\$98,028	\$14,827
Expenses	\$69,180	\$63,712	\$ 5,468
Net Income	\$14,022	\$34,316	\$20,295

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: Gail Agans (chair), Paul Spiess, Doug Topliffe, Todd Whitney and Tim Wiegand (Treasurer).



**NEW Adult Ed Series
Begins Wednesday, September 18
10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Parlor**

Who is God for Christians? For Muslims? For Jews? Do Hindus and Buddhists have a conception of God? What do our many world religions have to say about heaven and hell, sin, and the existence of evil? How do we explain miracles, visions, and other divine encounters? Where is God found in our world's most sacred places and texts? We'll explore these and other questions in Season Two and Three of THE STORY OF GOD - the popular series produced by the National Geographic Channel (we watched Season One a few years ago and it inspired many wonderful and thoughtful conversations!) Hosted by the actor Morgan Freeman, we'll travel around the world and learn about the differences and similarities in our world's religions and how they each tell the story of God for their believers.

The format for each 90-minute session includes a 45-minute video presentation and a discussion facilitated by Pastor Maureen. This series has 9 episodes, which we'll watch from September to February, meeting every first and third Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome!

The Story of God - Series Schedule

September 18 – "The Chosen One"

October 2 – "Heaven and Hell"

October 16 – "Proof of God"

November 6 – "Search for The Devil"

November 20 – "Gods Among Us"

December 4 – "Visions of God"

December 18 – "Deadly Sins"

January 15 – "Divine Secrets"

February 5 - "Holy Laws"

Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord!

Chancel Choir and Bell Choir



Are you interested in singing or ringing? New members are welcome at any time throughout the year!

Haven't been in a choir since "way back when?" That's okay! We are teachers and conductors with lots of experience AND current members love to help new folks!

Does the Bell Choir ring every week? No, once a month.

What if I need to miss a rehearsal or a Sunday service? Absolutely no problem, that happens during the year for many of us. Travel, work conflicts, illness, etc.

Do I need to purchase my music? No, we buy music through the music budget and we have an extensive music library.

How often do the choirs rehearse? Rehearsals are Thursday evenings. Bell Choir at 6:00 p.m. and Chancel Choir at 7:30 p.m.

I want to join a choir! Who do I contact? Sara Phelps: kalben1@comcast.net,
Wendy Valeri: Wendy.Valeri@fmr.com

My kids like to sing! What about a children's choir? Stay "tuned" – it is in the works!

Our wonderful music ministry is a strong, vibrant program made possible by people like YOU who want the opportunity to participate.

Blessing and peace from your music staff!

Sara Phelps ~ Director of Music
Michael Havay ~ Organist/Accompanist
Wendy Valeri ~ Bell Choir Director

Woman's Association's
Good Stuff Fall Rummage Sale

RUMMAGE WANTED NOW!!!



**Friday, October 4, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
and Saturday, October 5, 9:00 a.m. – noon**

We are ready for all the great rummage you have collected over the summer.

We need clothing: men's, women's, children's & baby – especially winter clothes, Other popular items include **jewelry, antiques** & vintage items, **collectables,** toys, games and puzzles,
Also linens, table cloths, mats, towels, clean bedding, curtains, small household items, home decorations, dishes, glassware, kitchen utensils, small kitchen appliances, small hand tools and holiday decorations.

Please leave clean, sorted and labeled household items in WA workroom in the vestry, and clothing, bedding and linens on the stage in the community room.

Tell your friends and neighbors about this wonderful way to recycle unwanted
GOOD STUFF.

Please NO large sports equipment, electronics, computers, TVs, car seats, large furniture or appliances.

Sunday, September 8, 2019

A Prayer for Our Teachers



Dear God

Thank you for the amazing teachers
who have given their time
to serve our children.

As they prepare for our new church school year,
fill them with strength to lead,
grace to guide, and hope to thrive in their classroom.

Bless them beyond measure
for their willingness
to nurture faith into the next
generation through education.

Amen.