

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



"If you can't say something nice, hush it."

~ anonymous mothers everywhere

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

September 12, 2021

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

Rally Day

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 G. Gläser/
arr. Jason D. Payne

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Welcome! God is gathering us to this time of worship.

Young and old, confident and cautious, faithful and doubtful, all are welcomed.

Many: This is a place where all belong.

This is a time when all are invited to commune with our Creator.

One: The Creator of all seeks our creativity.

The God of Mercy calls on us to be merciful.

Many: We are called to use our gifts as conduit for love.

We are called to speak and act as Jesus taught us.

One: We come to sing praises and put our trust in God.

We come to prepare ourselves to serve in Christ's name.

Many: We bring our whole selves before our God –

our hopes, our fears, our strengths and our shortcomings.

All: Together, let us worship our God!

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

Creating God, we gather from near and far as this Community of Christ. As we anticipate the changing seasons, our filling schedules, and our increasing busyness, we both celebrate and lament that we have so many things competing for our attention. Yet on this day we seek to spend our time with you. Meet us here and awaken us. Open our hearts and guide our tongues. 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, O God, 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.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

SERMON

“A Teacher’s Tongue”

ANTHEM

A Jubilant Celebration

J. Paul Williams/

Chancel Choir

Joseph M. Martin

Sue Werst, flute

Michael Havay, piano

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

If you have a prayer to share, fill out a prayer card in your pew and place it in the “Joys and Concerns” plate at the back of the sanctuary. Ushers will bring the cards forward to the pastor during the Anthem.

INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (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. We give because so many have given before us, and we've learned that to do so benefits us all. May our hands and tongues reflect the teachings of Jesus. May our acts of generosity be the teaching we offer to others, so that they may be inspired to be generous as well. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Festive Rondeau

David Lasky

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

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

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



The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

September 19: Proverbs 31:10-31 and Psalm 1
Song of Solomon 1:16-2:1 or *Jeremiah 11:18-20*
and Psalm 54
James 3:13—4:3,7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

September 26: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 and Psalm 124
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 and Psalm 19:7-14
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

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. 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.
- The nursery is not currently staffed. Parents with very young children are welcome to use it during worship.
- Joys and Concerns may be written on the cards found on the small table as you entered the sanctuary. You are also welcome to submit your prayer request through our website in advance of the worship service.
- Offering plates can be found at the front and the rear of the sanctuary.
- Please join us in the memorial garden for fellowship after the worship service, weather permitting.
- 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 available by telephone 673-3231, or 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 SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Sally Hooper

Wendy Valeri

Gretchen Davis

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Bell Choir Director

Interim Children's Coordinator

POLAR FLEECE BLANKET BONANZA! Do you have new anti-pill polar fleece in your house? Our Church School "Be A Blessing" mission project this September is no-sew polar fleece blankets to support Sleep In Heavenly Peace (SIHP) for the NH-Hillsborough Chapter. This will run from Creative Worship Sunday, September 19 to mid-October. We are in need of donations of new anti-pill polar fleece as well as any 1/2 yd to 2 yds pieces. There is a designated drop off bin at the back door of the church.

You can also help by donating online through our website; under *Giving, Donate*, choose *Missions* and specify SIHP. Any funds not used to purchase the polar fleece will be sent to the SIHP Chapter: NH-Hillsborough, for mattress purchases. You can also send a check to the church office, make it payable to *The Congregational Church of Amherst*, with *SIHP* noted on the memo line.

THE SUNDAY JOYS AND CONCERNS are emailed to those who want to include them in their daily personal prayers. If you would like to receive them each week, please let Andrea in the church office know: andrea@ccamherst.org.

SINGERS AND RINGERS: Choir rehearsals resume in the sanctuary on September 9. The Bell Choir rehearses at 6:00 p.m. and the Chancel Choir at 7:30 p.m. Are you interested in singing or ringing? We'd love to have you join us. Contact Sara Phelps, Director of Music (kalben1@comcast.net), or Wendy Valeri, Bell Choir Director (wendy.valeri@fmr.com).

OUR CHURCH NURSERY IS OPEN: We welcome our tiniest members to attend services, and when parents feel the need for a quiet, safe place to go to our church nursery is available. It is located on the ground floor, and can be found by walking through the double doors in back of the staircase. The nursery has been fully cleaned, all linens washed, and has a changing table and portable play pen, as well as many early childhood toys. A monitor is now available to watch and listen to the service. The church is currently requiring mask use for all people.

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 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!

ONLINE WORSHIP: We recently installed a new video system in our sanctuary, and we are now **live-streaming** our worship service on Facebook and uploading the recording of the live-stream to our website and YouTube by noon every Sunday.

The ability to watch and listen to the sermons, enjoy the music and participate in the prayers from home, any time we want, is something many of us value. Donations of any amount to help fund this technology are welcomed and appreciated. If you would like to contribute, please make checks payable to *The Congregational Church*, with *Technology* noted on the memo line. You can also make a donation online through our website.

Thank you in advance for your generous support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Doug Topliffe, Dave Phelps, Pastor Maureen or any of the other members of the ad hoc AV Streaming-Recording Team (Pastor Kate, Don Holden, Tim Wiegand, Tom Werst, and Nancy Protzmann).

A NEW LOOK AT THE OLD TESTAMENT: Is the OLD Testament still relevant today? Who wrote it and why? This fall, we'll continue to take a NEW look at the OLD Testament through this video lecture series produced by the Great Courses. We'll watch the video together as a group and then have a discussion facilitated by Pastor Maureen.

The class resumes on September 15, and will meet every first and third Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. We'll meet on Zoom, but anyone who feels comfortable gathering in-person at the church is welcome to do so (masks are required). All are welcome! Please RSVP to pastormaureen@ccamherst.org to receive the Zoom link, or access the link through the *Members* section of our church website (Go to *Zoom Mtg Links*, look for *Wednesday Morning Adult Ed*).

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS: Next Sunday we invite all children to bring their school backpacks to church school for a special blessing. Children will receive a special item to keep in their backpacks as a reminder of the blessing throughout the year.

WANTED—NURSERY COORDINATOR: We are looking for someone who can provide consistent, quality care for young children in the nursery during Sunday morning worship services. The hours are 9:30—11:30 a.m. starting on Rally Day, September 12. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older. For more information, please speak with Pastor Maureen, Pastor Kate, Sue Werst, or leave a message on the church office voice mail (673-3231, ext. 0) and we will be back in touch with you.

Our Church Calendar

September 12—18, 2021

Many 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. 11:00 a.m.	Worship—Sanctuary Rally Day Picnic— Memorial Garden
Monday	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Woman's Association Budget & Finance Team
Tuesday	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Diaconate Trustees of the Facility World Service Team
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Morning Adult Ed Study Group
Thursday	5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Confirmation Bell Choir—Sanctuary Chancel Choir— Sanctuary

Sunday, September 12, 2021



Today is Rally Day!

All are invited to join us as we mark the beginning of a new program year.

Church school's welcome back celebration will be held outside in the back field. Starting at 9:45 a.m. parents will be able to register their children and students will be able to meet our wonderful team of teachers.

EVERYONE is invited to bring a picnic lunch and blanket or chair, and join us on the lawn after the worship service for a picnic and extended fellowship time. Lemonade, water, ice cream and cookies will be provided.



Due to COVID, this year's activities are taking place outdoors.