

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



“Some Christians are more offended by the idea of everyone going to heaven than by the idea of everyone going to hell.”

— Rachel Held Evans

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.”*

August 18, 2024

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

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Joseph Barnby/
Dale Wood

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: Faithful people, we gather to celebrate our God...

Many: Our God who offers so much more than we imagine.

One: Our God who offers love...

**Many: Love for those who’ve known trouble, loneliness, or despair.
Love for those who’ve been rejected, ignored, or cast aside.**

One: Our God who offers hope...

**Many: Hope for those who long for guidance or strength.
Hope for those who long for healing or peace.**

One: Our God who offers grace...

**Many: Grace for those who have stones cast at them in judgment.
Grace for those who cast stones at others out of fear.**

One: Our God who offers Good News...

**Many: That all are worthy to receive God’s gifts of love, hope, and grace.
Let us worship our Creator God, together!**

*HYMN

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

No. 288

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

**God of our ancestors,
it was faith which made them
listen to your words,
trust in your promises,
dare to imagine a different way,
risk undertaking new adventures,
setting aside their fears and doubts.
We ask that you give us such faith.**

**Jesus our brother,
it was faith which helped you
as you walked through the world,
telling stories of reversals,
listening to the unseen and overlooked,
touching those we did not love,
pointing to the Community
being built all around us.
We ask that you give us such faith.**

**Spirit who walks with us,
it is faith which you give to us:
so we can trust the hope
which the world cannot see;
so we can journey into
places we have never been,
so we can feel you with us,
every moment, every day.**

May we feel your presence 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 ALL AGES

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Berceuse, Op. 16
Sue Werst, flutist

Gabriel Fauré

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 8:1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

SERMON

"Casting Stones"

*HYMN

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

No. 370

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 hymn after the sermon, and will be shared during Joys and Concerns.

ORGAN RESPONSE

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

A Prayer of Quiet Thanksgiving

Fenton Groden

*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)

For those who have no family, for those cast out of their homes, for those enduring the heat of hate, for those longing for connection with communities of love and hope, we offer our gifts, Loving God. May we be a source of comfort and peace for those seeking to be seen and heard. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

insert

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune on "Lyons" (O Worship the King)

Joseph Martin Kraus/
Stephen L. Aber

*(*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. 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 on break for the summer, and will resume on Rally Day, September 8, 2024.
- Our church nursery is open, but not staffed during the summer months. It is available when parents with young children feel the need for a quiet, safe space to go to during worship. A monitor is available to watch and listen to the service.
- 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 memorial garden for a time of fellowship after the worship service. (In case of rain, we gather in the community room.) Refreshments are offered.
- In the event of an emergency, please remain seated until instructions have been given.

The church office is open for visitors Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m., and available Monday through Friday by telephone 673-3231 and 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 WORSHIP SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church
Rev. Maureen R. Frescott
Michael Havay
Steve Boczenowski
Kathleen Bouchard
Shellie Brook
Susan Deschenes and Fred Dyke
Avery Morin and Maude Lemaire and Henri
Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World
Senior Pastor
Organist/Accompanist
Deacon in Charge
Deacon
Liturgist
Ushers
Greeters
Videographer

END OF SUMMER BBQ TODAY: Join us for some end of summer fun at the Dart family's lake house on Baboosic Lake in Amherst, from 1:30 to 6:00 p.m. today. The Darts will provide burgers, hot dogs and corn. Please bring a side dish, a salad, or a dessert to share, and your own beverages. Contact Meredith Dart (meredith.dart@astellas.com or 603-305-9066) to RSVP and for directions.

GARDEN FLOWERS: Fresh cut garden flowers are lovely for simple altar arrangements during the summer. If you can provide a bouquet of cut flowers, or can simply contribute flowers for a bouquet, please contact Sue Stout or Andrea in the church office to schedule a Sunday. Thank you for sharing your flower gardens!

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for August include condiments, cooking sauces and seasonings, cooking oil, pasta sauce, tomato sauce, tomato paste, diced tomatoes. 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!

NO FALL GOOD STUFF SALE: The Woman's Association will not be holding a Good Stuff Sale this Fall. The next sale will tentatively be held on May 2 & 3, 2025. Unfortunately, due to storage limitations, we will not be able to accept any donations for that sale until sometime after the new year. Details about what, when, and where to donate items to next spring's Good Stuff Sale will appear in church publications in early 2025.

Our Church Calendar

August 18—24, 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
	1:30 p.m.	End of Summer BBQ on Baboosic Lake
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop

Sunday, August 18, 2024

