

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



*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens  
can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”*

– Margaret Mead

# 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."*

September 1, 2024

Fifteenth 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

*Allein Gott in der Höh sei Her  
(All Glory Be to God on High)*

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

One: Jesus calls us to the well,

**Many: inviting us to drink of life-giving water,  
to soothe our parched spirits.**

One: Jesus calls us out of the shadows,

**Many: to be entirely known,  
and entirely filled with God's presence.**

One: Jesus calls us all:

**Many: all who were made in God's own image,  
all who breathe the breath of God's spirit.**

One: Jesus calls us, here and now.

**Many: Come, let us respond to Jesus' call  
and let us worship together!**

\*HYMN

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

No. 260

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

**Everlasting God,  
you are everywhere and right here.  
You are as close as the air we breathe;  
the air which binds us one to another  
and to your beautiful creation.  
You are as close as the sunlight on our skin,  
as close as the rain that falls on our head;  
as close as the wind that pushes us and lifts us up.  
You call us again and again  
into relationship with one another  
and with you.  
Divine Spirit,  
guide and encourage us.  
Stir within our hearts,  
that we may speak anew  
the familiar 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.**

ANTHEM

*The Call*  
Sara Phelps, soprano

Ralph Vaughn Williams

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 4:1-30

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, "Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John" (although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized), he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus

answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

SERMON

"Things Have Changed"

Steve Boczenowski

\*HYMN

*Be Thou My Vision*

No. 339

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

*Encounter at Jacob's Well*

Rex Koury

\*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)

**All that we present to you now, O God, we have received from your hand. We give so the hungry may eat and the thirsty may receive pure water. We share to send the good news of your love to those who are in need of hearing it. We invest in just causes, that your mercy may be known among all people. We give because passing on your gifts is what makes us happy, whole, and renewed. Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*We welcome all people to join in receiving this sacrament. Children may participate at the discretion of their parents.*

### CALL TO COMMUNION

One: God be with you.  
**Many: And also with you.**  
One: Lift up your hearts.  
**Many: We lift them to God.**  
One: Let us give thanks to God most high.  
**Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION and CONSECRATING PRAYER

#### SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*Communion at CCA is open to anyone who would like to partake. When you receive the bread, eat at your own pace, symbolizing our individual relationship with God. When you receive the juice, drink with the whole congregation, symbolizing our communion as the Body of Christ. The bread is gluten, egg, and dairy free and the juice is non-alcoholic, so that there may be no barriers to Christ's table.*

#### ORGAN MEDITATION

*A Prayer Ascending*

Lani Smith

*The Soul at Peace*

David Paxton

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

**Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this Bread and the drinking of this Cup give us courage to speak and act with love, not only in church sanctuaries, but out in your precious world. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and may we become your compassionate and safe refuge for all. Amen**

\*HYMN

*For All the Saints*

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\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*Festive Toccata*

Matthew McConnell

*(\*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service  
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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. 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](mailto: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](http://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

Shellie Brook

Steve Boczenowski

Michael Havay

Russ Demarest

Steve Boczenowski, Roger Hooper, Sally Hooper, Gail Wiegand

Andrea Cyr

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Student Pastor

Guest Preacher

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Deacons

Videoographer

**RALLY DAY IS SEPTEMBER 8!** We hope you will be with us as we celebrate the start of our new church program year. Church school resumes and the Chancel Choir will be back singing in worship.

Everyone is invited to **bring your school backpacks or work bags** for a special Back to School blessing offered by our pastors during the service.

After worship, please join us for our annual **all-church picnic**. Our Fellowship Team will be cooking up hamburgers and hot dogs, and we ask that folks who are able to contribute to please bring a side, salad or dessert to share. All ages welcome, and a donation of \$5/adult, \$10 / family to help with costs will be gratefully accepted. This year we are happy to have face painting and a clown making balloon animals. This is a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships and make new ones while enjoying good food and fun games.

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for September 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!

**CHURCH SCHOOL RESUMES:** We are excited for a new year of church school **beginning next Sunday, September 8**. All children in preschool through grade 7 are invited to join us each Sunday. The 2024-2025 Church School Registration Form must be completed for each child. Forms will be available on Rally Sunday, or you can download one from the church website. If you have any questions, please contact Larissa Riley, Director of Youth Ministries, at churchschool@ccamherst.org.

### Financial Summary

(as of July 31, 2024)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$117,000	\$117,995	\$ (995)
Expenses	\$ 72,856	\$ 75,526	\$(2,670)
Net Income	\$ 44,144	\$ 42,469	\$ 1,675

*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: Ken Bell (Treasurer), Paul Spiess, Doug Topliffe, and Todd Whitney.*



**NO FALL GOOD STUFF SALE, BUT FAIR TREASURES ARE WANTED:** 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.

However, we are accepting items suitable for our Holiday Fair's Treasures Table. Treasures items can be dropped off in the church vestry on Sunday or Monday mornings, beginning Sept. 8th. Please call Theresa van Ham at 603-654-6445 with any questions about Treasures donations.

**WA MONDAY MEETINGS RESUME:** The weekly Monday Morning Workshops of the Woman's Association will resume on September 9, beginning at 10:00 in the church vestry. The workshops are informal meetings at which members and friends of the WA gather to plan events, such as the upcoming Holiday Fair, work on projects, 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.

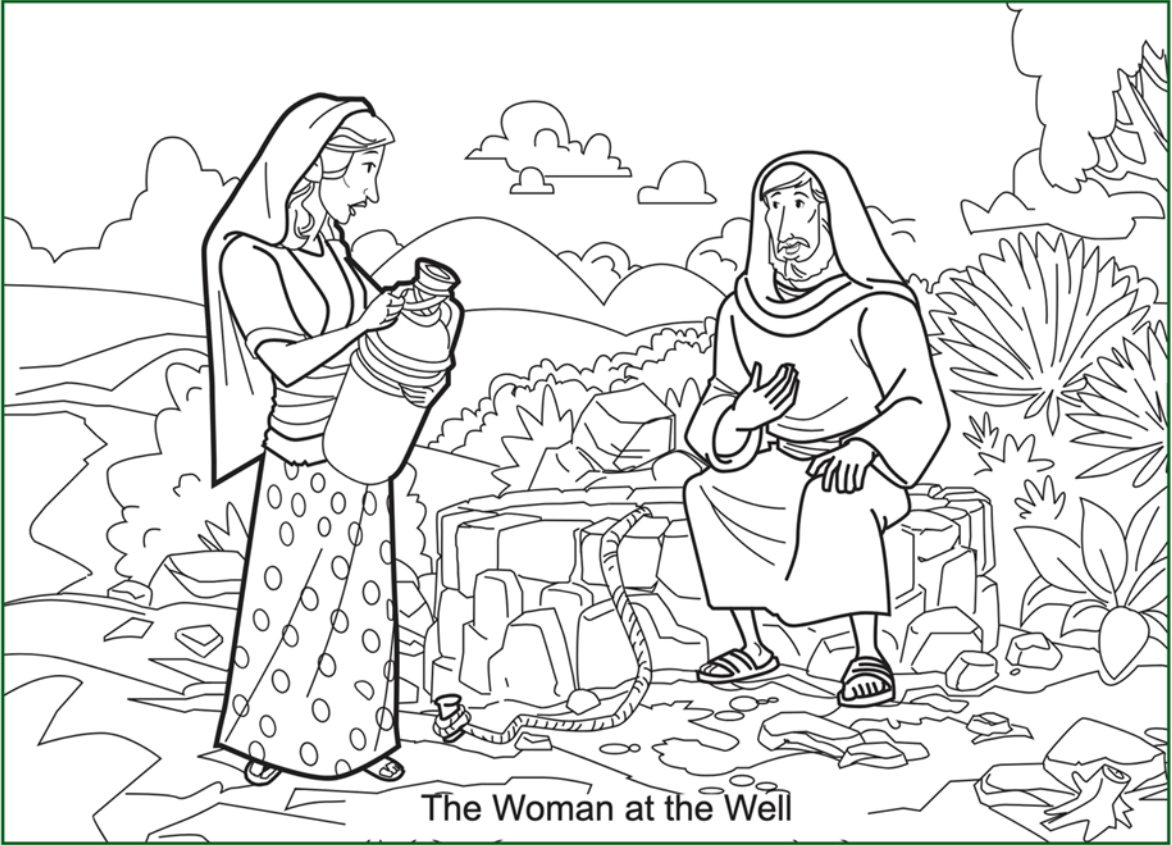
All church and community women are welcome to attend on any Monday. Anyone with questions about the Woman's Association or the workshop can contact Adrienne Topliffe at 673-7436 or abtopliffe@gmail.com.

### **Our Church Calendar**

#### **September 1—7, 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
Tuesday	4:30 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir



The Woman at the Well

*Sunday, September 1, 2024*