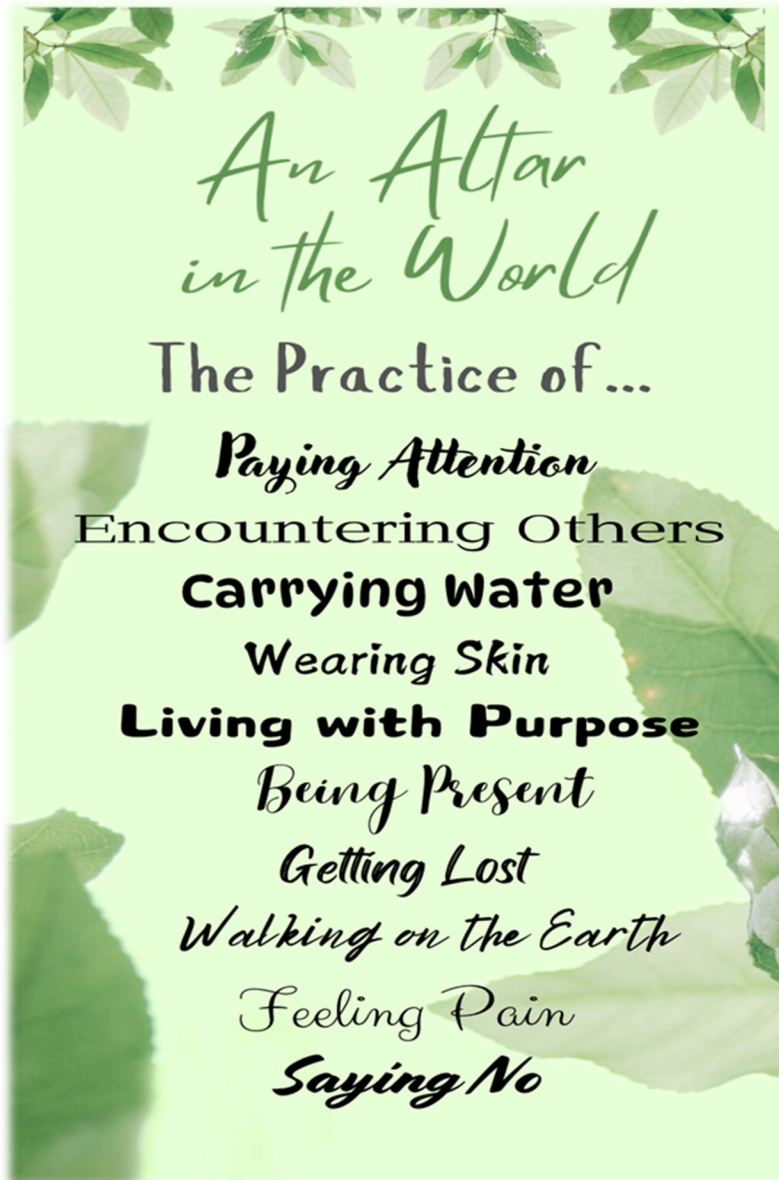


The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Amherst, New Hampshire



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 15, 2024

AN ALTAR IN THE WORLD

10:00 a.m.

The Practice of Paying Attention

GATHERING CHIMES

Let us be gathered in silence so that we may prepare to worship.

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Psalm 19 (The heavens declare the glory of God)

Benedetto Marcello/
Théodore Dubois

INTROIT

*GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: We welcome all seeking to know our Creator God!

Many: All are welcome here!

One: If you are faithful and hopeful...

Many: Welcome!

One: If you are questioning and doubtful...

Many: Welcome!

One: If you are confident and courageous...

Many: Welcome!

One: If you are hesitant and cautious...

Many: Welcome!

We are here to worship together!

*HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth
verses 1, 2 3 & 4 only

No. 473

WELCOMING GOD'S PRESENCE
The congregation may be seated.

All: Always Present God, you are all around us.

Left: You are in the sunrise.

Right: You are in the sunset.

Left: You are in the rainstorm.

Right: You are in the rainbow.

Left: You are in our joy.

Right: You are in our sorrow.

Left: You are in our scriptures and literature.

Right: You are in our art and music.

Left: You are in our work and service.

Right: You are in our play and passions.

Left: You are in each one of us.

Right: You are here with us now.

All: Creating God, we welcome your Spirit among us!

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH "God Sightings"

ANTHEM

Unto the Hills I Will Lift My Eyes
Chancel Choir

Lloyd Larson

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE and REFLECTION

"The Practice of Paying Attention"

Exodus 3:1-5

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

1 Kings 19:9-13

And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" So he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for your children have forsaken your covenant, torn down your altars, and killed your prophets. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life." Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

Psalm 65:5-13

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,
O God of our salvation;
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas.

Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

You visit the earth and water it;
you greatly enrich it;
you provide the people with grain,
for so you have prepared it.
You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.

You crown the year with your bounty.
The pastures of the wilderness overflow;
the hills gird themselves with joy;
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks;
the valleys deck themselves with grain;
they shout and sing together for joy.

SHARING OUR GOD SIGHTINGS

All are invited to come forward with their God Sightings, Prayer Cards, and Offerings.

MUSIC FOR OUR OFFERING

Holy Now
Rev. Shayna Appel, guitar

Peter Mayer

SHARING OUR PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker,
Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom we find heaven:
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
May the way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
May your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
May your peace and freedom sustain our hope here on earth!
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
May you reign in the power of human love,
Now and forever.
Amen.

*HYMN

God Reigns o'er All the Earth

inside back page 11

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

A Celebration of Praise

James Denton

(*Please rise in body or spirit.)

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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. **The next new member informational sessions will be held October 24 and October 30.** New members will be formally received on Sunday, November 10. 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.
- Our church nursery is staffed and available 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 in the community room for a time of fellowship after the worship service. Coffee and beverages are offered.
- 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, Wednesday and Friday 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
 Sara L. Phelps
 Michael Havay
 Russ Demarest
 Steve Boczenowski, John Swanson
 Sally Bowkett, Rev. Shayna Appel, Reid Cunningham
 Don and Susan Holden
 Alison and Xander Batey
 Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World
 Senior Pastor
 Director of Music
 Organist/Accompanist
 Deacon in Charge
 Deacons
 Liturgists
 Ushers
 Greeters
 Videographer

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
 Kelly Isaacs, Deb Boczenowski
 Larissa Riley, Linda Lannin
 Dave Hagerstrom
 Gretchen Davis

Director of Youth Ministries
 Teachers, Preschool /Kindergarten
 Teachers, Grades 1 to 4
 Teacher, Grades 5 to 7
 Nursery Attendant

THE YOUTH CHOIR meets today in the vestry after worship. Come and sing with us!

CHURCH SCHOOL HAS RESUMED and we are excited for the new program year. 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.

If you have any questions, please contact Larissa Riley, Director of Youth Ministries, at churchschool@ccamherst.org.

Financial Summary (as of August 31, 2024)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$137,149	\$145,809	\$ (8,660)
Expenses	\$104,444	\$106,883	\$ (2,439)
Net Income	\$ 32,705	\$ 38,926	\$ (6,221)

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), Don Lyon, Paul Spiess, Doug Topliffe, and Todd Whitney.

THE CHURCH IN THE VILLAGE: It has been two years since we printed *The Church in the Village: Stories About Its People and Its History* and it was a sellout! The book is a compilation of 55 articles that Anne Krantz wrote and were printed monthly in the *Spire* over several years.

Several people have indicated interest in purchasing a copy so we are considering a reprint. If you are interested, please contact Sue Spiess (susan.spiess@gmail.com) so we can gauge the number to order.

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.

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!

WA MONDAY MEETINGS: The weekly Monday Morning Workshops of the Woman's Association have resumed meeting, Mondays at 10:00 a.m. 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 15—21, 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
	11:15 a.m.	Youth Choir
	11:30 a.m.	Christian Ed
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Communications
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday AM Adult Ed
	6:00 p.m.	Budget & Finance Team
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir

Wednesday Morning Adult Ed Series

***Banned, Burned, and Buried:
The Books NOT in the Bible***

**begins Wednesday, September 18
10:00-11:30 a.m. on Zoom**



The Gospel of Thomas, The Gospel of Mary, The Gospel of Judas – Why are these gospels not in our Bible? What about the Book of Enoch, the Wisdom of Solomon, and the Apocalypse of Peter? Why were these books and others like them considered to be controversial or heretical, and worthy only of inclusion in a supplemental “apocrypha” or left out of the Bible altogether?

This fall, we’ll begin a year-long video lecture series delving into the “lost” books of the Bible. We’ll look at the books of the Old Testament that are in some Bibles but not in others – including stories of giants, dragons, and fallen angels. We’ll explore the “Gnostic” gospels and other writings NOT in our New Testament – that offer alternative understandings of who Jesus was, who and what God is, and what our spiritual purpose is as created beings.

In each session, we’ll watch a video together as a group and then have a discussion facilitated by Pastor Maureen. The class will meet every first and third Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. from September through May on Zoom All are welcome! Email pastormaureen@ccamherst.org to receive the Zoom link, or access the link on our church website in the Members Section under “Wednesday Adult Ed.”

MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 22:

The Concord (NH) Multicultural Festival is a vibrant event that celebrates the rich diversity of the city. Their mission is to promote cultural understanding and appreciation through a variety of programs and events, including art demonstrations, music and dance performances, and more. They welcome everyone to come and experience the beauty and wonder of many cultures. The event takes place on Sunday, September 22 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Keach Park, 7 Newton Ave, Concord, NH.

For more information, visit the festival’s website concordnhmulticulturalfestival.org.

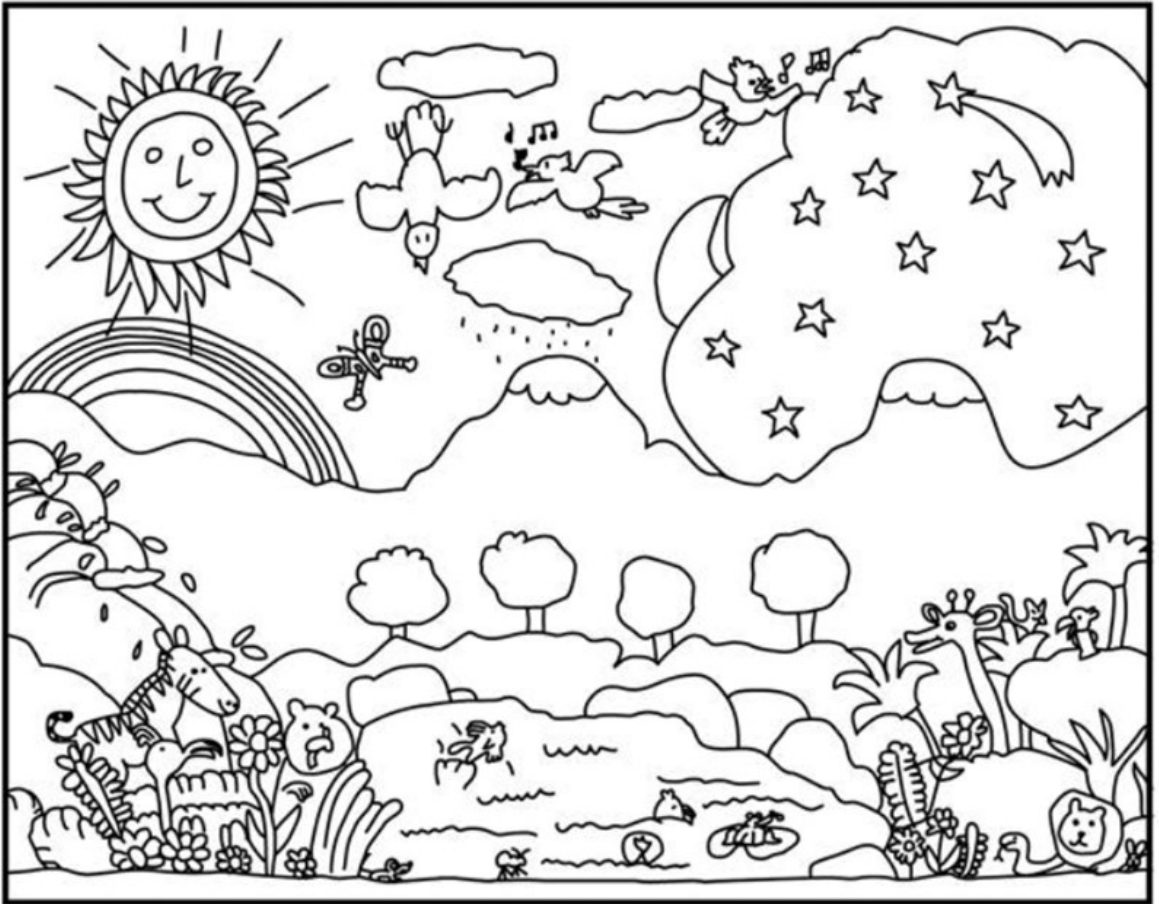
TWILIGHT HIKE AND GHOSTLY TALES:

Sponsored by the Amherst Parks and Recreation Department, and just in time for Fall fun and Halloween spooks! Join local author and educator Susanna Hargreaves on a Twilight hike ending with a bonfire gathering with ghostly tales and smore’s. Learn about the Abenaki and how their ghostly legends still echo through forests of Amherst. This program is for all ages, Saturday, October 5 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., Peabody Mill Environmental Center. Fees apply.

For more information, visit the town’s website:

[amherstnh.myrec.com/info/activities/
program_details.aspx?
ProgramID=29245#145833](http://amherstnh.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29245#145833)

God is with you wherever you go!



Sunday, September 15, 2024



*I can set a little altar, in the world
or in my heart.
I can stop what I am doing
long enough to see where I am,
who I am there with,
and how awesome the place is.
I can flag one more gate to heaven—
one more patch of ordinary earth—
where the divine traffic is heavy,
when I notice it and even when I do not.
I can see it for once,
instead of walking right past it,
maybe even setting a stone
or saying a blessing
before I move on
to wherever I am due next.*

— Barbara Brown Taylor

