

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



“If there were no internal propensity to unite, even at a rudimentary level — indeed in the molecule itself — it would be physically impossible for love to appear higher up, with us, in hominized form. Driven by the forces of love, the fragments of the world seek each other so that the world may come into being.”

— Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, (Jesuit priest, philosopher, paleontologist)

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."*

October 6, 2024

Twentieth 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

All Creatures of Our God and King

Don Hustad

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP and PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: Creating God,
your Spirit moved on the waters of the universe —

Many: and there was light, and land, and sky.

One: Creating God,
your Spirit moved on the waters of our world —

Many: and there were fish, and birds, and us.

One: Creating God,
your Spirit moves on the waters of baptism—

Many: and there is connection, and community, and covenant.

One: Creating God,
your Spirit moves in all that we do in your name.

**Many: May your light and love flow through us today,
as we remember that we are created in your image!**

*HYMN

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

No. 288

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

Nora Frele Rapanut

Scriptural Setting

Questions of Commitment

Response of Members and Friends (in unison)

We receive Nora as a new person in Christ. We offer our guidance, understanding, and support as she continues to explore and learn about our world as a child of God. We enfold her in our love, seeking together to grow in wisdom and grace, with God's help. We join with her parents and her family in telling the Gospel in our midst, so that we may all live for Christ, showing forth God's love for all people. Amen.

Pouring of the Water

The Act of Baptism

Prayer of Blessing

Presentation of Baptism Certificate

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

ANTHEM

When Angels Sing
Chancel Choir

Mark Miller

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 8

O Lord, our Sovereign,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouths of babes and infants

you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,

to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars that you have established;

what are humans that you are mindful of them,

mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God

and crowned them with glory and honor.

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You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SERMON "All Creatures Great and Small"

*HYMN *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry* insert,
back pages 10 & 11

JOYS AND CONCERNS

If you have a prayer to share, fill out a prayer card in your pew. Cards will be collected by one of the pastors during the hymn after the sermon, and will be shared during Joys and Concerns.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC *How Great Thou Art: Meditation* Stuart K. Hine/
Janet Linker

*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)

We thank you, O God, for the opportunity to share in your creative and restorative work among your people. Because you have given to us, we have much to give. May these gifts bring comfort to those who walk in uncertainty, hope to those who live in despair, and a healing balm to those who long for grace. May these offerings express our gratitude and our aspiration to be more fully the body of Christ. Amen.

*HYMN

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

No. 285

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Reformation Fanfare: A Mighty Fortress

Martin Luther/
Fenton Groden

*(*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. **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
Shellie Brook
Sara L. Phelps
Michael Havay
John Swanson
Roger Hooper, Sally Hooper
Stephen and Joan Egbertson
Keith and Courtney English
Tim Wiegand

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

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
Kelly Isaacs
Larissa Riley
Dave Hagerstrom
Gretchen Davis

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

WE REJOICE TODAY in the baptism of Nora Frele Rapanut, daughter of Bradley Rapanut and Rebecca Frele. Nora's sponsors are Adam Hawkins and Kimberly Smith.

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

LEVI SUNDAY: Fall is upon us and trees are dropping their colorful leaves again. Time for another Levi Sunday, this year planned for November 3 right after worship.

We have a number of outdoor projects planned including leaf raking and general lawn and grounds clean up. Everyone is invited to come out and help. Please bring your favorite rake and tools to help accomplish the jobs you would like to help with. Many hands make light work! Hope to see you there.



Congregational Meeting October 13, 2024 following the worship service

A special Congregational Meeting is being called for Sunday, October 13, 2024 for the purpose of voting on the 2024 Pastoral Search Team's recommendation to call the Rev. Charlotte Bell to be the church's new settled part-time Associate Pastor. As this is an important decision for the congregation, the Pastoral Search Team is asking all who are able to attend.

The meeting will be held in the sanctuary directly after worship. Church school children will return the sanctuary to join their parents during the meeting. Remote viewing or voting will not be supported for this meeting, in-person attendance will be required to cast your vote.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED: In 2024, the Neighbors in Need theme is **“Mental Health Justice For All!”** This year’s focus is on Mental Health Justice. In 2015, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health.

A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life’s mental health journey.

This appeal will run for the month of October. To donate, visit our Online Giving page or send a check to the church office (11 Church St., Amherst, NH 03031) with *Neighbors in Need* in the memo line.

We thank you for your support and generosity.

EXPLORING ANTIRACISM POTLUCK LUNCH: The Anti-Racism Ministries Group (ARMg) of the NH Conference, United Church of Christ and the Racial Justice Team (RJT) at the Congregational Church of Amherst, UCC, invite all people interested in anti-racism to a potluck lunch and discussion of the many ways we can be involved in the mission and ministry of promoting anti-racism in our church and community. It will take place on Sunday, October 20, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. in the Community Room. A short program and discussion will follow the potluck lunch. This potluck lunch activity is open to any church member, neighbor, extended family, or any person interested in learning more about anti-racism in our community and our world.

Please RSVP to Linda Lannin (linda.lannin1@gmail.com) or Bruce Kinney (bruce.a.kinney@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining us on October 20! Linda is a member of the RJT, Bruce is a member of the ARMg, and both are members of the CCA. Either will be happy to answer any questions you might have. Thank you so much for your consideration.

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.

Our Church Calendar

October 6—12, 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.	Small Group
Ministry	12:00 p.m.	Junior Youth Group
	6:00 p.m.	Senior Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	WA Board
	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Congregational Care
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Memorial Service for Mary Howe

Caring for God's Creation



TRICK OR TREAT: Trick or Treat on Halloween in the Amherst village is a fun, slightly chaotic night, bringing lots of ghosts, goblins and other scary (and not-so-scary) beings into town. Once again, our church is participating in the activity in the village by passing out candy. Since we can easily see upwards of 1000 children, we are in need of lots of fun-sized candy.

We recognize that candy is not for everyone, and so we also hope to have a few small items to give out as an alternative to candy: think party favors such as glow sticks, small coloring books, pencils, stickers, etc. Thank you so much for your generosity!

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for October include canned ham, canned meats/tuna/chicken, mac and cheese, pasta (all sorts), Progresso and Chunky soups. 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!

Sunday, October 6, 2024

When Angels Sing

*Within each lifetime an angel's voice is heard;
Celestial sounds pierce time and space.
For just a moment, the breathless beauty
Of heaven's song reveals God's grace.*

*Peace in our hearts, peace when angels sing.
Peace, be still and listen heart.
Listen when angels sing.*

*Despite our sorrow, the dawn brings life anew,
And raging storms begin to cease.
For just a moment, the breathless beauty
Of heaven's song brings us peace.*