

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



*"I think that when you invite people to your home,  
you invite them to yourself."*

—Oprah Winfrey

# 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 13, 2024

Twenty-first 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

*Reflection on "Love Unknown"*

John Ireland/  
David Lasky

INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

One: We gather to worship together.

**Many: Different people, different lives, different histories.**

One: Yet all children of the same Parent,

**Many: Created lovingly by the Source of all life!**

One: We gather to reconnect with one another,

**Many: Different people, different lives, different histories.**

One: Yet all disciples of the one Teacher,

**Many: Jesus, the Word made flesh, dwelling among us.**

One: We gather with different joys and sorrows, different hopes and fears,

**Many: Different people, different lives, different histories.**

One: Yet one people with one God, one faith, one baptism.

**All: Let us open ourselves to the presence of God at work in us, among us, and through us.**

\*HYMN

*Lord, You Give the Great Commission*  
verses 1, 2, 3 & 5 only

No. 429

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

**Our Creator, how could we possibly not thank you for the Earth you have given to us! With joy we praise you for the high mountains and their trees, for the rushing waters of the rivers, and for the forest so luxuriant in foliage. Still more, we praise you for our siblings around the world. We thank you for their gifts and witness, as they share and receive the Good News of your Son. Challenge us, God, to find the ways of presence, mutuality, and collaboration. In our commitment to unity, justice, and peace everywhere in the world, 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.**

\*GLORIA PATRI

**Glorify to the Creator, and to the Christ, and Holy Spirit, One;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

### 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: The communion of saints, called from the entire human family, is united by God.

**Many: As the people of God, we love one another.**

One: We experience, practice, and pursue community with one another.

**Many: We give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another.**

One: We are a benefit and blessing to one another.

**Many: We share one faith and have one calling.**

One: We are one body, and are of one soul and mind.

**Many: We have one God and Creator.**

One: We are filled with one Spirit.

**Many: We eat of one bread and drink of one cup.**

One: We work for unity with the people from our community, and the rest of the world.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION PRAYER

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### BREAKING OF THE BREAD, POURING OF THE CUP

### CONSECRATING PRAYER

### SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*Communion at CCA is open to anyone who would like to partake. Children may receive at the discretion of their parents. 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

*Bread of the World*

J.S.B. Hodges/Todd Kendall

*Take This Bread, Take This Cup*

Edward Broughton

### COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

**Eternal God, we thank you for your presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. By the power of your Holy Spirit, unite us with all whom Christ welcomes, that we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

### ANTHEM

*Let Us Break Bread Together*  
Chancel Choir

Jay Althouse

### \*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

### SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

### THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 14:15-24

One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.' "

SERMON "You Are Invited and All Are Welcome"

\*HYMN *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* No. 438

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 one of the pastors during the hymn after the sermon, and will be shared during Joys and Concerns.*

CHORAL RESPONSE

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC *For Communion* Thomas Tallis/  
Dennis Eliot

\*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)

**God of every good and perfect gift, as we offer our gifts, the gifts that symbolize our lives before you, may we also recognize that our gifts are only what you, O God, have first given us. May we learn a generosity of spirit through our reading of scripture, as we examine the holy lives you have touched. May the example of these holy ones inspire in us a life of generosity. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

\*HYMN *O Jesus, I Have Promised* No. 388  
verses 1, 2 & 3 only

\*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE *Recessional on "Lobe den Herren"* Dan R. Edwards

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

# 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](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  
Rev. Charlotte Bell  
Shellie Brook  
Sara L. Phelps  
Michael Havay  
John Swanson  
Steve Boczenowski, Kathleen Bouchard,  
Sally Bowkett, Gail Wiegand  
Don and Susan Holden  
Patricia Bodan

### Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor  
Candidating Pastor  
Student Pastor  
Director of Music  
Organist/Accompanist  
Deacon in Charge

Deacons  
Greeters  
Videographer

\*\*\*\*\*

## LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley  
Sue Werst  
Larissa Riley  
Dave Hagerstrom  
Deb Boczenowski, Sheryl Gottwald  
Gretchen Davis

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

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are in loving memory of Mary Howe, whose memorial service was held here yesterday in our sanctuary.

**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.

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



## 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.

## **Banned, Burned, and Buried: The Books NOT in the Bible Continues Wednesday, October 16 10:00-11:30 a.m. on Zoom**



This fall, we began a year-long video lecture series delving into the “lost” books of the Bible.

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. We’ll also 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.

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. on Zoom. All are welcome! Email [pastormaureen@ccamherst.org](mailto:pastormaureen@ccamherst.org) to receive the Zoom link, or to receive links to the videos we’re watching if you’re unable to participate in the class.

**NEW MEMBER INFO SESSIONS:** Are you NEW (or not-so-new) to our church and interested in learning more about our congregation? Are you interested in learning more about becoming a member? Do you want to know more about the United Church of Christ? If so, please join us for one of our INFO SESSIONS on either Thursday, October 24 or Wednesday, October 30 at 7:00 p.m. to learn more about all of the above! The sessions will be held on ZOOM to make it easier for all to attend.

For those who’ve already joined our mailing list and/or inquired about becoming a member, you’ll be hearing from us soon! If you’ve joined us for our in-person or online worship over the last year and are interested in attending one of our info sessions, please reach out to Andrea in our church office at [andrea@ccamherst.org](mailto:andrea@ccamherst.org) or contact Pastor Maureen at [pastormaureen@ccamherst.org](mailto:pastormaureen@ccamherst.org).

**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 Anti-Racism Potluck Lunch** **Sunday, October 20 at 1:00 p.m.**

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 at the Congregational Church of Amherst. 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.

The ARMg has been working on a menu of actions that individuals, small groups, and entire congregations can do to humbly increase relationships between people of European descent (white people) and people who are Black, Indigenous, or other Peoples of Color (BIPOC). We believe that as friendships and relationships between these races/ethnicities/cultures blossom, deepen, and prosper, that attitudes and beliefs about each other will change for the better. Knowledge and understanding will grow and as a result, racism will diminish.

Please RSVP to Linda Lannin ([linda.lannin1@gmail.com](mailto:linda.lannin1@gmail.com)) or Bruce Kinney ([bruce.a.kinney@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**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!

## ***Why Church?***

Second Hour Discussion  
Sunday, October 27 at 11:30 a.m.



Why is being a part of a church community important to you?

What role do church communities play in today's world?

What will the church look like in years to come?

After worship on October 27, join us for a **Second Hour discussion at 11:30 a.m.** as we share our responses to the question, "Why Church?" and explore how widening our welcome may invite others to be "church" along with us. The discussion will be facilitated by Pastor Maureen and members of our WOW Team.

### **All are welcome!**

Lunch and childcare will be provided.

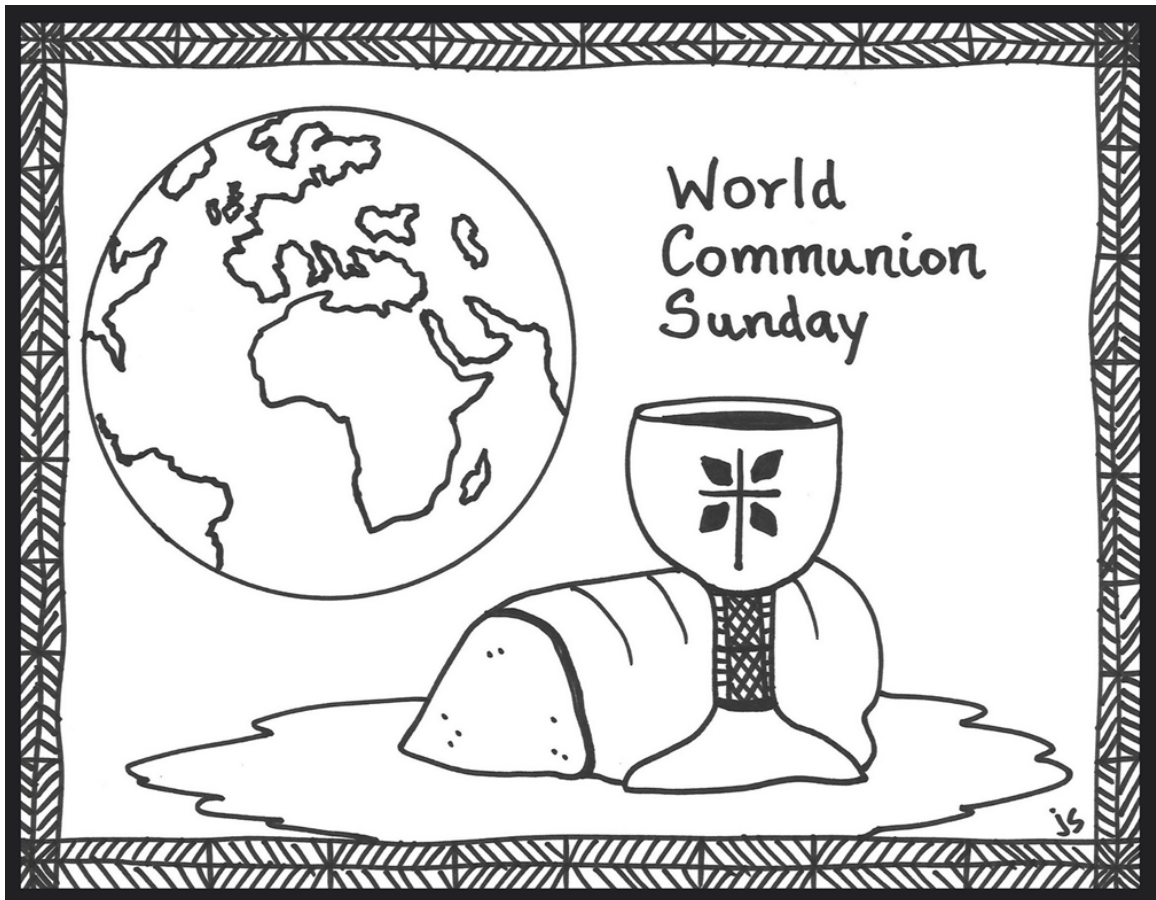
Please RSVP to [pastormaureen@ccamherst.org](mailto:pastormaureen@ccamherst.org)  
to ensure we have enough space and lunch for all!

## **Our Church Calendar**

**October 13—19, 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. | Congregational Meeting |
|           | 11:30 a.m. | Fellowship             |
| Monday    | 10:00 a.m. | WA Workshop            |
| Tuesday   | 7:00 p.m.  | Communications Team    |
| 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          |



*Sunday, October 13, 2024*