

The Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Amherst, New Hampshire

# VILLAGE SPIRE

June 2017



## *Our Heritage Sunday Celebration*



May 21 was a special day as the church wrapped up a year-long celebration of the church's 1741 founding. The Heritage Sunday morning worship service included recognition of those in attendance by the decade in which they became involved with the church – all the way back to the 1950's. Special music included a hymn penned by a former pastor of the church and the singing of the *Hallelujah Chorus*, completed by George Friedrich Handel in 1741.

At the reception following the worship service, members and guests enjoyed greeting each other, looking at the exhibit of historic photos and documents assembled by church historian Anne Krantz, and partaking of the special celebratory refreshments, including an anniversary cake.

Following the reception, attendees reassembled in the sanctuary to hear from speakers who shed light on the history of the church building, which, although not dating back to 1741, was constructed in 1774. Dr. James Garvin, former architectural historian for the New Hampshire Historical Society, shared with the group the role of the meetinghouse in 18<sup>th</sup> century New England towns and pointed out the distinctive architectural and construction features of the Amherst church.

Also adding to the program was Steve Fifield whose company did the structural restoration work to the building in 1999-2000, including the removal and refurbishing of the church's steeple. The restoration work included repair and reinforcement of the building's framework to assure its continued presence on the Amherst village green.

Those attending the presentation were invited to climb to the attic to see parts of the original church structure and to better understand the amazing talent of the original builders of the church (without modern tools!) and of those who have carefully rebuilt and restored the building over the years.

Thanks go to Anne Krantz and her committee who made the history of the church come to life through the displays, the speakers and the tours, and who helped us – along with former members and other visitors – to celebrate our remarkable history.



## VILLAGE SPIRE

A Parish Newsletter  
Editor, Andrea Cyr

The Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
11 Church Street  
Amherst, NH 03031

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
Church school and nursery care available.

How to reach us:  
Office Phone (603) 673-3231  
[www.ccamherst.org](http://www.ccamherst.org)  
[Facebook.com/ccamherst](https://www.facebook.com/ccamherst)

The church office  
is open Monday–Friday,  
from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Send in all news by the  
15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Announcements  
for the Sunday bulletins  
are due Thursdays.

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### OUR CHURCH STAFF:

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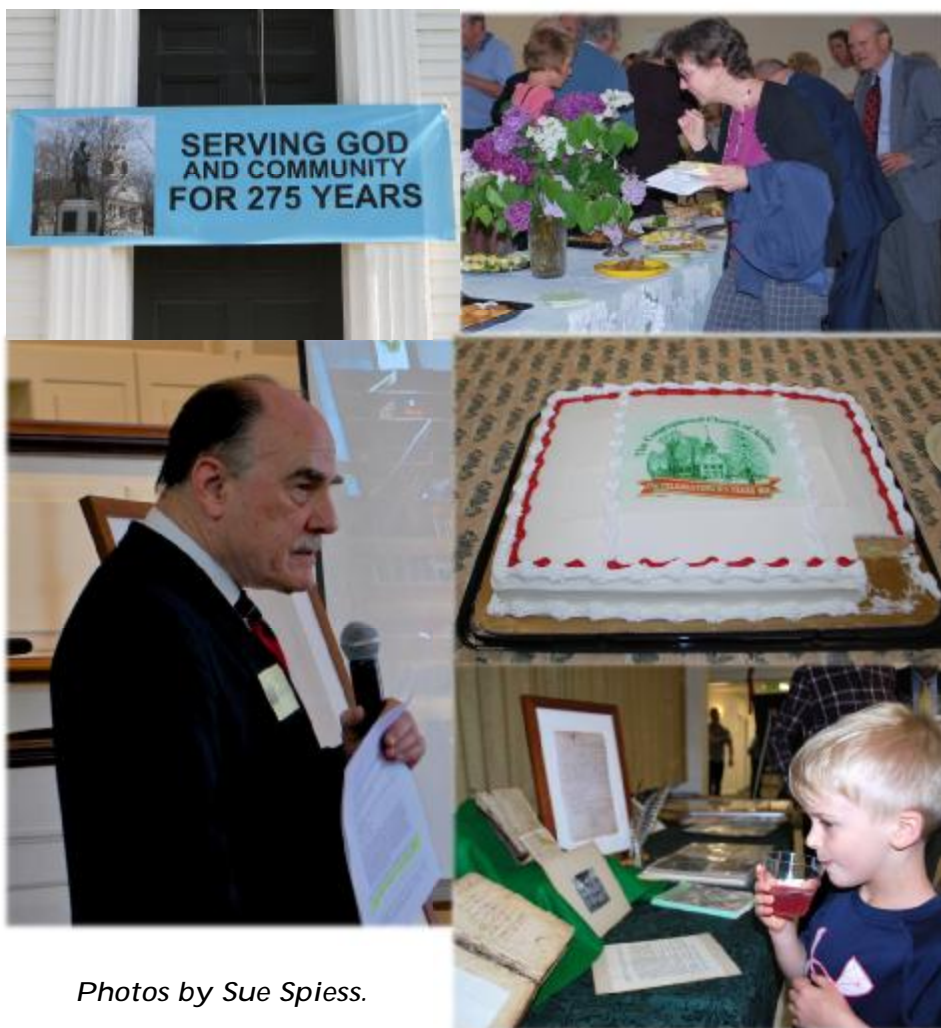
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## Heritage Sunday Photos



L-R: Pastor Dick Leavitt, Anne Krantz, James Garvin, Steve Fifield



Photos by Sue Spiess.



## The Peace of Wild Things

Rev. Richard G. Leavitt, Senior Pastor  
June 2017

The recent terrorist attack in Manchester, England at the conclusion of an Ariana Grande concert has reverberated across the western world. It was horrific, repugnant and cowardly! All terrorism is barbaric. But this attack in particular is so heinous because it targeted children, young teens and their families out for an enjoyable evening of music. A terrorist act is designed to strike horror and fear into the hearts of far more people than the blast can directly kill or maim by itself. Terrorists are especially depraved because they target the most vulnerable and innocent in order to magnify their impact. The anxiety mushrooms to include individuals or groups gathered anywhere and everywhere. The random nature makes us wonder about our own vulnerability and we worry, "Could something like that happen to me and my children or grandchildren?" The rational answer is, not likely. The odds are extremely small that any of us will be physically injured in a terrorist incident when we look at the actual number of attacks, deaths and people wounded. But the repercussions on our collective psyche and the perceived threat to our personal security are troubling indeed.

I was pleased to see a huge rally by the residents of Manchester following that deadly blast. That night they opened their homes to welcome stranded survivors following the concert. The next day they gathered in solidarity for the victims of that attack and their grieving families. They rallied for support of civil society. They rallied against the knee-jerk reaction to strike back, escalating prejudice and hatred. And they gathered to counteract the rampant fear that terrorists rely upon in order to make their pitiful tactics effective. Great Britain is no stranger to terrorism. At the height of the Irish rebellion there were attacks on innocent people all the time. During World War II, London and the other industrial areas of England were besieged almost nightly by Nazi buzz bombs which were dropped indiscriminately upon innocent civilians. They know how to support one another and how to stand up to terror.

It's naïve to believe that if we just turn away or bury our heads in our prayer books we can stop these cowardly acts of violence. We need to combat the threat of terrorism through counter-intelligence, through diplomatic dialogue, through cross-cultural understanding, and via a commitment to peace with justice in the most destabilized regions of the world. These efforts do not happen overnight. They involve re-prioritizing people and resources, complex training, and continuous resolve. But every effort is essential for an increasingly globalized co-existence where we can all live in peace.

In the meantime, while we are all doing our part to promote peace, I strongly advocate prayer, poetry, and an encounter with wild things to calm the soul. In these unsure times, or in any time of existential anxiety great or small, take heart with these words from poet, writer, activist and farmer Wendell Berry:

*The Peace of Wild Things*  
by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Grace and peace,

*Dick*



During the month of June our Sunday worship time remains at 10:00 a.m. For the Sundays in July and August our worship service begins at 9:00 a.m.

Our church office moves to its summer schedule beginning June 12: open Wednesdays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and closed Saturdays through Tuesdays.

Our monthly newsletter takes a break for the month of July; articles to be published in the August *Spire* are due in to the church office by July 15.

## Octogenarian Ladies

The "Gifted Ladies" of 80 years or more will meet on Thursday, June 22 at 1:30 p.m.



in the church parlor for light refreshments and conversation. This month we will examine the effect of life's stages on our lives.

Come join us and bring your wisdom and humor, two of the many gifts of growing older.

The group will meet through the summer on July 27 and August 24. Mark your calendars!

**A Look at the Woman's Association's  
Annual Meeting and Luncheon  
May 23, 2017**



*Flights of  
Spring & Fancy*



## How to Win Some \$\$\$ and Support Your Church at the Same Time

HOW? Purchase a \$20 raffle ticket today.

WHAT DO I WIN? You have a chance to win one of ten prizes valued from \$500 - \$5,000.

COUPONS: Your ticket has a coupon for \$20 at any of Giorgio's locations when you spend \$50 or more on dinner (alcohol not included), valid until 8/31/17. Also coupons for Shattuck Paving and a full-service oil change!

HOW DOES THIS BENEFIT MY CHURCH? \$10 of every \$20 ticket sold goes to the Congregational Church of Amherst UCC.

PLUS ... if you purchase a ticket for the church (write their name on the ticket), it could be the grand prize winner!!

DRAWING DATE: Friday, July 28, 2017

This is a fundraising effort of the Milford Rotary Club in conjunction with 100 Holes of Golf in One Day.

## History Tours for Amherst Third Graders May 10, 2017



Thanks to many expert tour guides: Anita and John Swanson, Roger Hooper, Bob Gibson, Fay Deysher and Carol Lyon, and greeters Pastor Dick and Historian Anne Krantz, six Wilkins School third grade classes visited the sanctuary on May 10 for a tour. Highlights included history of the meetinghouse, clock tower and steeple, a look at the organ, a few selected bell, ringers and a peek up the tower stairs. 275 years of history condensed into 30 minutes!



Once a month, our groups come together in covenant for a time of sharing and discussion. In June, our topic is "Jesus: Saving the World." This is the last in our "I Love to Tell the Story" series, where we've focused on the stories of the people in our Bible, and how they relate to our own stories. We've saved the "Greatest Story" for last. How might the story of Jesus intersect with our own? Is it even possible for us to follow his example, and live up to God's expectation that we be servants to each other and love and care one another? Do our small acts of love and compassion really make a difference? Is it possible for us to save the world?

June Meeting Schedule:

First Tuesday Group  
June 6, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

First Wednesday Group  
June 7, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Second Sunday Group  
June 11, 11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

This will be the last meeting of our small groups before we break for the summer.

If you're interested in joining one of our groups next fall please contact Pastor Maureen at 673-3231 x14 - [pastormaureen@ccamherst.org](mailto:pastormaureen@ccamherst.org).



## Spring Potluck Dinner at the Manchester's Home Saturday, May 6, 2017





## SOS: July 4 Table on the Green



We need your help! Join us as we hand out cookies and church literature at a table on the village green during and after the parade. Pick up a copy of the recipe for simple cut out cookies in the community room, bake and deliver the cookies (2 per baggie if possible) to the church on July 3, or before 9:00 a.m. on July 4. Contact Sue Werst at 759-5344 or [sue-w@pobox.com](mailto:sue-w@pobox.com), or Carol Landon at [carollandon@gmail.com](mailto:carollandon@gmail.com) with questions or to volunteer. Many new families are moving into Amherst, and last year we had many stop by the table with questions. Thanks for your support!

## Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed



Meals on Wheels needs volunteers to deliver meals to homebound senior citizens and disabled adults in communities throughout Hillsborough County. Just a few hours of your assistance on the weekday of your choice from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm can help the elderly and disabled remain healthy and live independently at home. Training is provided. Please call our Assistant Program Manager, Terri , at 603-424-9967 or email [TMcGrew@SJCSinc.org](mailto:TMcGrew@SJCSinc.org). You can visit their website at [www.mealsonwheelsnh.org](http://www.mealsonwheelsnh.org).

## CASA Needs Volunteers

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of New Hampshire is a statewide non-profit organization that recruits and trains concerned citizens to advocate for abused and neglected children in the courts. There are children waiting for someone to speak on their behalf. Your common sense, commitment to children, and a contribution of 10-12 hours a month will help ensure a child grows up in a safe, permanent home. To become a CASA/GAL volunteer and help the children in your community, please call 800-626-0622, or log onto [www.casanh.org](http://www.casanh.org) for more information or to download an application.

## Garden Flowers Wanted for the Altar

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 call Anne Krantz (673-9684) to schedule a Sunday. Thank you for sharing your flower gardens!



## SHARE Food Pantry

The SHARE Food Pantry continues to be busy. Please know your donations are needed and truly appreciated.



June Pantry Requests:  
canned fruit, flour, sugar, boxed mixes, baking supplies, coffee and tea

Donations may be left in the cupboard in the narthex, or in the marked containers near the community room. Thank you for your continuous support!

## A look at the TONS of rummage donated for the most recent Spring Rummage Sale.



The Congregational Church  
11 Church Street  
Amherst, NH 03031

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