

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



*“Raise your words, not voice.
It is rain that grows flowers, not thunder.”*

—Rumi

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

February 9, 2020

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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

On the Wings of the Morning

Anthony Giamanco

INTROIT

Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come and see the works of God,

Many: **God's awesome deeds among us.**

One: Come and hear, all who revere God,

Many: **God's still speaking voice in our weary world.**

One: Come and feel the sacred,

Many: **God's presence in worship, in song and prayer.**

One: Come and know God's call,

Many: **God's hope for us in creation unfolding.**

*HYMN

O Christ, the Great Foundation

No. 443

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

Wonderful God, we trust in Your power, even as it is often found in weakness; in Your wisdom, even as it is expressed in seeming foolishness; in Your wholeness, even as it comes to us amid brokenness. We gather today to celebrate your presence in the lives of all people. Send your Spirit to meet us here and guide us into your depths that we may begin to glimpse your grace: what eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived-- all you have prepared for those who love you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray saying: **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 (Tune #579)

Glory 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Hear My Prayer
Chancel Choir

Moses Hogan

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

SERMON

"Plausible Words of Wisdom"

*HYMN

How Great Thou Art

No. 467

You are invited to write your joys and concerns on the prayer cards in the pews, and pass to the minister to be lifted in prayer at this time.

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Along with our offering collected this morning, we dedicate the generous contributions of those who give monthly or electronically. All of our offerings support the work and witness of Jesus Christ here in this place and in the wider world. Each is given to the glory of God in faithful appreciation for many received blessings. Thanks be to God!

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Wonderful Words of Life

Philip Bliss/
J. Wayne Kerr

*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 (in unison)

We give thanks for all we have received, O God: gifts of love and time, money and abilities. Into these bowls and into this place, we return a portion of these gifts. Bless those who receive them, just as we are blessed in the act of sharing them. Amen.

*HYMN

Ask Me What Great Thing I Know

side page

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

*POSTLUDE

Blessing, Glory, Wisdom, and Thanks

G. G. Wagner/
Rick Parks

(*Indicates that those who are able may stand.)



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AMHERST
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 this morning. Our membership is open to all those who choose to walk with us in our witness. **The next new member orientations will be held March 12 and March 18.** New members will be formally received on Sunday, March 22. Please speak with any of our deacons or pastors should you have any questions regarding our church or our membership.

Worship Notes:

- **Nursery Care** is provided for children ages two and under at the beginning of worship.
- **Church School** is available for children in Pre-K through grade 7 immediately following Children’s Time.
- **Joys and Concerns** may be written on the cards found in the pew racks. Cards will be collected by one of the pastors during the middle hymn and shared during the Prayers of the People.
- **Nametags** – 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.
- **Fellowship** – Please join us in the community room following worship to welcome visitors and friends.
- **Emergencies** – 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 nursery and in the church school.

The church office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Here’s how to reach us: by telephone 673-3231 or 673-6848, or by email andrea@ccamherst.org. If we are unavailable by phone, please feel free to leave a message using the personal directory, 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 at [Facebook.com/ccamherst](https://www.facebook.com/ccamherst).

Grounded in God’s Love—Serving Neighbors Near and Far—Welcoming to All

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church Maureen R. Frescott Katherine R. Kennedy Sara L. Phelps Michael Havay Sally Bowkett Travis, Larissa, James, Nicholas and Grace Riley Hamilton Stewart and Liz MacMillan, Jean Tonnesen, Holly Tonnesen Sally Hooper Marilyn Gibson Heather Stone Shannon Gascoyne Rebekah Bolin Gretchen Davis Dave Hagerstrom Wendy Valeri	Ministers to the World Senior Pastor Associate Pastor Director of Music Organist/Accompanist Deacon In Charge Greeters Ushers Liturgist Church School Coordinator Nursery Coordinator Pre-K/K Church School Teacher Grades 1-2 Church School Teacher Grades 3-4 Church School Teacher Grades 5-7 Church School Teacher Bell Choir Director
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MIDDLE HIGH YOUTH GROUP is starting up this spring! Starting **February 19**, all students in grades 5-7 are welcome to join us every third Wednesday of the month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. In addition to the weekly 5-7 church school class taught by Mr. Hagerstrom, MHYG will be a time set aside for fun, fellowship and service. Pastor Kate, Mr. Hagerstrom and Mrs. Cashins are this year's MHYG leaders, and they have a whole lot of exciting MHYG plans up their sleeves. And as always, friends are more than welcome to join in the fun! For more info, please email pastorkate@ccamherst.org.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: The need is urgent! The next blood drive will be on Friday, **February 28** from noon to 5:00 p.m. in the community room. Appointments are available online by visiting redcrossblood.org, or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

If you would like to help for a couple of hours during the drive, please email Roger Hooper at rhooper673@aol.com.

THE YOUTH CHOIR will rehearse in the vestry after worship. Come sing with us! Questions? Contact Sara Phelps, Director of Music, kalben1@comcast.net.

BEWARE OF FALLING SNOW AND ICE: It is that time of year again when we remind everyone that snow and ice may fall from our roof at any time. Please use caution when in our driveway, and do not walk too close to the building.

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

February 16:	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37
February 23:	Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9



Woman's Association's
Valentines Luncheon
February 10 at 10:00 a.m.

All church women are invited to attend our festive Valentine's potluck luncheon on Monday, February 10 in the church vestry. We will begin with coffee and fellowship at 10:00 a.m. followed by a new program presented by Katrina Holman.

An avid collector of decorative German nutcrackers and angels, she has recently come into possession of a collection of Easter eggs from Eastern Europe. She will show her collection and explain the various techniques for achieving the intricate designs on the hollow egg shells.

After we will enjoy a delicious potluck luncheon buffet. Please contact Adrienne Topliffe (673-7436) if you wish to sign-up to bring a dish.



SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for February include canned fruit, flour, sugar, boxed cake mixes and baking supplies, coffee, tea, juice, and granola. Donations can be left in the SHARE cupboard in the narthex or in the container by the community room entrance. Many thanks for your continuing support!

TRAVEL TOILETRIES! Do you travel a lot? Do you have mini toiletries hanging about your house? The World Service team is enlisting your help to collect mini toiletry products. These will be given to foster children going into foster care, moving foster care homes, attending college, etc. We have included a collection box in the hallway next to the community room. This will be an ongoing project so your help is greatly appreciated!

LENTEN SOUP & STUDY SERIES: Join us in the parlor on four Wednesday evenings during Lent for delicious soup and engaging discussion based on the wonderful book: *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. With Rachel's insight and humor as our guide, we'll wrestle with our doubts, imaginations, and the mysteries of scripture, and discover that the Bible is not a static work but is a living, breathing, captivating, and confounding book that equips to join God's loving work in the world.

We'll gather at 6:30 p.m. for a light supper of soup and bread and the discussion will run from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Pastor Maureen and Pastor Kate will alternate as facilitators of the sessions. **The book is available for purchase for \$10 in the church office.** Even if you haven't read the book, all are welcome to participate in the meal and discussion! This series runs on March 4, 11, 25 and April 1.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS NEEDED: Members of the Fellowship Team are happy to offer guidance or assist you in making coffee. Sign up sheets are in the kitchen, or talk with any member of the Fellowship Team.

Financial Summary
(as of December 31, 2019)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$239,358	\$230,196	\$ 9,162
Expenses	\$224,231	\$232,647	\$(8,416)
Net Income	\$ 15,127	\$(2,451)	\$17,578

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: Gail Agans (chair), Paul Spiess, Doug Topliffe, Todd Whitney and Tim Wiegand (Treasurer).



Family Game Night Saturday, February 15



Join us on Saturday, February 15 for our annual Family Game Night and Potluck Supper. **All ages, friends and community are welcome.** Games will be provided, however if you have a favorite game, please bring it with you.

The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with supper, followed by games for everyone, including ping pong and Bingo. The night will wrap up around 8:00 p.m. and prizes will be awarded for various game winners.

Members of the Fellowship Team will bring soups, chili, casseroles, Subway sandwiches and beverages. If your last name begins with A through L, please bring a dessert to share; M through Z, please bring a side salad.

Questions or to RSVP, please contact Meredith Dart at 603-305-9065. This will be a great opportunity to shake off the winter doldrums and spend an evening with old friends and new.

CHURCH SCHOOL: Today's Communion

Lesson: Children will be going to the **Bean Room** after the Passing of the Peace, where Pastor Maureen will present the communion lesson to all children grades 1-7. Even though some have participated in the lesson in the past, the sacrament should be understood more clearly as the children mature. Children will return to their class after the lesson.

Today's Lesson is "A Storm," from Matthew 8:23-27. Being overwhelmed is something we all experience. No matter what age we are, young and old, we know that by keeping Jesus with us we are able to find peace. Our teachers today are Shannon Gascoyne with Pre-K/K in the nursery, Rebekah Bolin with grades 1 and 2, Gretchen Davis with grades 3 and 4, and Dave Hagerstrom with grades 5, 6, and 7.

Fellowship Hour: Next Sunday, February 16, church school will be hosting Fellowship Hour as our February mission project. What better way to serve our congregation than to offer fellowship? Parents of church school children are asked to donate snacks/finger foods. Donations may be left in the church kitchen prior to worship. **Thank you!**

Our Church Calendar February 9—15, 2020

Today	10:00 a.m. Worship 11:10 a.m. Fellowship—Community Room 11:15 a.m. Youth Choir—Vestry 11:30 a.m. Small Group Ministry— Youth Room 6:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group— Youth Room
Monday	10:00 a.m. WA Valentines Luncheon— Vestry
Tuesday	8:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship—Youth Room 9:30 a.m. WA Board—Parlor 7:00 p.m. Tuesday Team Time
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting—Parlor 4:00 p.m. Communications Team— Parlor 7:00 p.m. Budget & Finance Team— Meeting Room
Thursday	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir—Sanctuary 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir—Vestry
Saturday	5:30 p.m. Game Night & Potluck— Community Room

Sunday, February 9, 2020

A Not-So-Quantum Leap *New Voice Arising*

“For too long, science and faith have had a combustible relationship. But even churches evolve. In the UCC, we’re not afraid of science and technology. In fact, we embrace it.

“We are a bold, thinking church. We want to make clear the UCC’s belief that science and religion are not mutually exclusive, and we extend our unequivocal welcome to persons who devote their lives to scientific inquiry.” —UCC.org

The United Church of Christ recently released a Pastoral Letter on faith engaging science and technology. The Rev. Doctor Catriona Grant, a former pastor here, is one of the co-authors. Following are excerpts from the UCC press release and pastoral letter:

“Through the gifts of science, we look across ever expanding vistas of cosmic beauty, almost to the beginning of time itself. What we see evokes wonder and humility, and we hear within ourselves a new voice arising and singing an anthem of praise that reverberates through the whole creation.

“Science is sometimes unsettling because it destroys old foundations without providing new ones. Can our church address the seekers of today? For this reason, the word we speak to this searching and restless culture must be informed by science but grounded deeply in faith.

“Is it possible for us to use technology, indeed to give thanks to God for its rich benefits, and at the same time to remain clear about the human mystery that lies behind it all? Can we be technological and theological at the same time?

“Side by side we listen for the God who is speaking to our time, to this culture, and to our heart’s deepest questions. What joy it is when we hear the new word of the living God speaking to us today.” —UCC.org - *A New Voice Arising*

Matthew writes to us. “Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill.” —Matthew 5:14