

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



"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth."

—1 Corinthians 13:4-6

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

February 16, 2020

Sixth 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

Canon
Bell Choir

arr. Hal Hopson

INTROIT

Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: People of God, let us love one another, because love is from God!

Many: Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

One: Whoever does not love does not know God,

Many: For God is love.

One: God's love was revealed to us in this way:

Many: God sent Jesus into the world so that we might live through him.

One: Come, let us worship our God, who loves us unconditionally.

All: Let us share in that love in our words and our song!

*HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
verses 1, 2 & 3 only

No. 376

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

God of unending love, come to us in this hour, that we may grow in relationship with you and with each other. Disturb our certainties so we will be open to new insights. Upset our priorities to make room for faith and hope. Expand our horizons to encompass ideas we have not entertained before. Open our hearts to people we may have failed to welcome into our midst. Perfect among us that childlike trust that allows change to transform us in the presence of your love. We pray this in 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 (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

Sing Me to Heaven
Chancel Choir

Daniel Gawthrop

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 5:21-37

“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder;’ and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ But I say to you, do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No;’ anything more than this comes from the evil one.

SERMON

“Healing the Divide”

*HYMN

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

No. 372

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

Invocation

Alexandre Winkel

*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)

Gracious and generous God, we come to your altar in thanksgiving for all that you have given us. We bring our offerings with full intent to love our neighbors as ourselves and to return the love you have so lavishly bestowed upon us. Unite us with one another in your ministry of reconciliation. May we give as you give. Amen.

*HYMN

Though I May Speak

No. 335

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Chancel Choir

*POSTLUDE

A Tune for Trumpet

Gilbert Martin

(*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
Wendy Valeri
Sally Bowkett
Lindsay, Nathan, Charles-Riley and Adelia Curtis
Don and Susan Holden, David and Karen Stowe
Carol Landon
Marilyn Gibson
Heather Stone
Marianne Stone
Sue Werst
Larissa Riley
Dave Hagerstrom
Church School Students

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Director of Music
Organist/Accompanist
Bell Choir Director
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
Fellowship Hosts

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

THE GIFTED LADIES will meet Wednesday, February 19 at 1:30 p.m. in the parlor. All ladies born in the 1930's and earlier are welcome to attend for friendly conversation and fellowship.

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.

CAT SURVEY RESULTS: Did you miss the January presentation of the CAT Survey (Church Assessment Tool) results? Join us in the parlor after worship on Sunday, March 1 for a second showing of the presentation. Why did the CAT survey designate us as a "Transformational Congregation?" What are we doing well? What could we be doing better? Come and find out!

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

February 23: Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

March 1: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

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.

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!

Financial Summary

(as of January 31, 2020)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$276,601	\$257,995	\$18,607
Expenses	\$262,862	\$266,191	\$(3,329)
Net Income	\$ 13,739	\$(8,197)	\$21,936

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).



Ash Wednesday Service February 26, 7:30 p.m.

Join us in the sanctuary as we begin the season of Lent with our traditional Ash Wednesday service. We will come together for a time of contemplative prayer, readings, special music, communion, and the distribution of ashes.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit." ~ Psalm 51

CHURCH SCHOOL: Today's lesson is **The Lord's Prayer** (Matthew 6:5-15). God teaches us that prayer is talking to God the Father, through Jesus Christ the Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus spoke to the disciples, who asked how to pray, and he taught them The Lord's Prayer. Teachers today are Marianne Stone with the Pre-K/K children, Sue Werst with grades 1 and 2, Larissa Riley with grades 3 and 4, and Dave Hagerstrom with grades 5, 6 and 7.

Fellowship today is hosted by church school. All are invited to share a snack and conversation with our church school youngsters. Thank you to all who donated snacks and to those who assisted in the fellowship preparation.

Sunday, February 16, 2020

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

As you get into your bed tonight – think about that bed. How nice is it at the end of the day to get into your own bed, in your own home? Pretty wonderful isn't it? We probably don't think of it very often but we are very blessed to have this creature comfort of home.

Some are not so blessed. Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is a non-profit organization that builds and delivers bunk beds to children in need. Their motto "No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town" is moving and motivating. SHP estimates that there are upwards of 1.5 MILLION children across the country who do not have a bed of their own. The Hillsborough chapter of SHP estimates 2,000 kids in our county are lacking beds. We would like to help, by partnering with Sleep in Heavenly Peace Hillsborough Chapter for a bunk bed build day in the spring.

SHP will run the build day (3-4 hours), provide all of the materials, tools, training, setup, and breakdown for building each bunk bed. We just need to provide treasure and talent! Each set of bunk beds (2 beds per bunk) costs \$350. The World Service team is funding 3 bunk beds, and are hoping to get the congregation to match funds for more beds. The donation campaign will run until the end of February. Any donation is helpful, none too small or too large! Once the beds are built, SHP takes them and delivers them to the recipients.

You can donate in many different ways: using the envelopes that will be in the pews, by calling Andrea, using our online donation page (there is a line item for Sleep in Heavenly Peace), or mailing a check to the church with 'SHP' in the memo line.

If you are interested in participating in the build day please let Nancy Protzmann, Terri Behm, or Susan Holden know. You can also participate in the deliveries if that is something that interests you. Our contact information is below.

Here is a quote from a family that recently received a set of bunks from the Hillsborough chapter:

"Today was a great day for the Foster Children in our home. We were selected to receive an amazing set of bunk beds and bedding for 2 of our girls. David Soddors and his son Chris effortlessly set up a brand new set of bunk beds under the watchful eyes of the 3 sisters in our home. They were patient and encouraging with all the questions that the girls had for them while they quickly went to work. It was a pleasure to work with Sleep in Heavenly Peace NH.

We feel blessed to tuck all 5 of our kiddos into separate beds tonight." Sept 2019

We hope you will consider this important outreach project, with your time/talent, or treasure, or both! For more information please visit: <https://www.shpbeds.org/chapter/nh-hillsborough-co>

Thank you!

Nancy Protzmann	uvmcats84@gmail.com	321-7099
Terri Behm	terri.behm@gmail.com	494-933
Susan Holden	bagnara-thornton@comcast.net	566-2394

Good Stuff Sale

Time to clean house from attic to basement and collect GOOD STUFF for the Woman's Association's Good Stuff Sale April 17 & 18.

- ✓ We would like clean and sorted clothing for men, women, children & infants.
- ✓ We are collecting fine, costume and fun jewelry. Good purses, back packs, shoes and boots, etc; all accessories too.
- ✓ Household items: linens & towels, spreads, curtains and drapes, home decorative items.
- ✓ Kitchen items: pots and pans, utensils, dishes and glassware, small appliances that work.
- ✓ Small furniture, toys, games, puzzles, CD's, DVD's, books, etc.

Please leave your labeled boxes and bags in the church vestry or in the designated WA workrooms – look for signs. Contact Sally Bowkett, 673-7409 sbb46@hotmail.com if you have questions or need help delivering your good stuff.

Tell family and friends about this great way to recycle your *Still Good Stuff!*
All proceeds go to our charities and other needs within our church.

Please do NOT donate bicycles, large sports equipment, appliances, furniture, computers, TV's, text books, car seats or baby furniture.

Thank you so much!



Our Church Calendar February 16—22, 2020

Today	10:00 a.m. Worship 11:10 a.m. Fellowship—Community Room 11:15 a.m. Youth Choir—Vestry 6:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group—Youth Room
Monday	10:00 a.m. WA Workshop—Vestry
Tuesday	8:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship—Youth Room 6:00 p.m. Emergency Preparedness—Meeting Room
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. The Story of God—Parlor 1:30 p.m. Gifted Ladies—Parlor 6:00 p.m. Middle High Youth
Thursday	1:00 p.m. Prayerful Playgroup—Nursery 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class—Youth Room 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir—Sanctuary 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir—Vestry



**American
Red Cross**

Community of Giving

The Congregational Church of Amherst, UCC

Friday, February 28

Community Room
Noon to 5:00 p.m.

The need for blood is urgent, please sign up.
This is school vacation week.

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org