

# VILLAGE SPIRE

February 2020



## 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*

## "Transformational Congregation"

Rev. Maureen Frescott, Senior Pastor  
February 2020

The CAT (Congregational Assessment Tool) Survey we participated in last spring told us much about who we are as a congregation. It revealed that we are overwhelmingly theologically progressive (God is still speaking!), we are flexible and adaptable when it comes to change, we want to put more of our energy into welcoming new people, building relationships in our community, and doing more hands-on mission, we value meaningful and quality worship and music, we desire leaders who listen and include us in the decision making process, and we feel most inspired and connected as a congregation when our pastors articulate a clear vision and keep it before us in a compelling way.

The CAT survey told us that these are the identity markers and energy/satisfaction drivers of our congregation. Every congregation has its own unique fingerprint – or DNA - in this regard. No two congregations have the same set of drivers and identity markers. When things are going well in the areas that serve as our drivers – Worship, Governance, Pastoral Leadership, and Communication – then we feel more energized and satisfied as a whole. Conversely, when things are unsettled or in need of improvement in these areas, our energy and satisfaction levels tend to drop. Congregations that take the survey ultimately land in one of

Continued on page 3

## 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.

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## FEBRUARY at a glance

- Feb. 2 Sunday Worship,  
Congregational Meeting  
after worship
- Feb. 4 Church Council meets
- Feb. 8 Habitat Build Day
- Feb. 9 Sunday Worship
- Feb. 10 WA Valentines Luncheon
- Feb. 15 Game Night & Potluck
- Feb. 16 Sunday Worship
- Feb. 22 Prepared to Serve
- Feb. 23 Creative Worship
- Feb. 26 Ash Wednesday service
- Feb. 28 Red Cross Blood Drive

## 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.  
July & August Worship 9:00 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 Thursday morning.

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### OUR CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott  
*Senior Pastor*  
[pastormaureen@ccamherst.org](mailto:pastormaureen@ccamherst.org)

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy  
*Associate Pastor*  
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[andrea@ccamherst.org](mailto:andrea@ccamherst.org)

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[kalben1@comcast.net](mailto:kalben1@comcast.net)

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Wendy Valeri  
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Marilyn Gibson  
*Church School Coordinator*  
[mgibson@ccamherst.org](mailto:mgibson@ccamherst.org)



## Family Game Night and Potluck Supper 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.



### Photo Usage Policy

With the introduction of our new website, and increased usage of our CCA Facebook page, the Communications Team felt it was important to ensure the congregation understands how we use photos taken during our church activities and events. We also wish to respect your privacy.

We have several areas where photos are used publicly:

- 1) Each webpage on our [CCA website](#) typically has several photos depicting life at our church.
- 2) Our [Facebook page](#) is frequently updated with both event postings and general information. Almost all of the postings include some type of photo, frequently of members of our church participating in an event or activity.
- 3) For special events we frequently send articles to the Amherst Citizen and other local publications, sometimes accompanied by a photo or two.
- 4) Our bulletin boards outside the Community Room depict the life and activity of our church and include a revolving display of photos.

#### Children:

For each church school student, parents have completed the [Church School Registration Form](#) which includes permission information for the use of their children's photos. Based on the completed forms, we know which students may not appear in any published photos.

At this time, unless notified otherwise, we do not have any use restrictions on photos of adults.

If you do NOT want us to use your photograph, please contact by [Andrea](#) (673-3231 ext 0) or [Pastor Maureen](#) (673-3231 ext 11).

## **Transformational Congregation**, continued from page 1

four categories based on their energy and satisfaction levels: Static, Scattered, Recovering, or Transformational. Thankfully, your responses to the CAT survey questions that addressed our drivers placed our congregation in the HIGH category of both energy and satisfaction, and gave us a new designation: We are a "Transformational Congregation."

In simple terms, this means that we have no critical or significant issues that need to be addressed at this time and we may instead place our focus and energy on expanding our ministries and mission and working on the items that rose to the top of the list of our "Priorities" list.

And what did we name as our top five priorities?

1. Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth.
2. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them in the life of the church.
3. Develop the spiritual generosity of the people to financially support the ministry of the church.
4. Expand outreach ministries that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society (i.e. homeless, immigrant, transient).
5. Work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions with partners that share this vision and commitment.

With this list in hand, and with a greater understanding of our congregational identity and drivers, we're poised to take the next steps in our journey: developing our vision, connecting it with our mission, and strategizing on how we might go about addressing our priorities. What changes do we need to make to attract families and youth? How can we better welcome and integrate newcomers? What would help us to be more spiritually generous, with our time, talent, and money? What hands-on mission opportunities do we want to take on (recognizing that we can't do it all)? Who is already doing good work in our community and how might we partner with them to do even more?

It certainly is an exciting time for our congregation, and the CAT survey results have confirmed what many of us have been feeling over the last year as we moved through the pastoral transition and the Capital Campaign, while welcoming new families and faces in our community.

What's next? At last month's presentation of the CAT results we participated in a "Finding Your Why" exercise (introduced in the November 2019 *Spire*). This was a preview of the longer workshop that we have planned for Saturday, March 14. This will be your opportunity to participate in our larger "visioning" process, as we strive to discern what ultimately motivates and moves us to be a part of this church community. Knowing our "Why" will help us to narrow our focus and direct our energy as we address the items on our priority list, and live into being the Transformational Congregation that God is calling us to be. Stay tuned for more information on the "Finding Your Why" workshop in the coming month, and let us know if you'd like to participate!

Peace and blessings,

***Pastor Maureen***



## **Small Groups Bring Us Closer Together and Closer to God!**

Our theme this year is BE THE CHURCH – using the bold statements issued by the United Church of Christ to inspire us to live our faith in the world. In February, our focus statement is "Forgive Often" – Last year, when our small groups discussed the Lord's Prayer, we explored what it means to seek forgiveness for our sins, and to forgive others who've sinned against us. When we think of forgiveness we often think of it in terms of major transgressions. But what about the every day and ordinary ways we disappoint one another, step on each others toes, and hurt one another, often without even knowing we're doing so? How might we go about practicing forgiveness on a daily basis? How would our lives be different if we showed one another the same grace that we wish to receive in return?

### February Meeting Schedule:

Tuesday Group, February 4,  
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.  
Sunday Group, February 9  
11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

### Upcoming Group Discussion Topics:

March: Love God  
April: Fight For the Powerless  
May: Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources  
June: Enjoy this Life

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



## CAT Survey Results Presentation



**Sunday, March 1  
11:30 a.m. in the Parlor**

Did you miss the January presentation of the CAT Survey results? Join us in the parlor after worship on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> 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!

## Prepared to Serve



**Saturday, February 22, 2019  
Pembroke Academy,  
Pembroke, NH  
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

*Prepared to Serve* is a fantastic and fun learning event for everyone in our church, sponsored by the New Hampshire Conference, UCC. With over 70 workshops, more than 30 exhibits, inspiring worship, and great food and fellowship, this promises to be a very special time for those who gather.

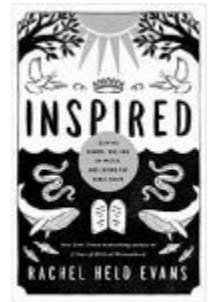
This year's theme is from the scripture passage found in Hebrews 12:1-2b: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us."

Information, registration and program booklets are available online at [www.nhcucc.org](http://www.nhcucc.org), or through the church office. We are excited about workshops offered by outstanding leaders from the national setting of the United Church of Christ.

Questions? Contact the conference office by phone at 603-225-6647.

## Lenten Soup and Study Series Wednesdays March 4, 11,25 and April 1 6:30-8:00 p.m.

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!



**Adult Ed Series  
Wednesdays, February 5 and 19  
10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Parlor**

Our Fall/Winter Adult Ed series continues with Season Three of *The Story of God*, the popular series produced by the National Geographic Channel and hosted by the actor Morgan Freeman. We'll travel around the world and learn about the differences and similarities in our world's religions and how they each tell the story of God for their believers. The format for each 90-minute session includes a 45-minute video presentation and a discussion facilitated by Pastor Maureen. All are welcome!

### The Story of God – Upcoming Schedule:

February 5 – "Divine Secrets"

February 19 - "Holy Laws"

## Woman's Association's Valentine's Luncheon February 10, 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.



## Review of our Founding Ministers, 1741 – 1843

Anne Krantz, Historian

The 'Church in Amherst' began as the Church in Souhegan West, until the inhabitants petitioned Gov. Wentworth to be incorporated as a town. The name was changed to Amherst in this proclamation of Jan. 18, 1760: 'Be , and hereby are, declared and ordained to be Town Corporate, to have continuance until the first of January, 1762, by the name of AMHERST, with all the Powers, and Authorities....which any other Towns in the said Province by Law hold and enjoy, to the said inhabitants, who shall hereafter inhabit there, and their successors for said term; always reserving to us, Heirs and Successors, all White Pine that are or shall be found growing and being said tract of land fir for the use of our Royal Navy." Secomb, pg. 49-50.

It is difficult to comprehend that King George II was the ruler of the colonies when the Rev. Daniel Wilkins from Middleton, MA and Harvard 1736, settled in Amherst in 1740. On September 22, 1741 he wrote and signed the church Covenant that began his long tenure as minister. John Farmer in his *An Historical Sketch of Amherst* described him: "He was considered a man of respectable talents and contributed greatly to the prosperity of the town." "He assisted in subduing the wilderness, while he administered to the spiritual wants of his parishioners. The labors of agriculture he sometimes necessitated to perform."

Farmer's booklet, published in 1820 and printed by Richard Boylston, includes a chapter called *History of the Church in Amherst* that covers the years from 1741 to 1820. He provides more background about our first ministers. The Wilkinses had ten children. By the late 1770's, Rev. Wilkins was becoming infirm and having trouble performing his duties. He died in 1784 at the age of 73. Jeremiah Barnard (Harvard 1773), was hired in 1780 as Wilkins's colleague. Like Wilkins, Rev. Barnard continued as the minister of the Amherst church for his entire career until his death in 1835.

Nathan Lord (b.1793 Berwick, Maine, Bowdoin College 1809 and Andover Newton Theological Seminary), was employed in 1816 to help Barnard who offered to accept half pay. Rev. Lord was a dynamic minister until 1828 when he left to become the president of Dartmouth College.

Silas Aiken (1799–1869) was hired quickly to replace Lord and was an energetic young pastor who carried out successful 'revivals' to increase membership. He resigned abruptly on Jan. 14, 1837.

Our first two ministers were here for almost 100 years, creating a stable church institution. The next two, Lord and Aiken, were such strong leaders that their stellar reputations were our downfall and they were lured away with better offers, leaving the newly rebuilt church without a pastor.

In August 1836 the meetinghouse had been moved off the common to the present location on Church Street and lowered onto a granite foundation that had been built on the new church owned property. Rebuilding and remodeling the forlorn structure continued until August 1837. Rev. Aiken preached the first sermon in the new sanctuary in January 1837, but he had the pleasure of preaching there for just a month when he unexpectedly submitted his resignation on Feb. 14, 1837, at the age of 37, to accept the call from the Park Street Church in Boston.

A quick turnover of two ministers followed: Frederick Adams 11/15/37 – 9/24/1840 who left in good standing, and William Savage 2/24/1841 – 4/4/1843 who was dismissed: "Voted that it is expedient that the relation existing between the Rev. William T. Savage and this church be, and hereby is, dissolved." Secomb, pg. 304. Abolition troubles?

Rev. J Gardner Davis followed in 1843, and who, like Wilkins and Barnard, spent his entire ministry in Amherst. He became one of the most renowned and effective ministers, as well as an intellectual leader of Amherst.



Nathan Lord



Silas Aiken

**Note:** Farmer says that baptisms by Wilkins were only partially recorded, but Wilkins recorded 240. Rev. Barnard in 29 years baptized 773, Rev. Lord between 1816 and 1820 admitted between 30-40 members. Rev. Aiken brought in 225 new members. The population of Amherst was about 1600 in in the 1820s and 30s.

## Youth Choir ~ 2020



We are having such fun! There is a wonderful group already, come join us!

Grab a snack from coffee hour and meet me in the Vestry.

*Are children of any age welcome?*

Of course, keep in mind that we do some reading and some of the music may be challenging for the very young. Little ones are ALWAYS welcome to join us.

*I get nervous singing in front of people, do I have to sing alone?*

No, we sing together, singing as a group is fun.

*How often do we sing in church?*

I hope we will sing once a month, let's see how it goes!

*I don't read music!*

I am sending the printed music home with the children. I plan to incorporate note and rhythm reading in the rehearsal time. It takes time to develop these skills. We begin by learning the words and melody, singing along with me and the piano.

*What do I wear?*

We have robes - gold robes for smaller children and maroon robes for the older kids.

*How often do we rehearse?*

Every Sunday after church. If anything changes, I will let you know by email.

*What if I need to miss a rehearsal?*

That happens! I will make sure that the Sunday we are actually singing during the church service is in the calendar in advance.

Further questions? Please contact me at [kalben1@comcast.net](mailto:kalben1@comcast.net)

Sara Phelps, Director of Music

## Church School

February can be considered the month of love. Through the gospels of Matthew our children learn that following Jesus makes all the difference in our lives. We should trust in God when life is hard and prayer strengthens our relationship with God. By bringing God's messages to our children, we do it with love, and that love from God is for everyone.



Sunday, February 2 is early communion Sunday. Communion will be served before children go to church school, allowing them to receive it.

Join us at fellowship on Sunday, February 16. Church School is hosting fellowship after worship in the community room. It is your opportunity to introduce yourself to our children while sharing a snack. Strike up a conversation with the teachers who will delightfully share a story with you.

Thank you to all who donated to SHARE of Milford during the church school's January mission project. Condiments were donated to those in need.

Church School will not be in session on Sunday, February 23 due to winter vacation. It will resume on Sunday, March 1.

## Breakfast With Santa 2019

Saturday, December 7 was a perfect morning to spend with Mr. & Mrs. Claus at the Congregational Church of Amherst. The volunteer elves greeted and fed over 250 at the event and we would like to thank our sponsors, who have helped us out for many years to make this so successful. Thanks to Brad Pare at Moulton's Market for supplying us with cooked bacon and sausage. Thanks to Ashley at Dunkin' Donuts (84 Rte 101A) for a great supply of Munchkins and hot coffee. Lull Farm in Hollis supplied us with 6 dozen eggs, and Shaws Supermarket and Walmart supplied us with gift cards to purchase paper products and fruit. A favorite of the kids is the Stonyfield Yogurt donated each year. Please take a moment to thank these sponsors when you can.

Many volunteers of all ages help with the event including the Sr.High Youth Group. A special thanks to Anita Swanson who handled all the food & servers; Heather MacDonald who contacted sponsors; Sally Hooper who was the lead for crafts and the game area; Nancy Protzmann, Andrea Cyr and Marti Warren for handling registrations. Vicki Leknes for her work that day making everything flow!

Members in the church baked delicious breakfast casseroles. Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus (Gene & Joan) during this busy holiday season donate their time to

spend with very excited children. Marsha Vander Mey of Harper Point Photography, Amherst also donates her time to take a special photo of each child with Santa. Thank you to the Amherst Citizen for reminding people to register. To all these people and businesses we thank you for helping us make this event so special for our church and local families!



## THANK YOU

### From your Senior High Youth Group



On January 25, the SHYG hosted our annual Spaghetti Supper and Variety show. Thanks to you, we raised \$1883 towards our mission trip to Denver, CO this June, where we will be working with DOOR (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection), a service-learning organization that organizes mission opportunities in urban environments. DOOR invites all participants to a paradigm shift, challenging students to change their focus from charity to solidarity, following the example put forth in Exodus 3 where God shows us that seeing, hearing, and feeling are important components for compassion.

## Middle High Youth Group

MHYG is starting up this spring! Starting February 19, all students in grades 5-7 are welcome to join us every third Wednesday 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! Please email [pastorkate@ccamherst.org](mailto:pastorkate@ccamherst.org) for more information.



## Sleep in Heavenly Peace, continued from page 1

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 Sadders 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](mailto:uvmcats84@gmail.com), 321-7099  
 Terri Behm,  
[terri.behm@gmail.com](mailto:terri.behm@gmail.com), 494-933  
 Susan Holden, [bagnara-thornton@comcast.net](mailto:bagnara-thornton@comcast.net), 566-2394

## 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!

## End 68 Hours of Hunger

End 68 Hours of Hunger (Nashua) is now ensconced in their new space and need volunteers to help pack on Wednesdays 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Anyone interested can sign up when you want using the link below. This is a great opportunity to grab some friends and go as a group. They do not require sign up in advance, but it is helpful. <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/30E044DABAF2DA75-newaddress>

## SHARE Food Pantry

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



February Pantry Requests: canned fruit, flour, sugar, boxed cake mixes, baking supplies, coffee, tea, juice, granola

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!

## Good Stuff Sale

Time to clean house from attic to basement and collect good stuff for the Woman's Association 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 & 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.

Donations: 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](mailto:sbb46@hotmail.com) if you have questions or need help delivering your good stuff.

Tell family and friends about this great way to recycle you *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!



## New Habitat Build Day!

We have had such great success with our past build days with the Habitat for Humanity building project in Wilton. Work has moved to inside and we will once again be participating in a build day on Saturday, February 8. If you are interested in this hands-on outreach project, please touch base with Dave Phelps ([kalben2@comcast.net](mailto:kalben2@comcast.net)), Dave Poltack ([dpoltack@comcast.net](mailto:dpoltack@comcast.net)), or Nancy Protzmann ([uvmcats84@gmail.com](mailto:uvmcats84@gmail.com)). For more information, visit the Habitat section on our Service Opportunities page of the website (<https://www.ccamherst.org/service-opportunities/>)



## Appreciation Binder

Ever wonder at all what impact our donations and outreach work have on the recipients? We frequently receive notes and letters from the recipients of our outreach and mission efforts. In an effort to share these with the congregation, we have created an 'Appreciation Binder' - a collection of the communication we receive. Take a few minutes and look through the binder, located on the table outside the Community Room. This is not exclusive to the World Service team - if you receive a note, and want to include it, just add it to the binder! Your time, treasure, and talent make this outreach possible - THANK YOU! Your World Service Team



# Progress on the Capital Campaign Projects Continues

What may seem like slow progress on the campaign projects is actually steady progress toward our goals. Here is an update as of mid-January:

- Restoring the parsonage windows by necessity is a step-by-step process; to date, 13 windows have been restored and are in place.
- Five more windows are out for restoration.
- There is a new window over the parsonage kitchen sink.
- Church lighting upgrade is nearly complete.
- The official grant award came in for the Building Assessment Grant (BAS), so that the \$12,750 effort will be entirely paid for by 2 grants and an anonymous gift.
- Work on the building assessment will begin late January/early February and will take about 2 months to complete.
- Preparation work on the next projects for 2020 continues.

As always, thank you for your continued and generous support of this campaign. The work would not be possible without you!



## A Few Words About the Weather...

Church Closings Due to Bad Weather:

As we all know, New England weather is ever changing and at times quite unpredictable. In case of bad weather and the need to cancel a worship service, we will do our best to get the word out. Tune in to WMUR Channel 9 television, WZID 95.7 FM radio, WMLL 96.5 FM radio, or WFEA 1370 AM radio to check for a cancellation notice. We will also leave a recorded message on the church answering system (673-3231), and will post a notice on our website and our Facebook page.

Beware of Falling Snow and Ice:

It is that time of year again when we must 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.

# SUCCESS in 2020

SUCCESS ( Support the UCC with Everyday Shopping Selections) sells gift cards or online "scrip" that you can spend at a huge variety of retailers and restaurants. You purchase a card and receive the full value, while our church earns a small percentage from your purchase with no cost to you. It's a win/win!

It's easy to shop with gift cards and they make much-appreciated gifts as well. We usually are in the Community Room with cards for purchase on the third Sunday of the month, but you can also sign up online and purchase scrip right on your computer whenever you wish. Paper "scrip" comes to your computer in minutes and works just like a gift card.

The SUCCESS program has been ongoing for several years, and has earned the church over \$14,000 so far. Imagine what that could be with more joining in! Make this *your* year to become part of our SUCCESS.

### Reasons Why Sunday School is Important

*"The goal of Christian formation is not to create churchgoers; the goal of Christian formation is to raise up disciples of Jesus Christ."*

#### Reason #3: Make Friends

If you want your children to make more friends, Sunday school is a great place to find them. As they learn and play together on Sunday mornings, they will be able to form healthy friendships with children whose parents have the same priorities as you.



### 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).

The Congregational Church  
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