

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



“All of us who have gone into the baptismal waters have done the same thing as those we see around us. Whether we were carried in our mother's arms or arrived under our own steam, we got into the river of life with Jesus and all his flawed kin. We are them, thanks be to God, as they are us: Christ's own forever.”

—Barbara Brown Taylor

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

January 10, 2021

First Sunday after Epiphany
The Baptism of Christ

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

The Old Year Has Passed Away

Wilbur Held

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP and PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: The heavens open. The Spirit descends.

Many: Jesus emerges from the water.

One: And a voice echoes through the blue expanse.

Many: "This is my child, the Beloved, with whom I am well-pleased."

One: Jesus is named. Jesus is claimed.

Many: We come to remember that we too are named and claimed.

One: What a blessing to be known and to belong.

All: Let us worship the one who names and claims us still.

Let us pray:

God of water and wind, music and word, you call us with your voice and your Spirit to be your people, faithful and courageous. As your beloved child, Jesus, embraced his mission in the waters of baptism, inspire us to walk in his wake and join in his transforming work. Send your Holy Spirit once more to us this morning, to energize our worship and enliven our witness to the world. We ask this in the name of our brother, 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

HYMN

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

verses 1, 2 and 4

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

SERMON

"Watermark"

ANTHEM

Gather By the River to Pray

arr. Pepper Choplin

Chancel Choir

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

We give you thanks, O God, for alighting your Spirit upon us. May our offerings honor you. May our lives reflect your mercy. May our hands bestow on others the blessings we have received. May our prayers unite us with one another and with Christ, in whose name we celebrate the privilege of giving. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

Let All Together Praise Our God

Paul Manz



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. Our membership is open to all those who choose to walk with us in our witness. Please speak with any of our deacons or pastors should you have any questions regarding our church or our membership.

Here’s how to reach us: by telephone 673-3231, or by email info@ccamherst.org. If we are unavailable by phone, 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, and follow us on Facebook at Facebook.com/ccamherst.

Current Reopening Information: Are you wondering where things stand? Through the members section on our website, we have a page dedicated to communicating with our church family on both current policies and procedures for use of the building during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the progress of our ad hoc Reopening Team. Documents will be posted as they are made available. If you have any questions or concerns about any of this information, please reach out to any member of the team: Pastor Maureen Frescott, Jessica Greer, Pastor Kate Kennedy, Keith Lammers, Susan Manchester, Kathy Skoglund, Paul Spiess, Kate Thompson, Doug Topliffe, Sue Werst, Tom Werst.

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

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

*Portions of today’s liturgy are adapted from Caela Wood, Pastor
at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Manhattan, Kansas.*

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Rich Cavanagh

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Liturgist

CHURCH SCHOOL: Brown bag lessons for the winter term of January and February, one bag per month, will be created. Each month registered families at **SignUpGenius** will receive a brown bag lesson. If you have not signed up here is the site - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4caea62ea1f8c25-church1>.

Today's lesson is *Jesus the Word*, from John 1:1-5 (*Spark Bible NRSV*, 1171): "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through God, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

John 1:14 (*Spark Bible NRSV*, 1171): "And the **word became flesh** and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."

Children of God hear the word as Jesus became flesh, living among us.

Christmas brings God's words to us and they are the truth.

Church School brings faith formation through our **brown bag** lessons.

CREATIVE WORSHIP—JANUARY 17: Creative Worship happens on the third Sunday of every month, with special music, an engaging message presented in a creative way, and a focus theme to frame our worship. This year our overarching theme is BE THE CHURCH – the bold statements issued by the United Church of Christ to inspire us to live our faith in the world. In January our worship theme is "**Reject Racism.**" In the month where we observe the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is it enough to celebrate that we are all children of God regardless of our differences? Or is God calling us to look deeper in our own hearts and truly listen to and love our neighbor as we help build the Kin-dom of God? We hope you can join us online!

Financial Summary

(as of November 30, 2020)

| | YTD <u>Actual</u> | YTD <u>Budget</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Income | \$222,622 | \$197,413 | \$ 25,209 |
| Expenses | \$181,139 | \$196,563 | \$(15,424) |
| Net Income | \$ 41,483 | \$ 850 | \$ 40,633 |

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: Keith Lammers, Paul Spiess, Doug Topliffe, Todd Whitney and Tim Wiegand (Treasurer).

SHYG SPAGHETTI SUPPER AND VARIETY SHOW: Come one, come all to the annual SHYG Spaghetti Supper and Variety Show, now, for the first time ever, **broadcast live on February 13** for your at-home entertainment and delight!

This year, the very popular Senior High Youth Group Spaghetti Supper will be a virtual event! In honor of Valentine’s Day, the theme of this year’s show is Love, and it’s time to get our “acts” together. The SHYG is seeking pre-recorded acts from church members and friends to fill the show with joy and laughter. All acts welcome!

Traditional acts are always a pleasure—we’re looking at you, dancers, singers, hula-hoopers. But since we are virtual this year, the sky’s the limit! Do you have a pet dog? Send us a video of your best buddy’s best trick. Does your cat sing to the moon? Share her melodious tunes! Snow boarders who flip, home cooks that whip, close-up magicians, pots and pans musicians—let’s milk this new virtual medium for all it’s worth.

If you have an act you’d like to submit, send a note to pastorkate@ccamherst.org. Stay tuned for more details regarding the SHYG’s plans for the spaghetti supper!

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for January include canned ham, canned meats, side dishes (seasoned pasta mix, Hamburger Helper, etc.), ravioli and Beef-a-Roni. 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!

Our Church Calendar

January 10—16, 2021

Most 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 |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Fellowship |
| Monday | 10:00 a.m. | Woman’s Association |
| Tuesday | 9:00 a.m. | Men’s Fellowship |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Diaconate |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Trustees of the Facility |
| Wednesday | 9:00 a.m. | Staff Meeting |
| Thursday | 2:30 p.m. | Prayerful Playgroup |

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

January 17: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 24: Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20





National Day of Service: Amherst Helps the Homeless

Impact the lives of people living on the street today!

Help us clothe and feed the homeless through *Amherst Helps the Homeless*, a charity drive hosted by the Congregational Church of Amherst, UCC, in observance of the National Day of Service on Monday, January 18th (MLK Day).

Community donations of winter clothes and easy-to-eat food will support the [Michael Stephen Boyd Memorial Foundation](#). Donations are distributed several days a week to homeless encampments in Nashua and Manchester. Your donations will have an immediate impact.

Here are three easy ways to give:

1. Amazon Wish List

Use the [Michael Stephen Boyd Memorial Foundation Amazon Wish List](#) and have the donated items shipped directly to the Foundation.

2. Drive-by Drop Off (Must wear a mask; COVID-19 precautions will be observed.)

Drop off your items in front of the Congregational Church of Amherst, 11 Church St., Amherst, NH 03031:

**Sunday, January 17th 2:00-4:00 p.m., or
Monday, January 18th 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m.**

Please only donate items on the following list:

- **Clothing:** Gently used men's coats, boots (men & women), gloves (men & women), men's hoodies/sweatshirts, sweatpants (men & women), leggings, and tarps. Larger sizes of clothing are preferred for layering.
- **Food:** Ready-to-eat pull top canned food (i.e., soup, chili, pasta), food in pouches (tuna, chicken, peanut butter), *soft* protein bars, peanut butter crackers, and single serving containers of applesauce/fruit.

3. Monetary Gift

Prefer to donate funds? Help match our church's \$900 donation with your own monetary gift and be sure to request a match if your employer offers one.

The Michael Stephen Boyd Memorial Foundation is a full 501(c)(3) organization.

You can donate in the following ways:

- Venmo: @MSBMemorialfoundation
- PayPal: MSBBoard@MSBMemorialfoundation.org
- Mail a check to:
The Michael Stephen Boyd Memorial Foundation
17 Courtland St
Nashua, NH 03064
- Need a tax receipt? [Email the MSB Board](#) with your first and last name and they will send you a tax receipt.

If you have questions or would like more information, contact us at info@ccamherst.org

Sunday, January 10, 2021