

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



*“When we speak we are afraid our words will not be heard or welcomed.
But when we are silent, we are still afraid. So it is better to speak.”*

— Audre Lorde

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

January 17, 2021

Creative Worship

10:00 a.m.

Reject Racism

PRELUDE

On Jordan's Banks

arr. Lyndall Leatherman

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

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

Carol St. Jean

What do we do, when God calls?

Wake up. Listen. Act.

What do we do when God asks us
to do something difficult?

Wake up. Listen. Act.

What do we do when God asks us
to do something impossible?

Wake up. Listen. Act.

**Because, with God,
nothing is impossible.**

Even changing ourselves.
Even changing the world.

So, here we are,
ready or not,
bringing our everyday selves
to praise and to pray,
to know the Holy One
in the midst of our lives.

Here we are, to worship the One who calls us.

Let us pray:

Loving, peaceful, just, and merciful God, we come to join you in worship today. Help us find your courage within ourselves and guide us to take on the challenging, worthwhile, and necessary work of anti-racism. We acknowledge before you that healing and striving towards unity will require effort, introspection, and recognition of the pain that we, albeit unknowingly, have perpetrated. Here we are, Lord, coming to seek your wisdom, your perseverance, your call to the work of justice and mercy. We have heard you calling our name. Guide us this day, inspire us with your word. Make us whole.

Be present with us now, O God,
as we pray 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Steve Boczenowski

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

HYMN

Live Into Hope

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Scott Hewett

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' Then the Lord said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about

to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.'

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.'

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

SERMON

"Speak, Lord"

ANTHEM

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Chancel Choir

arr. Roy Ringwald

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Sally Bowkett

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Lord God, creator of us all, take our gifts of dollars and cents and turn them into gifts of justice and peace. Take our gifts of time and talent and turn them into gifts of grace and mercy. Take our capacity for love and passion and turn us into prophets and truth seekers, all for the coming of your kingdom. In your name we pray, Amen.

CLOSING BLESSING

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

Lift Every Voice and Sing

John Rosamond Johnson/
arr. Randa Kirshbaum

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

Portions of this service were written by © Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com

Final video can be found at The Salt Project:
[https://www.saltproject.org/progressive-christian-blog/2021/1/4/
free-film-for-martin-luther-king-jr-day](https://www.saltproject.org/progressive-christian-blog/2021/1/4/free-film-for-martin-luther-king-jr-day)



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

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church Rev. Maureen R. Frescott Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy Sara L. Phelps Michael Havay Scott Hewett Carol St. Jean, Steve Boczenowski, Sally Bowkett	Ministers to the World Senior Pastor Associate Pastor Director of Music Organist/Accompanist Liturgist Members of the Waking Up group
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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!

CHURCH SCHOOL: Brown bag lessons for the winter term, 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>.

Financial Summary

(as of December 31, 2020)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$265,780	\$226,982	\$ 38,798
Expenses	\$211,558	\$229,478	\$(17,920)
Net Income	\$ 54,221	\$ (2,496)	\$ 56,718

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).



National Day of Service: Amherst Helps the Homeless

Impact the lives of people living on the street today!

Help us clothe and feed the unsheltered 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 17, 2021

The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

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

January 31: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28



Our Church Calendar

January 17—23, 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
	2:00 p.m.	Donation Drive By
	4:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association
	10:00 a.m.	Donation Drive By
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	<i>A New Look at the Old Testament</i>
Thursday	2:30 p.m.	Prayerful Playgroup
	7:00 p.m.	Saying Their Names