

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



*Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life.  
It turns what we have into enough, and more.  
It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order,  
confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast,  
a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.*

—Melody Beattie

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

November 21, 2021

Creative Worship

10:00 a.m.

## *Give Thanks*

GATHERING CHIMES

*Let us be gathered in silence so that we may prepare to worship.*

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

*Thanks Be to God*

G.F. Handel and Johann G. Nageli/  
arr. Marilyn Thompson

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The world is filled with the creations of God, and we say,

**Many: Thank you!**

One: The hills and valleys are filled with color, and we say,

**Many: Thank you!**

One: The trees and fields are filled with fruits and grains, and we say,

**Many: Thank you!**

One: Our tables are overflowing with food, and we say,

**Many: Thank you!**

One: Our life is filled with love of family and friends, and we say,

**Many: Thank you!**

One: We fill this house of God with our voices, saying,

**Many: Thank you!**

**All: We come together to worship in thanksgiving and praise!**

One: Let us invite God's spirit among us by praying the words that Jesus taught us:

**All: 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.**

## OUR COVENANT WITH NEW MEMBERS

Invitation to Our New Members:

Patricia Bodan  
Cheryl Gagne

Debra Boczenowski  
Paul Mowatt

Stephen Boczenowski

Questions of Commitment

\*Congregational Covenant and Welcome (in unison)

**We welcome you with joy in the common mission and life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as together we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of Jesus' ministry in the world.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Greeting and Presentation of Certificates

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE STORY

Luke 17:11-19

MESSAGE

"Give Thanks"

OUR OFFERINGS OF GRATITUDE

ANTHEM

*A Jubilant Celebration*  
Chancel Choir  
Sue Werst, flute  
Michael Havay, piano

J. Paul Williams/  
Joseph M. Martin

OUR PRAYERS OF PETITION and THANKSGIVING

ORGAN PRAYER RESPONSE

\*BENEDICTION

**Left: May God bless you and keep you,**

**Right: May God's light and grace shine upon you.**

**Left: May your heart be open to the blessings that surround you;**

**Right: May these blessings produce a harvest of generosity in your spirit.**

**Left: May thankfulness rise up within you,**

**Right: Not just during this season, but in every season.**

*Continued next page.*

**Left:** May your prayers reflect gratitude,  
**Right:** And inspire you to meet the needs of others.

**All:** May the gift of life and Creation fill our hearts and minds,  
And may thanksgiving be our response. Amen.

POSTLUDE

*Postlude on "St. George's Windsor"  
(Come, Ye Thankful People, Come)*

George J. Elvey/  
arr. Jason D. Payne

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

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

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

*The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:*



November 28:  
*First Sunday of Advent*

Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13  
Luke 21:25-36

December 5:  
*Second Sunday of Advent*

Malachi 3:1-4  
Luke 1:68-79  
Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 3:1-6

# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AMHERST, NH, UCC



**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.

## Worship Notes:

- Church school is available for children Pre-K through grade 7.
- The nursery is not currently staffed. Parents with very young children are welcome to use it during worship.
- Joys and Concerns may be written on the cards found on the small table as you entered the sanctuary. You are also welcome to submit your prayer request through our website in advance of the worship service.
- Offering plates can be found at the front and the rear of the sanctuary.
- Please join us in the community room for fellowship after the worship service.
- 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 church school.

The church office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m., and available Monday through Friday by telephone 673-3231 and by email [info@ccamherst.org](mailto:info@ccamherst.org). 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](http://www.ccamherst.org), and follow us on Facebook.com/ccamherst and Instagram.com/ccamherstnh.

***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  
 Michael Havay  
 John Swanson  
 Tim Wiegand

Ministers to the World  
 Senior Pastor  
 Associate Pastor  
 Organist/Accompanist  
 Deacon in Charge  
 Videographer

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Sara L. Phelps  
 Wendy Valeri  
 Gretchen Davis

Director of Music  
 Bell Choir Director  
 Interim Children's Coordinator

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are given in thanks for families of all types, gathered and distant, and especially for our parents for giving us a sense of gratitude, from Sally and Mike Varanka.

**CHURCH SCHOOL** has moved indoors. Children should meet in the community room at 9:50 a.m.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE** is closed November 25—30 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

**GREAT NEWS:** Fellowship time has moved back inside to the community room. Coffee and juice will be offered, and masks are required when not consuming beverages.

Our Fellowship team is excited to get back in the swing of things. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with coffee hour, a sign up sheet will be available; or call, text or email Meredith Dart (cell: 603-305-9065, email: [m\\_getler@hotmail.com](mailto:m_getler@hotmail.com)).

**SHARE FOOD PANTRY** requests for November include pancake mix and syrup, condiments, cooking sauces and seasonings, cooking oil, jelly, and cold cereal. 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!

### Financial Summary (as of October 31, 2021)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$172,012	\$189,613	\$(17,601)
Expenses	\$169,591	\$166,379	\$ 3,212
Net Income	\$ 2,421	\$ 23,235	\$(20,814)

*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).*

# Celebrate the Season of Giving



The Christmas season is just around the corner and the World Service team is again partnering with our same organizations to ensure all in our community experience the joy of the holidays. As you can see below, there is a way for everyone to participate, and a wide variety of those to support.

We will again be signing up online, using SignUp Genius. There will still be a 'Giving Tree' at the church, but this year the stars will have instructions on how to use the signup tool. We will also have members of the team available after in-person worship on November 14, 21 and 28 to answer questions and help those that may need assistance.

## Important Dates:

- Nov. 14 – Dec. 1: Dates to sign up for gifts – information will be sent out by email.
- Nov. 14, 21, 28: Members of World Service team available to help after in-person worship.
- Dec. 5: Deadline to drop off gifts to church.

**Crestwood Nursing Home:** We will continue our annual tradition of purchasing gifts for each resident from their specific wish lists. You will be able to view the wish lists and choose a resident that speaks to your heart.

**Operation Christmas Joy:** We will again participate in Bethany Christian Services' **Operation Christmas Joy** drive, which provides \$25 gift cards to meet the Christmas wish lists of children/teens in emergency foster care statewide.

**Family Promise of Southern NH (formerly Anne-Marie House):** They have moved to a larger facility and are now housing approximately 39 children and their families, almost double what they used to be able to accommodate. Each child has one special item on their Christmas list. Santa, Mrs. Claus, and members of the World Service team will deliver these gifts in person on December 13.

**SHARE:** This year, due to COVID procedures, SHARE is again asking only for gift cards. The congregation as a whole will support SHARE – we will use Mission funds to purchase gift cards to support 20 children and 5 adults. We are purchasing the gift cards from the SUCCESS program – a win-win for all!

## All gifts are due back to the church no later than end of worship Sunday, Dec. 5

- Crestwood gifts should be returned unwrapped in a gift bag, with the name of the resident clearly visible on the bag, and gift wrap included.
- Family Promise gifts should be wrapped and returned with a tag with the name/age of the child.
- Operation Christmas Joy gift cards should be returned in any type of envelope (we have small gift bags for these) and 'Operation Christmas Joy' on the outside.
- If you are buying gift cards we encourage you to buy those from our SUCCESS program – this benefits the gift recipient AND CCA.



For more information please visit <https://www.ccamherst.org/christmasgifts/>

*Sunday, November 21, 2021*



Don't miss this year's online auction sponsored by the Woman's Association! It's Christmas shopping at your fingertips, and proceeds support the church and local charities.

The marketplace continues through November 28.

<https://www.32auctions.com/WAAuction2021>

### **Our Church Calendar**

**November 21—27, 2021**

Some 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	9:50 a.m.	Church School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship—Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship—Community Room
	11:30 a.m.	Christian Ed—Parlor
	1:00 p.m.	Middle High Youth Group
	6:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth Group
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting—Parlor