

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 9, 2022

First Sunday after Epiphany
The Baptism of Christ

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

Shall We Gather at the River?

Robert Lowry/
Larry Shackley

*CALL TO WORSHIP

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.

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

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.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

SERMON

"This is Us"

ANTHEM

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist Cries

Sara Phelps, soloist

Michael Havay, organ

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

If you have a prayer to share, fill out a prayer card in your pew and place it in the "Joys and Concerns" plate at the back of the sanctuary. Ushers will bring the cards forward to the pastor during the Anthem.

ORGAN PRAYER RESPONSE

INVITATION TO OUR OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (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 BENEDICTION

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE

*Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam
(Christ Our Lord to the Jordan Came)*

Johann Pachelbel

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

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.
- Our church nursery is open, but not currently staffed, and is available when parents with young children feel the need for a quiet, safe space to go to during worship. A monitor is available to watch and listen to the service.
- 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 a time of fellowship after the worship service. Coffee and beverages are offered, and masks are required when not consuming beverages.
- 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. 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.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

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Roger Hooper

Dick Stout

Tim Wiegand

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Liturgist

Videographer

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Wendy Valeri

Gretchen Davis

Associate Pastor

Bell Choir Director

Interim Children's Coordinator

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES: It is important to us to have accurate contact information for you. Please take a moment to check your information in the church directory, especially phone numbers. Many folks use only their cell phones now, but haven't updated that in our directory. You can view your directory information in the member section of our website, and if an update is needed, you can use the Contact Update form on that page.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED on Sunday mornings to help run the live-stream camera and laptop during worship. It's easy and we are hoping to train a few more folks so the rotation is easy on everyone. Contact Doug Topliffe (dtopliff@rcn.com) if you'd like to learn.

Financial Summary

(as of November 30, 2021)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$205,225	\$217,934	\$(12,709)
Expenses	\$204,241	\$200,017	\$ 4,224
Net Income	\$ 984	\$ 17,917	\$(16,933)

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).

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.

DONATED ALTAR FLOWERS WELCOME:

Flowers can be given to remember a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. The donor arranges with a local florist to have their chosen flowers delivered, or can create their own arrangement and deliver it on Saturday. After the service they may take the flowers home or donate them to someone in need of some cheer. There are many openings in the coming months. Contact Andrea in the church office to schedule a Sunday.

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!

CALLING ALL PARENTS of young children:

The CCA Parents Group is reconvening in 2022! Parents Group is a playgroup that meets in-person, once a month. It's a place for kids to play and parents to explore their spiritual lives and experiences. Through readings and discussion, young parents at CCA get to know each through fellowship and faith formation.

Parents group is open to parents of all genders, whether they attend this church, any church, or none at all! This group welcomes all who are seeking authentic connection, spiritual conversation, and deeper friendship with people on a similar part of life's path.

If you are interested in joining the parents group, reach out to Pastor Kate at pastorkate@ccamherst.org.



The Lectionary texts for the next two weeks are:

January 16 Matthew 20:1-16
Creative Worship—Work for Justice

January 23 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Our Church Calendar

January 9—15, 2022

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	10:00 a.m.	Worship—Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship—Community Room
	11:15 a.m.	Racial Justice Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman’s Association Workshop
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
	7:00 p.m.	Trustees of the Facility
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting—Parlor
	4:00 p.m.	Communications Team
	5:00 p.m.	Stewardship Team
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Budget & Finance Team

Sunday, January 9, 2022