

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



*“Footfalls echo in the memory. Down the passage which we did not take.
Towards the door we did not open.”*

- T.S. Eliot

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

January 1, 2023

First Sunday after Christmas
New Year's Day

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

I Saw Three Ships

David Clark Isele

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or in spirit.

One: May the love that shaped all of Creation

Many: dwell within us this Christmas.

One: May the love that created every one of us

Many: dwell within us this Christmas.

One: May the love that makes everything new

Many: dwell within us this Christmas.

One: May the love that forgives and heals

Many: dwell within us this Christmas.

One: May the love that brings reconciliation and resolution

Many: dwell within us this Christmas.

One: May the love that brings the blessing of peace

Many: dwell within us this Christmas.

One: May the love that causes us to rejoice

Many: dwell within as we worship God!

*HYMN

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

No. 22

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

The congregation may be seated.

One: Creating God, you make all things new.

Many: You are recreating us, always.

One: We come to you on this first day of a new year with new desires and old fears,

Many: with new dreams and old regrets.

One: Because you are a God of hope,

Many: we know that you create all the possibilities of the future.

One: Because you are a God of love,
Many: we know that you accept all the mistakes of the past.
One: Because you are the God of our faith,
Many: we come into your presence with gratitude and joy.
Be with us now, 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.

*SONG OF PRAISE

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Maya Gascoyne, piano

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under the sun:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what has been planted;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
a time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil?
I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with.
God has made everything suitable for its time;
moreover God has put a sense of past and future into their minds,
yet they cannot find out what God has done
from the beginning to the end.
I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy
and enjoy themselves as long as they live;
moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink
and take pleasure in all their toil.

SERMON

“A Time for Everything”

*HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

No. 38

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

If you have a prayer to share, fill out a prayer card in your pew. Cards will be collected by one of the pastors during the hymn after the sermon, and will be shared during Joys and Concerns.

ORGAN RESPONSE

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Jesus, Redeemer of the World

Robert J. Powell

*DOXOLOGY

As With Gladness Men of Old

(hymn 63, verse 3)

As they offered gifts most rare,
at that manger plain and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
give our best for God's employ,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you from whom they spring.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Generous God, we bring our gifts as an act of awe and wonder, knowing that you multiply every effort. We share the joy of the magi, for we too have seen the star and know the joy of giving. We praise you with our gifts and with our lives, that the great riches of Christ might be opened for all to experience. Amen.

*HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

No. 31

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE

While By My Sheep/Joy, Joy, Joy!

Don Hustad

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

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service
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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 on break this week and will resume Sunday, January 8.
- 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 in the pews and 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.
- Please remember to wear your nametag each Sunday, so that we may all greet our neighbors. If you do not have a permanent nametag, temporary nametags may be found inside the friendship registers. If you are in need of a new, permanent nametag, please see one of the deacons.
- Please join us in the community room for a time of fellowship after the worship service. Coffee and beverages are offered.
- 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

Michael Havay

John Swanson

Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Videographer

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Wendy Valeri

Larissa Riley

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Bell Choir Director

Church School Coordinator

MEN'S GENTLY USED OR NEW CLOTHING

NEEDED: Crestwood Senior Living Center in Milford is in need of men's clothing. A box is in the church office for socks, comfortable pants, shirts and sweatshirts. If you have questions please contact Bruce Manchester at bruceman23@comcast.net.

WA FAIR CRITIQUE AND STONE SOUP

LUNCHEON: WA members will meet on January 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the vestry to do an evaluation of the various aspects of the Holiday Fair. Non-WA members who worked at the fair are also welcome to participate. After the discussion, participants will enjoy a luncheon of Stone Soup, bread and desserts. WA members and fair volunteers who would like to attend should contact Carol Lyon (cml750@comcast.net).

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for January include toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorants, shampoo and conditioner, bar soap, feminine hygiene products, diapers and wipes. 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!

BEWARE OF FALLING SNOW AND ICE:

During the winter months, we want to 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.

Financial Summary

(as of November 30, 2022)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$205,894	\$208,731	\$ (2,837)
Expenses	\$212,393	\$214,449	\$ (2,056)
Net Income	\$ (6,499)	\$ (5,717)	\$ 781

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 (Treasurer), Doug Topliffe, Todd Whitney and Tim Wiegand.



Sunday, January 1, 2023

Our Church Calendar

January 1—7, 2023

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
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship
Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	4:30 p.m.	Church Council
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir