

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



"At the age of five, I chose to be baptized. Before I lost my first tooth or learned how to ride a bike or graduated from kindergarten, I committed my life to a man who asked his followers to love their enemies, to give without expecting anything in return, and to face public execution if necessary. It is perhaps an unfair thing to ask of a child, but few who decide to follow Jesus know from the beginning what they're getting themselves into."

—Rachel Held Evens

THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

*"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here."*

January 12, 2025

Baptism of Jesus

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/
Dale Wood

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

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, my Beloved, with him I am well-pleased."

One: Jesus is named by God. Jesus is claimed by God.

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

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

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

*HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

No. 376

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

The congregation may be seated.

God of water and wind, God of music and word,

you call us 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.

***GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and Holy Spirit, One;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANTHEM

At the River
Chancel Choir

Aaron Copland

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

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 strap 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

"Beloved Child of God"

***HYMN**

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

No. 316

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

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

Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow

*DOXOLOGY (Tune: *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.**

*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.**

*HYMN

O Christ, the Great Foundation

No. 443

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

To God Be the Glory

William H. Doane/
Robert J. Powell

*(*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

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

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 staffed and available for parents with young children.
- Joys and Concerns may be written on the cards found in the pews. 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 WORSHIP SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Rev. Charlotte E. Y. Bell

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Gail Wiegand

Steve Boczenowski, Sue Ruggiero

Bruce and Susan Manchester, Anita Swanson

Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Deacons

Ushers

Videographer

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Kelly Isaacs

Matt Emmons

Gretchen Davis

Deb Boczenowski

Melissa Lewis

Teacher, Preschool /Kindergarten

Teacher, Grades 1 to 4

Teacher, Grades 5 to 7

Assistant Teacher

Nursery Attendant

Shellie Brook

Larissa Riley

Student Pastor

Director of Youth Ministries

WA LUNCHEON ON JANUARY 13 - Non-members welcome! The Woman's Association (WA) will hold its annual Holiday Fair Critique and Stone Soup Luncheon on Monday, January 13th. The Fair critique, which will begin at 10:30 a.m., gives the group a chance to discuss each aspect of the Fair to help plan for the Fall 2025 event and is followed by a luncheon.

This is a great opportunity for women who might be interested in this active organization to learn more about the WA and to enjoy a nice lunch. Interested? Contact Deb Boczenowski (DBocz25@gmail.com) to sign up or for more information.

Financial Summary

(as of December 31, 2024)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$277,680	\$268,719	\$ 8,961
Expenses	\$242,232	\$247,389	\$(5,157)
Net Income	\$ 35,447	\$ 21,330	\$14,118

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: Ken Bell (Treasurer), Don Lyon, Paul Spiess, Doug Topliffe, and Todd Whitney.

DID YOU KNOW... The *Demon of Unrest* by Erik Larson is an excellent read for anyone wanting to learn more about slavery and the start of our Civil War. Erik Larson's extensive research includes the private diary of Mary Boykin Chesnut, wife of a prominent planter. Life in Charleston, Southern Carolina and the shelling of Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor is brought alive by this prolific writer.

Submitted by CCA Racial Justice Group

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

Our Church Calendar

January 12—18, 2025

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
	11:15 a.m.	Youth Choir
	11:30 a.m.	Racial Justice Group
	6:00 p.m.	Senior Youth Group
Monday	10:30 a.m.	WA Luncheon
	7:00 p.m.	World Service
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	WA Board
	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday AM adult Ed
	5:30 p.m.	Christmas in Amherst Village Team
	6:00 p.m.	Budget & Finance Team
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Saturday	1:00 p.m.	Memorial Service for Sandra Fraser
	5:00 p.m.	Saturday Service

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Jesus is Baptized



Jukwaa Mazao presents the 26th Annual

Set the House on Fire

A Gospel Concert Celebrating the Life
and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The ultimate measure
of a man is not where
he stands in moments
of comfort and
convenience, but
where he stands
at times of challenge
and controversy.”

Martin Luther King



Monday, January 20, 2025 at 5:30pm

Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow Street, Portsmouth, NH

*Admission is \$15 plus a non-perishable item to help
replenish the shelves at local food pantries. Thank you!*