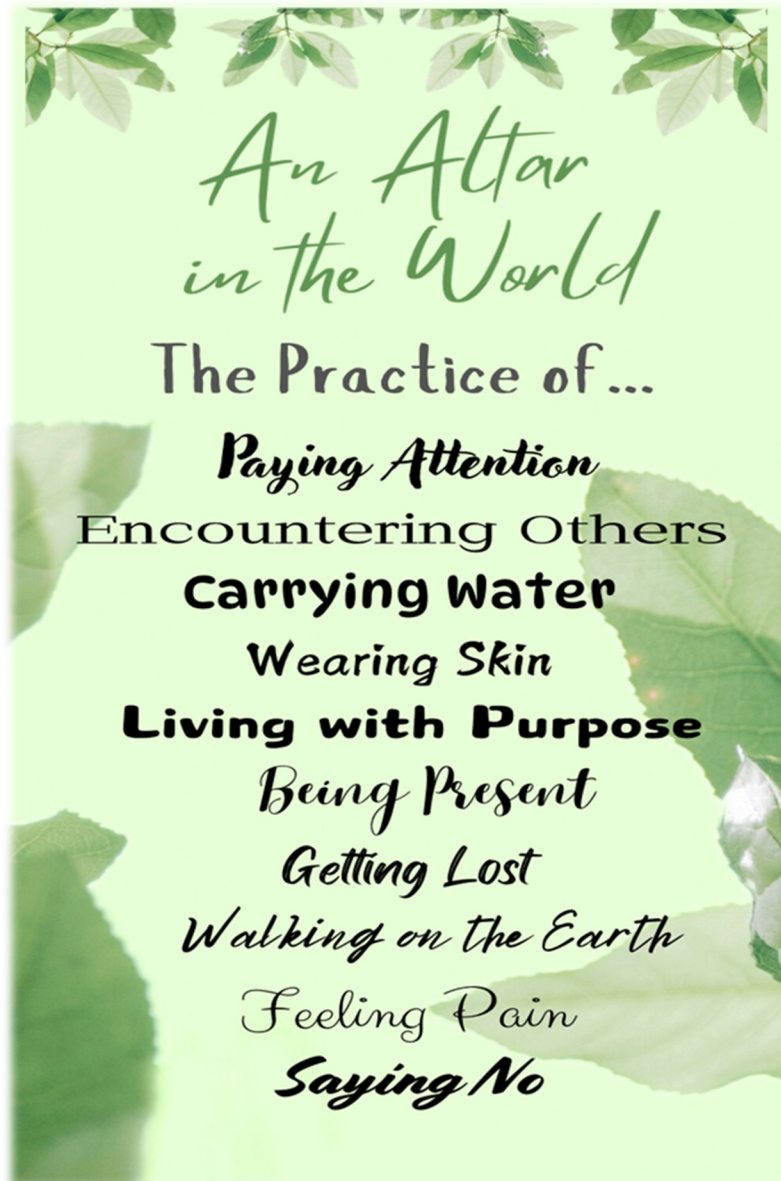


The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Amherst, New Hampshire



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 19, 2025

An Altar in the World

10:00 a.m.

The Practice of Living with Purpose

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

This is the Day the Lord Hath Made

Lucius Chapin/
Anthony Giamanco

INTROIT

*GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: How do we worship God?
There are many ways!

**Many: We worship God in prayer,
in presence, in persistence.**

One: We worship God in scripture,
in song, in solitude.

**Many: We worship God in movement,
in mission, in masterpieces.**

One: We worship God in our words,
in our work, in our wanderings.

**Many: We worship God in calling,
in Creation, in community.**

**All: We worship God, together,
right here, right now.**

WELCOMING GOD'S PRESENCE (unison)

The congregation may be seated.

**Gift-giving God, you call us together,
with our different gifts,
our different passions,
our different experiences.
You call us together,
to share what makes us unique,
to build on what we have in common,
to serve one another with grace.
You call us together,
to pray, to listen, to speak,
to discern your will and your way,
to find purpose in living in love. Amen.**

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANTHEM

The Gift to Be Simple
Chancel Choir

arr. Bob Chilcott

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE and REFLECTION

THE PRACTICE OF LIVING WITH PURPOSE

Spiritual Gifts
1 Corinthians 12:4-11

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit.
There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things.

Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do.

The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others.

Some of us can speak with wisdom, while others can speak with knowledge,
but these gifts come from the same Spirit.

To others the Spirit has given great faith or the power to heal the sick or the power to work mighty miracles.

Some of us are prophets, and some of us recognize when God's Spirit is present.

Others can speak different kinds of languages, and still others can understand these languages.

But it is the Spirit who does all this and decides which gifts to give to each of us.

Call and Commission Jeremiah 1:4-10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,
“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”
Then I said, “Ah, Lord God!
Truly I do not know how to speak,
for I am not yet grown.”

But the Lord said to me,
“Do not say, ‘I am not yet grown,’
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you.”

Then the Lord reached out and touched my mouth, and said to me,
“Now I have put my words in your mouth.
See, today I appoint you over nations and over empires,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

Greatest Commandment Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless,
they met together. One of them, a legal expert, tested him.
“Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?”
He replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your being, and with all your mind.
This is the first and greatest commandment.
And the second is like it:
You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.
All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

SHARING OUR REFLECTIONS and OUR OFFERINGS

*All are invited forward to place their Living with Purpose reflections on the sanctuary walls.
Offerings and Prayer Cards may be placed in the baskets at the front of the sanctuary.*

MUSIC FOR OUR OFFERING

Day By Day

Oscar Ahnfelt/
Edward Broughton

SHARING OUR PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Contemporary Language Version

God who made the earth, sky, and sea.

God who made the universe and all that's in it.

You are truly amazing.

Help us to look after our world,

teach us to be kind and merciful to others.

and inspire us to reach our full potential.

Provide food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless,

companions for the lonely and healing for those who seek it.

Grant us the courage to admit when we have hurt others,

and the mercy to not hold grudges when others have hurt us.

Help us to do what is right and just,

and not to be led into things that are harmful or hateful.

With your help, all things are possible, O God,

today, tomorrow, and forever.

Amen.

*HYMN

Forward through the Ages

inside back page 11

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Praise My Soul the King of Heaven

Franklin Ritter

*(*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
Shellie Brook
Sara L. Phelps
Michael Havay
Gail Wiegand
Kathleen Bouchard, Sally Hooper
Reid Cunningham
Patricia Bodan

Ministers to the World
Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Student Pastor
Director of Music
Organist/Accompanist
Deacon in Charge
Deacons
Liturgist
Videographer

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
Kelly Isaacs
Larissa Riley
Dave Hagerstrom
Sheryl Gottwald
Melissa Lewis

Director of Youth Ministries
Teacher, Preschool /Kindergarten
Teacher, Grades 1 to 4
Teacher, Grades 5 to 7
Assistant Teachers
Nursery Attendant

144 ENVELOPES FUNDRAISER: Today our Senior Youth Group is kicking off the *144 Envelopes Fundraiser* to help pay for the 2025 Hurricane Helene Relief Mission Trip. After worship, be sure to visit the bulletin board in the Community Room to learn more about the trip and check out the numbered envelopes decorated by the teens. It's easy to support the trip: just choose an envelope from 1 to 144 and make a donation in the amount equal to the number you chose. If you only have \$5 to give, or your child wants to donate \$1, that's great! We need every envelope to be selected in order to reach our goal of \$10,000. We are grateful for every dollar given.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET MEETING FEBRUARY 9:

The Budget and Finance Team will provide an update on the current financial status of the church, as well as a preliminary budget overview for the next fiscal year (FY26). This meeting is for informational purposes only, we will not be voting on anything.

Financial Summary

(as of December 31, 2024)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<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), Paul Spiess, Doug Topliffe, and Todd Whitney.

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!*

GAME NIGHT—SAVE THE DATE! CCA's annual Family Game Night & Potluck Supper is Saturday, February 8, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. **All ages, friends and family are welcome.** We will have Bingo, cards, board games and trivia, and attendees are encouraged to bring their own favorite game to share with others. Prizes will be awarded too!

Supper is potluck style: pizza and beverages will be provided, and folks are asked to bring a side/salad/dessert to share.

A voluntary donation is welcome: \$5 for individuals/\$10 for families. RSVP is always helpful, contact Meredith Dart at m_getler@hotmail.com.

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!

DID YOU KNOW... The Native Americans who inhabited the land we now live on, the Abenaki People, were primarily farmers. However, during the winter months, the Abenaki spent their time hunting for caribou and moose, while also trapping for beavers. They lived primarily in long wooden houses with fire pits for warmth and for cooking. They also used smaller portable wigwams lined with fur pelts for travel. Winter was a time for indigenous people to slow down, rest, and replenish their inter-connectedness to humanity, nature and the stars.

Our Church Calendar

January 19—25

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.	Christian Ed
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Caregivers Circle
	4:00 p.m.	Stewardship
	7:00 p.m.	Communications
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Friday		Confirmation Class Retreat
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Memorial Service for Emil "Skip" Skoglund



Sunday, January 19, 2025



*Earlier in my life,
I thought God had a purpose for me
and my main job was to discover what it was.
Then one night when my whole heart
was open to hearing from God
what I was supposed to do with my life,
God said, "Anything that pleases you."
Whatever I decided to do for a living,
it was not what I did but how I did it that mattered to God.
My chosen vocation remained a subset of a larger vocation,
which was the job of loving God and neighbor as myself.
Over the years I have come to think of this
as the vocation of becoming fully human.*

— Barbara Brown Taylor



MY WORK

**Reflect upon and list the work you've done or the jobs you've held
in your life – paid or unpaid.**

MY PASSIONS

**Reflect upon and list the things you love to do –
work, recreations, hobbies, service to others.**