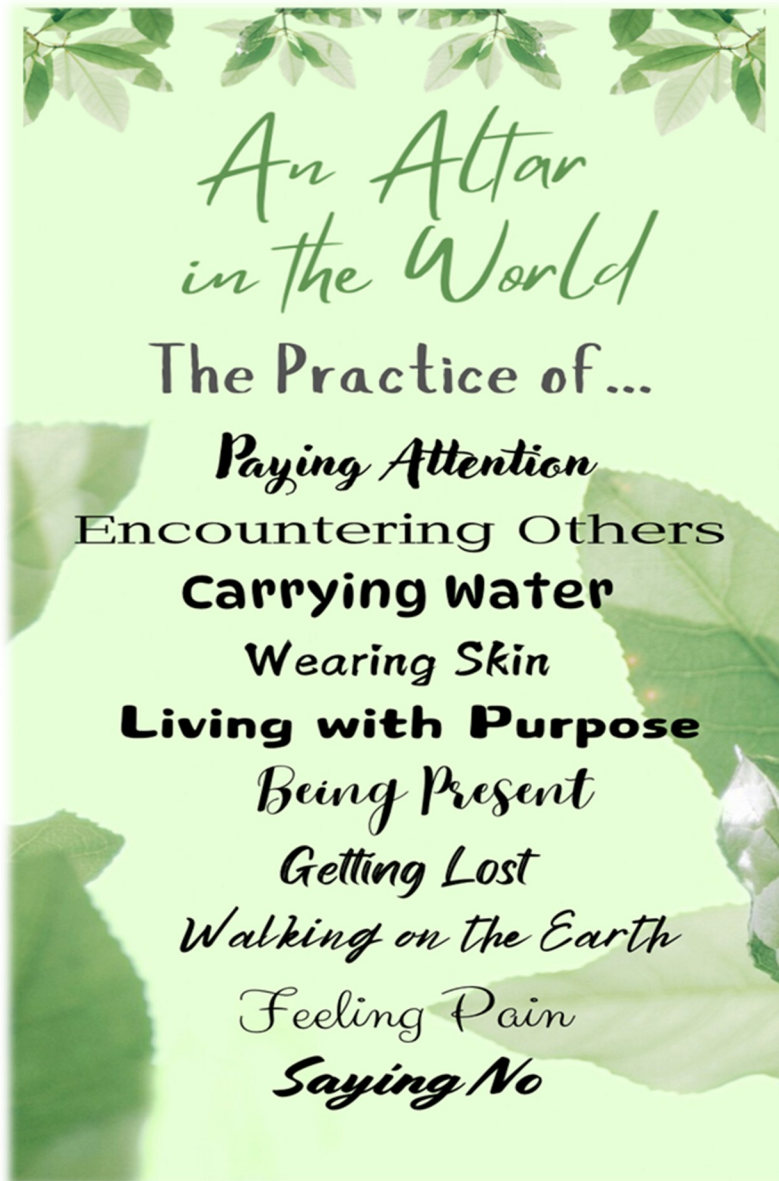


The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Amherst, New Hampshire



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.”*

February 16, 2025

An Altar in the World

10:00 a.m.

The Practice of Being Present to God

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Here I Am, Lord

Dan Schutte, arr. John Carter

GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY

One: What does our God require of us on this Sabbath day?

**Many: To be present—
when our thoughts, plans, and worries are elsewhere.**

One: To bring our whole selves before our Creator,

Many: and our broken selves.

One: To listen, to learn, to lean in

**Many: as we seek comfort to calm our fears,
and discomfort to stir our souls.**

One: What does our God require of us?

Many: To love our God.

One: To love ourselves.

Many: To love our neighbor.

One: To live mercifully.

Many: To act justly.

All: To walk humbly with our Creator.

WELCOMING GOD’S PRESENCE (unison)

**Bountiful God, you give us so much –
life, love, grace.**

Today we ask what we might give in return:

**Open our hearts to hear your words,
to feel your touch,
to be moved by your Spirit.**

**Clear our minds, sharpen our focus,
and remove our stumbling blocks
so we might see the ways in which you intend for us to live
and be of service to you by serving the world. Amen.**

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Hear My Prayer
Sara Phelps, soprano
Michael Havay, piano

Moses Hogan

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Micah 6:6-8

“With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

REFLECTION

“What Does God Require of You?”

ORGAN MEDITATION

Galliarda

Iouri Grichetchkine

SHARING OUR PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Contemporary Language Version

**Holy One, you made the earth, sky, and sea.
You 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 live into your image,
in which we are created.**

**Through us, provide food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless,
companions for the lonely and healing for those who seek it.**

Continued page 4

**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.**

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

One: People of God, our commission leads us into the world.

Many: **To offer good news to all who long to hear it.**

One: In the midst of a brokenness and division,

Many: **we proclaim the God of Healing.**

One: In the midst of despair and sorrow,

Many: **we proclaim the God of Hope.**

One: In the midst of unkindness and apathy,

Many: **we proclaim the God of Love and Compassion.**

All: **We go now, knowing that our purpose
is to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Amen!**

POSTLUDE

Lift Every Voice and Sing

John Rosamond Johnson/
arr. Randa Kirshbaum

*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
 Sara L. Phelps
 Michael Havay
 Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World
 Senior Pastor
 Director of Music
 Organist/Accompanist
 Videographer

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are from the memorial service for Carole Byatt, held here in our sanctuary yesterday.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET MEETING TODAY: 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 will be held on Zoom at 11:30 a.m.. All members are encouraged to attend. This meeting is for informational purposes only, we will not be voting on anything.

144 ENVELOPES FUNDRAISER CONTINUES: Our Senior Youth Group's *144 Envelopes Fundraiser*, to help pay for the 2025 Hurricane Helene Relief Mission Trip, is now underway. 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.

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.

DID YOU KNOW: Black History Month originated as "Negro History Week" which was established by historian Carter G. Woodson in 1926, with the goal of highlighting the achievements of Black Americans. Later during the Civil Rights movement, the week evolved into a month-long celebration, and in 1976, President Gerald Ford officially designated February as Black History Month.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for February include canned ham, canned meats/tuna/chicken, mac and cheese, pasta (all sorts), Progresso and Chunky soups. 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 January 31, 2025)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$303,252	\$293,706	\$9,546
Expenses	\$284,157	\$283,696	\$ 461
Net Income	\$ 19,095	\$ 10,011	\$9,084

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.

Blankets for Bruce



Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, homelessness and poverty are always with us. When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the Church World Service Blankets program was created—to give a loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone.

This program was very near and dear to former longtime member Bruce Beckley's heart. As a congregation, our heart for mission remains strong. This is an opportunity to help make a difference, change lives, and honor Bruce's passion for mission work.

As a church family, let's join together as we take up a 'Blankets for Bruce' offering. You can donate using the Blankets pew envelopes, mail a check to Andrea with 'blankets' on the memo line, or donate online at our custom CWS Blankets secure donation page: <https://cwsblankets.org/virtual/ccamherst/>.

Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations, and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters.

When our neighbors are in need, even \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way.

Our Church Calendar February 16—22, 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 11:30 a.m. Preliminary Budget Meeting
Monday	10:00 a.m. WA Workshop 6:00 p.m. Capital Campaign
Tuesday	10:00 a.m. Caregivers Circle 7:00 p.m. Communications Team
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. Wednesday AM Adult Ed 6:00 p.m. Budget & Finance Team
Thursday	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

Sunday, February 16, 2025



*Wisdom is not gained by knowing what is right.
Wisdom is gained by practicing what is right,
and noticing what happens
when that practice succeeds and when it fails.
Wise people do not have to be certain
what they believe before they act.
They are free to act,
trusting that the practice itself
will teach them what they need to know.*

— Barbara Brown Taylor





*act justly
love mercy
walk humbly*

MICAH 6:8