

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



*"Love is the only force capable of transforming
an enemy into a friend."*

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

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 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

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

Chatter with the Angels
Bell Choir

arr. Konder

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: Jesus teaches us, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." But who are the others?

Many: Our enemies and friends, family and strangers.

One: Jesus teaches us, "Be merciful as your Father is merciful." But what is mercy?

Many: To act with compassion, to help without expecting anything in return.

One: Jesus teaches us, "Forgive, and you will be forgiven." But how do we forgive?

Many: By recognizing enemies, friends, family, strangers, and ourselves as people in need of compassion.

One: Let us worship God, who loves us and empowers us to love one another with mercy and compassion.

All: Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God!

*HYMN

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

No. 210

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)
The congregation may be seated.

**Holy Jesus,
You call us into a life that others have told us is easy, but it is not.
You challenge us to forgive, to love our enemies,
To bless those who curse us.
We want the easy way,
But you have given us the hard path.
Grant us the patience and endurance to journey with You,
To allow ourselves at times to stumble,
To live into the hard way
So that we might fully experience
Your love, grace, and peace in this world,
By becoming a people full of love and grace
And forgiving others.
In Your name, we pray as you 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.

*GLORIA PATRI

**Glorify 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

As the Deer
Chancel Choir

Martin Nystrom/
arr. Lloyd Larson

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 6:27-38

“But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

SERMON “Listening and Loving”

*HYMN *Be Still, My Soul* pages 10 & 11

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 *Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace* Mark Sedio

*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)

Merciful God, who calls us to love beyond measure, we offer these gifts as a sign of our commitment to your teachings. Help us love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, and bless those who curse us. May our offerings bring healing and hope, reflecting your boundless grace in our community. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN *The Gift of Love* page 9

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Voluntary on "Kremser" (We Gather Together)

Gordon Young

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

*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 during school vacation, and will resume next Sunday.
- 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.

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. Charlotte E. Y. Bell
 Shellie Brook
 Sara L. Phelps
 Michael Havay
 Doug Topliffe
 Kathleen Bouchard, John Swanson
 Don and Susan Holden
 Andrea Cyr
 Melissa Lewis

Ministers to the World
 Associate Pastor
 Student Pastor
 Director of Music
 Organist/Accompanist
 Deacon in Charge
 Deacons
 Ushers
 Videographer
 Nursery Attendant

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott
 Larissa Riley

Senior Pastor
 Director of Youth Ministries

LAST WEEK'S Preliminary Budget Meeting's
 Zoom recording and presentation slides are available on our church's website, under the Members section.

GOOD STUFF SALE DONATIONS: This year's Woman's Association's "Good Stuff Sale" will be held on May 2 and 3. It's not too early to look around your home for things you might want to donate to this fundraiser to support the church and community organizations. The sale includes clothing and accessories, jewelry, household items, toys and books and much more.

Questions? Contact Sally Bowkett, sbb46@hotmail.com or 603-673-7409, or Alicia Wight, wightalicia@gmail.com or 603-345-0155.

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 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY



MARCH 5
SERVICE AT 7:00 P.M.

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.

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!

DID YOU KNOW... As preseason baseball games get underway, let's remember Curt Flood, a star centerfielder for the St. Louis Cardinals. He helped lead the Cardinals to three National League Pennants and two World Series Titles. Mr. Flood stood up to the extreme racism that Black baseball players experienced, such as not being able to dress with white players or have their uniforms cleaned by the team's cleaners. He protested being traded to another team against his will, comparing his being owned by the team to being a slave, saying, "A well paid slave is a slave nonetheless". His case went all the way to the Supreme Court. Although the court sided with Major League Baseball and against Flood, 3 years later the rule was changed effectively ending the reserve clause. Thanks to Curt Flood's determination and courage, baseball players are no longer owned by the team and can become free agents after playing for one year without a contract.

Submitted by the CCA Racial Justice Group

Our Church Calendar

February 23—March 1, 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. 11:15 a.m.	Worship Fellowship
Monday	10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	WA Workshop World Service
Thursday	6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Chancel Choir

Sunday, February 23, 2025



Samantha Hanny