



VILLAGE SPIRE

January 2026



Shine Sunday “Sermon on the Mount”

January 18, 10:00 a.m.

Our monthly themed worship returns on the third Sunday in January! This year our theme is *SHINE: Living in God's Light*. Each month we'll focus on the ways we are the presence of God for one another in matters of mercy, compassion, and justice.

On January 18th we'll turn our hearts to one of the most enduring, inspiring, and challenging teachings in our Gospels - Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Our children will participate in the beginning of the service before heading off to Church School to engage the theme and scripture in their class time. We hope you can join us, either in-person or online!



Open and Affirming

Rev. Maureen Frescott, Senior Pastor

January 2026

What rises up for you when you hear the phrase “Open and Affirming?” Is it joy? Or confusion? Or indifference? Or angst? If it's confusion or indifference, because you're not clear on what Open and Affirming is, keep reading! And if it's angst, and you're already tensing up, I ask that you please keep reading as well.

When we gather for worship on Sunday mornings, we make a point to note in our words of welcome that we are an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. You may have also heard us mention that we're about to mark the 15th anniversary of this designation. We became Open and Affirming when we adopted this Welcome Statement at our annual meeting on January 30, 2011:

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.

What does it mean to be an Open and Affirming congregation? Officially, it means we welcome those who traditionally have come away feeling unwelcome in faith communities, either explicitly or implicitly. In welcoming others, we're *open* to their full participation, and we fully *affirm* who they are. This applies to members of the LGBTQ+ community, who are explicitly barred from inclusion, membership, and leadership in most Christian churches unless they fundamentally renounce or change who they are. But it also applies to the other groups named in our Welcome Statement, who often find implicit or physical barriers to inclusion, even in those churches who say they welcome everyone.

Officially, to receive the designation of “Open and Affirming” within the UCC, a congregation is encouraged to undergo an intentional process of exploration and discussion that typically concludes with a congregational vote. This process takes time, and is encouraged because as much as our faith communities may believe they're welcoming to all, when we begin to

VILLAGE SPIRE

A Parish Newsletter

The Congregational Church of Amherst, NH, United Church of Christ
11 Church Street, Amherst, NH 03031

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

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Church school available.

How to reach us:

Office Phone (603) 673-3231,
(603) 673-6848

www.ccamherst.org

Facebook.com/ccamherst

Instagram.com/ccamherstnh

The church office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and is available by telephone and email Monday through Friday.

Send in all newsletter articles by the fifteenth of the month.

Items for the Sunday bulletin are due Thursday morning.

OUR CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott
Senior Pastor

pastormaureen@ccamherst.org

Rev. Charlotte E. Y. Bell
Associate Pastor

pastorcharlotte@ccamherst.org

Sara L. Phelps
Director of Music
kalben1@comcast.net

Michael Havay
Organist
michaelh117@gmail.com

Larissa Riley
Director of Youth Ministries
churchschool@ccamherst.org

Andrea Cyr
Church Office Administrator
andrea@ccamherst.org



Happy New Year! We have programs for children and teens of all ages. New friends are always welcome. Contact Larissa Riley for more information.

Nursery: The nursery is staffed on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. until approximately 11:30 a.m. This space is designed for babies, young children, and parents. There is a monitor streaming the worship service in the nursery. Parents may choose to drop off children, stay with them in the nursery, or come and go as needed throughout the service. Parents can use the nursery with their children when it is not staffed, but please do not leave children of any age unattended in the nursery.

Church School (preschool - 7th grade): We will have church school during the second part of worship every Sunday in January! Children will walk to the classrooms with teachers, and split into groups based on grade level.

Junior Youth Group (grades 5 - 7): This group meets after worship once per month for service activities and fun. The January JYG meeting will be 1/25.

Confirmation Class: January meetings will be 1/6 (in Hollis), 1/20 (at CCA), and 1/23-1/24 (Squam Lake Retreat).

Senior Youth Group (grades 8 - 12): This month, SYG will be meeting on 1/4, 1/11, and possibly 1/25. We'll be choosing a location for our summer mission trip, planning a spaghetti supper, and picking a fun outing. Detailed SYG info is now shared via our WhatsApp Chat. Contact Larissa to join!

SHARE Food Pantry

The SHARE Food Pantry continues to be busy. Please know your donations are needed and truly appreciated.

January Pantry Requests:

toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorants,
shampoo and conditioner, bar soap,
feminine hygiene products, diapers and wipes



Donations may be left in our SHARE collection containers found in the narthex, the church office, and outside the community room. Donations may also 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!

Open and Affirming, continued from page 1

look at the ways that welcome may be limited, or where there's disagreement over who should be included, or what that welcome should look like, we may find that our community is not as welcoming as we assumed.

For those who identify as LGBTQ+, who've been hurt or harmed by faith communities in the past, there's an even greater risk involved in attending a church that says it's welcoming to all, yet hasn't done the intentional work to determine if this is true. Sadly, there's too often a "bait and switch" feeling at play, where the welcome is extended, and then an unwelcoming message from those in the pews or the pulpit opens old wounds, creates new trauma, or leaves one feeling that the new church is no different than the others.

One honest question that's often raised, is why an official Welcome Statement has to explicitly name particular groups, or why symbols of such inclusion, like rainbows or handicapped signage are needed. Do these explicit identifiers imply that those not named or not represented by such symbols are excluded from the welcome? In response, I would ask this equally honest question: does the sign we have in our entryway that identifies us as a "Family Friendly" church, imply that we're not welcoming to single people or couples without children? Or rather, is it an acknowledgment that many churches are struggling to attract families with young children and we want others to know that our church is different? Similarly, if we can acknowledge that accessibility language and signage is needed because people with disabilities might assume that a historic building like ours would not be welcoming to someone like them, then why is it that we struggle to see the same need for those in the LGBTQ+ community? Is it because a deeper discomfort is at play here?

Speaking from my own experience, and for others who've shared their experiences with me, the default assumption of those who are gay, trans, or gender nonconforming is that no Christian church is fully welcoming. This is because the majority of Christian churches (yes, the majority) are explicitly not welcoming. And within the mainline churches that have an Open and Affirming equivalent policy, it is hit or miss to find such a church, or one that authentically lives into it. Even within the United Church of Christ, only 30% of congregations identify as Open and Affirming. Some identify as "Faithful and Affirming" meaning they remain faithful to what they believe is the "biblical" position that marriage is reserved for one man and one woman. This is the challenge that people in the LGBTQ+ community face when searching for a church. Sadly, those who've been hurt in their search more often than not simply stop looking, and are now part of the "nones" who no longer attend any church.

For those who've found their way to our congregation, it was the explicit mention in our Welcome Statement that they saw on our website or in our bulletin, the rainbow signage and images that identified our church as a safe space, or the invitation by one of our current members, who assured them that we are as welcoming as we say we are, that ultimately drew them in and helped them to find a home here. This is just as true of those who've found their way to our congregation who are not explicitly mentioned in our welcome statement but have longed to be a part of a community that offers such a witness and welcome to those who are.

On Sunday, February 1st, our congregation will celebrate the 15th anniversary of the adoption of our Welcome Statement, and I believe it is truly worth celebrating. CCA has become a spiritual lifeboat for those who've felt as they were cast out to sea, and we're hoping to expand that lifeboat as we continue to seek ways to widen our welcome. What better way to love our neighbor and to live into Jesus' ministry to those on the margins than to be a safe harbor for those longing to belong and live in community? Our Welcome Statement, and our Open and Affirming status, are our way of sharing the good news that each of us is a beloved child of God.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Maureen

Beware of Email and Text Scams



From time to time, we hear reports from folks receiving spam emails or text messages pretending to be from Pastor Maureen. These messages often ask for help buying gift cards, and a recent scam asks you to forward an electronic copy of our church directory. If you get one of these suspicious messages, don't click on any links or respond—just delete it.

Many pastors and churches are facing this kind of scam lately. Scammers use public information and pretend to be someone you trust.

If you're not sure whether an email claiming to be from us is real, hover your mouse over the sender's name or email address. A genuine email from us will have "@ccamherst.org" in the address. If it doesn't, it's not from us.

Book Nook

Monthly Book Recommendation



In this book that is both a memoir and a blueprint for change, the Rev. William J. Barber II, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, writes movingly—and pragmatically—about how justice loving people are laying the groundwork for a movement that unites people across political, economic, racial, and religious divides. What this inspiring call for action offers most of all is hope. The reconstructions that followed the Civil War and the Civil Rights movement were both met with resistance, and the “third” reconstruction we’ve seen in the move towards inclusion and justice here in the 21st century has inspired a similar reaction. How might we as people of faith respond as we work together to heal the divide?

★★★★★ 4.30

THE THIRD RECONSTRUCTION



HOW A **MORAL MOVEMENT** IS **OVERCOMING** THE POLITICS OF **DIVISION AND FEAR**

THE REVEREND DR. WILLIAM J. BARBER II

WITH JONATHAN WILSON-HARTGROVE

Adult Confirmation: A Spiritual Journey

Wednesday mornings and evenings on ZOOM



If you’ve ever been envious of our youth confirmands as they gather to ask and seek answers to the big questions of faith that many of us still have as adults, now is your opportunity to do the same! You’re invited to join us on a year-long journey, or to come as you’re able, as we explore the same topics that our youth confirmands wrestle with in their classes. The sessions are open to all, regardless of what faith tradition you were raised in (or not) or confirmed in (or not).

Sessions are held twice a month, on Wednesday mornings and evenings, on ZOOM. Our morning class meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Our evening class will meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Email pastormaureen@ccamherst.org to receive the Zoom link.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

(first date listed is a.m., second date listed is p.m.)

Jan 7, 14	Christian History: Roots to Reformation
Jan 21, 28	Christian History: Denominational Differences
Feb 4, 11	United Church of Christ: Who Are We?
Feb 18, 25	Worship and The Christian Calendar
Mar 4, 11	Sacraments: Communion and Baptism
Mar 18, 25	Spiritual Practices: Prayer and Reflection
Apr 1, 8	Suffering: Why Bad Things Happen to Good People
Apr 15, 22	Discipleship: Living Our Faith Every Day
May 6, 13	World Religions: What Do Others Believe?

Financial Summary

(as of November 30, 2025)



	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$257,403	\$242,930	\$14,773
Expenses	\$226,655	\$231,644	\$(4,989)
Net Income	\$ 30,474	\$ 11,285	\$19,462

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.

The Church in the 1950's Part Two—Rev. Frank Weiskel (continued)

"The only constant in life is change" Heroclitus, c.500 BCE

Twenty centuries later, Heroclitus's words still ring true. Change was certainly coming to both the once-sleepy town of Amherst NH and the Congregational Church, and both were grappling with the inevitable change that comes with growth.

As was typical for centuries, the role of women was secondary to that of men in the 50's. Women were almost always referred to as "Mrs. John Smith," not "Mary Smith." There were no leadership roles for women in the Congregational Church. However, that began to change when the need for more "hands on deck" was recognized. In 1956, Harold Wilkins Jr., Chair of the Board of Deacons, recommended that four Deaconesses be appointed for a year to assist the deacons in their work, and "if this experiment proves successful, they should become a permanent part of the organization." A year later, it was reported "these hardworking women have been extremely effective in their work during the year and have succeeded in accomplishing many things which were being left undone heretofore." 23 years later, women were elected as Deacons.

The Village Spire made its debut in March 1956. Edited by Mrs. T. McClellan Houck, the "newsy" four-page mimeographed paper was mailed to over 330 households, here and away from home. The paper was the vision and inspiration of Rev. Frank Weiskel and sponsored by the Couples Club. News included the "Preacher's Ponderings," calendars of events, updates, and a column "Of People and Places," listing new members, health updates for some members, even vacation plans for others. Marjorie Heaton, the church secretary, "who not only understands the 'temperament' and the idiosyncrasies of a mimeograph machine" and takes complete charge of stenciling and addressing the newsletters, was lauded by church historian Dorothy Davis for her "quiet efficiency, generous cooperation, and complete dependability." Seven women helped Mrs. Heaton prepare and mail the Spire, which cost one cent to mail and was addressed to Mr. and Mrs. John Smith, Amherst NH - no street address or no zip code needed!

The church school boasted 250 children. When Mrs. Howard French retired, Rev. Weiskel became the Acting Church School Superintendent (among many, many other duties) until Burton Knight assumed the responsibility. Mrs. Knight (Wilene) was among the many church school teachers. Two youth groups, the Junior and Senior Pilgrim Fellowships, were formed. The Junior Choir included almost 25 children. The Meetinghouse was the sole space for all church activities. Every available corner of the church was being used for the church school, including the kitchen, music room, church balcony, church office and even in the parsonage living room. Clearly more space was needed!

Early in 1957, a solution was found and it was just across the Town Green. More change was afoot...



Caption in the Milford Cabinet: Rev. Frank M. Weiskel, minister of the Amherst Congregational Church shown presenting a handbag to Mrs. Howard French, who is retiring as superintendent of the church school. (Ralph Clarke Photo).



— Photo by Ralph W. Clarke

Here is the Junior Choir of the Amherst Congregational Church in their new choir robes. First row: Tina Jones, Linda Hancock, Peggy Davis, Karen Whitestone, Holly Weimont, Susan Hewson, Cynthia Hill, Jo-Ann Moody. Second row: Jane Emerson, Barbara Noble, Judy Bur-nap, Beverly Wilson, Holly Larner. Third row: Robert MacLeod, Tom Weiskel, Robert Atkinson, Tim Weiskel. Fourth row: Tom Prince, Larry Hall, Ford Le May, Douglas Dawson, Duane Curtis, Arthur Fraser, Charles Dryer.

Who Sits in the Pews (and Online)? (a.k.a. “Know Your Neighbor”)

Eric Davis* and His Siblings— Finding Faith in the Everyday

The Davis kids have diverse individual interests. But the way that they witness the power of God—simply and with intention—unites them. Big brother, Eric, explains it best.

“I love how, in our church, you’re not taught how to believe—you’re just encouraged to find what faith means to you. I see it in the little moments,” said Eric, a 16-year-old SHS sophomore.

Eric lives and breathes soccer. He treasures “a distant memory” of his 10-year-old self scoring his first-ever goal, a seemingly surreal scenario involving parting clouds and rain-squelching sunshine during a travel team game. Like his siblings, though, Eric feels Christ most often not in grand gestures but, rather, in the scaled-back yet intentional interactions of daily life.

Eric recalls with reverence the experiences of “[sitting] in peace and community” as light from handheld candles filled the silence at a Christian summer camp in Pennsylvania, of quietly observing and absorbing the excited energy of the Vacation Bible School students that he helps lead here at the CCA, of concentrating as his self-taught father lovingly teaches him to play guitar, and even of lending a hand with our Senior High Youth Group to help North Carolina residents rebuild their lives after a devastating hurricane. (Although one might argue that helping to rebuild after a hurricane is not small.)

For Eric’s brother, Owen, living a faith-filled life focuses on being kind while embracing the natural world that God has provided. “I definitely try and like guide my life around just being a good person—like thinking before speaking and the Golden Rule,” said the 13-year-old, who “likes to learn about things...and to forage for food.” (His favorite edible mushroom is the wavy-fringed orange fungi called chicken of the woods.)

Owen enjoys spending time with animals and exploring nature—from rock climbing to mountain biking to trail hiking. On the recent Snow Day when he was interviewed for this article, Owen noted that his favorite foods are chicken and brothy soups—and that the family flock of chickens is raised for eggs, not meat.

Empathy runs deep in the Davis family. Rounding out the human brood is little sister Jolene (her friends call her JoJo), 8 years old, a budding actress with three theatrical performances already under her belt. Her favorite acting memory isn’t about acting at all—it’s of the emotions that poured out as the cast finished their final performance of *Annie: The Musical* at the Boys and Girls Club’s Amato Center in Milford. “I have my little friend group there...All of my friends were trying not to cry because it was super sad. It was really fun—probably my favorite play—[but] we were sad because it was ending [and] we wouldn’t see each other until the next play,” JoJo shared.

CCA church school organizers recently presented Bibles to JoJo and all of the other third grade students. Each Bible contained a different highlighted passage for its recipient to ponder. “That’s another step in my faith [journey] and I’m really excited to learn more,” said JoJo.

JoJo’s passage, which she’s memorized: “Be courageous and willing. Do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Each time that she reads the passage it makes more sense to her, JoJo said. But it’s clear that God is with the Davis kids, and that they are living their faith in Him.



(left to right) Owen, JoJo and Eric Davis

*Eric, Owen and JoJo Davis are the children of Gretchen and Tyler Davis, who joined the ACC ten years ago. The family moved here from Arizona to follow a job prospect, to bring them closer to family in Pennsylvania and because Gretchen and Tyler both “missed having four seasons and trees in the yard.”

Holiday Fair Thanks

The Woman’s Association would like to thank all church members and friends who helped to make our 2025 Holiday Fair such a success. We expect that the Fair will net around \$15,000! We are grateful to all those who supported the Fair by donating baked goods, helping with set up or clean up, working during the Fair, or shopping on Fair day. We couldn’t have done it without you. The proceeds from the Fair enable the Woman’s Association to make a sizable annual pledge, plus other donations to our church, and to support numerous community organizations throughout the year.

A special thanks goes to the following “Friends of the WA” who generously donated their time to work on the Fair. Their help was invaluable in making the Fair so successful. We apologize to anyone who was inadvertently omitted.



Ric Magro
Mckenzie Philips
Larissa Riley
Dick Stout
Kristi Swanson

Fran Baddeley
Danielle Batey
Camille Davis
Shelley Fajans
Roger Hooper
Sophia Jones
Heather MacDonald
Bruce Manchester
Dave Poltack
Carolyn Sanchez
Anita Swanson
Dick Stout

Mark Baddeley
Jen Batey
Susan Deschenes
Scott Hewett
Sally Hooper
Bruce Kinney
Liz MacMillan
Dave Phelps
Kathe Richardson
Beth Secor
John Swanson
Holly Tonnesen



CCA’s Annual
**Family Game Night
and Potluck Supper**



Saturday, February 7 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

The Fellowship Team is again hosting our annual game night.

All ages, friends and family are welcome.

We will have Bingo, playing cards, board games, trivia challenge, and foosball. We also encourage you to bring your own favorite game to share with others.

Pizza and beverages will be provided,
and it is potluck style for salads/sides/desserts.

A-M please bring salad/side N-Z please bring dessert

A voluntary donation is welcome: \$5 for individuals/\$10 for families.

RSVP to let us know how many folks you are bringing, and if you are bringing a salad/side or dessert. Contact Meredith Dart at



Chancel Choir and Bell Choir will resume rehearsals on Thursday, January 8th.

Youth Choir will resume rehearsals on Sundays after church in the vestry on Sunday, January 11th.

Are you interested in singing or ringing? Questions about the Youth Choir? Please contact Sara Phelps, Director of Music . Happy New Year!

A Few Words About the Weather...



As many living in New England know, our winter weather is ever changing and at times can be quite unpredictable. In the case of bad weather and the need to cancel an in-person worship service, we will post announcements on WMUR Channel 9 television, and on our website and Facebook pages.

Of course, that doesn’t mean you will miss out on Sunday morning worship. Our live-streamed service will still be available for folks to tune to at 10:00 a.m. on our Facebook page, and we will continue to upload the recorded service to our website by noon.

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.

Was Hannah Dustin a Savage or an American Folk Hero?

In 1697, Hannah Dustin was living with her husband, Thomas, and their children in Haverhill, Massachusetts. She had recently delivered her eighth child and along with her caregiver, Mrs. Mary Neff, mother and child were doing well. As Mr. Dustin was working in the fields, a group of Indians approached, a few firing at the family from behind trees and boulders. Mr. Dustin's first instinct was to save his wife and baby. As he approached the house, already overrun by the invaders, Mr. Dustin realized he was too late and rode off to ensure the safety of his other children who had run to the garrison. As Mrs. Dustin hid in the fireplace, she watched as the Indians pillaged her home, taking as many clothes, tools, and food items as they could carry. Mrs. Dustin, her newborn, and her caregiver were captured along with several other neighbors.



The Indians and their captives walked towards Canada for several weeks. The captors then left Mrs. Dustin and Mrs. Neff with a Native American family. It is unclear what happened to the newborn baby. As legend has it, while the Native Americans were sleeping, Mrs. Dustin, Mrs. Neff, and another captive wielded tomahawks, killing 10 members of this Indian family as they slept, including 7 children.

As they quietly escaped and headed for home, Mrs. Dustin and Mrs. Neff realized they needed proof of what they had done. They returned to the camp site, scalped the mortally wounded captors, and wrapped the 10 scalps in cloth that had been stolen from Mrs. Dustin's loom. Mrs. Dustin and Mrs. Neff returned via canoe down the Merrimack River to Massachusetts where they received a reward of 50 pounds for the scalps they brought with them. Centuries later, monuments were erected in Hannah Dustin's honor, one in Haverhill, MA, her hometown, where Hannah is wielding a tomahawk, and another in Boscawen, NH. In the New Hampshire statue, Mrs. Dustin is holding a scalp. In 2025, New Hampshire State legislators called for the removal of the statue on the basis that it glorified violence against Native Americans.

Hannah Dustin never wrote her story down. Most of what we know about her capture and escape is revealed in three separate stories written by Cotton Mather, a Puritan Minister, several years later. He believed that the American Indians were tools of the devil to divert the Puritan way of life. In his stories about Dustin, Mr. Mather portrayed Hannah as an honorable human being working to rid the world of "savages", as he referred to the Indians. Although we will never know what happened to Mrs. Dustin's infant, Mr. Mather insisted that the violent Indians "...dashed out the brains of the infant against a tree". Mr. Mather was never bothered by the fact that seven of the "wretches" who were scalped were children. He viewed the wars between the New England Puritans and the Native Americans as a fight between good and evil. Hannah Dustin was thus portrayed as a heroine.

On first look, Mrs. Dustin and her co-conspirators were American idols, vanquishing the "savage Indians" and returning to glory for having taught the perpetrators a lesson. A look at the history of the times provides some perspective, however. Around the time of this story in the mid- to late 1600's, the English colonists, French Canadians, and the Native Americans were engaged in a series of wars to gain or protect land and feel more protected. For example, the King Philip's War around 1675 and the King William's War around 1680 resulted in the killing of more than 60%-80% of Native Americans of central and southern New England, many of whom were from the Abenaki group, who resided in northern Massachusetts, southern New Hampshire and Vermont, and Eastern Maine. The colonists were slowly pushing the Native Americans into smaller and less plentiful lands while also decimating their numbers. It was in this atmosphere of unrest and upheaval that one group of Native Americans, most of whom were likely Abenaki, attacked the town of Haverhill, MA, on March 15th, 1697.

YOU ARE INVITED: You are invited to a second hour meeting on February 15th, 2026 (snow date: March 15th, 2026) to view and discuss the documentary, "**Retracing Footsteps: Hannah Dustin and the Abenaki**" presented by Denise and Paul Pouliot. This documentary was produced in partnership with the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook-Abenaki People and the Indigenous New Hampshire Collaborative Collective and will explore the untold histories of Indigenous communities and their land as European colonization disrupted centuries of harmony, igniting conflicts that forever alter the landscape.

Submitted by The CCA Racial Justice Team

THE COWASUCK BAND OF THE
PENNACOOK ABENAKI PEOPLES PRESENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026, 11:30 a.m.

(Snow date is March 15)

The Congregational Church of Amherst, NH, UCC

11 Church Street, Amherst, NH

FREE ADMISSION—Light Refreshments

RETRACING FOOTSTEPS

Hannah Dustin and the Abenaki

A FILM BY

CATHERINE STEWART

UNEARTH THE UNTOLD HISTORIES OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND THEIR LAND AS EUROPEAN COLONIZATION DISRUPTS CENTURIES OF HARMONY, IGNITING CONFLICTS THAT FOREVER ALTER THE LANDSCAPE.

IN THIS TURBULENT ERA, THE STORY OF HANNAH DUSTIN EMERGES—A TALE OF SURVIVAL AND VENGEANCE THAT BECAME A SYMBOL OF HEROISM YET REMAINS DEEPLY ENTANGLED IN THE COMPLEXITIES OF CULTURAL DESTRUCTION.

INDIGENOUSNH.COM



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in faith
CHANGE
THE WORLD