

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



"The Kingdom of God is where our best dreams come from and our truest prayers. We glimpse it at those moments when we find ourselves being better than we are and wiser than we know. The Kingdom of God is where we belong. It is home, and whether we realize it or not, I think we are all of us homesick for it."

— Frederick Buechner

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 8, 2026

Fifth 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

Pastorale on "Blessed Assurance"

Phoebe Palmer Knapp/
Robert Lau

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: Deep inside us all – old and young alike -

Many: there is a place of faith,

One: a place of trust and hope and love,

Many without which there can be no peace.

One: Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them,

Many: for the Kingdom of God belongs to them."

One: Let us approach this hour as the children of God that we are.

Many: With innocence of heart and unlimited hope,

One: with a trust that makes us vulnerable,

Many: and with love that is unrestrained and unconditional.

All: Come, let us worship together!

*HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

page 11

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

**Still Speaking God, we have entered your sanctuary
where there are memories of community,
messages of peace, and imperatives of prophets;
where we find resurrection and restoration;
where our failings are erased by grace,
our arrogance is overcome by humility,
and our despair is replaced with hope.
We come before you longing to receive these gifts,
as we seek to move closer to you and your will.**

Open our hearts, Holy One, as we pray the words that Jesus 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.**

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANTHEM

Glow
Chancel Choir

Eric Whittacre

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 19:16-30

Then someone came to him and said, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother. Also, you shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "I have kept all these; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, "Then who can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible."

Then Peter said in reply, "Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my name's sake will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

SERMON "What Must I Do?"

*HYMN *Be Thou My Vision* No. 339

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, I Want to Be a Christian* Robert J. Powell

*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)

Thank you, Giving God, for meeting us in our need. Mold us into servants of your love, so that others in need will receive these gifts as well. We ask that you take this offering, of our time, our money, our selves, and transform them into powerful resources for your realm. So that no one may be in want, and so that all will know the extent of your love and grace. Amen.

*HYMN *God, Bless Your Church with Strength!* No. 418

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE *Aperto ("Open")* Lynn Trapp

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

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
 Sue Ruggiero
 Sally Hooper, Gail Wiegand
 Sally Bowkett
 Peter Labombarde
 Patricia Bodan

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

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
 Sue Werst
 Deb Boczenowski
 Matt Emmons, Vicky Leknes
 Linda Lannin
 Larissa Riley
 Melissa Lewis

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

144 ENVELOPES FUNDRAISER: This month, the Senior Youth Group will be kicking off the *144 Envelopes Fundraiser* to help offset the cost of the 2026 Mission Trip to Savannah, GA. After worship each Sunday, be sure to visit the bulletin board in the Community Room to learn about the SYG and check out the numbered envelopes decorated by the teens. It's easy to participate: just choose an envelope and make a donation in the amount of the number on the envelope. No amount is too small! We need every envelope from 1 to 144 to be selected in order to reach our goal of \$10,000.

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

Financial Summary

(as of December 31, 2025)

	YTD	YTD	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$300,783	\$283,774	\$17,008
Expenses	\$269,037	\$271,098	\$(2,060)
Net Income	\$ 31,745	\$ 12,677	\$19,069

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.

**PRELIMINARY BUDGET
MEETING
TODAY after worship**



The Budget and Finance Team invites all church members to an informational meeting where we will:

- Provide an update on the church's current financial status.
- Present a preliminary budget overview for the next fiscal year (FY27).
- Consider options for a mini capital campaign to address a handful of building projects.
- Hear updates on the ongoing bylaw review.
- Hear updates from the ad hoc safety team.

A Zoom link and password was emailed to all members for those who wish to join remotely. Childcare will be available during the meeting.

This meeting is for informational purposes only; no votes will be taken. We encourage all members to attend and stay informed about our church's finances.

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.

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

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 church family, let's join together as we take up a 'Blankets for Bruce' offering. You can donate by placing a check in the offering or mailing it to the church office with 'blankets' on the memo line, or donate online through CWS: <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.

DID YOU KNOW: The New Hampshire American Friends Service Committee (www.AFSC.org/NH) is a state-wide program (and part of a national program that was initiated in 1917) that works to nourish a growing movement of people calling for social, racial, and economic justice in New Hampshire. The **AFSC** sponsors many activities – and opportunities – for engaging actively in developing a more inclusive, safe, and equitable world. The **AFSC** sponsors educational opportunities such as lectures and podcasts, advocates for immigrants and their families, establishes grassroots efforts throughout the state, and conducts research to support these grassroots endeavors. One of the many links on the **AFSC** site we found useful was the **State House Watch** (www.AFSC.org/state-house-watch) which brings you information about matters being discussed in Concord including immigration, civil rights and labor rights.

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



William H.
Donner
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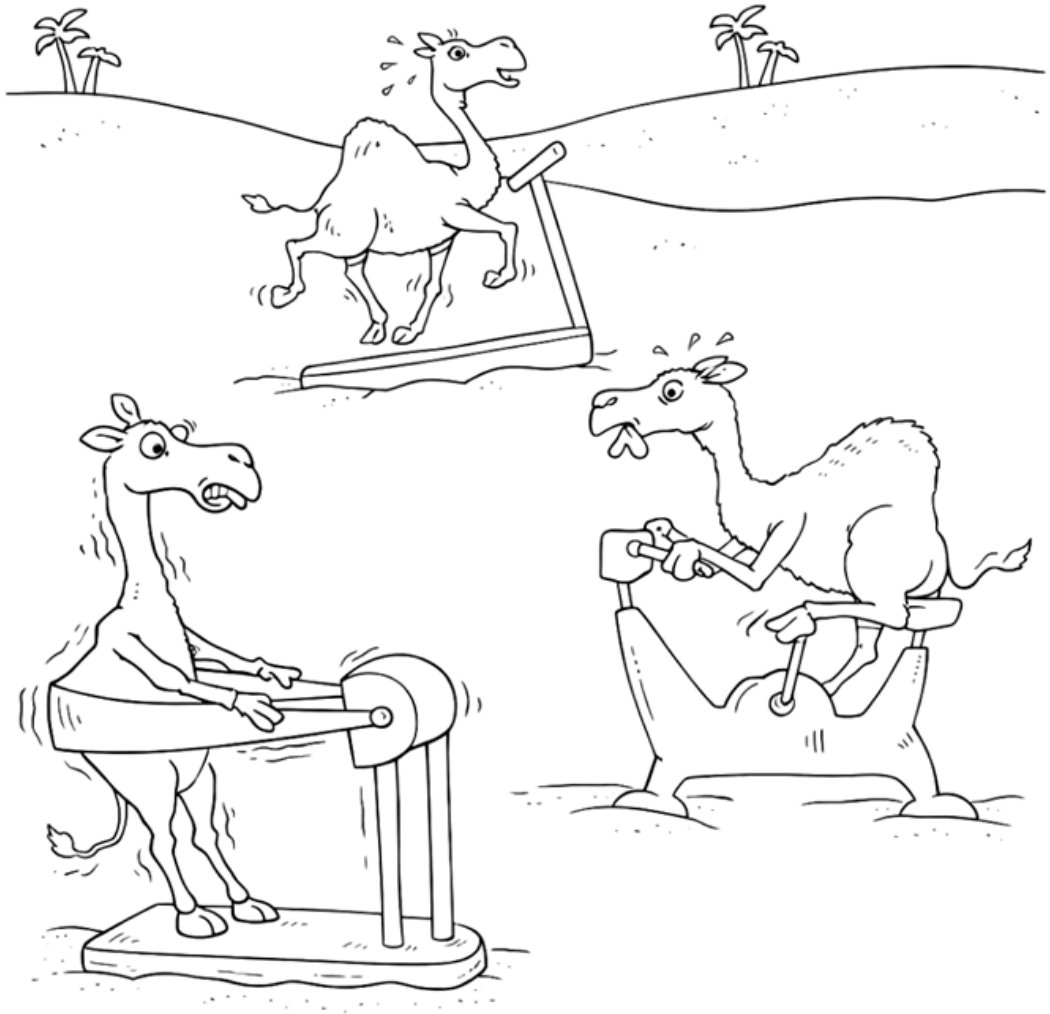
CCA Worship Service Reflection

The theme of the service was...

I learned...

I did not understand or still wonder about...

Something that helped connect my faith to my everyday life was...



PREPARING FOR THE EYE OF THE NEEDLE

Sunday, February 8, 2026



Ash Wednesday Service February 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us in the sanctuary as we begin the season of Lent with our traditional Ash Wednesday service. We will come together for a time of contemplative prayer, readings, special music, communion, and the distribution of ashes.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit." ~ Psalm 51

Our Church Calendar February 8—14, 2026

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
	11:30 a.m.	Preliminary Budget Meeting
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Valentines Luncheon
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	WA Board
	7:00 p.m.	Communications
	7:00 p.m.	Diaconate
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Confirmation
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Congregational Care
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir