

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

LOVE
⇒ JESUS ⇐
grows
in faith
CHANGE
THE WORLD

SHINE
LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT

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 15, 2026

SHINE SUNDAY

10:00 a.m.

"God's Generosity"

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

*Improvisation on "Azmon"
(O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing)*

Carl Gläser/
Douglas E. Warner

INTROIT

*GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: We gather to hear God's story.

Many: A story that stretches behind us, before us, and beyond us.

One: A story that invites us into relationship and community.

Many: A story that invites us into growth and healing.

One: We gather to tell our stories.

Many: Stories of wonder, courage, curiosity.

One: Stories of heartache, uncertainty, longing.

Many: We gather to weave God's story into our own.

**All: Still Speaking God, we come before you,
to listen, to pray, to sing,
to find inspiration for the sacred story we continue to live.**

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

The congregation may be seated.

ANTHEM

From the Ends of the Earth
Chancel Choir

Alan Hovhannes

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

INTRODUCING THE READING

THE PARABLE OF THE LABORERS

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus: The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. He said to the early risers:

Owner: You may go into the vineyard, and I will pay you the usual daily wage.

Right: We will go!

Jesus: When the landowner went out at nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them:

Owner: You may also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.

Left: We will go!

Jesus: When he went out again at noon and at three o'clock, he did the same, saying:

Owner: You may also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.

Balcony: We will go!

Jesus: At five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them:

Owner: Why are you standing here idle all day?

Chancel: Because no one has hired us.

Owner: You may also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.

Chancel: We will go!

Jesus: When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager:

Owner: Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.

Jesus: When those hired at five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

Chancel: Thank you!

Jesus: When those hired at noon and three came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

Balcony: Thank you!

Jesus: When those hired at nine o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

Left: Thank you!

Jesus: When those hired first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying:

Right: These last worked only one hour, and yet you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat!

Jesus: The landowner replied:

Owner: Friends, did you not agree to work for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to the last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?

Jesus: So, as it is in the Kingdom of Heaven, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

REFLECTION

"God's Generosity"

WIDENING OUR WELCOME

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND PRAYERS

All are invited to place offerings and prayer cards in the plates as they're passed.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Here I Am, Lord
Bell Choir

arr. Bill Ingram

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (contemporary version)

**Mother and Father God, all around us,
Holy is Your name.**

**May your Reign come, may Your will be done
in our world and in Yours.**

**Give us strength and sustenance for this day,
and forgive our wrongdoings**

as we forgive those who have wronged us.

**Help us to resist harmful distractions,
and keep our hearts from being swayed by fear.**

All of Creation is Yours, O God.

May we see You and feel You with us, always. Amen.

*HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

pages 10 and 11

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

One: People of God, may we carry Jesus' light into the world,

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

One: When faced with brokenness and division,

Many: We proclaim the God of Healing.

One: When faced with despair and sorrow,

Many: We proclaim the God of Hope.

One: When faced with unkindness and apathy,

Many: We proclaim the God of Compassion.

**All: We go now, as servants in Christ,
as conduits of God's Love, offered to all. Amen!**

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Darwall's 148th"

John Darwall/
Brenda Portman

*(*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
 Sara L. Phelps
 Michael Havay
 Sue Ruggiero
 Kathleen Bouchard, Sally Bowkett
 Gail Miller
 Joan Egbertson, Linda Lannin
 Tim Wiegand

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

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley
 Kelly Isaacs
 Sue Werst
 Matt Emmons
 Larissa Riley
 Melissa Lewis

Director of Youth Ministries
 Teacher, Preschool/Kindergarten
 Assistant Teacher, Preschool/Kindergarten
 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.

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.

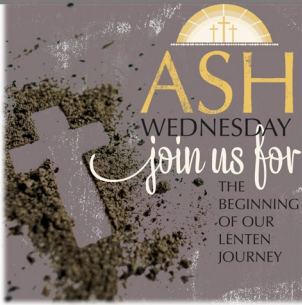
Financial Summary

(as of December 31, 2025)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <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.



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

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.

Our Church Calendar

February 15—21, 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.	Retracing Footsteps
	6:30 p.m.	Senior Youth Group
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Workshop
	7:00 p.m.	Nominating Team
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Caregivers Circle
	4:00 p.m.	Trustees of the Investments
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Adult Confirmation
	5:30 p.m.	Budget & Finance Team
	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, February 15, 2026



The Ants & the Grasshopper

One bright day in late autumn a family of Ants were bustling about in the warm sunshine, drying out the grain they had stored up during the summer, when a starving Grasshopper, his fiddle under his arm, came up and humbly begged for a bite to eat.



"What!" cried the Ants in surprise, "haven't you stored anything away for the winter? What in the world were you doing all last summer?"

"I didn't have time to store up any food," whined the Grasshopper; "I was so busy making music that before I knew it the summer was gone."

The Ants shrugged their shoulders in disgust.

"Making music, were you?" they cried. "Very well; now dance!" And they turned their backs on the Grasshopper and went on with their work.

~ Aesop's Fables ~

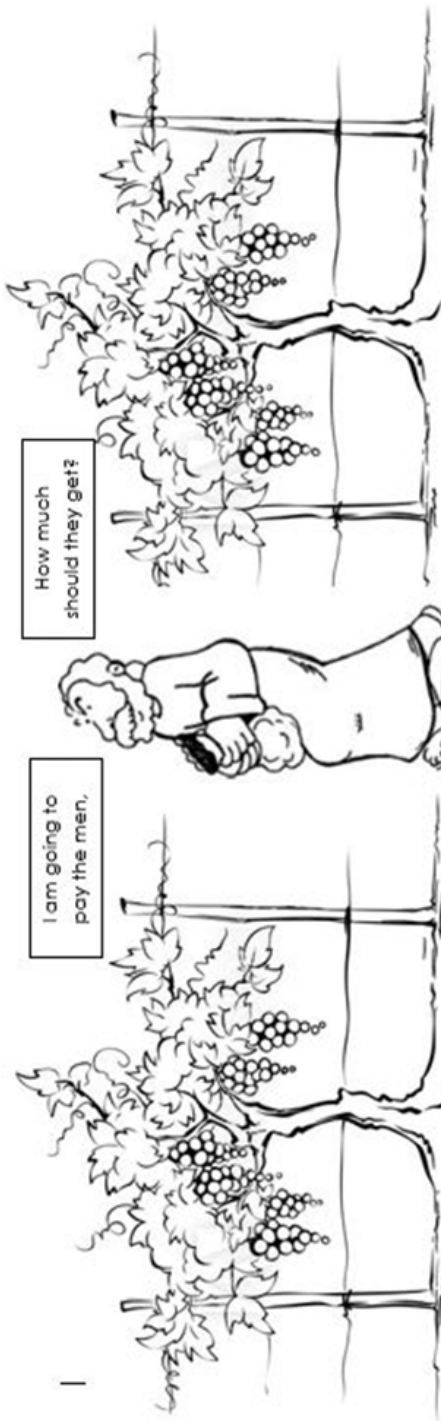
CCA Worship Service Reflection

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...



I am going to pay the men.

How much should they get?

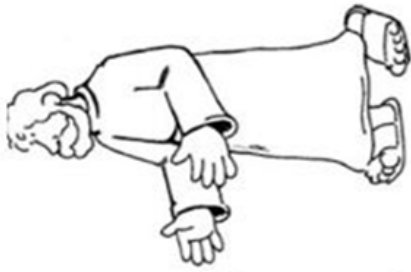
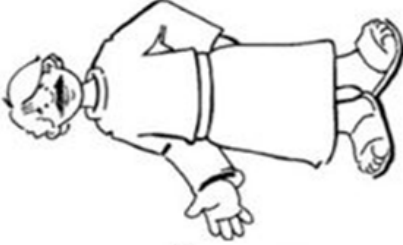
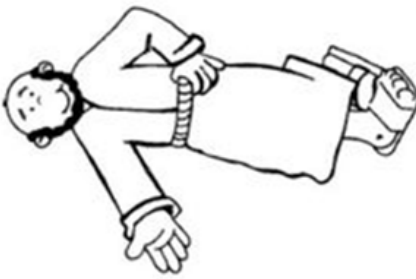
I started work at 6 o' clock in the morning!

I started work at 9 o' clock in the morning

I started work 12 noon

I started work at 3 o' clock in the afternoon

I started work at 5 o' clock in the afternoon



The Workers in the Vineyard Matthew 20:1-16 Give each man a coin for his work and read the lesson in a Bible or story book