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

"While it is hard to fathom who we are and how we are to live when public chaos shatters our routine, the slow-motion pain of each private death and cataclysm we endure is harder. Each slams us off our feet, yet we have agreed to pretend to be fine again at some point, ideally as soon as possible, so as not to seem self-indulgent or embarrass anybody."

— Anne Lamott, *Stitches: A Handbook on Meaning, Hope and Repair*

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."

November 1, 2026 Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 am

ALL-SAINTS / ALL SOULS

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God* John Henry Hopkins
Robert J. Powell

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP
*(*Please rise in body or spirit.)*

One: In all our weakness and strength,
with our aging bodies and youth-filled spirits,
Many: We come to be your people, O God.

One: Resilient in faith and eager with questions,
singing our praise and whispering our prayers,
Many: We come to be your people, O God.

One: Led by saintly determination
yet mindful of our human limitations,
Many: We come to be your people, O God.

One: Inspired by your endless love for us,
we seek to reflect your image,
Many: We come to be your people, O God,
as we walk in the footsteps of those who came before us!

*HYMN *For All the Saints* Page 6

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANTHEM *Let Our Choirs New Anthems Raise* Craig Courtney
Chancel Choir

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE
The peace of God be with you. **AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 17:1-8, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am El Shaddai. Walk with me and be trustworthy. I will make a covenant between us and I will give you many, many descendants." Abram fell on his face, and God said to him, "But as for me, this is my covenant with you: you will be the ancestor of many nations. And because I have made you the ancestor of many nations, your name will no longer be Abram but Abraham. I will make you very fruitful. I will produce nations from you, and kings will come from you. I will set up my covenant with you and your descendants after you in every generation as an enduring covenant. I will be your God and your descendants' God after you. I will give you and your descendants the land in which you are immigrants, the whole land of Canaan, as an enduring possession. And I will be their God."

God said to Abraham, "As for your wife Sarai, you will no longer call her Sarai. Her name will now be Sarah. I will bless her and also give you a son from her. I will bless her and she shall give rise to nations, and kings of peoples will come from her."

SERMON "A Promised Child"

OFFERING OUR GIFTS and PRAYERS
All are invited to place their offerings and prayer cards in the plates as they are passed.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Deep River* African-American spiritual
David Kidwell

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE AND DEDICATION

One: God of all generations, no matter who we are or where we are on life's journey, we are bound together in your extravagant love. For over two centuries, your saints have gathered in this sacred space to worship, to serve, and to love.
Many: We remember them, O God, and we give you thanks.

One: For those whose names are now permanently engraved upon this new plaque, who found their final earthly rest in our Memorial Garden,
Many: We honor their lives, we cherish their legacies, and we celebrate their unique spirits.

One: In the presence of the cloud of witnesses that surrounds us, we now dedicate this Memorial Plaque. We dedicate it in the name of the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Many: We dedicate this plaque as a visible anchor for our love, a testimony to our enduring covenant, and a witness to life everlasting.

ALL SAINTS – ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

One: We come together at this sacred table, where Jesus meets all who gather in his name.

Many: At this table, we come to be served, and to serve.

One: Here, we remember that Jesus revealed God's love to the world — a love that is inclusive, expansive, and transforming.

Many: We come to this table to connect, to belong, and to grow.

One: So come now to this table that has been prepared for you. Come not because you must, but because you may.

Many: For here, all are welcome to share in God's bounty!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD and POURING OF THE CUP

CONSECRATING PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Communion at CCA is open to anyone who would like to partake. When you receive the bread, eat at your own pace, symbolizing our individual relationship with God. When you receive the juice, drink with the whole congregation, symbolizing our communion as the Body of Christ. The bread is gluten, egg, and dairy free and the juice is non-alcoholic, so that there may be no barriers to Christ's table.

ORGAN MEDITATIONS	*Voluntary*	Artemas Nixon Johnson
	Communion	Jules Cohen

*HYMN *O Lord of Life, Where'er They Be* No. 530

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE *Song for All Saints* Mary McDonald

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church	Ministers to the World
Rev. Maureen R. Frescott	Senior Pastor
Rev. Charlotte E.Y. Bell	Associate Pastor
Sara Phelps	Director of Music
Michael Havay	Organist/Accompanist
Beth Secor	Deacon in Charge
Kathleen Bouchard, Liz MacMillan, John Swanson, Doug Topliffe	Deacons
Alison Batey	Videographer

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley	Director of Youth Ministries
Avery Morin	Teacher, Preschool
Deb Boczenowski	Assistant, Preschool
Matt Emmons	Teacher, Kindergarten to Grade 2
Vicky Leknes	Teacher, Grades 3 and 4
Alexis Baker	Assistant, Grades 3 and 4
Larissa Riley	Teacher, Grades 5 to 7
Melissa Lewis	Nursery Attendant
Julia Bortolotto	Assistant, Nursery

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. The next new member informational sessions will be held October 21 and 27 via Zoom. New members will be formally received on Sunday, November 8. 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 during the worship service for children Pre-K through Grade 7.
- Our church nursery is staffed and available during services 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 the Community Room for a time of fellowship and refreshments after the worship service.
- 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 through Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Phone (603) 673-3231 or email officeadmin@ccamherst.org. 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

In Loving Memory

All Saints/All Souls Day
Remembering Those We've Lost
October 2025 – October 2026

Sharon B. Beckley – November 29, 2025
Nathan S. Curtis – December 17, 2025
Joan Dunn – March 19, 2026
Hamilton M. Stewart – April 4, 2026
Em Peters – April 29, 2026
Patricia Cordell – May 2, 2026
Wilene C. Knight – June 14, 2026
George C. Cunningham – July 31, 2026
John T. Bowkett – August 4, 2026
Pricilla K. Cunningham August 8, 2026
Brenda L. Miskelly – August 17, 2026
Marshall D. Strickland – October 6, 2026

Join us for a Christmas House Tour of 5 historic Amherst homes on **Saturday, December 12 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.** Tour tickets are $40 now through December 10, and $45 on the day of the event. A luncheon is also available at the church from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm for $20. Tickets available online from our website at **www.ccamherst.org/cav/** or click on the QR code below.

Don't miss this special event featuring holiday displays sure to inspire, and which also supports the vital ministries of our church.

GIVE THANKS WITH US! We are hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner **Sunday, November 15 at 5:30 pm** in the Community Room. Come enjoy a shared meal, great conversation, and a time to thank God for all we've been given. Bring a dish, volunteer, or simply come and celebrate. All are welcome--every age, family, single, visitor, and friend.

There is a sign up sheet in the Community Room during Fellowship Time today. There is also an online form accessible through the QR code below. For details contact **Matt Emmons** (603) 494-0293, or email <memmons85@gmail.com>.

Save the Date!
Family Christmas Concert
Sunday, Dec 13
4:00 pm
Chancel Choir
Handbell Choir
Youth Choir
and more!

The Woman's Association will hold its popular Holiday Fair this fall on **Saturday, November 21 from 9:00am-2:00pm.** The fair features fresh holiday wreaths and evergreen centerpieces, a large selection of gift ideas including handmade items such as knitted, embroidered, and painted crafts, jewelry, delicious baked goods, a silent auction, raffle baskets, pecans, Cabot cheese, holiday decor, and so much more!

It's also easy to be part of this special event. The WA welcomes anyone interested in helping with preparations leading up to the fair. And there are many ways to participate! Crafts are an important part of the fair. So if you would like to join others in crafting activities, please join us for workshops on Mondays. Contact Adrienne Topliffe or any WA member for information.

TREASURES WANTED: The Woman's Association is still accepting donations of quality new, like new, vintage, antique and collectible items for the Holiday Fair's Treasures Table. Items can be dropped off in the church vestry on Sunday or Morning mornings. No books or furniture, please. Contact Theresa at (603) 325-5062 or twvham@gmail.com with any questions about Treasures donations.

MEDICAL RESPONSE TRAINING SESSION: On **Saturday, November 14 , starting at 9:00 am** and running for approximately 3 hours, the Safety Team has organized a medical response training session for all interested friends and members of the church. The class will be run by the Amherst Fire Department, EMT personnel. Among other things it will address first aid, basic CPR, AED equipment usage, Epi-pens, and stop the bleed techniques. At the end of this class, attendees will be better prepared to respond to emergency medical situations should they arise.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Class will be held in the Community Room. To sign up, please contact Michael in the church office by **Nov. 12**. Phone 673-3231, or email officeadmin@ccamherst.org

Your Church Safety Team

Note: This an informational class, and not a CPR or other certification class.

Our Church Calendar

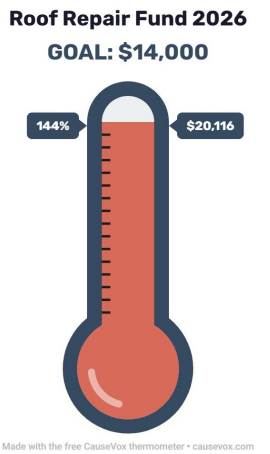
November 1-7, 2026

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 am	Worship
	11:15 am	Fellowship Time
	11:30 am	Youth Choir
Monday	10:00 am	WA Workshop
Tuesday	5:30 pm	Church Council
	7:00 pm	Trustees
Wednesday	10:00 am	Adult Confirmation
	1:00 pm	Bylaws Team
Thursday	6:00 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class
	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday-Saturday		Senior High Group Lock-In

PRAYER FLAG PROJECT - Today we will gather in the Community Room after worship to construct the prayer flags in memory of the people who have died since 2018 in connection with immigration enforcement activity in the US. The flags will be on display in our Sanctuary November 8, 15, and 22 as a remembrance and a reminder that every life has sacred worth, every death deserves to be named and mourned, and no person shall be reduced to a legal status.

ROOF REPAIR DONATIONS: Donations have been collected over the past two weeks to support repairs on the church's slate roof. The goal was $14,000, with current donations totaling over $20,000. Additional donations over the goal will be used to expand the project beyond critical repairs needed now. You may put your donation in the offering plate, or go online to our website (Giving > Donate > Special Donations). Be sure to indicate "Roof Repairs" on your check, or in the notes of your online contribution.



Our sincerest thanks to those who have already given to the Roof Repair Fund --

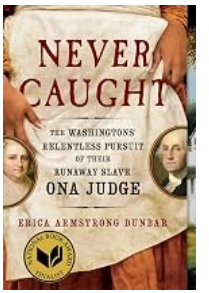
CCA Woman's Association in memory of Anne Krantz
Gregg Berube
Steve & Deb Boczenowski
Fred Dyke & Susan Deschenes
Nancy & Andy Gagnon
Sheryl & Jeff Gottwald
Dave & Kim Hagerstrom
Scott & Sally Hewett
Susan & Don Holden
Rosmarie Krosch
Peter & Irene Labombarde
Maude Lemaire
Ingrid Michaelis
Sara & Dave Phelps
Sue Ruggiero
Doug & Adrienne Topliffe
Todd & Jennifer Whitney
Tim & Gail Wiegand
Alicia & Brian Wight

FRIENDSHIP BASKET DONATIONS - Our church diaconate is collecting donations this Sunday and next to support gift card purchases which will help local families who need help putting food on the table at Thanksgiving time. This past spring we were able to provide support to 14 families, and we expect the need will be greater now. The deacons will be passing the Friendship Baskets during worship, and you can also contribute online on our Donate page. Be sure to indicate "Friendship Baskets" on your donation, and Thank You!

Plan to join us on **Saturday, December 5** for **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!** There are two seatings at 9:00-10:30 am and 10:30 am-12:00 pm. A hot breakfast with a variety of options will be served, there will be games and crafts, and of course the opportunity to visit with Santa himself!

Tickets are $15.00 for adults, $12.00 for children under 14, and children 12-months & younger are free. We usually sell out way before the event so register early! Go to www.ccamherst.org/bws/ or click on the QR code below. Questions? Contact Marti Warren: martiwarren@comcast.net

Never Caught: The Washington's Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge - This is a story of pursuit and fearlessness, of Ona Judge's fierce belief in her right to be free. Ona was born into a family of enslaved people, serving George and Martha Washington. As she grew into adulthood, Ona became Martha Washington's chief attendant. But this was soon to change when the Washingtons moved from Virginia to Philadelphia, then the seat of the nation's capital.



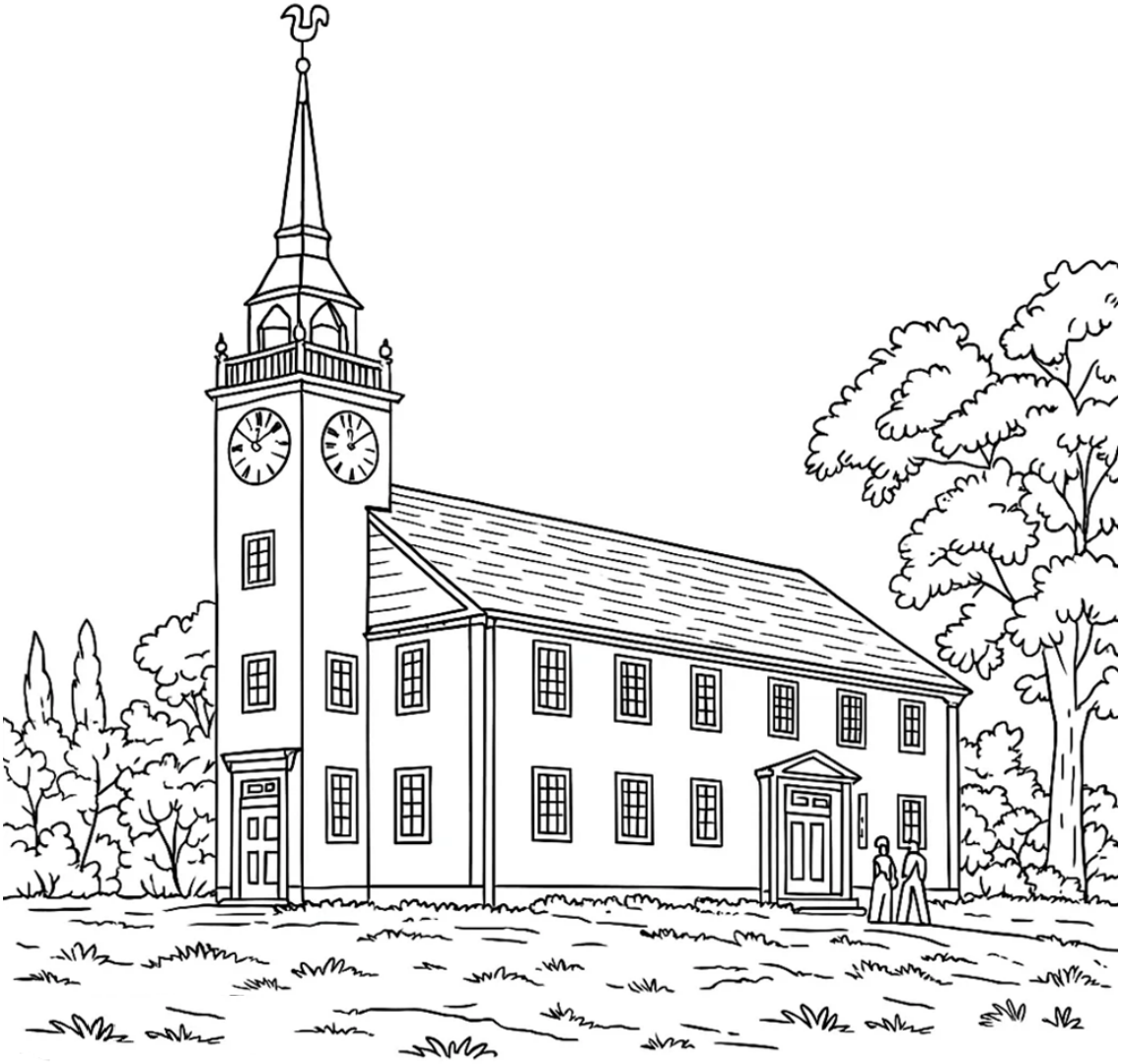
In the North, slaveholders were legally required to free their enslaved people after six months. In order to bypass this law, Mr. Washington sent his enslaved people back to Virginia for a short time every 6 months, thereby resetting the clock. Ona Judge figured this subterfuge out and risked everything in search of freedom. In this story you will read about the Washington's relentless pursuit of Ona and her determination to live as a free person. She escaped to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, found work as a domestic, and married a free Black man. After numerous attempts by the Washingtons to recover Ona, she remained haunted by the possibility of being caught and returned to Mount Vernon. Despite the hardships encountered in her quest to live unencumbered by slavery, Judge felt that her freedom was worth it.

To learn more about Judge's extraordinary story, you can borrow this book, and many others just like it, from the CCA Racial Justice Team library located just outside the Sanctuary.

Submitted by: The CCA Racial Justice Team

Sunday, November 1, 2026

Our Church on the Amherst Village Common



CCA Worship Service Reflection

Sunday, November 1, 2026

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…