

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



"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but live by them."

—John F. Kennedy

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 24, 2024 Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.

Thanksgiving Sunday

GATHERING CHIMES

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

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

Johann Steurlein/
Dennis Eliot

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: Let us gather together in thanksgiving to God.

Many: For God has made us and the earth that nurtures us.

One: Let us gather together in gratitude to one another.

Many: For we are the bearers of divine blessing for the earth and its people.

All: Let us praise God; let us join hands;

Let us reach out in care and courage so that the goodness of life may be for all God’s children.

*HYMN

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

No. 551

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD’S PRAYER (unison)

The congregation may be seated.

Infinite God, who fills the universe with your presence and dwells in every human heart: As music fills this sanctuary, so may compassion and harmonies of hope accent our lives. With grateful hearts and renewed minds, may we celebrate and realize your peaceable realm, 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.

*GLORIA PATRI

**Glory 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

The Ash Grove
Bell Choir

arr. Michael Mazzatenta

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 6:25-33

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

SERMON

“Being Thankful”

*HYMN

For the Fruit of All Creation

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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

Sing to the Lord of Harvest
Chancel Choir

Healey Willan

*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)

All that we have, all that we are, comes from you, O God. Take what we have given to be used through your church for the aid of your people, and inspire us through your Holy Spirit, that our actions may be cause for others to give you thanks in the days ahead. Amen.

*HYMN

We Gather Together

No. 559

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

March for St. Cecilia's Day

George F. Handel

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

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

*Give
Thanks*



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

Shellie Brook

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Kathleen Bouchard

John Swanson, Gail Wiegand

Deb Boczenowski with Jeffrey, Jordan, Jada and Jasper Emmons

Patricia Bodan

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Student Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Deacon in Charge

Deacons

Greeters

Videographer

LEADING OUR CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY

Larissa Riley

Sue Werst

Larissa Riley

Dave Hagerstrom

Melissa Lewis

Director of Youth Ministries

Teacher, Preschool /Kindergarten

Teacher, Grades 1 to 4

Teacher, Grades 5 to 7

Nursery Attendant

THE POSTLUDE TODAY by George Frideric Handel was written to celebrate St. Cecilia's Day in 1739. Not only did he write this march but an entire oratorio in honor of this third-century patron saint of music, musicians, and poets. The text is based on a work by English poet John Dryden, who believed that music was a central force in the creation of the earth. The holiday is still celebrated on November 22 with Masses and concerts in some Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, and Lutheran churches.

SHARE FOOD PANTRY requests for November include canned fruit, flour, sugar, coffee and tea, juice, instant rice, cold cereal, instant oatmeal packets, individually wrapped snacks. 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!

THREE WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES: 'Tis the Season to purchase gifts for friends, family, and yourself! Following worship on Sundays in November, you will have the opportunity to purchase:

- ❖ **Tickets** for the **Christmas in Amherst Village House Tour** on Sat. Dec. 14 (\$40/\$45 on day of tour)
- ❖ Hand-poured, hand-painted **Ornaments** depicting our church (\$25). These ornaments haven't been available since 2013!
- ❖ A copy of **The Church in the Village: Stories About Its People and Its History** (\$20). Previous printings sold out!

All three opportunities will also be available at the Holiday Fair and at the CAV tour.

SECOND HOUR TODAY—Welcome the Stranger: Doreen Rinas is the coordinator at Messiah Lutheran Church for a Venezuelan family seeking asylum. They are staying in the former parsonage for the church right next to Amherst Garden Center. She and her husband, David, have also directly sponsored more than 20 different families over the years and she will be sharing general info. about her work with this population, how to respectfully support them, and specific needs for the family they are sponsoring. Those interested in learning more and getting involved can ask her questions.

Millions of people throughout the world have been forced to flee their homes. According to UNHCR, there were 117.3 million forcibly displaced people at the end of 2023 due to persecution, conflict, violence and human rights violations. For the last 12 years, there has been an increase each year in the number of forcibly displaced people. Many people come to the US as refugees or as asylum seekers. The decision people make to leave their family members, their country, their language and customs is not one that people make lightly.

Messiah Lutheran Church in Amherst, along with the help of other individuals and groups in the area, are sponsoring a family from Venezuela, a country in a socioeconomic crisis with an authoritarian government. As a family of 4, they fled through Colombia including braving the Darien Gap, a 66 mile walk through a jungle, one of the worst treks in the world with its serpents, insects, human traffickers, cash hungry cartel members, sexual abusers and killers. They rode for a few days on top of a freight train in Mexico with the two boys tied to their dad's belt and their mom pregnant with twins. With this sponsorship here in Amherst, this relational ministry has definitely been a blessing!

SOS FOR HOUSE TOUR—PLEASE HELP! In less than four weeks our church is hosting the Christmas in Amherst Village House Tour on December 14. We can only do this with a little help from our friends—that's you! We are looking for:

- **Docents for a 2 1/2 hour shift in one of the homes or in our Sanctuary
- **Drivers to drive visitors from Wilkins School parking lot and around the village
- **Ticket sales help in the church

Please contact Sally Hooper 603-321-1143 or sallyhoop@comcast.net

DID YOU KNOW... The land on which our church sits was home to the Western Abenaki People and their ancestors for more than 11,000 years! The Abenaki People were the first to protect the land and waterways that we now call home, and they developed practices that sustained the natural resources we now enjoy. To them, we extend our utmost thanks. *Submitted by the CCA Racial Justice Group*

Financial Summary
(as of October 31, 2024)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$196,399	\$194,434	\$ 1,966
Expenses	\$171,580	\$173,888	\$(2,308)
Net Income	\$ 24,820	\$ 20,546	\$ 4,274

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), Don Lyon, Paul Spiess, Doug Topliffe, and Todd Whitney.

Celebrate the Season of Giving

The Christmas season is just around the corner and the World Service team is partnering with 3 organizations to help ensure that all in our community experience the joy of the holidays. As you can see below, there is a way for everyone to participate, and a wide variety of those to support.



We will again be signing up online, using SignUp Genius. The stars on the “Giving Tree” will again have instructions on how to use the signup tool. We will have members of the team available after in-person worship on November 24 and December 1, 8 to answer questions and help those that may need assistance.

Important Dates:

- Nov 24th – Dec 12th: Dates to sign up for gifts
- Nov 24, Dec 1, 8: Members of World Service Team available to help, after in-person worship
- Dec 15th: Deadline to Drop off gifts to church

Crestwood Nursing Home: We will continue our annual tradition of purchasing gifts for each resident from their specific wish lists. You will be able to view the wish lists and choose a resident that speaks to your heart.

Family Promise of Southern NH: Each child has at least one special item on their Christmas list. Santa, Mrs. Claus, and members of the World Service team will deliver these gifts in person on December 18th. If you would like to join in this activity please contact Terri Behm, terri.behm@gmail.com

Venezuelan Family Seeking Asylum: We are partnering with the Messiah Lutheran Church to ensure this family has a Christmas filled with love and joy. More information on gifts for the family will be available soon.

All gifts are due back to the church no later than end of worship Sunday Dec 15th

Crestwood gifts should be returned unwrapped in a gift bag, with the name of the resident clearly visible on the bag, and gift wrap included.

Family Promise gifts should be wrapped and returned with a tag with the name/age of the child.

Venezuelan Family: we will let you know one this is finalized.

For more information please visit our <https://www.ccamherst.org/christmasgifts/>



Family
CHRISTMAS
Concert

CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF AMHERST
United Church of Christ

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 15, 2024
4:00 PM

SARA PHELPS, Music Director
CHANCEL CHOIR
HANDBELL CHOIR
YOUTH CHOIR
MICHAEL HAVAY, Piano/Organ
SUE WERST, Flute



FREE AND OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC

11 CHURCH STREET
AMHERST, NH

Sacred and Popular Christmas Songs
Choral and Instrumental Classics
Sing-A-Long Holiday Favorites

Sunday, November 24, 2024



Saturday, December 7

Come have breakfast with Santa! All children, parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors are invited to join in the fun. Admission includes a hot breakfast, games, crafts and a visit with Santa. Each child will receive an age appropriate book. A professional photographer will not be on site so be sure to bring your phone/camera to take those special Santa photos!

There are two seatings:
Seating #1: 9:00 am-10:30 am.
Seating #2: 10:30 am-12:00 pm.

Seating is limited and sells out quickly every year so register today! ***Deadline to register is December 1.***

Please note: Santa comes regardless of weather and admission fees are non-refundable.

Admission fees:
\$12 14 years old and over
\$10 under 14 years old
Free for 12 months and under

To register for the event, <https://www.ccamherst.org/bws/>. Please make sure to put in the comment box the ages of the children so we can provide an age-appropriate book. Thank you.