

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



"True spiritual encounter changes your politics, your attitude toward money, your use of time, your relationship toward foreigners and the weak, your attitude toward war and nationalism. You are a citizen of the Big Kingdom now. Be prepared to have a very different lifestyle afterwards. If you are not ready to change, don't seek out God."

- Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM

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 9, 2025

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

10:00 a.m.

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE

Let Us With a Gladsome Mind

Robert J. Powell/
arr. John Bernard Wilkes

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Our Still Speaking God, wanderer of seashores and sidewalks,

Many: calls to us saying, "Follow me."

One: Inviting us to sail out of our safe harbors,

Many: into the uncharted waters of faith,

One: to wander off from our predictable paths,

Many: to follow in the unpredictable footsteps of Jesus,

One: to leave the comfort of our homes and churches,

Many: and to step into the uncomfortable places we avoid.

One: As we wander, with our sometimes chaotic and always uncertain lives,

Many: may we keep our ears open to the Spirit of Love:

One: holding onto the hope which is our anchor;

Many: holding onto the peace which is our rock;

One: holding onto the grace which is our refuge.

All: Today we respond to God's call - in our words, prayers, and song!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Holy One,

You are the God who makes extravagant promises

of guidance, fidelity, and presence,

that comes in the midst of a hard, deep call.

You are the God who calls people like us,

and the long list of ordinary and extraordinary people before us,

who trusted your promise enough to follow.

We give thanks that you are a calling God,
who leads us to new places, healing places, unexpected places.
We pray that we have the wisdom and the courage
to follow the One who embodied your promise,
who lived your call, and who taught us to pray, saying.

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

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Call

Ralph Vaughan Williams

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

SERMON

"Catching People"

ORGAN MEDITATION

He Leadeth Me

William B. Bradbury/
arr. Jason D. Payne

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Great Giving God, you call us to leave behind what holds us back and to follow you into something new. Sometimes we find your call challenging. We are comfortable where we are. May this act of giving be a gesture of our trust and our willingness to follow wherever you lead. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

An Affirmation of Faith

Franklin Ritter

Our Church Calendar

February 9—15, 2025

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
Monday	10:00 a.m.	WA Valentines Luncheon
Tuesday	10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	WA Board Meeting Diaconate
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Thursday	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Congregational Care Bell Choir Chancel Choir
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Memorial Service for Carole Byatt

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

Doug Topliffe

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Videographer

PRELIMINARY BUDGET MEETING: The Preliminary Budget Meeting has been **rescheduled to next Sunday, February 16, 2025**. The Budget and Finance Team will provide an update on the current financial status of the church, as well as a preliminary budget overview for the next fiscal year (FY26). This meeting will be held after worship on Zoom; the link and passcode was emailed to members earlier this past week. All members are encouraged to attend. This meeting is for informational purposes only, we will not be voting on anything.

144 ENVELOPES FUNDRAISER CONTINUES: Our Senior Youth Group's *144 Envelopes Fundraiser*, to help pay for the 2025 Hurricane Helene Relief Mission Trip, is now underway. After worship, be sure to visit the bulletin board in the Community Room to learn more about the trip and check out the numbered envelopes decorated by the teens. It's easy to support the trip: just choose an envelope from 1 to 144 and make a donation in the amount equal to the number you chose. If you only have \$5 to give, or your child wants to donate \$1, that's great! We need every envelope to be selected in order to reach our goal of \$10,000. We are grateful for every dollar given.

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.

SCOUT SUNDAY is February 16: All current and former scouts and scout leaders (including Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Scouts BSA) are encouraged to wear their uniforms to worship. Contact Larissa Riley if you/your scout would like to participate as a greeter, usher, or other role.

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

Financial Summary

(as of January 31, 2025)

	YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$303,252	\$293,706	\$9,546
Expenses	\$284,157	\$283,696	\$ 461
Net Income	\$ 19,095	\$ 10,011	\$9,084

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.

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 congregation, our heart for mission remains strong. This is an opportunity to help make a difference, change lives, and honor Bruce's passion for mission work.

As a church family, let's join together as we take up a 'Blankets for Bruce' offering. You can donate using the Blankets pew envelopes, mail a check to Andrea with 'blankets' on the memo line, or donate online at our custom CWS Blankets secure donation page: <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.

When our neighbors are in need, even \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way.

*Jesus said, "Follow Me!
I will make you fish for people!"*

