

# First Parish Congregational Church

United Church of Christ East Derry, New Hampshire

We are a community of faith built upon a firm foundation of worship, prayer and education. In affirming diversity, we are dedicated to welcoming all people who seek the Word of God, Christian fellowship and service to others. In partnership with Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the ever-widening community through active and loving ministry.

**Come visit us! Worship is at 10 am.**



## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Child of God,

In March during our worship service, we read from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> chapters of John. We heard two very different conversations that Jesus had with two very different people. For many reasons, these conversations are foundational in our Christian faith with regard to living in modern times with an ancient faith as our guide. Sermons can only scratch the surface in regards to the lessons that could be gleaned.

Here is a recap: we learn about a man, named Nicodemus and a woman with no name. The man is a religious leader, a Pharisaic Jew; the woman is someone's mistress or concubine. He has social status; she has none or worse. He comes to Jesus at night; she meets Jesus at high noon.

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### ALL ARE WELCOME

"Friend, you enter this church not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. Come, then, with joy in your heart and thanks upon your lips, and offer God today your love and your service."

- Adapted from a 12<sup>th</sup> Century Church in Hampshire, England

## Upcoming Events

**April 4<sup>th</sup>**

Exploring the Bible at 6:30 pm

**April 5<sup>th</sup>** Lenten supper and service 6

**April 9<sup>th</sup>** Songweavers Concert at 4:00 pm

**April 13<sup>th</sup>** Soup Supper at 6:00 pm  
Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 pm

**April 14<sup>th</sup>** Good Friday Service at 1:00 pm  
Starts here at First Parish

**April 16<sup>th</sup>** Easter Sunday,  
Sunrise Service at 6:30 am Broadview Farms  
10:00 Easter Worship at FPC

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Creation Day Worship Service  
(In Honor of Earth Day 4/22)

**April 30<sup>th</sup>**

Congregational Mediation at 11:30 am



### From the Pastor's Desk Continued

Jesus tells him that one must be born anew, born of water and of Spirit; Jesus tells her that living water is available. The man does not understand; the woman wants to know how to get some. The conversation with the man lasts 9 verses and with the woman 26 verses. At the end of the conversations the man asks: "How can these things be?"; the woman leaves her bucket behind, and goes to tell the villagers - who generally won't even talk to her - about a man, a prophet who might be the Messiah, who might even be the Savior of the world.

Students of the Gospel of John will beg that we be merciful in our opinions of Nicodemus. He can't help what he's been taught; he can't help the mean things that his friends are saying about Jesus; he can't help how very cruel they have become. In the end, it is he who claims the human body of the man Jesus, a gesture of love, a gesture of relationship - perhaps even a gesture of budding faith. Faith sometimes takes time to grow and sometimes needs to fight its way clear of the cultural biases or the cruelty of people who disagree so violently.

Two very different people; two very different encounters. Jesus encounters them where they are. Jesus comes to us where we are. Each of us is a little like the man and a little like the woman. None of us is immune to the human condition and Jesus, granting his humanity himself, comes to us - just as we are. There is darkness around us - will we seek the light of Christ in order to work toward transforming the world? Never before has the prayer of St Francis been so vital to our lives as Christians. May it be our prayer:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

### From the Pastor's Desk Continued

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.

God so loved you, church. What is your response?  
In faith that Christ will gain your heart,  
Pastor Deborah

### Finance Committee

**Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."**

#### How are we doing?

Financial Report as of 2/28/17	Received	Budgeted
Pledges to date	\$31,885	\$32,000
Plate offerings to date	\$4,307	\$4,583

Submitted by Joyce Pope on behalf of the Stewardship Board and Finance Committee

## Board of Christian Education

### Adult Faith Formation

Our adult faith formation class featuring *The Dickinson Series: Exploring the Bible; Introducing the New Testament* written by Rev. Anne Robertson, will be wrapping up next Tuesday and has been a wonderful journey for all! We are excited to follow this class up with the first course of *The Dickinson Series: Exploring the Bible; What is the Bible?* giving students a broad overview of the entire Bible, including chapters on how to select a Bible suitable for your needs, how the Bible is organized, how the collection of books that comprise the Bible were chosen, different ways that people approach the text, and what archaeology has to tell us about the text and its stories. This six-week course in basic biblical literacy assumes no prior knowledge of the Bible and is not biased toward any Christian tradition. Please stay tuned for further details...



ATTENTION PARENTS: All students will be invited to participate in the Palm Sunday procession by carry palms Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. We will also be presenting our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students with their very own Early Reader's Bible. Please Join us to make this years' service a memorable one!

### Book Fair Success!

Thank you all for helping to make our Book Fair a fantastic success! We sold a total of \$415.00 in books, raised \$83.00 in Sparkhouse credit to be used at <http://wearesparkhouse.org> or <http://augsborgfortress.org>, and we get to keep ALL of the display items you saw free of charge!! **A special note of gratitude goes out to all who donated items from our Wish list as well!**

### ATTENTION ALL PARENTS & STUDENTS:

**There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday as we encourage families to share this wonderful service together. We will have a special Easter surprise for all our students! NURSERY CARE WILL STILL BE PROVIDED ON EASTER SUNDAY.**



## Board of Stewardship

Last fall, as part of our annual pledge drive, we published a narrative budget. In producing this document, we hoped to communicate all of the wonderful, exciting things that happen around First Parish because of your generous pledges.

Last month we wrote about the “Worship and Prayer” piece of the budget. This month let's look at “Welcome and Hospitality”, which comprises seventeen percent of the budget. This amounts to more than forty-eight thousand dollars. Thank you for your generous support.

In *Romans 12:13*, Paul tells us:

*“Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.”*

And again in *Hebrews 13:2*: we are reminded

*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.*

We are the United Church of Christ. We believe that God is still speaking. That means that although God has spoken to us through the words of scripture, and through some of the historic religious figures, such as Luther, Wesley and Calvin, God still has words for those who have ears to hear.

The subject of “Welcome and Hospitality” is one place where this notion of God still speaking is so important. The United Church of Christ nationally, and First Parish locally has a big voice on this subject.

When FPC voted nearly unanimously to become an Open and Affirming congregation, we opened our arms wide to the LGBTQ community. When we open our facility for use by organizations like Alcoholics Anonymous, once again our doors are open to community organizations without any judgement.

On a national level the UCC has taken a position against an unconstitutional Muslim ban in accordance with scriptural teaching and because that's what we hear God saying today. The UCC is also an especially strong voice when it comes to equality of roles for both women and men within the church and elsewhere because God is telling us that our twenty-first century culture is not the same as the culture described in scripture.

These are some of the big ideas in regard to “Welcome and Hospitality”. We can do little things each and every week when we meet and greet visitors and new members at Sunday worship and fellowship. Wearing a name tag goes a long way toward fostering a welcoming atmosphere and helping folks “navigate the ropes”, finding a seat at worship, getting the right book(s), finding the nursery or rest rooms. After all, they might be angels, and very probably are.

Submitted by John Bartel on behalf of the Stewardship Board.

## Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

**Food Challenge:** A while ago, the Choir had challenged the Board of Christian Outreach and Missions to a contest to see who could collect the most food for the Food Pantry. Missions gladly accepted the challenge. On Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, the results were in and the Food Pantry was the big winner with over 250 items collected. We hope that this is only the beginning of other challenges involving other boards, committees, and the Congregation as we work together to eliminate hunger in our community.

**Food Basket Program:** The Food Basket program is a vital part of our Missions work as a Church of Christ. The food basket is kept outside of Currier Hall where services are now being held. The food from the food basket rotates between the Derry Food Pantry and the Upper Room, both important programs supported by your giving. If you have donated canned goods or other food items to this program in the past, thank you. If not, please consider dropping off items in the

**One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS):** One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. While specific allocations differ in each denomination, all use their One Great Hour of Sharing funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, development aid and more. Offering envelopes will be available throughout Lent (March 1 - April 16 (Easter Sunday) in your bulletin during service. A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

**In Need of One Member:** The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions has one open position to fill. If you are interested in becoming a member of Missions please contact Joe Weaver at 560-0420 or talk to any member of the Missions board. If you are not interested in joining us at this time, please still contact us if you would like more information about what we do at Missions or about the important Missions we support.

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## Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

**Derry Community Caregivers:** On March 12<sup>th</sup> the Board of Christian Outreach and Missions hosted Cindee Tanuma from the Derry Community Caregivers to present the Missions Moment. Cindee discussed this important outreach with the Congregation. The Mission Moment was followed by a "Loaf & Ladle" (Bread and Soup). The event was well received and about 34 people stayed after service for the presentation/lunch. This is the second Mission Moment / Loaf & Ladle and both have been very well received by all generations in the Congregation. The Missions board plans to offer one of these events every couple of months to keep the Congregation informed of the important outreach we do at First Parish and to also help build a sense of community so please stay tuned for the next event.

**Liberty House:** The Liberty House in Manchester, NH has been providing a safe, supportive, substance-free housing community for more than a decade for American veterans transitioning out of homelessness. Since opening their doors in 2004, a dedicated team of staff and volunteers has helped more than 200 homeless veterans rejoin their communities and regain fulfilling, independent lives. If you would like to support this mission, there is a wish list below. Items can be placed in the container at the Missions table outside of Currier Hall (where the services are currently held), and someone from Missions will deliver them to Liberty House.

**Missions Giving:** The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions is thankful to each of you for sharing so generously with those in our community who are struggling. We can do nothing without your kindness. Below is our list of charities who received or support last month:

Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) \$350	First Baptist Food Pantry \$100
Sonshine Soup Kitchen \$100	Community Caregivers \$100
Derry Friendship Center \$100	Family Promise \$100
Pastoral Counseling \$100	Upper Room \$100
Pastor Discretionary Fund \$100	

Respectfully submitted,

**The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions (BOCOM):** Joe Weaver, Sue Brown, Beth Hunter, Karen Wilson, Kathy Holland, Bart Wetherbee, Melanie VanSteensburg

## Historical Preservation Committee

Happy 298th Birthday!

April 1719 (298 years ago!) was when the Scots Irish settlers established a community and church in Nutfield (the large area that eventually became known as Londonderry, Derry and Windham). The sign outside the FPC meetinghouse along Hampstead Road is probably the most succinct overview:

### SCOTCH-IRISH SETTLEMENT

In April 1719, sixteen Presbyterian Scotch-Irish families settled here in two rows of cabins along West Running Brook easterly of Beaver brook. Initially known as Nutfield, the settlement became Londonderry in 1723. The first year, a field was planted, known as the Common Field where the potato was first grown in North America.



That summary covers the date, the origins of the European settlers, mentions the name change of the community (from Nutfield to Londonderry) and even gives a shout out to an essential crop, the potato!

Other key points to remember about our founding:

- The 16 families were part of a larger group of Scots Irish who emigrated from Ireland to New England in 1718, and then spent a harsh winter living on their ship off the coast of Maine, near Casco Bay.
- In the spring of 1719, when the 16 families explored, and then settled, the area known as Nutfield (north of Haverhill) they asked Rev. James MacGregor to be their minister. MacGregor had been part of the larger group of Scots Irish that arrived in New England (during the fall of 1718) but he had spent the winter in Dracut.
- MacGregor gave the first sermon outdoors, near what is now called Beaver Lake, on April 12, 1719.
- The settlers built a rudimentary meeting house in 1722. (Later, in 1769, they built a second meetinghouse, and this structure evolved into what is our meetinghouse today.)
- The original geographic area of the settlement ended up being divided into various towns. In 1741, Windham was set off from Londonderry. In 1827, Derry (what had been the eastern part of Londonderry) was set off as a separate town from Londonderry.

There are many ways to learn more about the founders of our community and church, including reading and exploring two classic historical books:

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## Historical Preservation Committee

*The History of Londonderry* by Edward L. Parker. (Boston, 1851). This history was written by Rev. Parker, who served as pastor at First Parish from 1810-1850. See pages 30-66 for more information about the founders of Nutfield: <https://archive.org/details/historyoflondond00park>

*Willey's Book of Nutfield* by George F. Willey. (Derry Depot, 1895). This has many anecdotes about history, significant people, and also organizations in Nutfield. This book includes many illustrations including an engraving with an artist's rendition of MacGregor's first sermon near a tree near Beaver Lake. See pages 47-53 for more information about the founders: <https://archive.org/details/willeysbookofnut00will>

-Nancy Heywood (for the Historical Preservation Committee)

## Fundraising Committee

FPC Dining for Dollars Fun and Fellowship Events

HELP NEEDED: Suggestions for new locations/local restaurants that would be willing to host one of our Dining for Dollars events. It's generally a win-win opportunity for us and for the restaurant owners--they get extra business on a slow day (we generally have 70-80 people show up for an event and they pick the day) and the church community has fun together and raises some money for the operating budget!

If you have a favorite local restaurant where you dine or know the owner of a great place, tell them about our events and see if they would be willing to try hosting us. Let Liz Greenberg know and we'll plan and publicize the event together! If you haven't joined us for one of these events yet, talk to someone who has been before and get the scoop on what a great time we have! Fun & Fellowship--FPC Style!

**Hannafords Fundraiser Program:** Our weekly re-load order is running between \$1000 & \$3000 weekly, earning the church 5%, generally \$50-\$150/week--just to buy groceries we would buy anyway! Remember you can load any amount up to \$500 on your Hannafords gift card by cash or check and your card will be ready for grocery purchases by Tuesday. You can reload or purchase cards every Sunday following the church. Any questions, see Liz Greenberg or Joyce Pope.

Thank you, everyone, for participating and making these programs such a great success!

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## Fundraising Committee

**Basket Raffle:** In conjunction with the upcoming Songweavers benefit concert on April 9th, we will be offering a Basket Raffle, similar to the one we did at Sugar Plum Fair. We will be accepting baskets in the office through the first week of April. Baskets can be organized around a theme--Book Lovers, Pet Lovers, Children's Activities--or Dining Out Gift Cards and raffle ticket baskets or Gift bags are also popular. Tickets will be 1 for \$1, 6 for \$5, 12 for \$10, or 24 for \$20. No need to write out names and phone numbers on each ticket this time, as each buyer will be assigned a number to write on their tickets, and a master list compiled with their name, phone number, and tickets number. Contact Liz Greenberg at [lizgreenberg26@gmail.com](mailto:lizgreenberg26@gmail.com) to let me know if you plan to contribute a basket and if your basket has a theme. I'm also looking for two people to handle the raffle and ticket sales the day of the concert, as I will be arriving late from out of town.



### **Sunday, May 7th after services: Osborne Greeting Card Sale**

Osborne Greeting Cards are high quality cards that come individually wrapped in clear cellophane sleeves in a Keepsake Box. Each box contains 30 cards and sells for \$30; Church profits by \$13/box! Where else can you get amazing, high quality greeting cards for only a dollar a piece? There are three selections to choose from: Kids Birthdays (each one has an interactive feature), Thanks and Blanks, and All Occasion Cards. Karen Wilson will be coordinating this fundraiser and will have samples of each Selection of Keepsake Boxes and Cards, on Sunday, May 7th after worship for you to place your orders.



### **Save the date! LuLaRoe Vendors Coming to First Parish June 3rd!**

LuLaRoe is the hot new fashion trend--leggings, tops, dresses, skirts--in unique, limited run patterns and styles. Not familiar with LuLaRoe? Our own former Associate Pastor Heidi Carrington Heath often wore LuLaRoe, and you can talk to our own Cathy Zylinski, as she is coordinating this event with Six LuLaRoe vendors. Each vendor will share a portion of their proceeds. Let's make this a great new fundraiser!

Submitted by Liz Greenberg

## Faith Thoughts from a Fellow Traveler

### How I see Jesus, and Who He is to Me

Before I delve into chapter 3 and the Son of Man, Son of David, Son of God explanations, I want to answer the question for myself right now without scholarly influence.

I was baptized, confirmed, and raised in the Presbyterian Church. As a kid in Sunday school, I was taught that Jesus is my friend and loves me and always will, no matter what. That he died to take away my sins and continues to forgive me of my sins. Jesus is my friend 'til the end! That is the Jesus I try to keep in mind when the world goes crazy or my life takes an unexpected turn or I have big decisions to make.

Jesus to me is kind of like a best friend and a brother. I feel like we are family sort of like how I feel about my very best friends in my life. I have very few best friends but the ones I do have are the truest. Jesus is like the very best quietly-listening-closely friend. I usually pray to Jesus because he was human and I feel like he "gets me". He felt pain, heartbreak, loss, illness, anger, etc., all the stuff we humans go through. I pray to God for bigger things that are less personal because I feel like he would be better qualified to handle them. Like animal cruelty, child trafficking, etc. Jesus gets all my juicy, yucky, human-y stuff because I feel like he understands what I'm going through as a fellow human. Sometimes my prayers aren't really in the form of prayers, it's just me talking, and Jesus listening, and then me feeling something. Quite frankly Jesus is a heck of a lot easier to talk to than my own brother!

Son of Man, Son of David, Son of God. Chapter 3 gave me a lot to think about and taught me a lot.

Jesus, the Son of Man, the Son of Adam, the "new" Adam representing the rebirth of the entire human race. Wow! The theory that following Jesus erases the errors of the first Adam allowing us to be remade in the new humanity Jesus represents while not entirely a new concept to me, I had never heard it described like this. Followers of Jesus die and achieve resurrection which original Adam did not since he was kept away from the tree of life. Jesus is the "life".

The claims that Jesus is the Son of David doesn't make much sense to me. Genetically, Jesus is related by blood to Mary and her lineage. Matthew records Jesus' lineage through Joseph, back to several patriarchs like Abraham and kings including King David, to establish Jesus' authority as a political or military style leader.

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## Faith Thoughts from a Fellow Traveler

Being a scientist and having taken genetics, Jesus' human lineage would come from Mary, not Joseph. The lineage through Joseph provided the basis needed to establish Jesus as a sort of military leader which in other Gospels he himself quietly avoided.

The Son of God and Christology. John is so interesting and I love the "Son" metaphor he uses to describe God's love for humanity. John strives to help us understand the incredible action God took in becoming human through Jesus. Choosing to become flesh, to be born as we are born, to live as we do, to experience all the same emotions we do, and finally to suffer and die as we do. I think God became one of us to better understand his creation. This chapter really helped me to understand the entity of Jesus, clarifying that Jesus is unique and not of the regular created/begotten order of humanity, yet always is God, from the very beginning of, well everything. I love the idea of atonement, that the death and resurrection of Jesus, erased our sins, and brought humanity and God back together again. Happy family!

What does this all mean to me? Does it change anything to me? I have a much better understanding of how Jesus was perceived 2000 years ago, and there is still debate about him today, and that's ok. Belief relies on faith. I'm still talking and praying to Jesus as my friend and brother, and to God. I know Jesus is God and God is Jesus. I don't think God cares to which I pray since they are one and the same. I'm still talking to them and trying to keep the channels of communication open, and involving God (Jesus) in my life because I have faith in what Jesus is and believe in what he achieved for all of us.

Amen.

Submitted By Wendy Williams (member of the Exploring the Bible class)



## Firm Foundation of Worship, Education and Prayer

Luke 10:29: "And who is my neighbor?"

### Getting to Know Our Neighbor

Lent began on Wednesday, March 1, when we observed **Ash Wednesday**. It is always so sacred to gather together, enjoy a meal and then worship together and commune together. The Imposition of Ashes Service is always a sacred time. For the following five weeks we enjoy supper and a service. Our Lenten theme this year was: "Getting to Know our Neighbor". What does your neighbor eat? Sometimes they eat Lasagna and sometimes they eat Chinese! Some have breakfast for dinner and some enjoy tomato soup and grilled cheese sandwiches! This Lent our Christian goal was to get to know one another better!

Every week the worship service was in the tradition of a different denomination. We began with Lutheran (ELCA) and then Episcopal. These two denominations are very similar. They are two of the earliest Protestant denominations and to us, resemble a Catholic service in many ways. The chancel is ornate and the celebrants are in full vestments. We then looked at the Methodist and Presbyterian traditions. That was a bigger shift: "trespasses" became "debts" in the Lord's Prayer and the system of organization went from a Bishop-run system to Pastor-run: from top down to circular. Our last service on April 5 will be in the Baptist tradition. The fascinating thing about that is that there are dozens of kinds of Baptists, so our conversations will be lively! The other fascinating aspect of our experience was to watch the placement of the pulpit. When did it go from the side to the center?

UNDERSTANDING our neighbor is one of the first steps toward love and harmony. Learning differences and learning about why we do what we do are very important steps toward understanding ourselves – AND our neighbor. These are also important aspects in building up community, which is the Body of Christ.

What are you doing to build up the Body of Christ?

## The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Churches

- 1. Strive for excellence in service to Christ.** Effective churches are churches where people enjoy what they're doing and do it well. Give God your best whether in the care of church grounds, the soup you prepare for the homeless shelter dinner, or the hymns and anthems you sing in worship.
- 2. Cultivate a spirit of innovation and experimentation.** Make the "Seven Last Words of the Church," i.e. "We've never done it that way before," a distant memory. Be open to new ideas that advance your mission. Free people to develop and try new ministries. Just remember, if you're not failing at something, you're probably not trying anything.
- 3. Take the initiative to build relationships with people and groups in the wider community beyond your congregation.** Refuse to be isolated. Take to the streets, the coffee shops, library and parks of your community. Be curious about what's going on. Get involved in community events. Meet people. Introduce yourself as a member of the church. Invite people to "come and see."
- 4. Accept responsibility for mistakes, learn from them, and in all things, let grace abound.** Christians aren't perfect; they are forgiven. So making mistakes is not the worst thing that can happen. Besides we often learn the most from our failures. In the end, and in the beginning, it is about God's grace, not our achievements. Cut others some slack. While you're at it, cut yourself some, too.
- 5. "Always be prepared to give an account of the hope that is within you." (1 Peter 3:15)** Look for where the love, energy and life are flowing and focus on that. And recognize excuses for what they are: a sign of insufficient commitment. Be people of hope, trusting in God to find a way even when we can't.
- 6. Be willing to let people go in order to stay focused on your core mission.** It is more important for your church to be clear and steady about its core mission than it is to make everyone happy. Some people may be better off in another congregation. When folks are unhappy, connect, talk and pray. If things remain stuck, let them go with your blessing, giving priority to your mission.
- 7. Splash it on!** A hospice nurse told the story of bringing an elderly woman home for the final days of her life. Noticing a large bottle of perfume on the woman's dresser, the nurse asked, "Would you like me to dab a bit of that behind your ears?" "Honeys" said the woman to the nurse, "Why don't you just splash it on!" **God loves cheerful givers. So spend money wisely, well and freely in God's cause.**

## First Annual 5K for Hadassah is Truly an Interfaith Event!

**NH4Israel** started planning the Run for Healing last fall, not knowing how many people would support this very large endeavor. But we have been very busy securing help and recruiting people from many walks of life and the response has been heart-warming!

Our "supporters" are organizations who have agreed to promote the event with their members and so far include: NH4Israel, The William Einhorn Interfaith Education Fund, Hadassah, The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, Etz Hayim Synagogue, The Church of the Transfiguration, Temple Israel of Manchester, Congregation Betenu, New Vision Church, First Baptist Church, Word of Life Christian Fellowship, Israel My Delight, Portsmouth Believers Church, Christians and Jews United for Israel with more to come.

There is no fee, and the supporters will be listed on the back of the free t-shirt that comes with registrations received before April 21st...so REGISTER NOW at **NH4Israel.org!**

The Run for Healing will raise funds for an ACCUVEIN device for Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. Hadassah is truly a "Bridge for Peace," forging links between patients of all nationalities, races and religions who come to its doors for healing.

**This fun family event is Sunday, May 7th at 2:00 P.M.** (registration starts at 1:00 P.M.) and will include a 5K run, a 3K walk, or simply enjoyment of camaraderie, music, food and dancing! The cost is only \$18 for adults and new pricing for teenagers and younger is only \$10.



## Scripture Readings

*Readings are from the Revised Common Lectionary  
for Sundays and Festivals – Year A*

### April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary

#### Time

Ezek 37:1-14

Ps 130

Rom 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

### April 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary

#### Time

Matt 21:1-11 ● Ps 118:1-2, 19-29

Isa 50:4-9a ● Ps 31:9-16 ● Phil 2:5-11

Matt 26:14-27:66 or Matt 27:11-54

### April 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary

#### Time

Acts 10:34-43 or Jer 31:1-6

Ps 118:1-2, 14-24

Col 3:1-4 or Acts 1:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Matt 28:1-10

### April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary

#### Time

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Ps 16

1 Pet 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

### April 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary

#### Time

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Ps 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Pet 1:17-23

John 24:13-35

## Worship Leadership

### Deacons & Lay Readers

#### Deacons of the Month

Cyndi Gray and Diane Breeden

April 2<sup>nd</sup>: Cindy Pingree

April 9<sup>th</sup>: Pat Plouff

April 16<sup>th</sup>: Diane Breeden

April 23<sup>rd</sup>: Steve Davis

April 30<sup>th</sup>: Sarah Keller

### Ushers & Greeters

Weekly Usher – Michael Bryan

April 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ushers: Diaconate

Greeter(s): Verna Elwell and  
Shirley Dickason

April 9<sup>th</sup>: Ushers: Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell  
& Sue Hunt

Greeter(s): Mark Pingree & Nancy Magee

April 16<sup>th</sup>: Ushers: John Bartel, Kevin Gordon  
& Diane Gordon

Greeter(s): Becky Fleury

April 23<sup>rd</sup>: Ushers: Ken Gould, Brian Williams  
Dee Deranian and Shirley Dickason

Greeter(s): Beth Hunter

April 30<sup>th</sup>: Ushers: Stanley & Holly Gorgol,  
Tom & Andrea Cooper

Greeter(s): Betsy McCall



# First Parish Congregational Church, UCC

## Church Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

## You are most warmly invited:

10:00 am      Sunday Worship & Church School  
11:00 am      Coffee Hour

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## Check us out on the web or call our office:

[www.fpc-ucc.org](http://www.fpc-ucc.org) | 603-434-0628

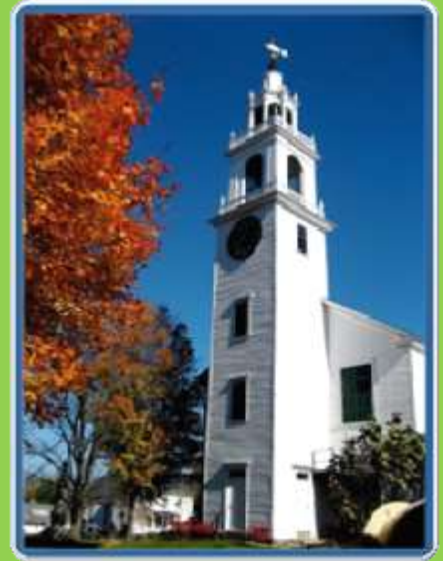
## Email our Administrative Assistant, Hannah Collier:

[officemgr@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:officemgr@fpc-ucc.org)

## Email our Senior Pastor and Teacher

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof:

[pastordeboraah@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:pastordeboraah@fpc-ucc.org)



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