

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 9:30 am.



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Child of God,

Let us consider the faith practice of prayer. In Matthew's Gospel Jesus says, "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you." He says this in context with a much longer section about not judging others, keeping a healthy self-inventory, and holding ourselves accountable for our own shortcomings and misdeeds.

In Mark's Gospel Jesus says, "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." In other words, we must pray with confidence that we will receive God's answer.

In Philippians 4:6 Paul writes: "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." These are powerful words – but then we have a powerful God.

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Upcoming Events

August 2nd

Deacons Meeting ~ 6:30 in Cook

August 3rd

Stewardship Meeting ~ 7:00 in Cook

August 6th

CE Meeting ~ 11:00 in Nursery

August 9th

K.I.T ~ 12:30 in Currier

August 16th

Council Meeting ~ 7:00 in Cook

August 20th

David Reynolds ~ 10:45 in Currier

August 22nd

Facilities Meeting ~ 7:00 in Cook

August 25th

Spaghetti Supper ~ 5:00 in Currier

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 12th Century Church in Hampshire, England



From the Pastor's Desk (Continued)

Our God loves us unconditionally; having knit us together in our mother's womb we are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139). I would gently remind that "fearfully" means "full of awe" and has nothing to do with being afraid. In fact, Paul suggests that we not worry, that we express our gratitude and that we tell God what it is we are requesting. Can we do that? I know that many people within our faith community worry. We worry about the uncertainties of life. We worry about money. We worry about our future as a church. "Do not worry about anything." We are being asked to surrender worry. That is a tall order some days. Is it possible that our prayers go unanswered because we haven't taken this first step? Is it possible that unwanted circumstances arise because we are so critical of one another? "Do not worry about anything" might as well be the same as "move Monadnock Mountain" or "walk on Beaver Lake".

The second thing that Paul suggests is that we give thanks. How many times a day do you thank God? Are you breathing without a machine? Did you tell God how much you appreciate your breath today? Can you walk? Did you thank God? Did you wake up this morning? When you awoke, did you have clothing to wear and food to eat? Do you have transportation? Do you have friends that care? Do you have family? Take an inventory of your blessings right now and thank God. Don't stop until you reach 20 of them. Counting blessings is far more life-giving than counting and recounting our problems. And the Apostle Paul suggests that it is from the stance of gratitude that we go to God with any requests.

Prayer must be an intentional act. We need to take care. I often caution folks about praying for patience. Think about it. If we ask God for greater wisdom and discernment, think about what we might expect to encounter. Wisdom comes from a steady stream of mind-bending, confusing circumstances that are difficult to understand and work through. You see, our powers of discernment are *trained* by the constant practice of distinguishing good from evil. That's what Hebrews 5:14 teaches. And if we ask God for a deeper experience of God's own grace, what should we expect to receive? Answers that oppose our pride and humble our hearts. Take a look at James 4:6. Prayer is a powerful tool when our hearts and motives are the will of God.

Prayer focuses our attention and energy. It is a powerful act of faith. When we clean up our side of the street, when we let go of judgment and worry, when we pray with the expectation of miraculous results our prayers can accomplish so much. As you look around you, what do you need to attend to? Who do you need to forgive? Have you given God thanks for the multitude of blessings that fill your life? Take some time each day. And then let us pray together for God's will for us here at First Parish.

I thank God for you, child of God, and I pray for you every day,
Pastor Deborah

Board of Christian Education



Hero Central Vacation Church School was a huge hit! We had a great group of 13 kids ranging from 3 years old to 10 years old who learned what it is to be God's hero by having Courage, Heart, Wisdom, Hope and Power just like the heroes in the Bible.

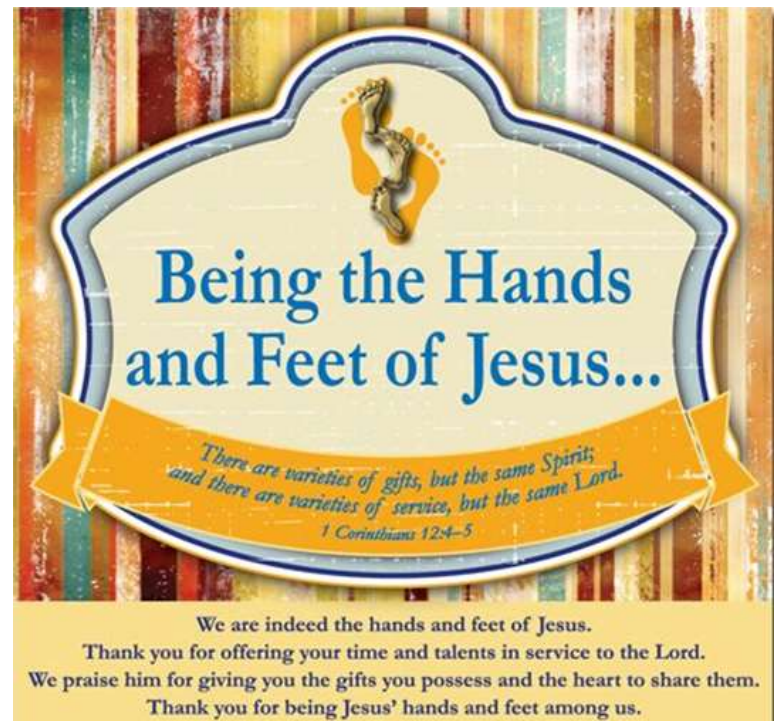
One parent commented, "I just wanted to share that (her children) thought (Hero Central at First Parish Church) was the BEST "VBS" they have ever done! They were amazed at how dedicated the leaders were and all the effort that went into the program. They are already saying they are disappointed they will have to wait a whole year to do it again! They have been talking all afternoon about how awesome it was and how much they learned."

A very big Thank you to all our Hero Central Vacation Church School Volunteers who made this year's program one of our best yet! To all of you who may not have had a lot of extra time, but HUGE hearts and to you who gave selflessly of your talent and treasures, you are an example to our kids and community of what LOVE IN MOTION really looks like! Pictures will be available to view on our website soon!



One Room Schoolhouse

To our families with children, please continue to join us for our summer Sunday School Program in which we will continue to learn, laugh, and love with lessons from the Bible while enjoying the outdoors (weather permitting).



Adult Faith Formation

Students have recently completed the first of a series of three books in The Dickinson Series "What is the Bible," by renowned author Anne Robertson. Students who have reviewed this book claim, "It is an outstanding first volume in an important new contribution to understanding of the Bible! Its content has broad appeal to students and readers from a wide range of beliefs and knowledge of the Bible. It explains important stories of the Bible within their historical and cultural context and thereby provides a basis for many lively and interesting discussions when used in group study. Anne Robertson knows her stuff, and knows how to make it interesting and funny. It is particularly appealing to those seeking interfaith dialogue and understanding. The last chapter on archaeology and the Bible was especially interesting. I highly recommend "What is the Bible? Student Text (Volume 1)."

If anyone is interested in upcoming Adult Faith Formation Events, please following these links or go to our website under Christian Education/Adult faith Formation to learn more:



September 12, 19, 26, October 10, 17, 24, 31: Exploring the Bible Series: Introduction to the Old Testament: We ask that students sign up as soon as possible and that Chapter 1 is read by the start of classes on September 12th for maximum class enjoyment and learning experience!

November 7, 14, 21, and 28: Book Discussion (TBD)

We are considering a book entitled Pastrix by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Read a review and let Christine or Pastor Deborah know if you would be interested in this study.

Board of Deacons

The Deacons hope and pray you have all been having a fabulous summer! Come and join us for worship, celebrating the gift of Love through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The board of Deacons has continued to lift up all of the Joys and Concerns we have heard over the summer. We pray that many of you have had a joyful and restful vacation. There are many among us who have lost a job, lost a loved one, are dealing with illness or are suffering in some way. We pray for you all. Anyone who would like their Joys or Concerns printed in our bulletin are asked to call or email the office.

Summer service worship hour will continue to be 9:30 a.m. through Sept. 3. We enjoyed a beautiful outside service on July 16 and look forward to another on Aug. 13th. Please bring your own comfortable chair or there will be chairs available.

Julie Dubisz will no longer be able to serve on the Board of Deacons. We appreciate all she has contributed and will miss her organizational skills and kindness. Thank you Julie!

September will be here soon and with it the busyness of the Fall season. If you have thoughts or ideas of new things you might want included in our worship services, please let Pastor Deborah or a Deacon know.

Your Deacons; Diane Breeden, Diane Dunn, Ken Gould, Cyndi Gray, Reni Harden, Ryan Lehoullier, Cindy Pingree, Julie Turner, and Jo Worthen

Board of Stewardship

Happy Summer! Hope you all are enjoying this glorious time of year and remembering to be grateful for the absence of cold, ice, and snow.

We have some results to report for the recent Try A Tithe offering. This year we had eight people participate in this program and raised an extra \$1098 for the budget. Thank you to each and every one! Last year we had forty-three people participate and raised \$5181. If June just got away from you and you didn't get a chance to participate - it's not too late! God is splashing blessings upon us with great gusto! Let us reciprocate as best we can.

Would you like to join the stewardship team and work with us in the continuing education of our congregation in all the many colors and flavors in which the stewardship ministry comes? There are openings on the board, just raise your hand and say "Here I am!". Or maybe you would like to get a little taste of stewardship by offering your assistance with preparing the fall pledge drive mailing. Maybe you even have some ideas as to how we can try some different ideas to make the drive more efficient and effective. Please let us know as this activity will be cranking up in earnest as we roll into September. Thank you for all you do!

Submitted by John Bartel on behalf of the Stewardship Board, Margie Ives, Joyce Pope, Sarah Keller

Zimbabwe Container

On September 9th a shipment of goods (books, school supplies, clothing, medical supplies, tools, food, etc...) will begin its long journey from Keene, New Hampshire to Zimbabwe, Africa. A journey that will typically take more than two months. The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions, with the help of the Congregation, will once again participate in this exciting and important program. Missions has reserved 25 cubic feet of space in the shipping container and is beginning to collect items to fill the space. We may be able to acquire more space after August 1 if necessary.



Most of the supplies will go to our sister Church in Danganvura, Mutare, Zimbabwe with a portion going to an un-partnered Church identified by the Conference. Below is a complete list of Priority Items. This list will also be posted on the FPC website at www.fpc-ucc.org and on the Missions bulletin board outside of the AB Classroom. If you have questions, please talk to one of the Mission board members listed at the end of this article. Also, if you have or can get standard paper ream boxes (18" x 11.5" x 9.5"), Missions would love to take them off your hands. Due to their uniform size they are ideal for the loading and unloading of the shipping container.

FOR HOSPITALS & CLINICS: ALL MEDICINES

must have an expiration date of 6/2018 or later to be sent in this container

- Pain relievers - ibuprofen, aspirin
- Gauze bandages, antibiotic ointment
- Anti diarrhea medication
- Cough/cold medication, Vaporub
- Vitamins (children & adult)
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap
- Sanitary pads, petroleum jelly
- Blood pressure cuffs (not battery operated)
- Used glasses in good condition, reading glasses & sunglasses
- Hearing aids with batteries
- Towels, bedding (twin sheets, pillowcases & blankets)
- Scales (not battery operated)
- Wheelchairs, walkers, crutches
(set at shortest settings to save space)

FOR SCHOOLS:

- Library books, reading books at all levels
- Textbooks (math, science, reading)
- Pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, rulers, chalk
- Notebook paper, notebooks
- Art supplies, paints, crayons, markers
- World maps, educational posters, colorful photos (from calendars)
- Playground toys: i.e., soccer balls, basketballs, jump ropes, volleyballs

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Board of Christian Outreach and Missions Continued

TOOLS:

- Hand tools (hammer, screwdrivers, saws, planes, clamps, sandpaper & blocks)
- Garden tools, shovels, crowbars, axes, rakes, hoes
- Plumbing & electrical tools/supplies
- Nails & screws - any size or variety
- Door knobs, locks, hinges

GENERATORS - HIGH DEMAND!

FOOD:

- Peanut butter, powdered milk
- Infant formula, protein & vitamin powder (mixes with water)

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Bicycles (recently serviced)
- Basic books for cooking, sewing and carpentry
- Sewing machines (recently cleaned & serviced) with manual
- Sewing supplies - fabric, notions, zippers, buttons, thread, sewing patterns for dresses, skirts (ladies, girls) and shorts (boys)
- Adaptor plugs & voltage converters
- Solar powered lights & flashlights

CLERGY:

- Clergy gowns and shirts
- Theological books
- Bibles (RSV, NRSV) & Commentaries

CLOTHING:

- All CLEAN & in good condition
- Gently worn clothing for children & infants
- Skirts and dresses, blouses, shirts for women and girls
- Suits, sports jackets, dress shirts, ties, pants, and short sleeve shirts for men
- Sneakers & shoes (no high heels)
- Rain coats, windbreakers, fleece jackets
- Medium weight jackets
- Sweaters, sweatshirts
- Socks - children & adults (male & female)
- New underwear for children & adults
- Bras, new or gently worn
- Black shoes/sneakers for school children (and black shoe polish for school shoes)

SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS & CONFERENCE OFFICES:

- Desktop computers, laptops (Windows 7 or 8), delete programs, music & games to increase processing speed
- Printers & ink cartridges
- Office Jet 920XL cartridge black
- Copy paper, box files
- 3 ring notebooks and 3-hole punches

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions (Continued)

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 your support last month:

Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM)	\$350.00	Sonshine Soup Kitchen	\$100.00
First Baptist Food Pantry	\$100.00	Community Caregivers	\$100.00
Derry Friendship Center	\$100.00	Family Promise	\$100.00
Pastoral Counseling	\$100.00	Upper Room	\$100.00
Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$100.00	Theological Studies	\$500.00
Horton Center Scholarships	\$456.67		

Respectfully submitted,

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

Finance Committee

HOW ARE WE DOING FINANCIALLY?

Financial Report as of 6/30/2017	Received	Budgeted
Pledges to date	\$99,342*	\$96,000
Plate offerings to date	\$11,380	\$13,750

* includes \$798 from the Try-a-Tithe campaign. THANK YOU!

Submitted by Joyce Pope, Stewardship Rep to the Finance Committee

Wanted: Handchime Players

The Handchime choir is looking for a few new players. We are looking for anyone from Grade 5 and up. Musical training is nice but not required. We will teach. We are especially looking for someone tall to handle the larger chimes. Rehearsals are after Church on Sundays. The First rehearsal will be September 17. If you are interested or would like more information please speak with Ken Williams.

Yankee Candle Fundraiser

Hannah, our Administrative Assistant, and Christine, our CE Director, brought to FPC a Yankee Candle Fundraiser. Going from July 17th through August 17th. You and your friends can order from the catalog. AND started July 17th and going SIX MONTHS till January 10th, 2018 you can order **online at <https://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com/>** with our group number **#999970483!** You're probably thinking "How are we supposed to know if we like the scent of the candle?" Easy, the catalogs that FPC will receive are scratch n' sniff! Yankee Candle will ship all online orders directly to your home! Unlike most fundraisers, the benefit is enormous: we will receive 40% of the total purchases! How awesome is that!

Outdoor Ministry!

Do you enjoy being in the outdoors? Are you interested in meeting and getting to know other FPC members and friends? Send Brian an e-mail at willibi1910@gmail.com.

Tower Rehabilitation!

Construction on the Meetinghouse has begun again! This sacred work will continue for the next couple of months. Thanks be to God!

Theological Studies Fund

The church has formed a Theological Studies Scholarship Fund. This fund is intended to help members of the congregation who feel called theological studies, with preference given to Members in Discernment. The Diaconate and Mission Boards have generously provided the first contributions to the fund. Other groups are encouraged to also consider making a contribution and individual gifts would be gratefully accepted. Contributions can be dropped in the Sunday offering or sent to the office. Please add "Theological Studies Scholarship Fund" on the memo line of the check or on the envelope. Please contact Becky Fleury or a member of the Diaconate if you have any questions.

A HUGE THANK YOU!

FPC would like to give a huge thank you to our Christian Education Director Christine Lehoullier for all the hard work she did to make Vacation Church School a huge success! There were a total of 13 superheroes for all four days!



Warren A. Pillsbury

Dr. Warren A. Pillsbury passed away May 16, 2017, at 87 years old. He was predeceased by his wife Jean E. Pillsbury, whom he was married to for 60 years. He is survived by his sister: Virginia Lints and her husband Donald; his children: Robert Pillsbury and his wife Mame Green, Pamela Pillsbury and her companion Ted Leonard, and Jennifer O'Keefe and her husband Michael; his grandchildren: Michael O'Keefe, Jr., Nicole Lynch and her husband Matthew, Kathleen Zane and her husband Erik, and Bryan Strode; and his great-grandchildren: Sarah, Emily, and Violet Zane.

Warren Pillsbury grew up in Derry, NH, attending Pinkerton Academy. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from the University of New Hampshire, his Master's Degree from Florida State University, and his Doctorate in Economics from the University of Virginia. He served in the U.S. Air Force from December 1, 1953 to September 17, 1956. During his time in the service, he received the Korean Service Medal, the U.N. Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. Before he retired home to New Hampshire, he was a professor of economics at Lehigh University for 33 years.

Upon his retirement from Lehigh, he made a deliberate choice to enjoy life as, in his words, the entertaining jokester. What didn't change was his willingness to always help others. In retirement, he was able to spend more time exploring metal sculpting and other hobbies. He was never without 50-100 open projects. Anyone who knew him learned more about metal casting and fractals than they could ever need to know. He never lost the boyish twinkle in his eye that would make his wife roll her eyes, never knowing what was coming next. The twinkle in his eye always preceded him telling a story, and everyone who knew him knew he would have a long story for any occasion.

He liked nothing better than being surrounded by his family and entertaining his friends. He is described by those who love him as one of the finest men with a beautiful smile, a great sense of humor, and always willing to welcome a new friend. Never more so than in his church, which he called home for more than 20 years. At First Parish Church in Derry, he was a founding member of KIT - Keeping In Touch, a group designed to keep members involved in the church community. Although it was only intended to last one year, it became popular enough to last for many and is still thriving today. He will be missed by those whose lives he touched, and most especially by his family.

If anyone wishes to honor Warren, the family asks that you make a donation in his name to First Parish Church Rehabilitation Fund 47 E Derry Rd, East Derry, NH 03041

Scripture Readings

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

August 6th – 12th Sunday in Ordinary

Time

Gen 32:22-31 ● Ps 17:1-7, 15 OR
Isa 55:1-5 ● Ps 145:8-9, 14-21
Rom 9:1-5
Matt 14:13-21

August 13th – 19th Sunday in Ordinary

Time

Gen 37:1-4, 12-28 ● Ps 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
OR 1 Kings 19:9-18 ● Ps 85:8-13
Rom 10:5-15
Matt 14:22-33

August 20th – 26^h Sunday in Ordinary

Time

Gen 45:1-15 ● Ps 133 OR
Isa 56:1, 6-8 ● Ps 67
Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matt 15: (10-20), 21-28

August 27th – 31st Sunday in Ordinary

Time

Ex 1:8-2:10 ● Ps 124 OR
Isa 51:1-6 ● Ps 138
Rom 12:1-8
Matt 16:13-20

Worship Schedule

Deacons of the Month:

Diane Breeden & Joanne Worthen

August 6th: Communion

August 13th: Outdoor Service

August 20th: David Reynolds – 10: 45
Mediation with all interested parties.

August 27th: Faith, Fellowship, Food!

Ushers & Greeters

Weekly Usher – Michael Bryan

August 6th: Ushers: Diaconate
Greeter(s): Verna Elwell
and Shirley Dickason

August 13th: Ushers: Ken Gould, Dee Deranian
& Shirley Dickason

August 20th: Ushers: Stanley & Holly Gorgol
Tom & Andrea Cooper
Greeter(s): Connie Cox

August 27th: Ushers: Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell
& Sue Hunt
Greeter(s): Beth Hunter

First Parish Congregational Church, UCC

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday
8:00 am - 2:00 pm

You are most warmly invited:

9:30 am Sunday Worship & Church School
10:30 am Coffee Hour

Check us out on the web or call our office:

www.fpc-ucc.org | 603-434-0628

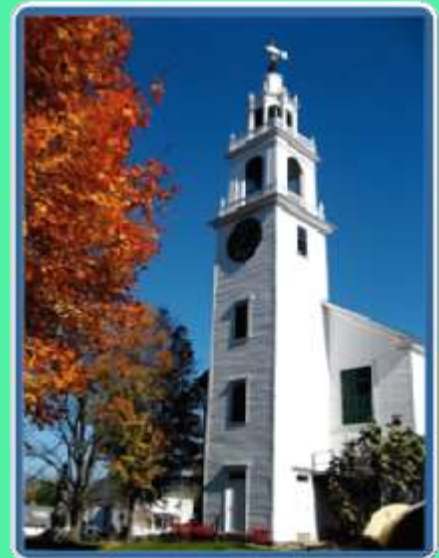
Email our Administrative Assistant, Hannah Collier:

officemgr@fpc-ucc.org

Email our Senior Pastor and Teacher

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof:

pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org



First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
47 East Derry Road
PO Box 114
East Derry, NH 03041-0114

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