

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,

Advent is upon us. As Christians we are waiting. We wait in Biblical Hope, which has more to do with trust than with 'wishful' thinking. We wait with our eyes upon Peace – a Divine Peace that passes all human understanding. We wait in Joy – the joy that comes of connection and community, of relationship with God and with one another. And we wait in Love – the love that was born in a manger; the love that died for us on the cross; love that goes beyond friendship and enters communion; it's sacrificial love – a love that denies 'self' for the sake of another.

And we do not live in a vacuum. We live in a world that forgets our true nature of generosity and forgiveness. It is, after all, December and we live in a consumer-based society, where the emphasis is all about shopping, buying, and spending money.

Let us be mindful this year more than ever before that the world needs what we know to be true: what is "real" is hope, peace, joy and love.

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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 12th Century Church in Hampshire, England

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 4th

Advent Workshop after Worship

Sunday, December 11th

Guest Preacher:

The Rev Dr. Valencia Jackson

Tuesday, December 13th

Advent Bible Wonder at 6:30 pm

Tuesday, December 20th

Blue Christmas Service at 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Services at
4:30, 7:00, and 10:00

Sunday, December 25th

10 am Worship



From the Pastor's Desk Continued

The rest is cosmetics. We don't bring anything into this world when we arrive. When we leave, we don't take anything with us. It is what we can do for others that is our legacy. Who do we bless while we are here? Whose lives will be better because of something we said or did?

May this Advent season open up for you new and inspiring ways of living your Christian faith in a whole new way. I offer you these tools. May they help you to prepare more wholly for the Christ-child.

Week 1: Hope

Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.

Week 2: Peace

Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share your peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.

Week 3: Joy

Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.

Week 4: Love

Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen.

Blessed Advent to you and yours,

In HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE -

Pastor Deborah

Adult Faith Formation

We had an amazing group of 15 for the Old Testament Exploring the Bible series. Each session began with “one new thing that you learned” and “what is one question that you have?” This was an incredibly powerful mechanism for sharing of thoughts and ideas! We didn’t always answer the questions and many times, one question led to another. And that was the sacred WONDER of it all. We grew to trust one another in new ways and each one of us grew in personal faith. Thanks be to God!

Tuesday evening ADVENT Adult gathering of Faith, **December 13, from 6:30 – 8:00**. If you can, join us for dinner at 5:00 at Panera. We will talk about Advent, the baby Jesus, “what’s the deal with the manger?”; “why do we have Nativity scenes?” and much, much more. Bring your questions and your inquiring minds to Cook Conference Room on December 13.

Also in on **Tuesday the 20th**, Pastor Deborah and the Deacons will offer a **Blue Christmas service at 7:00** in Currier. Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue." Not everyone is “up” and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other dis-ease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities. There is a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are “blue” at Christmas. Increasing numbers of churches are creating sacred space for people living through dark times. Such services are reflective, accepting where people really are, and yet holding out healing and hope. Invite someone you know who may need this kind of service this year.

Mark your calendars: “Exploring the Bible: New Testament” will be held in February and March, with a break for Ash Wednesday, March 1. Dates for this Exploring the Bible, III are: **February 7, 14, 21 and March 7, 14, 21**. (Please email pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org to reserve a book.)

News from the Council

Council accepted the Nominating Committee's recommendation that Fred Merrill serve as the interim Moderator until the next Annual Meeting. We would also like to thank Chris O'Brien for fulfilling the role of interim Moderator since the Moderator resignation. We appreciate his calm demeanor, open willingness and the ability to keep our meeting on task while giving everyone the opportunity to share their viewpoints and opinions. Thank you Chris!!!

Council agreed that they would hire and work with Dr. David Reynolds to assist Council in the evaluation and improvement in the functionality of the Council Meetings and also to name and manage the Undercurrents felt at FPC.

Board of Stewardship

November is the month with an entire day dedicated to thankfulness. What a great idea that was! Thanksgiving Day is a wonderful celebration that focuses our thoughts to our many blessings. Turkey is great but our blessings go far beyond food. Family is probably next on most people's list. I hope that includes your First Parish Church family. Please give careful consideration to the material included in your pledge drive mailing. Our church is doing good works throughout the community as well as within its walls.

If you have already submitted your pledge promise for 2017, thank you. A really BIG thank you! If you need added incentive, please reread that narrative budget you received. It will remind you of all the ways First Parish affects so many people by the collective good works of so many others. Please help us to continue those good works.

Pledge cards are available in the office (but I'm sure a note dropped in the offering plate would be gratefully accepted too.) And again, THANK YOU!

If you want offertory envelopes please visit the church office. We have packets of 12 or boxes of 52 for your convenience.

Submitted by Joyce Pope on behalf of the Stewardship Board

Board of Christian Education

A Note from the Interim CE Director

Happy December! In case you missed the announcement, I am filling the position of CE Director through the month of December while we search for our new associate pastor. I am typically in the CE Office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 10:00 to 12:00, however these hours are may change due to Sunday meetings. I also update my hours daily on the whiteboard on my office door. If you need to contact me about Sunday school or other CE related matters, please do so at the CE Director email: cedirector@fpc-ucc.org.

Have a wonderful advent season,
Katie Cobban

Calling all Sunday School Teachers!

The CE Board is in need of Sunday School Teacher for the upcoming months. If you are able to teach in any of the spring months, please contact Katie Cobban, Janet Wetherbee, or any other member of the CE Board.

Advent Workshop!

Advent workshop will be on December 4th directly after service in Currier Hall, this year! We are very excited about some of the crafts that we have in store and even have some activities that parents and adults can enjoy! We do need some help though:

We need people to bring soups, breads, and desserts for our luncheon; we need some help manning craft tables; we need help with set up before and after church; and we are going to need help cleaning up when it is all done.

If you would like to be one of our lovely helper elves or donate your famous soup, contact Katie Cobban, Janet Wetherbee, or any other member of the CE Board.

Family Nativity Display

Do you have a special nativity scene that has been in your family for years? Or one that came from another country? Or maybe you have a crèche that a family member made for you. This year, we would like to celebrate Advent by sharing the beauty of our family nativity scenes. If you would like to contribute to the display, bring your nativity scene and a short story of where it came from to the Advent workshop. We will display them all on the stage so that everyone can see the beauty of the Christmas Story through the eyes of our church family members.

If you have any questions please contact Katie Cobban.

Board of Deacons

As we transition from the traditional season of Gratitude and Thanksgiving toward our Advent and Christmas season, the Diaconate would like us all to continue the warm, friendly and family feeling of gratitude and thankfulness.

We ask that our church family remain focused on all the good that is happening at First Parish Congregational. You see, love really is all around us. It is evidenced by the many people who work so hard to make this church a success! Examples are:

- the growing children's programs, to include the children's choir
- the increase in attendance at Sunday service, have you noticed?
- the coffee and goodies at social hour after Sunday service, as well as the luncheons served after special functions in Currier Hall
- the growing numbers at Bible study, where through healthy conversation, we sure do learn a lot from our pastor, and each other
- the release of our beautiful new directory, which will dovetail with our beautiful meetinghouse/sanctuary/connector which is being revitalized, and will be something that we all will be so proud to show everyone!
- the success of the prayer angels, and gratitude texting that happens daily/weekly has been so meaningful to those who participate
- the community programs such as, monthly spaghetti suppers, the Harvest supper, and the Sugar Plum Fair, to name a few.

Lots of people, lots of love, lots of gratitude to go around!

How about we keep the season of Gratitude and Thanksgiving, here at First Parish, all year? Let's do it!!

In prayer, Your deacons, Diane Dunn, Cyndi Gray, Reni Harnden, Sarah Keller, Fred Merrill, Cindy Pingree, Diana Sweeney, Brian Williams, Joanne Worthen

A Clay Pot

A clay pot similar to this is how it all began. I watched a very special women turn a school gymnasium into a worship center for Holy Cross Catholic Church and realized we could add a visual to our worship time. Over the last 20+ years I have been blessed to work with each of our pastors as we journeyed through the liturgical year. Pastor Deborah has embraced this ministry as I have approached her with an idea, we have spent time dreaming up worship scenes that I hope have enriched your experience in our sanctuary and in Currier Hall while we wait out the renovation of our beautiful meeting house. This has added so much to my faith journey and I pray it has added to your faith journey also. Please share with me what works for you and what you see when you hear the scripture readings, the sermon, and the anthem that our choir so elegantly prepares each week.

Your thoughts and questions are important to me. Yours in Christ, Diane Breedon

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

Thanksgiving Baskets:

The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions would like to thank you for your generous donations of food and money to provide Thanksgiving meals to those who were in need this year. Your generosity was able to provide Thanksgiving to 62 people (27 Families, 16 children).

Angel Tree:

Each year at Christmas time, Missions sponsors the Angel Tree program which assists families in need in providing a little more Christmas joy for their children. This year we will also be receiving a list from the Community Caregivers of the names of shut-ins whom are also in need of some holiday cheer. Here is the schedule:

Community Caregivers: Names Available – Sun, 11/27 & Sun, 12/4
Gifts due at FPC (Wrapped) – Fri, 12/9

Children: Names Available – Sun, 12/4 & Sun, 12/11
Gifts due at FPC (Wrapped) – Fri, 12/16

The following are instructions for the delivery of gifts to the Church. These instructions will also be available when you pick up the child's information.

After you have purchased your gift, please:

1. Remove the price tags.
2. If this item may have to be returned, place tags and receipt (if possible) in an envelope with the child's number on the front and tape the envelope to the back of the package.
3. Everyone loves presents! Please wrap each gift separately and place gift certificates in a separate box.
4. Stick or tape a label with the child's number to the top front of the present. This is very important! Missions will replace this label with one that has the child's name before delivering the gift.

Food Basket Program

The Food Basket program is a vital part of our Missions work as a Church. The food basket is kept outside of Currier Hall where services are now being held. The food goes to 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 food basket on Sunday, or anytime the Church is open. Donations are desperately needed and always appreciated.

Cont'd on p. 8 & 9

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund Offering (formerly the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross), one of five Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ (UCC), is an important way of sharing our joy at God's renewing and life-giving grace. The Offering, which is administered by the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance of the Pension Boards on behalf of the UCC, is an expression of joy and gratitude to, and for, those who serve the church.

Gifts to the Christmas Fund help provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, emergency assistance to the families of clergy and lay employees and Christmas Gift Checks to hundreds of annuitants.

Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose lower-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care. Envelopes will be available in the bulletins throughout December.

Monthly 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 receiving monthly Mission support:

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

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

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

LIBERTY HOUSE WISH LIST

Donations can be dropped off at 75 W. Baker St, Manchester NH during daylight hours.

FOOD

- ☆ Pasta & Pasta Sauce
- ☆ Canned Soup
- ☆ Mac & Cheese
- Canned Tuna
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Chicken
- Fruit Cups & Canned fruit
- Granola bars
- Spam
- Canned potatoes
- Beans
- Canned ravioli
- Canned veggies
- Ramen noodles

CLOTHING

- ☆ Men's shorts waist sizes (30-34)
- ☆ Men's workboots, sizes (10-10.5 preferred)
- ☆ Men's sneakers all sizes
- Men's jeans waist sizes (30-34)
- Men's and women's hooded sweatshirts
- Men's boxers small, medium and large
- Flannel Shirts
- Thermal Underwear
- Socks
- Women's Clothing

HOUSEHOLD

- ☆ Paper towels
- ☆ Toilet paper
- 35 gallon trash bags
- Air freshener

MISC

- ☆ Bicycles
- Shaving razors (disposable)
- Shaving cream
- Deodorant
- Conditioner full size
- Shampoo full size

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE

- ☆ Sleeping bags
- ☆ Backpacks
- ☆ Tents
- Can Openers
- Tarps
- Blankets

Respectfully submitted,

The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions (BOCOM):

Joe Weaver, Gloria Bingel, Sue Brown, Beth Hunter, Karen Wilson, Kathy Holland, Bart Wetherbee, Fred Bates, Melanie VanSteensburg (Affiliate Member)

Family Promise

FAMILY PROMISE STILL NEEDS YOUR HELP

Thanks to all our dedicated Family Promise volunteers for cooking, hosting, and sleeping over during our hosting weeks over the past year. Families continue to move through the program, spending about 4-5 months on average before they find housing. We continue to have a wait list for the program, since we can only host 4 families at a time and the need is great. The people who have been in the program over the past couple of years have all been incredibly appreciative of the help we provide. At the annual fundraising Gala in early November, one of the Dads in the program gave a very moving speech about what a life-saver the program has been to his family since he lost his job and was unable to provide shelter for them.

Our volunteers this past year comprise about 16 dedicated souls, including Sue Brown, Andrea Cooper, Connie Cox, Diana Cross, Sheila Gibbons, Ken Gould, Carol Guerrin, Jerry Guerrin, Sarah Keller, Tammy Lynch, Beth Nelson, Marge Palmer, Pat Plouff, Diana Sweeney, Julie Turner, and Melanie Van Steensburg. Many thanks to you all for your faithful service; the program wouldn't survive without you

.Our next full hosting week is February 26-March 4. We will need a little extra help that week because Sue and I will be in SC from January through March. I'll still organize the schedule as always, but we won't be there to take our usual overnight and evening hosting, or to shop for groceries the weekend before the guests arrive, so we'll need some extra help then. Please volunteer if you are able. It's easy duty, greatly appreciated, and one of those golden opportunities that God presents us with to help the most vulnerable children in our area.

Randy Brown
Host coordinator for Family Promise

Membership Committee

Membership Committee will be holding a get to know each other event on December 11th right after church. Young adults and young families are invited to attend to get acquainted with each other. We will serve light snacks and childcare will be provided as well. We hope you'll join us!!

Hilary, Paula, and Lianne

Fundraising Committee

FPC Dining for Dollars Fun and Fellowship Events Updates:

Mark your calendars--**Tuesday, October 18th** our popular FPC Dining for FPC Dollars event will return! We are very excited to be welcomed by Eddie Leon to his brand new La Caretta location in Londonderry! He is again offering us 15% of our purchases for the evening. So come on out to enjoy his new place and some great fellowship with FPC members and friends! Watch your bulletins for flyers to bring with you to the event. 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!

Hannaford's Fundraiser Program

Our weekly re-load order is running between \$1000 & \$3000 weekly, earning the church \$50-\$150/week--just to buy groceries we would buy anyway! Remember you can load any amount up to \$500 on your Hannaford's 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!

Welcoming New Members of Fundraising Committee:

We would love to welcome more people to this committee to help brainstorm and implement fundraising and fun & fellowship ideas/programs! I am also looking for a few more people to assist on Sunday mornings with accepting checks and recording reload orders so I can participate in hand chime choir. If you have an interest, contact Liz Greenberg at [\(585\)472-0458](tel:5854720458) or lizgreenberg26@gmail.com

Submitted by Liz Greenberg

Finance Committee

How are we doing?

Financial Report as of 10/30/16	Received	Budgeted
Pledges year to date	\$166,293	\$175,000
Plate year to date	\$17,014	\$23,333
Try A Tithe offering	\$5,182	

Should you have any questions please feel free to ask any member of the Finance Committee. You can also email Chris O'Brien at chrisobrienct@yahoo.com with any questions or concerns. Finance Committee meets the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted, Your Finance Committee: Chris O'Brien (Chairperson), Deb Ambler (Treasurer), Pat Crowell (Financial Secretary), Harry Carter (Assistant Financial Secretary), Fay Chary, Bill Armstrong, Ross Webber and Joyce Pope

Building Advisory Committee Update

WE'RE DONE!

Before you cheer or exclaim "*It doesn't look done to me!*" let us clarify. We're not finished, but we are done on site for a few months. Moran Construction Services (MCS) has completed the new connector shell and all the landscaping related to the foundation and connector projects. They did a marvelous job and were a terrific company with which to work. Preservation Timber Framing (PTF) has completed tying in the new clapboards with the old siding after performing the sill replacement work. PTF will be re-installing the stained glass windows and may have completed this work by the time you read this article. The Meetinghouse is now back intact and ready to withstand its 247th winter on a much better footing!

But, there is still much work to be done over the next two years. During the coming winter months, PTF will be working on rebuilding the upper portion of the tower in their facility in Brentwood, NH. In the spring, they will be back on site to start the work on the lower part of the tower with the goal of reinstalling the rebuilt belfry and lantern onto a refurbished tower base next fall. This month, EverSource will be installing the electric power lines to the transformer and electric panel. This will provide the power for the elevator which requires greater power than the current power source to the church.

The Rehabilitation Fundraising Committee will be working hard over the next few months to encourage donations from our community to fund the completion of the connector, installation of the elevator and to perform the other rehabilitation projects. The next large rehab project is the work to repair and strengthen the roof system. We have submitted a grant request with the New Hampshire LCHIP (Land and Community Heritage Investment Program) to start that project work next year. If awarded, this grant will provide \$59,000 toward an estimated \$177,000 project. We are hopeful we will be successful in acquiring this grant.

Our internal capital campaign, in partnership with Enterprise Bank, has allowed us to complete the work thus far and to fund the tower project which is supplemented by a \$125,000 LCHIP grant that was awarded to us last December. To complete the rest of our work will now require support from our greater community. So, when you have the opportunity to talk up the work we are doing to preserve the Meetinghouse and to make it accessible to all, do so with excitement!

Your BAC: Paul Ambler (Chair), Nancy Heywood, Larry Krantz, Paul Lindemann, Bill Mann

From the Archives

A Few Titles of Sermons from Past Decembers

Happy December! It is the time of colorful lights, Christmas trees and decorations, and many people in our community planning how to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. December at First Parish includes lots of festivities! We are in Advent season and Christmas is on the horizon! We have the opportunity to sing carols before service and we are reminded about the importance of joyful expectation.

Just for fun, we'd like to share a few titles of sermons from Decembers past!

- When Inspiration Becomes Consecration, Dr. Charles Milligan; December 21, 1947
- Joy to the World, Dr. Charles Milligan, December 25, 1949
- Witness to the Light, Rev. Diana Augspurger, December 14, 1975
- Great Expectations: Dancing for Joy, Rev. Diana Augspurger, December 14, 1980
- Gloria in Excelsis Deo, Rev. Richard C. Devor, December 18, 1994
- Rejoice Always, Rev. Alice Ling, December 14, 1997

-Nancy Heywood for the Historical Preservation Committee members and volunteers (Janet Wetherbee, Paul Lindemann, Ginny True, Janice Braley)



McGregor in days gone by.

Would you like to help design the future McGregor? See Paul Lindemann if you have ideas.

Board of Personnel

The Personnel Board asks you to join us in welcoming our new Administrative Assistant, Hannah Collier! Also, a special thank you to Becca Cobban, our Interim Administrative Assistant who did an excellent job filling in for us this summer and into the fall! We would also like to extend our appreciation for training our new Administrative Assistant and helping her get off on the right foot!

Rod Hunt, our facilities maintenance person, has notified us that he will be retiring at the end of December. We would like to thank him for his many years of service at FPC and congratulate him on his retirement!

Please contact Pastor Deborah if you are interested in applying for the maintenance position. It will be 10 hours per week at \$14.00 an hour.

Board of Facilities



Who knew that a heating system was an actual work of art? This new system will allow us to heat smaller areas with great cost savings to the church.

Thank you Bob Wilson, Harry Carter, Bill Wheeler, Glenn Pope, and everyone on the facilities board.

SUGAR PLUM FAIR

I was asked if I wanted to put anything in the newsletter regarding the Sugar Plum Fair and the results that we attained.

AWESOME

That is all that I can say!! We came together at a time when there is so much going on with our facility - and we were a success!!

TOTALLY ROCKED IT

Despite not having the space from the Meeting House to have our White Elephant and our Luncheon - we made do. The White Elephant will return again in 2017 - so don't get rid of ALL the stuff you have been saving. And the luncheon - despite the 'tight quarters' came in just under \$10 from the total earnings last year.

Again we had some unbelievable people that put in hours and hours getting ready. Liza Duffy graciously let us use her industrial mixer again for the dough - Becky Fleury was the woman behind the flour in making the dough for the Nissu bread Friday evening and then back again in the wee hours with the dough for the Pecan Rolls. Wendy and Reni and team did a flawless job in getting all the rolls backed - and all were sold by close of day on Sunday.

To Liz Greenberg - you did a great job with the raffles and narrowing the deficit in the fair profits with no White Elephant. And WOW where did you get all those baskets??

There were also so many this year that jumped in and did what needed to be done - it was another blessed year - I have to say - I'm glad it's done - but... Already getting my mind around Sugar Plum Fair 2017!!

As of today - the fair exceeded the goal that was set of \$5,000 in profits for the General Budget with a total of \$5,435.

Thank you to everyone - you have been proven again to be an unbelievable family!!

~ Cathy Pottle

News from the UCC Conference

Advent Open House: Wednesday, December 14

Your Conference Staff invites you to an afternoon of fellowship and refreshments at our annual Advent Open House, which will be held in the Whittemore Room of the Conference Center (140 Sheep Davis Road; Pembroke, New Hampshire) on Wednesday, December 14, 2:00-4:00 p.m. No reservation needed. Please join us as we celebrate the joy and hope of this sacred season. All are welcome!

New Hampshire School of Ministry to offer Pastoral Care Course

Beginning in February 2017, the Rev. Dr. David B. Reynolds, Executive Director of Pastoral Counseling Services in Manchester, NH will offer an online course entitled Pastoral Care: Creating Meaning with Individuals and Communities.

Drawing from Dr. Carrie Doehring's book, *The Practice of Pastoral Care: A Postmodern Approach*, the course will provide students with an understanding of the practice of pastoral care in contemporary ministry settings.

The course will be 12 hours over a six-week period and will include a face-to-face class for 2-3 hours. For further information go to the New Hampshire Conference UCC web site. To register for the course, please contact the Rev. Rebecca Maccini at revrwm@tds.net

How to "Turn Tippers into Tithers"

Paul Nickerson Stewardship Workshop

"How to 'Turn Tippers into Tithers'" has helped many congregations develop a year-round process of stewardship training. Join Paul Nickerson on Saturday, January 21, 2017 to learn how to become a church that funds the vision God has for your congregation.

For more information on this workshop send an email to events@nhcucc.org
Register by December 15th to receive the Early Bird discount on the workshop fee!

**PLAN to Attend: Prepared to Serve February 25, 2017 - workshops galore!
Fellowship with other NH UCC churches!
Pembroke Academy; Pembroke, NH**

Scripture Readings

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

December 4th – 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isa 11:1-10
Ps 72:1-7, 18-19
Rom 15:4-13
Matt 3:1-12

December 11th – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isa 35:1-10
Ps 146:5-10 or Luke 1:47-55
James 5:7-10
Matt 11:2-11

December 18th – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isa 7:10-16
Ps 80:1-7, 17-19
Rom 1:1-7
Matt 1:18-25

December 25th – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isa 9:2-7
Ps 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Worship Leadership

Deacons & Lay Readers

Deacons of the Month

Fred Merrill, Rene Harnden & Cyndi Gray

December 4th: Malyssa Deranian

December 11th: Steve Davis

December 18th: Pat Plouff

December 25th: Pastor Deborah

Ushers & Greeters

Weekly Usher – Michael Bryan

December 4th: Ushers: Diaconate
Greeter(s): Verna Elwell and
Shirley Dickason

December 11th: Ushers: Stanley & Holly Gorgol,
Tom & Andrea Cooper
Greeter(s): Becky Fleury

December 18th: Ushers: Sue Hunt, Becky Fleury &
Verna Elwell
Greeter(s): Beth Hunter

December 25th: Ushers: John Bartel,
Kevin & Diane Gordon
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

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:

pastordeboraah@fpc-ucc.org



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