

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,

My heart overflows with gratitude for God's magnificent abundance! We are on an incredible journey at First Parish Congregational Church, UCC! I could never have guessed the joys and the challenges that I have experienced over the last few years as your Pastor. And I could never have imagined the blessings and the trials. Throughout all things God has been faithful and God's love is unwavering.

We are blessed here at First Parish with so much space! We even have adequate space to worship during this time of rehabilitation of the Meetinghouse! We have space for mission and music, for food events and fashion fundraisers, for education events and most importantly, for worship and praise of our awesome God every Sunday - despite all odds!

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Upcoming Events

Starting July 2nd
Worship ~ 9:30 AM

July 5th
Deacons Meeting ~ 6:30 in Cook

July 6th
Stewardship Meeting ~ 7:00 in Cook

July 9th
CE Meeting ~ 11:00 in CE Office

July 11th, 18th, and 25th
Exploring the Bible ~ 6:30
(Check FPC Calendar for location)

July 12th
K.I.T ~ 12:30 in Currier

July 16th
Mission Meeting ~ 11:30 in AB

July 17th
VCS begins

June 19th
Council Meeting ~ 7:00 in Cook

July 28th
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)

I found a poem entitled "Brave Space" by Micky ScottBey Jones. May it speak to your heart as much as it spoke to mine:

Together we will create *brave space*
 Because there is no such thing as a "safe space"
 We exist in the real world
 We all carry scars and we have all caused wounds.
 In this space
 We seek to turn down the volume of the outside world,
 We amplify voices that fight to be heard elsewhere,
 We call each other to more truth and love
 We have the right to start somewhere and continue to grow.
 We have the responsibility to examine what we think we know.
 We will not be perfect.
 This space will not be perfect.
 It will not always be what we wish it to be
 But
 It will be *our brave space together,*
and
We will work on it side by side.

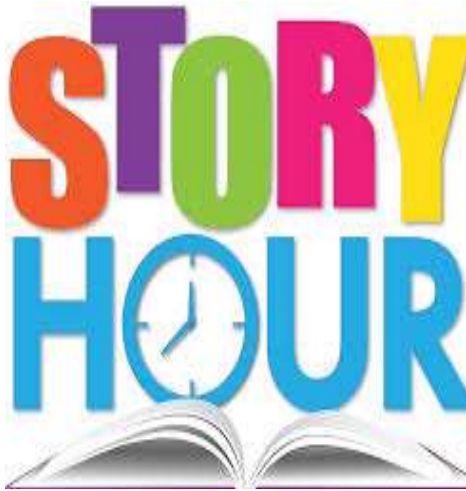
Great teacher and modern day prophet, Deepak Chopra, says that humans crave safety more than anything else. He says: "All of us were imprinted one of two ways: either the world is dangerous with moments of safety, or the world is safe with moments of danger." His work focuses on our approach to the anxiety caused by the feeling of limited safety. This is very good work and it is incredibly powerful work because anxiety threatens us at every turn - in our private lives, in our public lives and in our lives as members of one faith community.

Poet Micky ScottBey Jones introduces the idea of "brave" space - acknowledging that in our very "real" world, "safe" is no longer possible - **and** we have the ability to "turn down the volume of the outside world." We have the ability to practice what Jesus preached throughout his ministry and we have the ability to "call each other to more truth and love". Neither "this space" nor "us" will be perfect **AND** it can still be "our brave space together". Guided by the Gospel we cherish and our God, we adores us, we can "work on it side by side."

Praying for you and for our brace space together,
 Pastor Deborah

Board of Christian Education

Summer Sunday School Storytime and Activities



The summer has arrived and our formal Sunday School classes have ended. We will continue to offer a one-classroom summer story time for all students during service. This time in the classroom will still include important Bible Lessons for students where children will be able to sit in the grass for a Bible story and enjoy some added activity outdoors (weather permitting). We will continue to offer fun crafts, games and creative snacks to reinforce learning of Bible truths and verses. We still look forward to seeing our young students this summer! Thank you!



Vacation Church School (VCS)

It wouldn't be summer without Vacation Church School (VCS)! Held in July, join us for the Kick-Off brunch on Sunday, July 16th from 11 am - 2 pm for an introduction to VCS and family fun, then continue with VCS daily classes from Monday, July 17th - Thursday, July 20th from 9 am - 12 pm for a week of faith-filled fun. Each morning, kids rotate through different stations, learning about a Bible story in engaging and creative ways. This year VCS will be conducted in the HERO theme. For more information or to register for this year's Vacation Church School click [HERE](#) or please call or e-mail Christine Lehoullier @ 603-264-9261 or cedirector@fpc-ucc.org.



Fly on in and meet our mascot, Flame, the red panda and join us for important missions of faith and fun! You'll love the music, games, activities, crafts, snacks and interactive Storytime! Discover your superhero strength in God!

Board of Deacons

As we leave the celebration of Pentecost, considered the beginning of the Christian church, when the Holy Spirit descended, and confirmations are complete, we jump right into the days of summer and those glorious vacations!

Summer service worship hour will be 9:30 am, starting on July 2 through September 3. Outside services are planned for July 16 and August 13. Please bring your own chair.

The Diaconate has received many positive responses to the church in the round services. Let us know your thoughts to not only the "round services," but also to our summer service time of 9:30 am. At our last deacon's meeting, we voted to split the difference between 9 and 10 o'clock: not too early, not too late.

Lastly, regarding Joys and Concerns. We hope you have noticed our updated format of "IN OUR PRAYERS" that is placed into the Sunday bulletin. These are meant to be prayed over by the whole congregation, and are placed there by the requester. We encourage all to request any Joy or Concern for congregational prayer, by calling or e-mailing the office. During the verbalized Joys and Concerns, prior to Sunday worship, 2 deacons write them down. They are then collated and prayed over by your deacons, which many of you may not have known.

Have a wonderful, safe summer! God Bless All.

In prayer,

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

Board of Stewardship

For several months we have revisited our narrative budget, one piece at a time. This month we wrap it up with one of *my* favorite aspects of church life: Education and Faith Formation. There are many great reasons to be a member of the First Parish community, and one that excites me is learning more about this Christian faith that we all profess. Christian Education and Faith Formation makes up about twenty-two percent of our annual budget, amounting to a little more than sixty-three thousand dollars. Thank you once again for your generous support.

Board of Stewardship (Continued)

We can read in Proverbs:

Proverbs 2:9, for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

And in Colossians:

Colossians 1:10, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God.

And finally in Philippians:

Philippians 1:9, And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight.

Over the last three years the Christian Education and Faith Formation initiatives and opportunities have continued to increase and improve, led by Pastor Deborah and Pastor Heidi and this year Christine Lehoullier, our CE Director, and Diana Sweeney, our Member in Discernment. In addition to Sunday morning CE classes and children's messages in worship, we have seen a book fair, guest speakers, Horton Center promotion, the Palm Sunday procession, and the upcoming Vacation Church School. Christine is always looking for new Sunday School teachers. Do you feel called?

On a more adult level, Pastor Deborah led a tremendous Lenten program. And then there is our adult Faith Formation. Pastor Deborah, with help from Christine and Diana, has offered weekly sessions on:

Exploring the Bible, a comprehensive, step by step method of looking at the Bible, its history, how it was created, and what it is saying to us today; as a participant, I can tell you these sessions have been lively and entertaining as well as educational;

The Four Agreements, a book that offers a simple, but in depth philosophy of how best to live in community, highly recommended by Tom Brady;

The Shack, another book, one which offers a different way of looking at the trinity, that also confirms the message of Jesus as offered in the New Testament, told through the lens of one man's personal journey through tragedy and forgiveness.

Last but not least, don't forget the offerings at the NH Conference level. One example is Prepared To Serve, and First Parish had a substantial contingent attending this past February. Please consider taking advantage of as many of these opportunities as you are able, if you have not yet done so. Thank you.

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

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

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. The food from the food basket alternates between the Derry Food Pantry and the Upper Room, both important programs supported by your missions 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.

Food Challenge: Earlier this year the Choir challenged the Missions board to match their donations to the Food Pantry. This challenge was a huge success and yielded about 250 cans of food. In keeping with the Christian spirit of "Feeding the Hungry", the Diaconate and the Christian Education boards are challenging each other to raise food for the Food Pantry during the month of July. A special thank you to both boards for accepting the challenge.

Mission Moments: In an ongoing effort to provide information to the Congregation concerning the charities their Mission pledges support, we host one charity every couple of months. We invite the Congregation to participate in these events after service where lunch is typically served. We are planning for the next Mission Moment to be in August and will have more information when the date gets closer.

Project Linus: The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions has voted to support Project Linus. Project Linus gives quilts, lap through twin size, quilted, crocheted, knitted or tied, to children who have experienced a trauma. It could be sickness, fire, foster child, etc. there are only 2 drop offs in NH: one in Keene & one in Deerfield. There will be more information available over the next couple of months concerning this program and how we can support it.

In Need of One More Member: The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions has one open position. If you are interested in becoming a member of Missions or would just like more information about what we do, please contact Joe Weaver at 560-0420 or talk to any member of the Missions board.

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 | 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 | |

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Board of Christian Outreach and Missions (Continued)

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. Please keep in mind that summer is coming so think summer clothes donations.

Items can be placed in the container at the Missions table outside of Currier Hall, 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, Sue Brown, Beth Hunter, Karen Wilson, Kathy Holland, Bart Wetherbee, Melanie VanSteensburg

Capital Campaign Phase 1

THANK YOU!

The Phase 1 Committee of the Capital Campaign would like to thank everyone for their pledges thus far. When we initiated the Capital Campaign in 2014, we knew we had a significant challenge ahead of us. As a congregation, we accepted that challenge with a commitment never seen before at First Parish. It is with great pleasure that we let you know that 47 of the 110 pledges made either by individuals or families have been totally fulfilled. Depending on whether you made a three or four year pledge, you may be completing your commitment this year or in 2018. So, keep those gifts coming as we still have much to accomplish.

Finance Committee

HOW ARE WE DOING FINANCIALLY?

| Financial Report as of 5/31/2017 | Received | Budgeted |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Pledges to date | \$83,018 | \$80,000 |
| Plate offerings to date | \$10,307 | \$11,458 |

Submitted by Joyce Pope, Stewardship Rep to the Finance Committee

Let's start an Outdoor Ministry!

Do you enjoy being in the outdoors? Are you interested in meeting and getting to know other FPC members and friends? If yes, then let's start an Outdoor Ministry here at our church. All are welcome; just send me an e-mail at willibi1910@gmail.com to be included. Please send along any outdoor activities you particularly enjoy, and if you would like to lead an activity, then that is even better, but that is not required. Initially, we will communicate via e-mail to announce each activity, so it is important to send me an e-mail ASAP!

Submitted By,
Brian Williams

Yankee Candle Fundraiser

Hannah, our Administrative Assistant, and Christine, our CE Director, will bring to FPC a Yankee Candle Fundraiser. Starting July 17th and going through August 17th, you and your friends can order from the catalog. AND starting July 17th and going SIX MONTHS you can order **online!** This means that when the new fall 2017 scents roll out, we will continue to benefit! 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!

Here is a sneak peak of what our catalog will include!



Scripture Readings

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

July 2nd – 8th Sunday in Ordinary

Time

Gen 22:1-14 ● Ps 13 OR
Jer 28:5-9 ● Ps 89:1-4, 15-18
Rom 6:12-23
Matt 10:40-42

July 9th – 15th Sunday in Ordinary

Time

Gen 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 ● Ps 45:10-17
or Song of Sol 2-13 OR
Zech 9:9-12 ● Ps 145:8-14
Rom 7:15-25a
Matt 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16th – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary

Time

Gen 25:19-34 ● Ps 119:105-112 OR
Isa 55:10-13 ● Ps 65Ⓢ1-8), 9-13
Rom 8:1-11
Matt 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23rd – 29th Sunday in Ordinary

Time

Gen 28:10-21a ● Ps 139:1-12, 23-24 OR
Wisd of Sol 12:13, 16-19 or Isa 44:6-8
● Ps 86:11-17
Rom 8:12-25
Matt 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30th – 31st Sunday in Ordinary

Time

Gen 29:15-28 ● Ps 105:1-11, 45b OR
1 Kings 3:5-12 ● Ps 128 or Ps 119:129-136
Rom 8:26-39
Matt 13:31-33, 44-52

Worship Schedule

Deacons of the Month:

Ken Gould & Julie Turner

Worship focus:

July 2nd: Hospitality saves lives!

July 9th: Guest David McGrath

July 16th: Parable of the sower

July 23rd: Parable of the weeds

July 30th: Parable of the Treasure
in the Field

Ushers & Greeters

Weekly Usher – Michael Bryan

July 2nd: Ushers: Diaconate
Greeter(s): Verna Elwell
and Shirley Dickason

July 9th: Ushers: Ken Gould, Dee Deranian
& Shirley Dickason
Greeter(s): Betsy McCall

July 16th: Ushers: Stanley & Holly Gorgol
Tom & Andrea Cooper
Greeter(s): Maury Davidson

July 23rd: Ushers: Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell
& Sue Hunt
Greeter(s): Diane Breeden

July 30th: Ushers: John Bartel & Brian Williams
Greeter(s): Lisa & Wayne Hall

First Parish Congregational Church, UCC

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday
9:00 am - 4:00 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

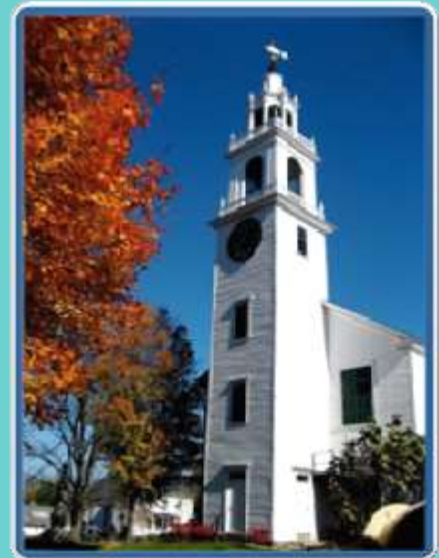
Email our Administrative Assistant, Hannah Collier:

officemgr@fpc-ucc.org

Email our Senior Pastor and Teacher

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof:

pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org



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Address Service Requested