

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,

Several weeks ago the Rev. Dr. David Reynolds came and offered an intense workshop entitled "Healthy Conflict!?" I noticed right away that those two words wouldn't necessarily go together in my head – and that's why I also appreciated the punctuation: both an exclamation mark AND a question mark. Dr. Reynolds invited us to consider that conflict is normal. We aren't a "*bad*" church because we are experiencing conflict. The early church experienced plenty of conflict. It's how we "*respond*" to conflict that is crucial. Our response can be healthy and it can be less than healthy, Dr. Reynolds posited.

We began with a lectio divina of I Corinthians 12:12-20. This is a wonderful exercise. God's Spirit was felt in palpable ways. In our sharing we noted that diversity and unity *can* coexist. All parts are equally important. Each part needs to understand the role of a different part. All of the different parts are needed and when one part suffers, many suffer.

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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

June 1st

Stewardship Meeting ~ 7:00 in Cook

June 3rd

LuLaRoe Fundraiser ~ 12:00 in Currier

June 4th

CE Meeting ~ 11:30 in Nursery

June 7th

Deacons Meeting ~ 6:30 in Cook

June 11th

VCS Meeting ~ 11:30

June 13th, 20th & 27th

Exploring the Bible ~ 6:30
(Check FPC Calendar for location)

June 14th

K.I.T ~ 12:30 in Currier

June 18th

Mission Meeting ~ 11:30 in AB

June 21st

Council Meeting ~ 7:00 in Cook

June 30th

Spaghetti Supper ~ 5:00 in Currier



From the Pastor's Desk Continued

We then looked at conflict in a little more detail. Conflict is caused by anxiety and anxiety is a reaction to a real or perceived threat. Conflict is not bad or good; it is very normal. When we hold in tension the threat with the fact that we are connected, we can find resolution and we can preserve the relationship. Unfortunately, human beings can, when feeling threatened, revert to a fight-flight mode. Dr. Reynolds called this "reptile brain." Perceived threats are internalized and taken personally. People forget our covenant to interconnectedness within the community. People forget that as the Body of Christ we are interrelated. In a Christian organization, the intention is to preserve the relationship. In order to do that, we must understand what is happening in our midst.

The healthy ways to address conflict are to stay connected, to calmly speak your truth, to manage your own anger and remember to breathe. It is healthy to speak directly to the person with whom you have felt the threat. (It is also Biblical: Matthew 18:15) It is healthy to speak your truth AND to listen to the beloved other speak theirs. It is healthy and honest to say "I have a different opinion." Or "I disagree." Direct communication does not always lead to agreement but it can lead to peaceful compromise. In summary, there are three key behaviors that are healthy: speak directly to the person who has hurt you; stay in the relationship; and be calm, breathe, and manage your reactivity.

Then Dr. Reynolds talked about the ways in which real or perceived threats taken personally can lead us to less healthy behaviors. Speaking directly to the person is healthy and speaking *about* the person is not. These are called "triangles" in therapy circles. In church circles we call them "parking lot conversations". These conversations are not direct, they are not healthy and they are not Christ-like. Another unhealthy behavior is to scapegoat. That is to say, blaming or pointing a finger at one person or group of persons, convincing anyone who will listen that "it's all their fault." And a third unhealthy behavior is to refuse any responsibility and to exit the situation or community. His list of three unhealthy behaviors was: speaking to someone about someone (triangles), scapegoating, or "cut off".

I think about the ways in which I have exhibited healthy behaviors and the ways in which I have exhibited unhealthy behavior. My intention has always been to do God's will and I am human. Moving forward I will work to do what is in my power to preserve relationship whenever possible. Sunday mornings are such a blur with so much going on. My goal is to be more intentional during the week to have more conversations with more people, not just the people that I see in Bible Wonder and book classes. You'll be hearing from me! We are One Spirit; we are One Body.

Yours in faith,
Pastor Deborah

Board of Christian Education

One Church. One Body. Celebrate!

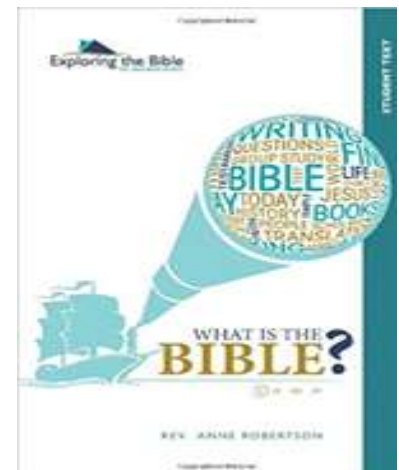


JUNE 11 is Celebration Sunday: a time for all our members, ages 0-100 to remain in the sanctuary and dance, sing, play, meditate and learn together. Come gather with us as we celebrate being families who are built on the foundation of the faith and love of Jesus. The Nursery will not be staffed, but will remain open for use. Regular Sunday School Classes will not be held as we encourage all families to participate in this Intergenerational Worship Experience.

Adult Faith Formation: What is The Bible?

By: Anne Robertson

Starting Tuesday, June 13th, Christian Education will be offering our 6-week program of "What is The Bible?" The first in a series of three books included in "Exploring the Bible, The Dickinson Series." No experience required! Come navigate a broad overview of the Bible. Come hear how the Bible is organized, how the collection of books that make up the Bible were chosen, as well as the different ways in which people approach the text. Hear what archeology has to tell us about the texts and its stories. [REGISTER HERE](#) or contact Christine Lehoullier at cedirector@fpc-ucc.org or 603-264-9261 no later than June 7th. Thank You!



New Hampshire Motor Speedway Clean-Up Fundraiser

The search is on for enthusiastic volunteers for this year's LAST and FINAL Annual NH Motor



Continued on page 4 & 5

Board of Christian Education

Speedway Cleanup Fundraiser: This event will happen Saturday, July 15 about 3:30 PM, meet at FPC @ 3:00 for car pool. We are looking for church members, friends, relatives, aunts and uncles, anyone who can walk and is at least 14 years of age! It will be a FUN time for all, an opportunity to make a good bunch of money for FPC, and have great fellowship together. Food will be provided following the event. For anyone who can commit and wants to sign up, please sign up using the sign-up sheet in the front office or send your name, phone number, email address, and the same info for any friends you have who will be helping, to Anne-Marie Merrill at ampmerrill@yahoo.com. We need at least 45 volunteers! Thank you!

Sunday School Updates

This month our Sunday School Students have been having fun learning about scripture corresponding to the Revised Common Lectionary, as well as, busy with many fun projects! This past month, the children made bracelets to help them learn Psalm 23, we have made prayer rocks for Mother's Day utilizing passages from Psalm 31, participated in a service project for [Project Linus](#) and wrote letters to our sister Church in Zimbabwe. Our Middle and High Schoolers worked hard with the guidance of our amazing teachers, Janet Wetherbee and Chris Cox, and did an amazing job creating a Pine Board for the Spirit Lodge at Horton Center! We are looking forward to an exciting month in June filled with various Celebrations!



Psalm 23 Bracelet



Mother's Day Prayer Rocks



Board of Christian Education Continued

Project Linus

(For more information on Project Linus see page 8)



Meet and Greet with Flame, the Red Panda, New VCS Mascot!



First Parish Church Pine Board for Horton Center



Board of Deacons

At the beginning of this year, the Deacons experimented with a "Church in the Round" format. At first, we were receiving only positive responses. Over time a handful of parishioners approached a Deacon with their preference to the traditional floor plan. We heard you and had a healthy discussion. We did not have a "church in the round" in May as a result. In June the church in the round will fit into our Celebration Sunday on June 11. During the summer months, we go outdoors each month. We will look at the "church in the round" floor plan at the end of summer. Your feedback is important to us. Please let us know your thoughts.

The Deacons discussed change to an earlier service in the summer. We decided that starting on July 2 the service will be at 9:30 a.m. We also decided to carry summer worship hour over through Labor Day. This has been confusing in the past. We hope to alleviate confusion! We would love to have more joys to share, if you have one, please call the office. Here's to another great month, may June bring peace and joy to us all!

Respectfully submitted by: Reni Harnden, on behalf of the Board of Deacons

Board of Stewardship

Try a Tithe

Last year the Stewardship Board presented the congregation with a “Try a Tithe” Sunday in June. Take one week of your income, multiply by one tenth (the tithe) and write a check to First Parish for that amount. Please remember to write “Try a Tithe” in the memo line of your check or on the outside of your envelope if you are presenting cash, and drop it in the weekly offering plate. This year we will keep the basic concept and offer you the opportunity to choose which week fits you best! June will be “**Try a Tithe Month**”! **Pick any one week in June** and “try a tithe”.

If you follow the monthly financial reports, you know that our current pledging is a bit ahead of schedule. That's really good news. Summer is the time of year when our pledge revenue sometimes slows down, and the “Try a Tithe” idea is an effort to do two things. One is to help offset any shortfall in our summer revenue. More importantly though, it is an attempt to show us all how easy it is to share in the abundance God has blessed us with.

Thank you for your generosity and thank you for all you do.

Speaking of generosity. One piece of our narrative budget is Service and Mission Activities. This piece comprises a little more than nineteen percent of our total budget, over fifty-five thousand dollars. First Peter exhorts us to be generous:

1 Peter 4:10

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

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Board of Stewardship Continued

Have you noticed the wonderful efforts of our Board of Christian Outreach and Mission just since the beginning of the year? They sponsored one of the UCC's "Our Church's Wider Mission" offerings, One Great Hour of Sharing. One Great Hour of Sharing funds make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, development aid and more.

You probably know that there are a number of worthy organizations that receive monthly support through our mission donations. Since January the board has hosted speakers from Liberty House, Derry Community Caregivers, and Derry Friendship Center, with Mission Moments that included one of their famous Loaf and Ladle or Pizza and Salad lunches. These events are great opportunities for us to get a better understanding of how our mission donations are used and a clearer picture of the needs that exist in our community. And the food and fellowship are fantastic!

The Board continues its ongoing collection efforts for Liberty House, and the Upper Room and the Sunshine Soup Kitchen. Augmenting that food collection has been their challenge to the various boards of the church to compete in trying to outdo each other in amounts of food to be collected. Fun!



Thank you for your support of First Parish Church's mission initiatives, and remember **June is "Try a Tithe Month"!**

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

Derry Friendship Center: On Sunday, May 21st the Board of Christian Outreach and Missions hosted Carol Bowden from the Derry Friendship Center to hold a question and answer session after service for those interested in learning more about its mission. For this event we had approximately 30 people participate. The Derry Friendship Center is one of many charities your Missions giving supports. For over 30 years the Derry Friendship Center has provided a safe, confidential, alcohol and drug free environment for people seeking and/or maintaining recovery from substance abuse and to participate in activities and ongoing rehabilitative peer support to people in recovery from alcoholism and drug abuse.

In an ongoing effort to provide information to the Congregation concerning the charities their Mission pledging supports, we host one charity every couple of months. We invite the Congregation to participate in these events after service where lunch is typically served.

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. (See pg 5 for photo)

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

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

Historical Preservation Committee

Early Nutfield Families

Some people like history because it helps explain how things happened and provides context to our world. Some people simply like the interesting stories and notable characters. Some people like history that connects directly to their lives – whether it is historical information about their town, school, or home, or if it is information about a particular person, perhaps, one of their ancestors.

In mid-May, I had the good fortune to help a couple from California who had stopped by First Parish Church on their way to Forest Hill Cemetery looking for the graves of several people from the Gilmore (also spelled, Gillmore) family. They had good interactions with everyone they met at First Parish, and they had a photocopy of the layout of the Cemetery from a survey from a notebook that a boy scout had made in the 1980s. We were able to find the plot and several of the gravestones they were looking for in particular.

There are other sources that are useful for locating gravestones. One is the website, “Find A Grave” (<https://www.findagrave.com/>). Another tool is being developed by someone affiliated with the Derry Public Works department who is using a GIS program to plot locations of gravestones. (I will supply the URL in a future newsletter post.)

The Gilmores weren’t among the very earliest families to settle Nutfield, but the Gilmores are listed among the “early settlers” in Edward Parker’s book, *History of Londonderry*.

Here are the names of the 16 earliest families to settle Nutfield:

Randal Alexander	John Stuart	James McKeen	Allen Anderson
James Nesmith	Thomas Steele	John Barnett	Samuel Allison
Archibald Clendenin	John Mitchell	James Clark	John Morrison
James Sterrett	Robert Weir	James Gregg	James Anderson

Do any of you know if there are any current members our First Parish Church community who are descendants of the earliest settlers, or other early families of Nutfield?

Nancy Heywood (for the Historical Preservation Committee)

Fellowship Hour Alert

Volunteers, Board and Committee Members – Please volunteer to serve refreshments for Fellowship Hour after worship. The sign up chart with the open dates is posted outside the church office.

Questions: The Instructions are inside the Best Breakfast Cabinet Door.

Show your appreciation to the handful of parishioners who have done this for many years by stepping up.

Thank you,
Nominating Committee

Finance Committee

HOW ARE WE DOING FINANCIALLY?

Financial Report as of 4/30/2017	Received	Budgeted
Pledges to date	\$69,791	\$64,000
Plate offerings to date	\$9,073	\$9,167

Submitted by Joyce Pope, Stewardship Rep to the Finance Committee

Fundraising Committee



A new church fundraiser will take place on this upcoming Saturday June 3rd from 1-3 p.m. at church in Currier Hall. Cathy Zylinski has coordinated with multiple LuLaRoe vendors to have a trunk sale. LuLaRoe sells women’s leggings, tops, skirts, and dresses in unique, limited edition patterns. This event is open to the public so please help us publicize it! Invite your friends! Not sure what the buzz is all about? Come on out and see. We’ll have changing rooms set up so you can try on clothes before buying. Each vendor, and the company, will offer a portion of their proceeds to the church, and again 10% of our proceeds for this event will be tithed to a church supported Mission, Derry Friendship Center.

Submitted by Liz Greenberg

OUTSTANDING WOMEN RECOGNITION - BETSY McCALL

Each year prior to the NHCUCC Women's Fellowship Spring Gathering anyone from a NH UCC church may fill out a form recommending the name of a person they consider to be an outstanding woman in their church. This year at the SPRING GATHERING on MARCH 25, 2017, three very deserving women received Outstanding Woman Recognition. They are: **Betsy McCall, First Parish Church, UCC, East Derry**; Deb McNeish, First Congregational Church, Meredith; and Diane Wells, Congregational Church of Laconia.

Congratulations Betsy!

Scripture Readings

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

*Please note: We will dwell in the Spirit of Pentecost
throughout the month of June. We will not follow
the RCL to the letter. Rather, we will look at many
Spirit scriptures and Spirit hymns all month.*

**WEAR RED, ORANGE, YELLOW EACH
WEEK - CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF GOD!**

June 1st – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Acts 2:12-21 or Num 11:24-30

Ps 104:24-34, 35b

1 Cor 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21

John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

June 5th – 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gen 1:1-2:4a

Ps 8

2 Cor 13:11-13

Matt 28:16-20

June 12th –18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gen 18:1-15, (21:1-7) ● Psalm 116:1-2,
12-19 or Ex 10:2-8a ● Ps 100

Rom 5:1-8

Matt 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

June 19th –25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gen 21:8-21 ● Ps 86:1-10, 16-17 or

Jer 20:7-13 ● Ps 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18

Rom 6:1b-11

Matt 10:24-39

Worship Schedule

Deacons of the Month:

Cindy Pingree & Reni Harnden

Worship focus:

June 4th: Communion and Confirmation

June 11th: Celebration Sunday –
Church in the Round

June 18th: Father's Day and we have a
Baptism – Zach McDonald

June 25th: Presentation of Pastor Deborah's
Study Leave: Festival of
Homiletics, 2017

Ushers & Greeters

Weekly Usher – Michael Bryan

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

June 11th: Ushers: Tom & Andrea Cooper
Stanley & Holly Gorgol

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

June 25th: Ushers: John Bartel & Brian Williams
Greeter(s): Connie Cox

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

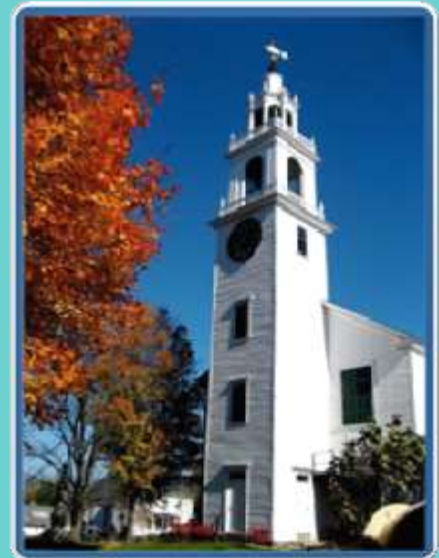
Email our Administrative Assistant, Hannah Collier:

officemgr@fpc-ucc.org

Email our Senior Pastor and Teacher

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof:

pastordeboraah@fpc-ucc.org



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