

# 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.

## Upcoming Events

October 1

Interfaith Drum Prayer  
12:30-2:00

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Exploring the Bible ~ 6:20

October 4

Deacons Meeting ~ 6:30

October 5

Stewardship Meeting ~ 7:00

October 11

K.I.T ~ 12:30

October 15

Mission Meeting ~ 11:30

October 18

Council Meeting ~ 7:00

October 19

CE Board Meeting ~ 7:00

October 21

UCCNH Annual Meeting

October 21

Harvest Supper ~ 5:00

October 27

Spaghetti Supper ~ 5:00

## From the Pastor's Desk

*"The more you are grateful for what you have the more you can live fully in the present."* — Dana Arcuri

Dear Child of God,

Your beliefs shape not only your reality but also your potential. Just as your negative beliefs diminish your potential, positive beliefs shape your potential. Your belief system either expands our horizons in life or it limits your horizons. Culturally, we are surrounded by negativity. We are consistently battered by limiting thought and by reductionist thinking. So, I won't talk about that here. I want us to focus on God's expansive abundance, on positive beliefs, on potential, and on possibilities.

You probably know really well the saying that for pessimists, the glass is half empty and for optimists, the glass is half full. There is a gift glaring at us in this illustration and we rarely consider it. It is, of course, a valid illustration AND there is something equally profound hidden within the illustration itself. We are first-world people and therefore we have numerous life-altering advantages in our lives that appear so "normal" to us that we take them for granted. Third-world peoples walk miles for clean water. Third-world people don't need closets because they don't have more clothing than what they wear on their backs.

## ALL ARE WELCOME

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

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



## *From the Pastor's Desk Continued*

Third-world people don't need to decide which restaurant to eat in because they spend their energy hoping that they can eat that day.

Let's go back to the glass with liquid in it. We will argue over whether it is half-full or half-empty until we are blue in the face - all the while ignoring the luxury that we have a glass! We will debate optimism and pessimism - all the while ignoring that the glass has something in it! There is a glass to argue over: thanks be to God! There is something in it: thanks be to God!

Positive beliefs are connected to our true self, which is our Christ-centered self. Therefore, the energy of positive beliefs is nurturing and life-affirming. They promote love, happiness, and creativity, they foster all aspects of our life, and encourage our awareness to grow and expand.

When you become aware of the positive beliefs within your true self, you open yourself to unlimited possibilities. Just by connecting to your inner Being, which is your Christ-light, all of these beneficial beliefs are activated and supported naturally, without effort or analysis. The power of positive thinking is a real thing. It is not a joke nor is it 'pie-in-the-sky' thinking. In life, we will all know hardships. This is a fact of life. Our belief system surrounding the events in our lives is directly related to our physical well-being. A recent study showed that positive energy therapy techniques enhanced quality of life, well-being, hope, and feelings of optimism in spite of a serious health concern.

Do you have worries? Of course! And you have the ability to choose what to think about. Thinking about what you are blessed to have, rather than what you wish you had can affect not only your own disposition but also that of people around you. Who doesn't gravitate toward a happy person? Are they happy because of what they have? Sometimes - but the greater wisdom is in choosing to be happy and choosing to count your advantages will allow a greater connectedness with others and with God.

I thank God for you each and every day.  
Yours in faith, Pastor Deborah

## *News from Council*

Here's what was discussed at the September, 2017 Council meeting. Some of these things are discussed elsewhere in this newsletter. If you have questions about any of these topics please ask any member of the council for more information.

There was a request for an additional meeting on the subject of conflict resolution. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed by the majority (90%) that we followed the process that we decided upon. There was an update from the folks who are looking at the structure of church boards and committees. There was a review of this year's Rally Day activities. The decision was to keep it upstairs next year and to do more promotion of the event. As in every month, financial statements were reviewed, and a Pastor's Report was delivered. Finally, each Board representative delivered a short report on their Board's latest activities.

Again, please ask any Council member, if you have any questions. And please let us know if you have any ideas as to how we can improve communications from council and throughout the congregation. Thank you for your help, and thank you for all you do.

Blessed be.

Submitted by John Bartel on behalf of your Church Council.

## *Board of Diaconate*

As we transition from our beautiful summer season to another gorgeous fall season we praise the Lord for our church family and all the wonder and beauty we are part of. Our two outdoor services could not have been more perfect. How lucky are we with our long, historic heritage to take in such glamour and peace in the presence of our church family! There are so many things going on in our church that we want to relay to you and this one article will never capture them all but here goes:

We welcomed Harry Handy to the Deacons and remind you that we still need two more Deacons. If you feel this is something you would like to do please see Julie Turner or Diane Breeden and they can try to direct you. Rally Day was a huge success. Everyone was greeted at the door with a request to wear their name tags so that we can better learn each other's names. Balloons, decorated tables and a cook out that were second to none thanks to the Chefs Webber and Merrill along with the entire kitchen staff. We thank everyone who took part in this event and please remember that there are many opportunities still to volunteer in our church.

## *Board of Diaconate*

*(Continued)*

We have three groups of several gratitude texters, who exchange gratitude every day! The Bible classes for the fall have started and, at last count, it looked there could be 24 people attending. We talk about building Community and Sunday we sang Happy Birthday to our September honorees. It was great fun and we will continue to do this every month. The drum circle was an amazing experience for all who attended and the labyrinth has had multiple visitors and so now there is strong consideration that this is a project that will go forward. Stay tuned for that. We thank Nancy and Beth for the service they performed as we pondered what we would do if we had the honor of walking beside Jesus. What would we say? What would we feel? There were tears at the conclusion; it was a very special moment. Many of us also have been hiking with Brian and Barbara Williams on the weekend, exploring the vast woods of New Hampshire and nature at its finest. We are growing in good and faithful ways.

As we look forward the Deacons wondered do we have a vision as a church? It was a very thought provoking question. We know what our mission is and we know that our church service is about Worship, Prayer and Song but what is our long vision? What are our strengths and weaknesses? We agreed that we want to explore this more and will invite the congregation to help us with this. There is a group of individuals headed by Fred Merrill who are looking to see if we can do some restructuring of committees and boards. Do burden ourselves with committees, when we might be thinking about ministries? We feel that sometimes we ask too much of people and that their time can be more efficiently spent.

We would also like to remind you that there is a flower chart right outside the office where you can sign up for flowers at a service perhaps in memory of a loved one, a celebration of a birthday or anniversary or simply to brighten the church. Please feel free to do this as you see fit.

Finally, thanks to each and every one of you. You all make a difference. Your deacons want to hear from you and want to know your opinions about the present and future direction of the church. We are all open to your thoughts, it will only make us stronger to work together.

Thoughtfully,

Your Deacons.

Harry Handy, Cindi Pingree, Julie Turner, Reni Harnden, Diane Breeden, Ken Gould, Ryan Lehoullier, Diane Dunn, Cyndi Gray, Jo Worthen

## *Board of Stewardship*

**Life is sweet!** God has provided so abundantly to us that we have become accustomed to the oversupply. We hardly notice the excess. Take a moment, take a breath, close your eyes, right now, and ponder the generosity God has bestowed upon us.

**Life is sweet!** God gives us such great gifts. How do we respond? We try to manage our resources so that they serve God's purposes to make the church and the world more like the communities God wants them to be. We know investing money in the work of ministry and mission on behalf of others improves the quality of life in our community. It also directly benefits us with a sense of purpose, overall well-being and being a part of something that is larger than ourselves. It is good for us!

The annual fall stewardship drive has begun. This is our opportunity to make a commitment - both material and spiritual - to help this congregation love God and our neighbor in the days, weeks, months, and year ahead. Let's be generous.

Be reminded of the generosity God has bestowed on you, let it inspire you to be generous in return.

**Life is sweet!**

Submitted by Joyce Pope on behalf of the Board of Stewardship (with resources from the UCC.)

## *Financial Update*

### HOW ARE WE DOING?

Financial Report as of 8/31/2017	Received	Budgeted
Pledges to date	\$125,413	\$128,000
Plate offerings to date	\$14,893	\$18,333

Submitted by Joyce Pope, Stewardship Rep to the Finance Committee

## Board of Christian Education



Our Sunday School Year is off to a beautiful start with lots of new students as the youth of our Church continues to grow! October will include lots of opportunities for our youth to be involved in service as well as activities outside of service!

**We are now introducing Sparkhouse's Frolic books to our younger students in the nursery as well as lectionary-relevant activities for their age level.**

**The Frolic Program:** It's never too early to teach children about God. We believe that Christian faith is essential to early childhood development. Frolic is the first curriculum of its kind to connect developmental and spiritual milestones for the youngest of children – starting at birth (yes, really!).

### TRUNK OR TREAT 2017!



This year's Trunk or Treat Event will be held **Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm**. Kids of all ages are invited to come and enjoy the festivities. Volunteers decorate their cars and hand out candy. Children can dress up and go "trick or treating" from car to car, as well as, participate in other seasonal games and activities. ***We ask that all volunteers arrive at 2:30 to allow time for set-up.***

#### What is "Trunk or Treat"?

"Trunk or Treat" is a safe and fun way to get the community together for a "trick or treat" alternative.

#### How does this work, exactly?

Trunk or Treat Cars will line up and park (trunk sides facing each other) toward the farther end of the parking lot (closer to the playground). Families will park at the other end of the parking lot (closer to the cemetery), and kids can enjoy festivities and walk from car to car collecting candy and appreciating the fine art of trunk decorating... fun stuff!

#### How can I be involved?

You can decorate a car (see samples at the Info Center in the lobby), donate candy, volunteer at the event, or all three! ***It's a great family or community serve opportunity... we're looking for at least 15 cars to sign up!***

# Board of Christian Education

(Continued)



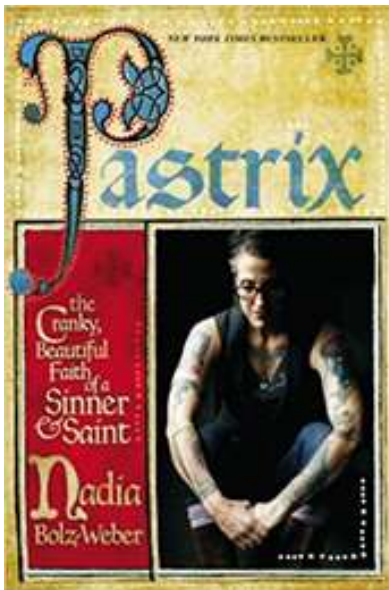
## TRUNK OR TREAT 2017 Continued

### Why should I participate?

This is a great outreach opportunity for the Derry Area and surrounding! The more First Parish is "out there," the more we can share the love of God in a practical way!

### How do I sign up?

Please see or contact **Christine Lehoullier (603-264-9261; cedirector@fpc-ucc.org)**, **Anne-Marie Merrill**, **Janet Wetherbee** or **Chris Cox** to sign up to volunteer, decorate a car, or donate candy. If you'd like to register your kids for the event, you can do that as well (a good way to know how the amount of supplies we'll need). Signups and Trunk Decorating Ideas will also be located in the front lobby.

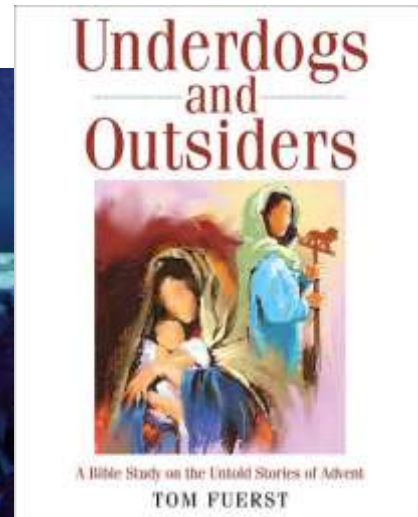
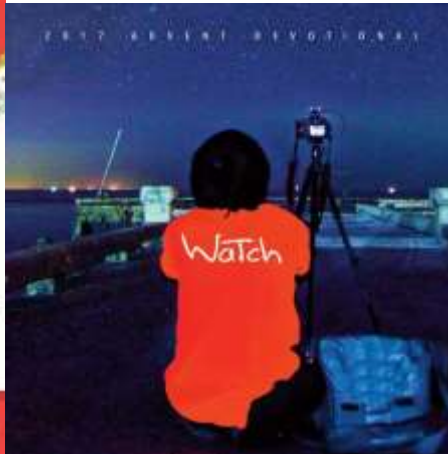
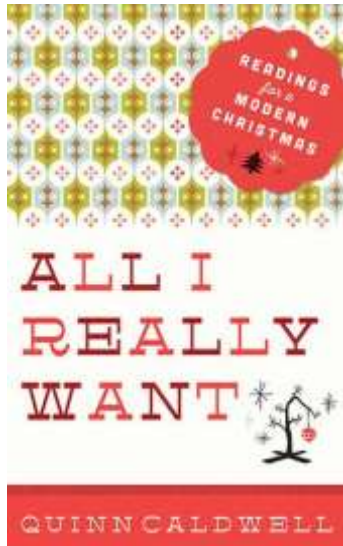


**November 7, 14, 21, and 28:** Book Discussion featuring the book 'Pastrix': Now a *New York Times* bestseller, Nadia Bolz-Weber takes no prisoners as she reclaims the term "pastrix" (pronounced "pas-triks," a term used by some Christians who refuse to recognize female pastors) in her messy, beautiful, prayer-and-profanity laden narrative about an unconventional life of faith. Wildly entertaining and deeply resonant, this is the book for people who hunger for a bit of hope that doesn't come from vapid consumerism or navel-gazing; for women who talk too loud, and guys who love chick flicks; for the gay man who loves Jesus, and won't allow himself to be shunned by the church. In short, this book is for every thinking misfit suspicious of institutionalized religion, but who is still seeking transcendence and mystery.

# Board of Christian Education

(Continued)

## December: Advent Reflection:



CHECK OUT THESE TITLES AND MORE AT <https://www.uccresources.com/collections/advent>

**Youth Ministry Updates:** We are happy to report that our Youth Group is making a come-back! Chris Cox ([gschris@comcast.net](mailto:gschris@comcast.net)) and Holly Gorgol ([feetpower@usa.net](mailto:feetpower@usa.net)) will soon be heading up Friday night activities for Middle and High school students.



### YOUTH GROUP PUMPKIN CARVING

Calling all Middle and High School Students! Come join us after service for some good old-fashioned fun and laughter as we carve some pumpkins to show off at our Trunk or Treat event and take home after the event!

We are also planning a Youth Group Trip to Boston in the Spring for [City Reach](#).



**CityReach** is an overnight urban outreach program begun in March 1996 for youth (with accompanying adults), young adults, and college students from churches of any denomination.

The program gives these young people the opportunity to learn first-hand about homelessness from people who have experienced it. During the 20 hour session, participants join CityReach staff in street ministry and offer hospitality, food and clothing. This is followed by times of sharing and reflection.



## *Board of Christian Outreach and Missions*

**Zimbabwe Container:** Over the past couple of months the Board of Christian Outreach and Missions has been collecting humanitarian supplies for our sister Church in Zimbabwe. On September 9<sup>th</sup> we drove a truck load of supplies to Keene, NH where it was loaded into a large shipping container destined for Zimbabwe, Africa along with supplies from many other churches in New Hampshire. We will keep the Congregation informed of its progress as it makes its very long journey.

The Congregation donated 34 boxes of supplies consisting of Fabric, School Supplies, Medical Supplies, 1 Computer Printer, 2 Bicycles, and a guitar. We are also investigating purchasing a generator in Zimbabwe for our sister church.



**Disaster Relief:** The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions has sent funds to help in the relief efforts from the devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey in Texas (\$1000.00) and Hurricane Irma in Florida (\$500.00).

**Thanksgiving Baskets:** For many this is the hardest time of the year to get through and the time in which many of us need a helping hand. Each year the Board of Christian Outreach and Missions receives a list of names of people who need some extra help managing the holidays. Recipients are recommended to us through a number of organizations such as the Derry Community Caregivers, The Upper Room, and by word of mouth. If you know of anyone or any family that is in need of help this holiday season, please talk to Pastor Deborah so that we may add them to our list.

Missions will have a table setup in Currier hall on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be providing grocery bags for collecting the Thanksgiving food along with any special instructions. Written on each bag will be one or more item(s) which we will need in order to complete a basket.

Food will be collected up to and including Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be collection baskets at the side entrance to the Church outside of Currier Hall. The baskets will be distributed to individuals/families on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## *Board of Christian Outreach and Missions*

*(Continued)*

**Pinkerton Homeless Program:** The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions voted to add the Pinkerton Homeless Program to our list of Monthly donations. Last November Nancy Cofrin attended our service and answered questions concerning the program. In 2015 they helped approximately 100 homeless Pinkerton students. They can only accept donations of money since they have no storage capacity. They personally buy whatever the youth and the family needs: clothes, shoes, food, Christmas gifts, holiday dinner (all prepared at grocery store). They ask sizes, preferences, etc. If the parents sell the items they discontinue aid to that family. Cash is never given. If there is a food voucher there is no allowance for cigarettes or alcohol.

**Project Linus:** Linus NH Seacoast would like to thank FPC parishioners for gathering on Sunday, 9/24/17 to make blankets for children and teens who have experienced a trauma. Everyone was enthusiastic. We learned some things and accomplished a lot. Many thanks to Jennifer V. for leading us. Donations of handmade blankets can be dropped off at FPC, to the bin labeled, "Project Linus" just outside of the office. We plan to have this event periodically.

**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:

Hurricane Harvey Disaster Relief - \$1000.00	Derry Friendship Center - \$100.00
Hurricane Irma Disaster Relief - \$500.00	Pastoral Counseling - \$100.00
Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) - \$350.00	Upper Room - \$100.00
Sonshine Soup Kitchen - \$100.00	Pastor Discretionary Fund - \$200.00
First Baptist Food Pantry - \$100.00	Community Caregivers - \$100.00
Zimbabwe Humanitarian Supplies Shipping Expenses - \$612.00	

Please note that the amount of funds available for Missions work is what you designate on your Pledge card. You may also designate money towards special offerings throughout the year by writing Missions in the memo field of your check followed by where you want the donation to go. For example: *Missions: Hurricane Harvey Relief*. The Missions board will take care of getting the donation to its destination in the most efficient way.

Respectfully submitted,

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

## Membership Committee

You are invited to a FPC Fall gathering at the home of Brian and Barbara Williams on Saturday, 10/28 with a rain date the following Saturday (11/4). The event will be held in their backyard starting at 6:30 PM. Dress accordingly for the weather. They live at 8 Poplar Circle in Londonderry. Refreshments will be served. Marshmallows will be toasted, and s'mores will be enjoyed. Please bring your own chair.

Don't forget that we are interested in hearing about your avocations. What do you enjoy doing with your "free" time? Do you have a hobby, activity, or have an interest in something that you would like to share? Please send an email to Brian Williams at [willibi1910@gmail.com](mailto:willibi1910@gmail.com) and let us know.

Submitted by,

Brian Williams on behalf of the Membership Committee and Lianne Deranian, Hilary Gorgol, and Paula Robinson

## Got a Favorite Hymn??

Last year, we asked if you had a favorite hymn that you hadn't heard/sung for a while. We had a great response and wondered if there are other hymns that weren't requested last year that you might like to see in the "Hymn Line-up" for this year.

It helps if the hymn is in our New Century Hymnal, but if it isn't, chances are it's in another hymnal resource and can be tracked down. Just jot down the number (if in the hymnal), the name of the hymn, and your name so if there are any questions about it I can find you to check with you. Please indicate only one hymn per piece of paper, as it's easier to keep track of things that way. Requests may be placed in the Music Mailbox in the Office or handed directly to me.

Again this year, I'll use as many requested hymns as possible. If you ask for a hymn that pertains to a special season, like Christmas or Lent, you'll need to be a bit patient until that season rolls around. General hymns can be inserted into the worship service most anytime. Let me know if you have a real gem that's been missed in the last few years or just one that you wish we sang more. It's always good to sing hymns that have special meaning and we welcome yours!

Submitted by Sue Handy

## Scripture Readings

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

### October 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary

#### Time

Ex 17:1-7 ● Ps 78:1-4, 12-16 OR  
Ezek 18:1-4, 25-32 ● Ps 25:1-9  
Phil 2:1-13  
Matt 21:23-32

### October 8<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary

#### Time

Ex 20 :1-4, 7-9, 12-20 ● Ps 19 OR  
Isa 5 :1-7 ● Ps 80:7-15  
Phil 3:4b-14  
Matt 21:33-46

### October 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary

#### Time

Ex 32 :1-14 ● Ps 106 :1-6, 19-23 OR  
Isa 25:1-9 ● Ps 23  
Phil 4:1-9  
Matt 22:1-14

### October 22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary

#### Time

Ex 33 :12-23 ● Ps 99 OR  
Isa 45 :1-7 ● Ps 96 :1-9, (10-13)  
1 Thess 1:1-10  
Matt 22:15-22

### October 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary

#### Time

Deut 34 :1-12 ● Ps 90 :1-6, 13-17 OR  
Lev 19 :1-2, 15-18 ● Ps 1  
1 Thess 2:1-8  
Matt 22:34-46

## Worship Schedule

### Deacons of the Month:

Joanne Worthen and Ryan Lehoullier

### Ushers & Greeters

### Weekly Usher – Michael Bryan

#### October 1<sup>st</sup>:

Ushers: Diaconate

Greeter(s): Verna Elwell & Shirley Dickason

#### October 8<sup>th</sup>:

Ushers: Becky Fleury, Sue Hunt, Verna  
Elwell and Pat Cefaly

Greeter(s): Liz Greenberg

#### October 15<sup>th</sup>:

Ushers: John Bartel, Brian Williams, Pat  
Cefaly and Margie Ives

Greeter(s): Beth Hunter

#### October 22<sup>nd</sup>:

Ushers: Ken Gould, Dee Deranian, Shirley  
Dickason and Reni Harnden

Greeter(s): Carol Guerrin

#### October 29<sup>th</sup>:

Ushers: Stanley and Holly Gorgol, Tom and  
Andrea Cooper

Greeter(s): Connie Cox

**First Parish  
Congregational Church**

PO Box 114, 47 East Derry  
Road, E Derry, NH 03041

**Office Hours**

Monday: Closed  
Tuesday: 8:00-2:00  
Wednesday: 8:00-2:00  
Thursday: 8:00-2:00  
Friday: 8:00-2:00

**Check us out on the web**  
[www.fpc-ucc.org](http://www.fpc-ucc.org)

**Administrative Assistant,  
Hannah Collier:**  
[officemgr@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:officemgr@fpc-ucc.org)  
603-434-0628

**Senior Pastor and Teacher  
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof:**  
[pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org)



**First Parish Congregational Church, UCC**

You are most warmly invited:

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

**First Parish Congregational  
Church History**

**The oldest church** in the immediate area, First Parish Church was founded by Scotch-Irish Presbyterians in the spring of 1719. Faith was and continues to be a priority. Worship was held one day after arrival, a church body was organized in one month and a building was built in 1722. A "more imposing structure" replaced the first in 1769, and although altered and expanded through time, the main building and sanctuary remain our center of worship.

**First Parish Church** became an independent community church in the Congregational tradition about 1810 as new settlers came to the area. Through the years the church has always had a strong instinct for both survival and faithfulness. In 1973 and again in 1985, we made major commitments to educational and community ministry through the additions of Noyes Hall and Currier Hall. We joined the United Church of Christ in 1995.



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United Church of Christ  
47 East Derry Road  
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East Derry, NH 03041-0114  
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