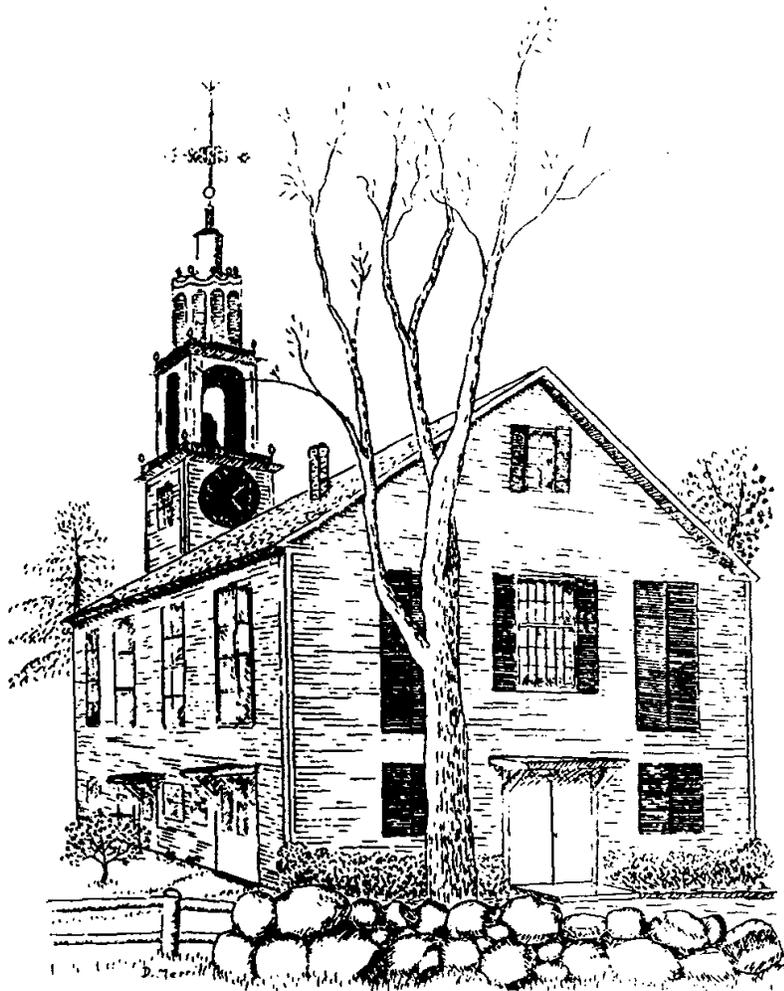


First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road  
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041  
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

**February 1, 2015**



*Doris Merrill*

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)

**February 1, 2015      Fourth Sunday After Epiphany**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS

**WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

\*HYMN NO. 388

*"Help Us Accept Each Other"*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Great are the works of God, and greatly to be praised.

**All: We come together as a congregation of believers.**

One: God is gracious and merciful and trustworthy.

**All: We can count on God's righteousness and faithfulness.**

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

**God of the prophets, help us to recognize your voice among the competing claims of our day. Raise up in our midst authentic witnesses to your love. Be present with us now to guide our prayers and praise. Light your fires within us so we may heed your summons and give our best in your service. Amen.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE NO. 759 **Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit - Three in One; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

We join in prayer together because the church is not yet the perfect body of Christ.  
Let us seek God's forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Faithful God, by our actions, some of our sisters and brothers are excluded, some are misled, and some are unjustly accused. If we have violated another's conscience, if we have caused someone to fall, we are deeply sorry. For failing to do all Christ expects of the church, we repent and seek your forgiveness. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

We count on God to understand us, to free us from our bondage to sin, and to dwell among us, transforming our lives. Praise God forever and ever!

AND ALL GOD'S PEOPLE SAY: **Thanks be to God.**

**WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN**

CHILDREN'S OFFERING

Hymn No. 327

Jesus Loves Me

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.**

**Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

**In our thanks, these gifts we bring, for you give us everything. Teach us how to follow you, in all we say, and all we do. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sarah Keller

Followed by THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

Followed by the Serenity Prayer

**God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen.**

(This prayer was written by Reinhold Niebuhr, a pastor and professor of theology in the early history of our denomination.)

OUR SACRED STORY: JESUS in the BREAKING of the BREAD and CUP Poured out

SHARING the MEAL

We celebrate Communion this morning by bringing you the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. As you pass the trays, try to make eye contact with your neighbor.

As you pass the bread, please say the words **"The Bread of Life"** or **"Take and eat."** The appropriate response when receiving the gifts or elements is **"Amen"** or **"Thanks be to God."** You may eat the bread when you receive it. This symbolizes that we, each, have a private relationship with God.

As you pass the tray of grape juice, please say the words **"The Cup of Salvation"** or **"The Cup of Love"**. Again, your response will be **"Amen"** or **"Thanks be to God."** Please hold the cup until everyone is served. We will drink the Cup of Salvation in unison, which symbolizes that we are together in a community of faith.

If you are accompanying your children: they are invited to participate with traditional elements or by taking a gold fish cracker and a grape.

Gluten-free bread is available. Let the server know.

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING (in unison)

**In deep gratitude, for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to You. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same.**

**Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. May we live the LOVE you have shown us - to God's glory and to the betterment of God's children of every kind. Amen.**

*\*Children are now excused to attend Church School.*

\*HYMN NO. 337

*"Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether"*

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Psalms 111

(O.T. p. 622-623)

GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

(N.T. p. 35-36)

SERMON

Who is Mark?

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM

*"Gather Us In"*

Haugen, arr. Hayes

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP AND OUR PRAYERS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH – Who is Lemuel Haynes?

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

*“Don’t Be Afraid”*

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

An important way to give thanks to God is through sharing the bounty we have been honored to receive. We can never do enough to earn God’s generous blessings. We can only express our gratitude by passing on our gifts. It is a privilege to be able to give.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

**\*DOXOLOGY #780 Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**By giving away some of the wealth we cherish so much, we keep ourselves focused on who you are, gracious God, and on what you expect of us. As the body of Christ, we seek to be a healing force in our world. May the offerings we present be used in ways that encourage healthful behaviors among us in the church, within our community, and as far as our influence can reach. Receive us and our gifts, we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

## WE ARE SENT OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE A LOVING, SERVING GOD

**\*HYMN NO. 393**

*“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*“We Will Take What You Offer”*

POSTLUDE

*\*Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

LAY READER

USHERS

Members of the Congregation

Steve Davis and Pat Plouff

Paula Robinson

Diaconate

Michael Bryan

Shirley Dickason

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Rev. Chester R. Ham

Susan Handy

Jeff Delangie

Lindsey Roman

Heidi Heath

GREETER(s)

PASTOR

AFFILIATE PASTOR

MUSIC DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

CE DIRECTOR

### **First Parish Congregational Church United Church of Christ**

PO BOX 114, 47 East Derry Rd East Derry, NH 03041 Tel. 603.434.0628 Fax. 603.437.3001

Office Manager: Lindsey Roman Email: [officemgr@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:officemgr@fpc-ucc.org)

Office Hours: Tues, Wed & Fri: 9:00-3:00pm; Thurs 10:30-6:00

Our website [www.fpc-ucc.org](http://www.fpc-ucc.org) Find us and ‘friend us’ on Facebook [www.facebook.com/fpcucc](http://www.facebook.com/fpcucc)



## Scriptures – February 1

### Psalm 111

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.

<sup>3</sup> Full of honour and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures for ever.

<sup>4</sup> He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;  
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

<sup>5</sup> He provides food for those who fear him;  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

<sup>6</sup> He has shown his people the power of his works,  
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

<sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy.

<sup>8</sup> They are established for ever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

<sup>9</sup> He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant for ever.  
Holy and awesome is his name.

<sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practise it have a good understanding.  
His praise endures for ever.

### Mark 1.21-28

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

**Sunday, February 1**

6:30am Youth Group - Best Breakfast ~ Currier  
7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier  
9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Music Room  
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary  
10:15am Kids Church Program ~ John  
11:00am Eagle Scout Bake Sale ~ Currier  
11:30am Youth Group Fundraising Meeting ~ Currier  
11:15am Hand Chime Choir Rehearsal ~ MacGregor

**Monday, February 2**

7:00pm Troop 405 Meeting ~ Currier  
7:00pm Trp 405 Board of Review ~ A/B  
7:00pm Trp 405 Patrol Leaders Council ~ John

**Tuesday, February 3**

9:15am Nutfield Gym ~ Currier  
4:00pm GS Trp 20993 ~ Currier  
6:15pm GS Troop 20321 ~ Luke  
6:30pm FPC/Nutfield Meeting ~ John  
6:30pm AA ~ Library  
7:00pm Nutfield Board Meeting ~ Cook  
7:00pm OA ~ A/B

**Wednesday, February 4**

10:00am Questers ~ MacGregor  
6:00pm GS Troop 13152 ~ Luke  
6:30pm Deacons ~ Cook

**Thursday, February 5**

12:15pm Ecumenical Prayer & Communion ~ A/B  
6:15pm Sacred Dance ~ Sanctuary  
6:30pm CS Pack 405 ~ A/B/John/Luke/Currier  
7:00pm CE ~ CE Office – joint meeting with Youth Ministry Committee & Youth Group leaders  
7:00pm Sr. Choir ~ Music Rm.

**Friday, February 6**

7:00pm AA Serenity Sisters ~ A/B  
9:30pm AA Fri Night Assoc. ~ A/B

**Saturday, February 7**

7:30pm AA ~ Currier

**Sunday, February 8**

7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier  
7:30am Nominating ~ Currier  
9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Music Room  
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary  
10:15am Kids Church Program ~ John  
11:15am Hand Chime Choir Rehearsal ~ MacGregor  
12:00pm All Boards Meeting ~ Currier > (see back page for information)  
6:00pm Youth Group Jewelry Making Night ~ Luke

*First Parish Congregational Church*  
*General Announcements*  
*February 1, 2015 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

**First Parish Congregational MISSION STATEMENT: This is who we are!**

**First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is 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.**

**Welcome Visitors! As members of the United Church of Christ we say: "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! We mean it!"** Please introduce yourself to an usher and come meet Pastor Deborah.

**If you would like** information about our church or would like to be added to our mailing list, please fill out a bright yellow "How May We Serve You"/ "Communication Options" card located in the pews and at the back of the Sanctuary. We also have cards available in the church office. Thank you for worshipping with us. We are blessed to have you with us today.

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**Eagle Scout Bake Sale:** Jon Potter, a member of Troop 405, will be holding a Bake Sale in Currier Hall **TODAY starting at 11:00am**. This Bake Sale is his Eagle Scout project; come support a scout and enjoy a variety of delicious treats after worship!

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**Ecumenical Prayer and Communion:** Is your spiritual tank feeling a little empty? Wondering what to do on your lunch hour? We've got some ideas. How about seeking meaning, solace, prayer, and ritual in community? Join us for weekly ecumenical prayer and communion on **Thursdays at 12:15 PM in A/B beginning January 29**. Freshen up a long-held faith or go deeper with a new one! All are welcome.

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**LENTEN WORSHIP**

**Lenten Services:** Ash Wednesday is February 18. We will gather for a light supper and then share in a worshipful time together. This will set the path for us to gather five more Wednesday evenings during Lent. Please join us for food, fellowship, worship and community as we observe and reflect on this time in the life of Christ.

**Readers Theatre:** Please note that the Readers Theatre previously planned for March 15 at 2:00 has been canceled. However, on the six Sundays in Lent, during the worship service, we will present one complete chapter from the Gospel of Mark in the Readers Theatre style. **Worship readers are needed for these Sundays in Lent.** If you would like to read, please give your name to Cyndi Gray or Pastor Deborah. Be sure to indicate the dates you would be available.

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**New Website:** If you have visited the First Parish website lately, you may have noticed some changes – the Tech Team had been hard at work re-designing our website for the past couple of months, and all of their efforts turned out beautifully! Next time you're online, please visit our website ([www.fpc-ucc.org](http://www.fpc-ucc.org)) and take a look! Thank you, Mike Staggs and the Tech Team.

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**Godspell:** Tickets for Godspell will go on sale starting this week, and will be available for purchase the next two weeks! The show is **Sunday, March 22 at 2:00pm** at the Palace Theatre in Manchester. We have seats on the floor (as opposed to the balcony). The ticket price is greatly reduced from the general ticket price. We are able to sell our 25 tickets for **\$20.00** (normal price is \$39.00). Reservations must be accompanied by payment. Checks should be made payable to Holly Gorgol.

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**Christian Ed:** This week is Sunday School, we are continuing our exploration of Jesus and John the Baptist for the Pre-K through 5th graders! The Pre-K-2nd graders will be focusing on science and sound, and the upper elementary folks will explore story through drama. These classes meet in John! The middle and high schoolers will explore the idea of authority and Jesus' ministry. Middle school meets in A/B, and high schoolers meet downstairs in Luke.

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**Thank You to Julie:** On behalf of the congregation and the staff, we want to send a huge thank you to Julie Daysa! Julie continued to help us even after she left NH in May. Julie has helped Pastor Deborah and the CE Board with her continuing support and expertise. Julie has produced the First Parish Newsletter since last summer and has done an amazing job. With our most sincere gratitude, Julie, we appreciate your contribution to First Parish Congregational Church.

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**K.I.T.:** The February K.I.T. meeting will be on the **11th**. We are having a speaker from the Derry Humane Society. They will be bringing two dogs. If you wish, you can bring: dog or cat food, litter, treats or old towels. Please join us!

**Meeting dates for all Boards and Committees:  
February and March 2015.**

All **Boards** will meet the 2nd Sunday – **February 8 and March 8**

All **Committees** meet the 3rd Sunday – **February 15 and February 15**

**11:30 Potluck** lunch: Everyone is welcome to bring a dish to pass and to eat lunch. **Boards/Committees** eat lunch at your **respective** table and talk informally about your agenda.

**12:00** Clean-up: take all your dishes to the window; wipe your table clean. (Important: **Committees** clean up on **Board** Sunday and vice-versa)

**12:10** Each Board/Committee convenes the formal conversation (either in Currier or in another room in the church)

**1:15** Boards/Committees conclude your meeting

**1:20** All Boards/Committees reconvene in Currier and spend 30 minutes of organized sharing. All members and friends of First Parish are invited.

**1:50** Conclude and break down Currier

**CPR AED Course:** Kick off the year by celebrating "National Heart Association Month"! We Never Skip a Beat presents a Heartsaver CPR AED course on **Saturday, February 28 from 10-2pm** (in "John", the basement of the Noyes building). Sign up today by contacting the Instructor Jesse Davis at (617) 538-7298 or by email at [neverskipabeat@yahoo.com](mailto:neverskipabeat@yahoo.com). The cost is only \$75, but the first 10 people to sign up and mention this post will receive 15% off the course for just \$65.00! Hurry and sign up Today!



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