# 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 everwidening community through active and loving ministry.

Come visit us! Worship is at 10 am.



#### From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Child of God.

February 18, 2015 is Ash Wednesday. It will begin our 40 day journey of Lent. What does this sentence mean? What is Lent? Why 40 days? What purpose does Ash Wednesday serve?

Lent is the Christian season of **preparation** leading into Easter, the day of resurrection. Remember when I explained the liturgical colors that are used during worship? During Advent and during Lent we use the liturgical color of purple, and they are seasons when as Christians, we are "preparing." In December we prepare for the arrival of the Christ child, the Prince of Peace. Lent is the time when Christians prepare for the stark reality of Maundy Thursday in the betrayal, arrest, mock trial and crucifixion of Jesus, and then the miraculous resurrection of God's Son on Easter morning. We do this by making an intentional attempt to observe more attentively the meaning of our faith. Some Christians will speak of observing a period of fasting and repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. We make attempts to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ: his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, and resurrection. In the year 2015 what does it mean when we say: "Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior"?

**Continued on Page 2** 

#### **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

## **Upcoming Events**

Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday) FPC Boards Meet, 11:30-2pm

Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>

KIT Lunch with Humane Society (p. 7) FPC Council Meets

Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>

Ash Wednesday, 6pm light supper, 7pm service in currier

Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) FPC Committees Meet, 11:30-2pm

February 21<sup>st</sup>

Prepared to Serve, 8am-4pm (p. 8)

February 23<sup>rd</sup>

Sonshine Soup Kitchen (p. 7)

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 10am-2pm

Heartsaver CPR & AED Course (p. 7)

Fri-Sat., March 6-7<sup>th</sup>

CityReach Overnight in Boston (p. 4)



#### **Continued from Page 1:**

In Western Christianity, we begin this time of preparation with Ash Wednesday. According to the canonical gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus Christ spent 40 days fasting in the desert, where he endured temptation by Satan. Lent originated as a mirroring of this by fasting 40 days as preparation for Easter. Every Sunday was seen as a commemoration of the Sunday of Christ's resurrection, and as such, it was a feast day on which fasting was inappropriate. Accordingly, Christians fasted from Monday to Saturday (6 days) during 6 weeks and from Wednesday to Saturday (4 days) in the preceding week, thus making up the number of 40 days.

Ashes are ceremonially placed on the heads of Christians on Ash Wednesday, either by being sprinkled over their heads or, more often, by being marked on their foreheads as a visible cross. Traditionally, only the more orthodox Christian churches, as well as Roman Catholics, celebrated this custom. In recent progressive Protestants. like the vears. Presbyterians and United Church of Christ, have come to appreciate this ancient ritual. During the imposition of ashes, the words used to accompany this gesture are: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This is taken from Genesis 3:19: "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

During the Sunday worship services in Lent, will read entire from the chapters Gospel of Mark, so that by Easter we will have followed nearly half of Gospel Mark's chronologically.



Ordinarily I use the Revised Common Lectionary. This year, I depart from that routine for this purpose. Mark's Gospel is the first gospel to go from oral tradition to the written word. As such, it possesses great poetry and tremendous urgency. Each Sunday during worship we will hear one entire chapter from the Gospel of Mark. We will also gather on Wednesday evenings each week during Lent. There will be a simple meal at 6:00 followed by a gathering at 7:00 where we will engage with the chapter we've read on Sunday. We will have the opportunity to sing and to pray and to engage with these sacred stories in a profound way. As a community of faith, built upon a foundation of worship, prayer, education and service, these gatherings have the potential to be transformative for us as church. I pray that I will see many of you there.

Ephesians 6:23 – "Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

In Grace and Peace, Pastor Deborah

An
Exciting
Biblical
Adventure
this Lent!

Reading the Gospel of Mark from start to finish takes approximately 2 hours, and is an exciting and meaningful experience. With Reader's Theatre, there is no memorization; simply reading from a script with appropriate emotion. This year we'll have a little taste of this experience, reading one complete chapter of the Gospel of Mark on each Sunday of Lent and Easter (chapters 4, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 15, 16). We hope you'll join us on Wednesday evenings when we'll talk about the chapter we heard on Sunday morning!

## **Christian Education Updates**

## Welcome to Our New CE Director: Pastor Heidi!

We are excited to welcome our new CE Director, Pastor Heidi Heath, who joined us on January 11th! Pastor Heidi comes to us from the United Church of Christ in Keene, NH where she served as Adjunct Minister. Be sure to say hello and introduce yourself as you see her around the church.



#### **Youth Events**

Feb. 1st: Game Night at the Aurora Senior Center - Meet at

FPC at 6pm

**Feb. 8th**: Pizza Night and More! 6-8 pm at FPC

Feb. 15th: NO Youth Group

Feb. 22nd: TBD

March 6-7th: City Reach

## SPARK (Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> Graders) Update

Spark workshops are off and running for the month of February! We are working our way through learning about Jesus and John the Baptist, and will move into a time of learning about Lent. Are you interested in getting involved with our awesome children and Sunday School planning? All you need is yourself and a willing spirit; we'll take care of the rest. Contact CE Director, Pastor Heidi Heath (pastorheidiheath@gmail.com) or Lianne Deranian (liannecd@myfairpoint.net) for more information.

Session Focus	Date	Pre-K – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
SESSION 4:	Week 5 (2/1)	Science	Drama
JESUS & JOHN	Week 6 (2/8)	Video	Science
THE BAPTIST	Week 7 (2/15)	Games	Video
LUKE 3:1-18, MATT. 3:13-17	No Class (2/22)	School Vacation Week: Nursery Care Only	
SESSION 5:	Week 1 (3/1)	Large Group Gathering: "Learning about Lent"	
HOLY WEEK & EASTER MATTHEW 21:1-11, 27:32-66, 28:1-10	Week 2 (3/8)	Cooking	Games
	Week 3 (3/15)	Science	Cooking
	Week 4 (3/22)	Art	Science
	Week 5 (3/29)	Games	Art
	No Class (4/5)	Happy Easter! Nursery Care Only	

## Youth Trip to Boston in March with CityReach

The youth will be going to **CityReach in Boston** from Friday to Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>.
All participants will meet at the church at 5pm on March 6<sup>th</sup>, having already had dinner (or with a bag dinner to eat en route).

From now until the beginning of March, the youth will be collecting donations to bring with us, specifically:

#### NEW:

- socks
- underwear
- travel-size toiletries (shampoo, deodorant, lotion, chapstick, toothpaste, toothbrushes, disposable razors)

#### **CLEAN, GENTLY USED:**

- Pants
- Coats
- Sweatshirts
- Sweatpants
- Boots, shoes, sneakers
- Hats, gloves, belts

Please, no women's or children's clothes. If you have any questions, or if you are looking to help, please get in touch with Reni Harnden (603-785-2848 or <a href="mailto:rharnden@comcast.net">rharnden@comcast.net</a>).

Thanks! Your Youth Ministry Committee

Harry Handy, Reni Harnden, Jack Leonhard, Nancy Magee, Mark Pingree, Paula Robinson,

## Registration Has Begun for Horton Center

Located on top of Pine Mountain near Gorham, New Hampshire, Horton Center is a beautiful camp run by the UCC. Registration opened on January 28th, and recruitment has already begun for camp counselor positions!

The 2015 season opens with a work weekend for volunteers with all levels of ability on May 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. The first weekend with campers is the Elementary Half Week (grades 3-5) June 24-27. Other highlights on this summer's schedule include a grandparent/grandchild weekend, a women's weekend, a young adult weekend (for those over 19), and several canoe and hiking weeks.

For more information – or to register for camp – go to <u>www.hortoncenter.org</u>. Paper registrations are available by calling 603-545-9660.

Partial scholarships toward camp tuition are available through the CE Board. Please let Pastor Heidi know when you have submitted your camp application, and she will ensure you receive our FPC scholarship. There is also tuition assistance available through Horton Center – you must turn in your application by May 15<sup>th</sup>.



#### Who's Who at First Parish: Jeanne Stauffer

Jeanne joined our church on March 30, 1980. She came from a church in Jackson, NH.

Jeanne served as a Deaconess at a time when they were considered the "communion glass washers." In an effort to promote these women, the board of Deacons and Deaconesses were merged under the direction of Pastor Dianna Augspurger, and Jeanne became one of the first female Deacons of First Parish Church. She served two terms on the Diaconate and another  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years replacing Sue Currier.



In 1994, Jeanne served on the Search Committee that brought us Alice Ling. She was always proud to announce that Alice had been <u>her</u> choice. Jeanne has served, at one time or another, on every one of our boards at FPC. She also served, for many years, as part of the newsletter-collating crew and was instrumental in starting mailings of devotionals to homebound members.

Jeanne and her son, Al, sang in the choir. She tells us that it was Nancy Murdock who initiated the planning of the elevator to make it easier for Al and his wheelchair to get up into the sanctuary. Jeanne

was also one of the ladies who helped to create the beautiful quilt just outside the sanctuary doors that celebrates our 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

In May of 2013, Jeanne made the move to Melbourne, Florida in order to be closer to her daughter, Midge, and son-in-law, Ira. Those who knew her here at FPC miss her dearly.

Jeanne will be celebrating her **93**<sup>rd</sup> birthday on February 26<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to send her a card, please contact Lindsey in the office for her address.

- Submitted by Janice Braley, for the Historic Preservation Committee Historic Preservation Committee: Janice Braley, Marilyn Ham, Nancy Heywood, Paul Lindemann, Ginny True, Janet Wetherbee



## **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee is happy to present an almost full set of boards and committees! There are just a few positions left, so this is your chance... Check out the board and committee vacancies and let us know if you can help by volunteering for one.



Board or Committee	# of Vacancies	Meeting Time	Chairperson
Board of Christian Ed.	1	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday @7pm	Lianne Deranian
Christian Outreach and Mission Board	1	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday @11:30am	Gloria Bingel, Joe Weaver
Nominating Committee	1	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday @7:30am	Carl Hepworth
Stewardship Board	1	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday @6:30pm	Fran Berube, Margie Ives

It is exciting to see so many fresh faces on our boards and committees. We are in a time of growth and renewal for our church – please continue taking part in the excitement! Contact any member of the Nominating Committee if you can help in these positions. We encourage "ad hoc" members!

From the bottom of our hearts, the Nominating Committee would like to thank Sarah Keller for her six years of invaluable service to our committee.

#### Your Nominating Committee:

Bill Armstrong 432-5446, Paul Dionne 244-8360, Carl and Gail Hepworth 434-2053, Sarah Keller 425-1226 and Joe Merrill 247-3051.

### **Stewardship Committee**

We are looking forward to 2015 with excitement. "Faith Practice" was a new way of looking at how we offer our "gifts" to FPC, and we send a huge "Thank You" to all that took part. Your participation creates a stronger foundation for First Parish Church.

We ended our year with 108 pledges....\$183,686.00 total...\$165,283.00 towards the General Fund. May we continue practicing our faith for a successful year of 2015. If you still have not made your commitment, please consider doing so. Should you need a pledge card, please ask a board member, or check in the office. No gift is too small.

A special thanks goes to Eileen Cox who was gracious enough to volunteer to write our "thank you" notes again for 2015 returned pledges. Not the easiest task within itself!

Many blessings to all from your Stewardship Board.

John Bartel, Fran Berube, Carl Hepworth, Margie Ives, Diana Roman, Sue Weaver

#### **Around Our Church**

#### **Sonshine Soup Kitchen**

We had the opportunity of working with a team from St. Jude's in December. There were three of us from FPC and five from St. Jude's. We sounded good singing some songs while doing the cleanup!! It was a spirited, fun team effort. The SSK is averaging serving about 39 people for the dinner meal now, and preparing six to eight take-outs. The meal is served from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Anyone wishing to help us please contact Margie Ives. Our next opportunity to serve is **February 23**.

- Submitted by Margie Ives

## In Gratitude...

A heartfelt thank you to our church family for all the prayers, calls, and cards sent during Rod's recent surgery and recovery period. Thank you!

- Submitted by: Rod and Suzanne Hunt

#### **THANK YOU!**

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.

- Submitted by Pastor Deborah

#### **Heartsaver 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 28th from 10-2p in the John Classroom at FPC.

Sign up today by contacting the Instructor Jesse Davis at (617) 538-7298 or by email at <a href="mailto:neverskipabeat@yahoo.com">neverskipabeat@yahoo.com</a>. 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.

- Submitted by Jesse Davis

#### The Radleys Have Moved

If you would like to write to them, their new address is:

Jean and John Radley Sunrise Senior Living 6 Beth Ave. Leominster, MA 01453

## **Keeping In Touch**

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

## February 21<sup>st</sup>: Prepared to Serve

The 2015 Prepared to Serve theme is: "Take **pride** in how far we've come. Have **faith** in how far we can go!" Prepared to Serve is a special training event that welcomes participants with fellowship, inspiring worship, and educational, faith-building workshops on a variety of topics, including stewardship, church leadership, church finances, global missions and Christian



education. We will have over 70 workshops on a wide range of topics (view the full schedule online). The day also includes a delicious catered lunch.

All of this takes place at Pembroke Academy (209 Academy Road in Pembroke, NH) from 8am to 4pm on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.

Event registration is now open – register online at <a href="http://www.nhcucc.org/ConferenceMinistries/Prepa">http://www.nhcucc.org/ConferenceMinistries/Prepa</a> redToServe/. There is a \$40/person registration fee to cover the cost of resources, refreshments, and meals. You can register and pay at the event for \$50. You can direct questions to NH UCC Conference Office Manager, Jesse Evans at <a href="mailto:jevans@nhcucc.org">jevans@nhcucc.org</a>.

## **Communication and Transparency**

As members of a long-standing tradition in congregationalism, we want to believe – we 'need' to believe – no, we MUST believe – that there are no secrets, and that all matters of the church are known. It is who we are, to be sure. That said, there are the seven boards who meet monthly and as many committees whose meetings range from once a year to once a month. How do we communicate on a broad scale what each of them is doing?

This is not a rhetorical question: How do we communicate better? What are your ideas? What shall we try? Remember: decide, do, review, revise. Please send your suggestions to <a href="mailto:pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org">pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org</a> or to Lindsey, our Administrative Assistant at <a href="mailto:officemgr@fpc-ucc.org">officemgr@fpc-ucc.org</a>. If you see something that you believe needs to improve, please let us know.

## **Scripture Readings**

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

#### February 1<sup>st</sup> – Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

#### February 8<sup>th</sup> – Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

### February 15<sup>th</sup> – Transfiguration of the Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

#### February 18<sup>th</sup> - Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isa. 58:1-12

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

#### February 22<sup>nd</sup> - First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18–22

Mark 1:9-15

Reader's Theater: Mark Chapter 4

## **Worship Leadership**

#### **Deacons & Lay Readers**

#### **Deacons of the Month**

Diana Sweeney & Julie Turner

Feb. 1st: Jennifer Robinson

Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>: Diane Breeden

Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>: Diana Sweeney

Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>: Dee Deranian

#### **Ushers & Greeters**

Weekly Usher - Michael Bryan

**Feb. 1**<sup>st</sup>: Ushers: Diaconate

Greeter: Verna Elwell

Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>: Ushers: Ross & Linda Webber,

Kevin & Diane Gordon Greeter: Becky Fleury

Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>: Ushers: Ken Gould, Bill Burke,

Dee Deranian, Shirley Dickason

Greeter: Ruth Honnors

Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>: Ushers: Stanley & Holly Gorgol,

Tom & Andrea Cooper Greeter: Beth Hunter

#### **Nursing Home Friends**

Patricia Rankin & Theo Johnson,

Hillsborough Country Nursing Home

Phil Guertin.

Pleasant Valley Nursing Home

## First Parish Congregational Church, UCC

#### **NEW Church Office Hours:**

Monday: Closed

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9 am - 4 pm

Thursday: 10:30 am - 6 pm

#### You are most warmly invited:

10 am Sunday Worship & Church School

11 am Coffee Hour

#### Check us out on the web:

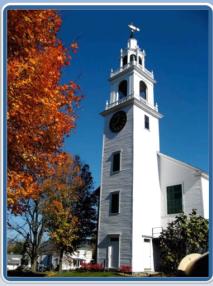
www.fpc-ucc.org

**Email our office manager, Lindsey Roman:** 

officemgr@fpc-ucc.org

Email our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof:

pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org





First Parish Congregational Church United Church of Christ P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road Derry, New Hampshire 03041 Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PERMIT #1 EAST DERRY, NH 03041

