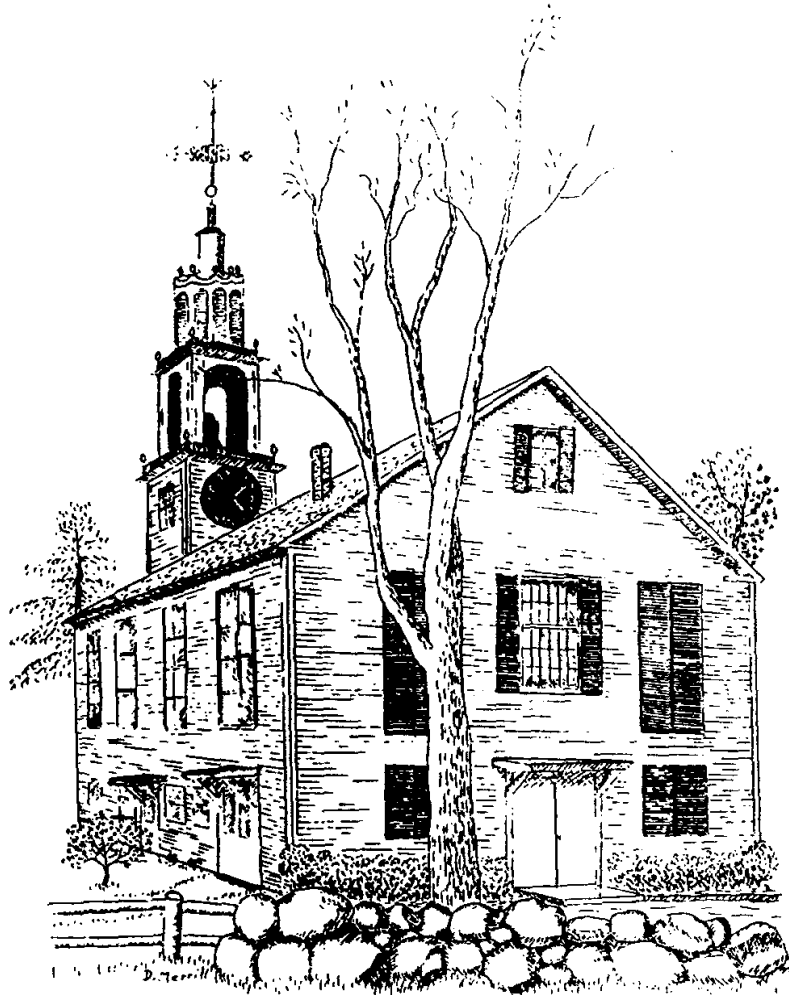


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

September 13, 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)

September 13, 2015 Proper 19
RALLY SUNDAY

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.

Feel free to join us for refreshments in Currier Hall immediately following the service.

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 worshiping with us. We are honored to have you with us today.

PRESENTATION Certificate of Appreciation for support of OCWM, presented by Dick Cote of
NH Conference Office

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Lighting the Candles

*HYMN NO. 12

"I Sing the Almighty Power of God"

*CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSE

One: Come away from dullness and complacency.
Wake up! God is calling us to listen and learn.

**All: The heavens are telling the glory of God.
The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.**

One: Let us gather to renew our relationship with God.

All: Let us seek enlightenment and the revival of our souls.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

God of all wisdom, renew our sense of awe and wonder as we gather before you, the Source of all knowledge. Make your Word known to us, and stretch out your hand to touch us. We want to stay in touch with you each day. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE #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.**

WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S OFFERING

"I'm Gonna Sing"

I'm goin' a sing when the Spirit says sing (x2)

I'm goin' a sing when the Spirit says sing, and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

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.

MISSION MOMENT – Vacation Church School; Sarah Keller

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Pastor Deborah

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.

*HYMN NO. 451

"Be Now My Vision"

WE ARE CALLED INTO STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP KICK-OFF - Sue Weaver

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

NEW TESTAMENT	James 1:17-27	(N.T. p. 246-247)
GOSPEL	Mark 8:27-29	(N.T. pp. 44-45)
SERMON	Generous Acts	The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
CHOIR ANTHEM	<i>"We Are Convinced"</i>	Hayes

WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

The ways we use the wealth entrusted to us teach even more than our words. What messages do our offerings send to the world? Do they communicate our delight in knowing God and following the Christ?

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 (UNISON)

We offer the treasures of this world as a way of recalling all of us to a right relationship with you, O God. May our offerings and our daily lives communicate your message of peace and harmony. Amen.

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

*HYMN NO. 198

"Lift High the Cross"

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated.)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH
DEACONS OF THE MONTH
LAY READER
USHERS

GREETER(s)
PASTOR
AFFILIATE PASTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
CE DIRECTOR

Members of the Congregation
Diana Sweeney and Reni Harnden
Steve Davis
Ross and Linda Webber
Kevin and Diane Gordon
Michael Bryan
Shirley Dickason
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
Rev. Chester R. Ham
Susan Handy
Jeff DeLangie
Lindsey Roman
Heidi Carrington Heath

First Parish Activity Calendar

Sunday, September 13

RALLY SUNDAY

9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Music Room
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary
10:15am Blessing of the Backpacks ~ Sanctuary
No Sunday School

Monday, September 14

Nutfield First Day ~ Matthew/Mark

9:00am Nutfield Parent Coffee ~ Currier
7:00pm Christian Ed ~ Cook
7:00pm Finance ~ A/B
7:00pm Troop 405 Board of Review ~ MacGregor
7:00pm Troop 405 Meeting ~ Currier
7:00pm Troop 405 ~ Nursery

Tuesday, September 15

6:15pm GS Troop 20321 ~ Luke
6:30pm AA ~ Library
7:00pm Film & Faith Gathering ~ Cook
7:00pm OA ~ A/B
7:00pm Troop 405 Committee ~ Currier
7:00pm Building Advisory ~ Nursery

Wednesday, September 16

6:00pm GS Troop 13152 Parent Meeting ~ Currier
6:30pm Christian Ed ~ John
7:00pm Council ~ Cook

Thursday, September 17

6:30pm BSA Venture Crew 570 ~ MacGregor
6:30pm CS Pack 405 ~ Currier/AB/John/Luke
7:00pm Sr. Choir ~ Music Room

Friday, September 18

7:00pm AA Serenity Sisters ~ A/B

Saturday, September 19

7:30pm AA ~ Currier

Sunday, September 20

7:00am Best Breakfast
8:00am Historic Preservation ~ Archive
8:00am Youth Ministry ~ A/B
9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Music Room
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary
10:15am Sunday School ~ John
11:15am Handchime Rehearsal ~ MacGregor
11:30am Mission ~ A/B

Scriptures - September 13

James 1.17-27

17 Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.¹⁸ In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

19 You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

26 If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Mark 8.27-29

27 Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?'²⁸ And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.'²⁹ He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.'