



Doris Merrill

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

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 22, 2015      The First Sunday of Lent**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS

### **WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Lighting the Candles

\*HYMN NO. 275

*“Come Now Almighty God”*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When Lent comes – you have to put away the tinsel;  
you have to take down your Christmas tree,  
and stand out in the open...vulnerable.

**Many: You either are or you aren't.**

One: You either believe or you don't.

**Many: You either will or you won't...**

One: And, O Lord, how we love the stable and the star!

**Many: When Lent comes – the angels' voices begin to lament.**

One: And we find ourselves in a courtyard  
where we must answer whether we know him or not.

**Many: Lent is a time to take the time to let the power of our faith story take hold of us;**

One: A time to let the events get up and walk around inside our hearts –  
inside us;

**Many: A time to intensify our living into Christ;**

One: A time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts;

**Many: A time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem  
or to walk along the sea and listen to his word;**

One: A time to touch his robe and feel the healing surge through us;

**Many: A time to ponder and a time to wonder...**

One: Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!

**Many: We are one family in the LORD. Let us together worship God.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE #760 **Amen siyakudumisa**

**Amen, we praise your name, O God**

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**God of the Covenant, we come with enthusiasm to spend time with you and one another in faith sharing. God, please forgive our turning from you. Forgive us for putting you on hold during the week while we busily live our lives without you. Forgive us for trying to make you a Sunday God instead of the God of our lives. We confess that even though we don't have time for you, we have time for more work and more recreation and more projects for our homes. We confess the arrogance of attempting to feed your sheep when we do not turn to you for nourishment. Help us, O Holy One. Amen.**

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

CHILDREN'S OFFERING

*"This Little Light of Mine"*

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (x4)**

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

Sue Handy

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.** (Children may now go on to their classes.)

\*HYMN NO. 46

*"Hope of the World"*

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US**

NEW TESTAMENT READING The Gospel of Mark: Chapter 4

READER'S THEATRE – Characters, in order of appearance:

Narrator – Pastor Deborah; Jesus – Dee Deranian

INTERACTIVE REFLECTION

CHOIR ANTHEM

*"Sing a Jubilant Song"*

Stanton

## **WE RESPOND WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP AND OUR PRAYERS**

BLACK HISTORY MONTH – Who is Bayard Rustin?

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

*"Don't Be Afraid"*

## **WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We have been granted more than our share of the world's wealth. Often we have forgotten the source of our bounty. We grasp and spend as if all were ours to indulge our desires. This is the time to reexamine our management of what is really God's prosperity, entrusted to us for a little while.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*DOXOLOGY #562

**Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,  
gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,  
now because your love has touched me, I have love to give a way,  
now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Thank you for welcoming us to a celebration of life with so many precious gifts. Thank you now for the privilege of sharing so that others may be led to your joyous embrace. Help us to be generous in gratitude for your lavish provision for all our needs. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN NO. 391

*"In the Midst of New Dimensions"*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*"Seven-fold Amen"*

POSTLUDE

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

**First Parish Congregational MISSION STATEMENT:**

**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.**

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH  
DEACONS OF THE MONTH  
LAY READER  
USHERS

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

Members of the Congregation  
Diana Sweeney and Julie Turner  
Dee Deranian  
Stanley and Holly Gorgol  
Tom and Andrea Cooper  
Michael Bryan  
Beth Hunter  
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof  
Rev. Chester R. Ham  
Susan Handy  
Jeff Delangie  
Lindsey Roman  
Heidi Heath

**First Parish Activity Calendar**

**Sunday, February 22**

7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier  
8:00am FunRaiser Meeting ~ Currier  
9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Music Room  
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary  
10:15am Kids Church Program ~ Room -John  
11:15am Hand Chime Choir Rehearsal ~  
MacGregor  
6:00pm Youth Group – Jewelry Making  
~ Luke

**Monday, February 23**

**Tuesday, February 24**

6:15pm GS Troop 20321 ~ Luke  
6:30pm AA ~ Library  
7:00pm OA ~ A/B

**Wednesday, February 25**

6:00pm GS Troop 13152 ~ Luke  
6:00pm Lenten Supper ~ Currier  
7:00pm Service and Sacred Conversation ~  
Currier

**Thursday, February 26**

12:15pm Ecumenical Communion & Prayer  
~ A/B  
6:15pm Sacred Dance ~ Sanctuary  
7:00pm Sr. Choir ~ Music Room

**Friday, February 27**

5:00pm Spaghetti Supper ~ Currier  
7:00pm AA Serenity Sisters ~ A/B  
9:30pm AA Fri Night Assoc. ~ A/B

**Saturday, February 28**

10:00am Heart Saver CPR/AED Course ~  
Room – John  
7:30pm AA ~ Currier

**Sunday, March 1**

7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier  
9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Music Room  
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary  
10:15am Kids Church Program ~ Room -John  
11:15am Hand Chime Choir Rehearsal ~  
MacGregor  
6:00pm Youth Group – Game Night  
~ Aurora Senior Center

*First Parish Congregational Church*  
*General Announcements*  
*February 22, 2015 First Sunday in Lent*

**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 worshiping with us. We are blessed to have you with us today.

---

**Boards and Committees Meetings:** Due to the inclement weather we have been having that has caused us to cancel the all Boards/all Committees meetings, Boards and Committees will only follow the March schedule. All Boards will meet on March 8 and all Committees will meet on March 15 as previously planned. If your Board or Committee needs to schedule another meeting in between now and then, please let Lindsey know.

---

**Flower Calendar:** The 2015 Flower Calendar is posted outside the calendar door (sorry it's late, there are some things I'm *still* getting my bearings on!). Please feel free to write your name in on a week you would like to donate flowers for Sunday service.

---

**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.



**LENTEN WORSHIP**

**Lenten Services:** Please join us on Wednesdays during Lent as we share in a light supper and worshipful time together. Let's gather 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, with your availability.

---

**Christian Ed:** This Sunday we will have our final week of rotation on John the Baptist! Next week will be a fun, one-room school house lesson for school vacation week. The K-5 kids will be downstairs. K-2 will do some fun games, while our 3-5th graders will film a drama lesson they earned earlier in the unit! Middle and High Schoolers continue their study of Mark. Middle School meets in A/B and High School meets in John! Interested in becoming a workshop leader for our next round of curriculum? Please see Pastor Heidi or any member of the CE board.

---

**CityReach Donations Needed:** With the snowy weather we've been having lately, the youth have not received many donations to bring to CityReach in March. This is a reminder that we are looking for the following donations: NEW – socks and underwear. USED – pants, coats, sweatshirts, sweatpants, boots, shoes, sneakers, hats, gloves, belts, backpacks, tote bags, fanny packs, small suitcases with wheels. TRAVEL-SIZE TOILETRIES – shampoo, deodorant, lotion, chapstick, toothpaste, toothbrushes and disposable razors. **\*Men's clothing only please\***  
Thank you very much!

**Nutfield Fundraiser:** Join the fun at a Parent's Night Out fundraiser for Nutfield Cooperative School! Snack, sip and socialize on **Friday, March 6, 7-9pm** at You're an Artist, 16 Manning Street #108 in Derry. Bring your friends and family! \$40 per person includes all supplies. Space is limited and will be first come first serve. Reserve your canvas at: <http://tinyurl.com/nutfieldpaintnight>  
Hope to see you there! Can't make it on Friday but still want to paint and support Nutfield? Sign up for regular classes at 4:00 and 6:30 pm Sunday.

---

**Kayla Bertolami Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser & Banquet:** There will be a Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser & Banquet held in honor of Kayla Bertolami on **Friday, March 13, 2015 from 7:00 – 11:30 p.m.** at Castleton Banquet and Conference Center, 92 Indian Rock Road, Windham, NH Please join us for a celebration of Kayla's life and help us pay it forward! Kayla, a very special young lady, tragically passed away due to a pulmonary embolism on July 29, 2014. She was just 21 years old. She believed in helping people and we've created a scholarship fund in her name to help NH students who need help affording their tuition. There will be a sit-down dinner, cash bar, DJ & dancing, raffles, silent auction and door prizes. Tickets can be purchased online for \$75 on Eventbrite ([www.KaylaBertolami.Eventbrite.com](http://www.KaylaBertolami.Eventbrite.com)). Tickets must be purchased in advance. If you have any questions, please call Karen at 603-490-3518 or email her at [kbertolami@hotmail.com](mailto:kbertolami@hotmail.com).

---

**Marion Gerrish Community Center:** The MGCC needs donations!!

The Marion Gerrish Community Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing meeting space for over 150 different organizations, groups and clubs from Derry and surrounding communities. Most of the support for the MGCC comes from sales in our Thrift Shop, which runs completely via donations. We do not receive funding from the town of Derry. **We accept gently used clothing, books, household items, shoes, CD's & DVD's, toys & games, small furniture, small**

**appliances, jewelry, linens, kitchen goods and decorations.** The Thrift Shop is located in the basement of our center. You can access the Thrift Shop via the side entrance with the blue awning. **Due to theft and damage, donations are only accepted during normal business hours; Monday & Saturday from 9 am – 4 pm and Tuesday through Friday from 9 am – 7 pm.**

We cannot accept text books, encyclopedias, Reader's Digest (any kind), National Geographic magazines, computers (includes keyboards, CPU's, monitors, etc.), televisions, microwaves, stereo equipment (includes speakers), ski boots, car seats, mattresses, and large furniture. If you have any questions concerning your items, please contact us.

We are a 501(c)3 corporation. All donations are tax deductible.

---

**New Creation Healing Center:**

**Anxiety: Freedom from Fear**

Date: March 14, 2015

9:00am – 4:00pm (Snow Date 3/21/15)

Place: New Creation Healing Center, Kingston NH

New Meeting House Building

Registration Fee - \$45 by March 5<sup>th</sup> (\$50 after that date)

Please contact Marlene at 603-642-6700



**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

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

