



Doris Merrill

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
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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)

## **March 1, 2015 The Second Sunday of Lent**

**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 & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Lighting the Candles

\*HYMN NO. 24

*“The God of Abraham Praise”*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are invited to walk with God.

**All: We are welcomed by God as people of the covenant.**

One: How awesome to stand in the presence of our Creator!

**All: Let us bring our praise to glorify God.**

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

**In trust and confidence, we call on your name, almighty God, eager to know you more  
fully and serve you more faithfully. We have heard your amazing promises given to our  
ancestors in the faith. We seek your word for us in our day, for we want to grow strong  
in our faith as our ancestors did in theirs.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE #760 (Ma-si-thi) Amen siyakudumisa (repeat x1)

**Amen Bawo, Amen Bawo, Amen siyakudumisa**

**(Sing Amen) Amen, we praise your name, O God (repeat x1)**

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

In this season, when we reexamine our lives and find our faith tested, we often discover a  
barrenness within. We have not sought God’s answers to our daily problems often enough. Let  
us be honest with our Creator in this time of prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**God of our ancestors, we come to you, confessing that we have sought to gain  
the world – so many things to buy, so many things to do. Yet we are not satisfied.**

**Life’s meaning eludes us. In our hearts we sense an eternal design which is for all  
generations, a way of life more satisfying than we have allowed ourselves to explore.**

**O God, we confess our need for you.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God's face is not hidden from those who truly seek God's presence. God does not withhold love from us when we go our own way. Let us open our eyes to see God's works, let us open our ears to hear God's word, and let us realize how we have been blessed by an unseen hand, forgiven and restored to wholeness. Blessed be.

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

## 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

Pastor Heidi

(After which children will go sit with their family for Communion)

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

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.**

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 may now go on to their classes.)

CHOIR ANTHEM

*"The Whisper"*

Courtney

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

The Gospel of Mark: Chapter 5

READER'S THEATRE (offered by choir members):

Bill Armstrong

Harry Handy

Fay Chary

Eileen Cox

Gloria Bingel

Sarah Keller

Pattie DeNapoli

Jeff DeLangie

Sue Handy

INTERACTIVE REFLECTION

\*HYMN NO. 222

*"My Song is Love Unknown"*

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

COMMISSIONING and BLESSING THE BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BAC)

**Invitation:** (Moderator invites members of the Building Advisory Committee to come forward and introduces them: Paul Ambler, Nancy Heywood, Larry Krantz, Paul Lindemann, Bill Mann)

**The Word** 1 Corinthians 12:4-12

**Response**

Moderator: There are different gifts.

**People: BUT IT IS THE SAME SPIRIT WHO GIVES THEM.**

Moderator: Each one is given a gift by the Spirit.

**People: TO BE USED FOR THE COMMON GOOD.**

**Pastor's Address to the Committee Members:**

**Covenant by Committee Members:**

We, who are serving on the Building Advisory Committee for First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, covenant with you the members of First Parish to perform faithfully the vital task of taking the building project to the next phase. We pledge, with God's guidance and your prayers, to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in all we do, say, and decide.

We will endeavor:

to establish a harmonious working relationship within our committee;

to maintain consistent attendance at our BAC meetings;

to be open and patient listeners to each other and to the congregation;

to seek decisions by the coming together of minds, hearts, and souls in a consensus that will build a firm foundation for the effective future mission and ministry of this church.

**People:**

**We pledge, as a gathered community of faith, to be patient with you and to respect your process, even as we recognize that the work of your committee is a difficult assignment and will take much effort.**

**We pray for you and offer our support and words of encouragement throughout this time.**

**These things we promise in the hope and belief that you will be obedient to the guidance of the spirit as you lead us into the long awaited rehabilitation of the meeting house, construction of a new connector, installation of a new elevator, and remediation of the clock tower.**

**Closing Prayer:**

**Pastor:** As we pray together, I would invite you to lift your hands in blessing as I pray: Gracious God, you are the God of the Covenant and we are the people of the covenant. We praise you for binding us together as brothers and sisters in this church community. We thank you for these servants who have been called to perform your sacred work at our beloved church. God of mercy, bless their work, for we ask in Jesus' name, Amen.

INTERESTING PEOPLE – Who is Theodore Geisel?

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

*“Don't Be Afraid”*

**WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose themselves for Christ's sake and for the gospel will be blessed. Let us give with grateful hearts.

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

**Glorious God, we dedicate these gifts as an expression of our faith. You alone know how much we share and how much we withhold. You know the extent of our trust and the depth of our commitment. May this act of giving draw us closer to you and extend a blessing to all who are helped through our sharing. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN NO. 190

*“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*“Seven-fold Amen”*

POSTLUDE

*\*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

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

CE DIRECTOR

Members of the Congregation

Brian Williams and Reni Harnden

Choir Members

Diaconate

Michael Bryan

Verna Elwell

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Rev. Chester R. Ham

Susan Handy

Jeff DeLangie

Lindsey Roman

Heidi Heath

## First Parish Activity Calendar

### 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

### Monday, March 2

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

### Tuesday, March 3

9:15am Nutfield Gym ~ Currier  
12:00pm Ecumenical Clergy Assoc. ~ A/B  
4:00pm GS Troop 20993 ~ Currier  
6:15pm GS Troop 20321 ~ Luke  
6:30pm AA ~ Library  
7:00pm OA ~ A/B

### Wednesday, March 4

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

### Thursday, March 5

12:15pm Ecumenical Communion & Prayer ~ A/B  
6:15pm Sacred Dance ~ Sanctuary  
6:30pm CS Pack 405 Pack Rally ~ Currier  
7:00pm CE ~ CE Office  
7:00pm Sr. Choir ~ Music Room  
7:00pm Stewardship ~ Cook

### Friday, March 6

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

### Saturday, March 7

9:00am Next Charter School Craft Fair ~ Currier  
10:00am Heart Saver CPR/AED Course ~ John  
7:30pm AA ~ Currier

### Sunday, March 8

7:00am Best Breakfast ~ 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  
**11:30pm Potluck Lunch**  
**12:00pm All Boards Meeting ~ Currier**  
6:00pm Youth Group – Jewelry Making Night ~ Luke

*First Parish Congregational Church*  
*General Announcements*  
*March 1, 2015 Second 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.

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**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.

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**Fun Raiser Meeting:** Please take note, the second Fun Raiser Committee meeting has been **rescheduled** for **Monday, March 9 at 7:00pm**, 11 Dustin Ave., Derry. Contact Bill Burke with questions, [dolarbill@aol.com](mailto:dolarbill@aol.com).

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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.



**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.

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**Christian Ed:** This week, we'll be starting a new unit focusing on Holy Week and Easter. The K-2 class will be doing a cooking lesson, and the 3-5th graders will be doing Bible games. For the whole of Lent (2/22-Easter Sunday) the middle and high schoolers will be part of worship as we explore the Gospel of Mark together. Special welcome this week to Liz Greenberg and Inger Arnott, both leading Spark! workshops for the first time. Thank you both!

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**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!

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**Treasurer:** Please welcome Debbie Ambler as our new Treasurer! We are excited to have her in this position. Debbie can be reached at [prambler@earthlink.net](mailto:prambler@earthlink.net) or 421-2728.

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**Flower Calendar:** The flower calendar is posted outside the office – please feel free to write your name on a week you would like to donate flowers for Sunday service.

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**SoulCollage®:** SoulCollage® is a fun, creative, intuitive and absorbing process of creating cards with collated images. Liz Greenberg completed an intensive weekend workshop in which she was trained to share this process with others. Her excitement and passion is overflowing and she would love to share her enthusiasm and knowledge with her church family by offering another **3-hour introductory workshop from 9-noon on Saturday, April 11 in Currier.**

SoulCollage® is *stress-free* fun, with all materials provided.

**Advanced registration is necessary:** please RSVP by e-mailing Liz at [lizgreenberg26@gmail.com](mailto:lizgreenberg26@gmail.com).

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**Next Charter School Craft Fair:** On **Saturday, March 7 from 10:30am-3:30pm**, Next Charter School in Derry will be holding a craft fair to benefit the school, **here at FPC in Currier Hall!** With 24 crafters, artists, photographers and authors as well as a bake sale, raffles (including Celtics tickets) and A capella entertainment, this craft fair for a good cause can't be missed!



**CPR AED Course:** We Never Skip a Beat presents a Heartsaver CPR AED course on **Saturday, March 14 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 20% off the course for just \$60.00! **Hurry and sign up Today!**

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**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.

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