

# 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 ever-widening community through active and loving ministry.

**Come visit us! Worship is at 10 am.**



## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Child of God,

"How important is worship?"

There is a little game that you can play to get underneath the meaning of a sentence or question. You play by accentuating a **different** word in the **same** sentence. Have you ever played that game? It goes like this. One could ask: "**How** important is worship?" Or: "How **important** is worship?" Or: "How important **is** worship?" Or: "How important is **worship**?"

Start by centering your spirit and listen carefully to the emotional impact of the sentence. By accentuating each word, you are able to get in touch with all the levels of meaning that are embedded in this very important question. "How" is a question word; it's an interrogative. It means: 'for what reason' or 'to what extent'. "Important" means 'of great significance' or 'of great consequence'. It has synonyms like: 'significant', 'vital', and 'imperative'. "Is" comes from the verb "to be" and has a variety of meanings largely dependent upon the sentence itself. When looking at our sentence where one word is an adjective and the other word is a noun, the word "is" acts very much like the equal sign found in mathematics.

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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 12<sup>th</sup> Century Church in Hampshire, England

## Upcoming Events

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

CityReach Overnight in Boston (p. 5)

**Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**

All Boards Meeting (p. 7)

**Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**

Fun Raising Committee Meeting (p. 7)

**Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**

All Committees Meeting (p. 7)

**Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**

Youth Group – Concert, Tsongas Arena (p. 4)

**Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Holy Friday Service (p. 6)

**Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**

Horton Center (p. 5)



### Continued from Page 1:

“Important” = “worship”. And lastly, what exactly is “worship”? Most of the definitions include some form of the words “honor”, “reverence”, and “adore”. Worship is an act of love, and in the Christian community, this love is for our God.

By playing this game we can then ask ourselves other questions: “To what extent do we demonstrate with great significance the adoration and love we have for our God?”

Or “for what great significance equals our communal reverence of God?” These are all important questions. Each sentiment is significant and meaningful. What is equally significant is that in a week consisting of 7 days, and 168 hours, we have only one opportunity to come together in this life-giving, spirit-sustaining, communal act of adoration. One out of 168: even in these days of time constraints and busy schedules one out of 168 doesn’t seem too much to ask.

And there is more. John Calvin wrote, “To know God is to be changed by God; true knowledge of God leads to worship.” The future of the Church is tied to worship. And when we look at history, there are examples when worship dwindled and the Christian community died. Around the year 1510, a delegation of Christians from Sudan, which had been recently overrun by non-Christian influence, went to the Christian Ethiopian court and begged the emperor to send them bishops and priests.

The Christians that remained in Sudan needed clergy to lead worship, administer the sacraments, and teach the people. But the emperor refused, sending them away empty-handed. With no Christian worship, within



100 years Christianity in Sudan became extinct and forgotten until the twentieth century. That historical moment is a useful example for Christians today.

Our very own mission statement lists “worship” as the number one imperative. “We are a community of faith, built upon a firm foundation of worship, prayer and education.” Let us live into this mission, coming together regularly for what our ancestors called the “sweet hour of prayer”. During Lent, Pastor Heidi and I are offering a second hour of worship on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. We also offer a Communion service every Thursday at 12:15.

Come Child of God – for all things are ready!

See you in worship!

*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!

## CE News from Pastor Heidi

Beloved of God,

It is hard to believe that I've been your CE Director now for over 4 weeks! In some ways I feel like I've just begun, and in others it seems as if I've already been here for a while. Many thanks to all of you who have stopped in, reached out, and otherwise given me such a warm welcome. So many of you have the gift of hospitality, and I am grateful you've shown God's love to me in that way. It's been especially fun to get to know the parents, kids, and teens of First Parish.

Scripture tells us: Behold! I am doing a new thing. And indeed, we are building a new ministry together. As we begin our Lenten journey together, I am dreaming and scheming with God about what I might be called to as your CE Director in this wilderness time.

One of the things the CE Board and I have a lot of energy around is connecting with and capturing our folks who are in the 18-30 age bracket who are seeking fellowship with other people in their age group. Have you graduated from high school? Are you a recent college grad? Are you a young professional working in the world? Were you a part of our youth programming at one time, but are wondering if there's still a place for you at First Parish?

Are you an 18-30 year old of any variety?  
I want to hear from all of you!

Still wondering if you are welcome, or if I mean you? Hear now these words from my friend and former pastor, Rev. Quinn Caldwell:

"You are welcome here if you are married, or if you are single, *for we will partner with you.*"

You are welcome here if you are a parent, or the child of one, *for we will be a family to you.*

You are welcome here if you know what you believe, and you are welcome if you have no idea what to believe, *for we will share our faith.*

You are welcome here if you love people whose bodies look like yours, or if you love people whose bodies are different, *for here, we are all the body of Christ.*

You are welcome here if your people are from this place, or from far away, *for our God is both here and everywhere.*

You are welcome here if you are a saint, or a sinner, *for God knows we are all of us both.*

No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey, *you are welcome here."*

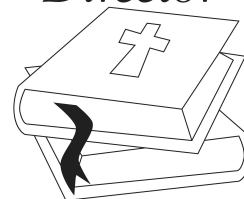
Over the next few weeks, I will be reaching out to folks whose contact information I have directly to invite you to join in fellowship with us. But if you are even a little bit interested, I want to hear from you! Stay tuned for a kickoff event sometime during Lent.

Meanwhile, see the CE and Youth Ministry notes for updates on Spark, and the Youth Group. I would be remiss if I did not pause for a moment to extend a special thank you to: Lianne Deranian and the CE Board, Matt and Kerri Simpson for their leadership of our amazing youth group, the awesome youth of the church, and Pastor Deborah and the entire staff team. We have some true saints of God among our church. We are blessed.

Blessings,

*Pastor Heidi*

**Christian  
Education  
Director**



## Christian Education Updates

### Become a Spark Leader!

Wondering what the kids are up to in Sunday School? Want to have a lot of fun, and hang out with some of the most fun people in church? Consider signing up to be a workshop leader for our Spark curriculum! We make it easy and enjoyable. Please see Pastor Heidi or Lianne Deranian, or email [pastorheidiheath@gmail.com](mailto:pastorheidiheath@gmail.com) if interested.



### Youth Events

**March 1st:** Youth Group Game Night at the Aurora Senior Center - Meet at FPC at 6pm

**March 6-7th:** City Reach

**March 8th:** Jewelry Making Night in Luke

**March 15th:** Tentative – Night with Salem YG

**March 20th:** Concert,  
Tsongas Arena  
(no YG on the 22nd)

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

Spark workshops are off and running for the month of March! We've moved into a new unit on Holy Week and Easter. Please take special note of our March 22nd lesson where Pastor Heidi will teach us a little about Palm Sunday, and the next week we'll get to actually act it out as part of worship!

With gratitude as always to our workshop leaders from the previous unit.

We couldn't do this without you.

<b>SESSION 5:</b>  <b>HOLY WEEK &amp; EASTER</b>  <b>MATTHEW 21:1-11, 27:32-66, 28:1-10</b>	Week 1 (3/1)	Cooking	Games
	Week 2 (3/8)	Games	Cooking
	Week 3 (3/15)	Science	Art
	Week 4 (3/22)	Palm Sunday	All Ages Together!
	Week 5 (3/29)	Art	Science
	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).

Until the day of the event, the youth will be collecting donations to bring with us. Due to snow, we are lacking in donations. We are looking specifically for:

### **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 [rharden@comcast.net](mailto:rharden@comcast.net)).

Thanks!

Your Youth Ministry Committee

Harry Handy, Reni Harnden, Jack Leonhard, Nancy Magee, Mark Pingree, Paula Robinson, Diana Sweeny, Bart Wetherbee

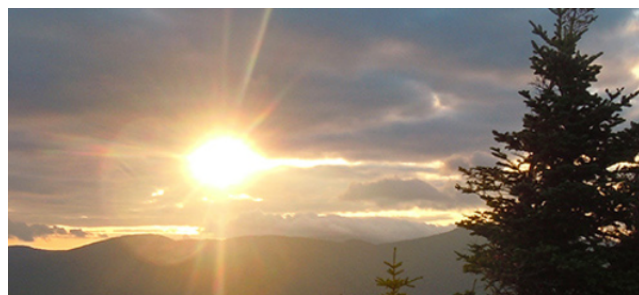
## Registration Has Begun for Horton Center

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 [www.hortoncenter.org](http://www.hortoncenter.org). 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>.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>LENTEN PRACTICES CALENDAR FOR FAMILIES 2015</b>			<b>FEBRUARY 18</b> Ash Wednesday [P] HOPE	<b>FEBRUARY 19</b> [F] No TV or screens today (except for homework)	<b>FEBRUARY 20</b> [S] Make a card for someone who needs extra love	<b>FEBRUARY 21</b> [P] GIVING
<b>FEBRUARY 22</b> [F] No snacks between meals today	<b>FEBRUARY 23</b> [S] Do something kind for a neighbor.	<b>FEBRUARY 24</b> [P] GRATITUDE	<b>FEBRUARY 25</b> [F] Only water to drink today	<b>FEBRUARY 26</b> [S] Buy or find 5+ items for a food bank. (Deliver on March 28)	<b>FEBRUARY 27</b> [P] JESUS	<b>FEBRUARY 28</b> [F] Eat very simple meals for breakfast, lunch, & dinner.
<b>MARCH 1</b> [S] Pick up litter outside your house or at a park.	<b>MARCH 2</b> [P] SPIRIT	<b>MARCH 3</b> [F] Do not use toys that require batteries or electricity	<b>MARCH 4</b> [S] Call someone and tell them you are thinking of them today.	<b>MARCH 5</b> [P] HOLY	<b>MARCH 6</b> [F] Do not listen to music in the car.	<b>MARCH 7</b> [S] Take a treat or meal to someone
<b>MARCH 8</b> [P] PATIENCE	<b>MARCH 9</b> [F] No desserts or treats today	<b>MARCH 10</b> [S] Say something nice about each person in your family.	<b>MARCH 11</b> [P] DESERT	<b>MARCH 12</b> [F] No TV or screens today (except for homework)	<b>MARCH 13</b> [S] Invite someone to your house for dinner.	<b>MARCH 14</b> [P] JOURNEY
<b>MARCH 15</b> [F] No snacks between meals today	<b>MARCH 16</b> [S] Give someone real or paper flowers.	<b>MARCH 17</b> [P] SERVICE	<b>MARCH 18</b> [F] Only water to drink today	<b>MARCH 19</b> [S] Draw a picture for someone and mail it.	<b>MARCH 20</b> [P] FRIENDSHIP	<b>MARCH 21</b> [F] Eat very simple meals for breakfast, lunch, & dinner.
<b>MARCH 22</b> [S] Write someone a thank you note	<b>MARCH 23</b> [P] GOD	<b>MARCH 24</b> [F] Do not use toys that require batteries or electricity	<b>MARCH 25</b> [S] Learn something about another country or culture	<b>MARCH 26</b> [P] MERCY	<b>MARCH 27</b> [F] Do not listen to music in the car.	<b>MARCH 28</b> [S] Deliver your food bank items
<b>MARCH 29</b> [P] PEACE	<b>MARCH 30</b> [F] No desserts or treats today	<b>MARCH 31</b> [S] Buy dog or cat food for an animal shelter (deliver Sat.)	<b>APRIL 1</b> [P] KINDNESS	<b>APRIL 2</b> [F] No TV or screens today (except for homework)	<b>APRIL 3</b> [S] Plant a tree or flowers	<b>APRIL 4</b> [S] Deliver animal items.
<b>APRIL 5</b> Easter! [P] RESURRECTION	These activities are based around the traditional "3 Pillars" of Lent. Prayer [P], Fasting [F] and Almsgiving/Service [S]. The pillars are rotated throughout lent with simple activities. On the prayer days, use the word provided to inspire a prayer you write, draw, or sing. All of the activities are suggestions. Modify them for your own family! © Traci Smith 2015 www.traci-smith.com					

**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.

**Holy Friday Service:** We will participate in the Derry Ecumenical Holy Friday Service on April 3, 2015. Due to circumstances we begin this year at First Parish sanctuary at 1:00 – We will drive to Church of the Transfiguration for 1:45. We will proceed by car or on foot to St. Mark's for a 2:30 service, and we conclude at St. Thomas Aquinas for Stations of the Cross.

## Take Note: March Meeting Dates

**March 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>:** We had to cancel the Board and Committee meetings due to snow last month, so we will be using the March schedule as our first meeting dates. All Boards will meet March 8<sup>th</sup>.

At 11:30 there will be a potluck lunch. Boards will eat lunch at their respective tables and talk informally about their agendas. Clean up will start at noon – please take all your dishes to the window and wipe your tables clean. Committees will clean up on Board Sundays (and vice versa). At 12:10, each Board will convene the formal conversation in the assigned rooms. Meetings will be concluded at 1:15. At 1:20, Boards will reconvene in Currier for organized sharing. All members and friends of FPC are invited. At 1:50 we will conclude and break down Currier. All Committees will follow this same schedule on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**March 10<sup>th</sup>:** The first meeting for the Fun Raising Committee was held February 22. The second meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., 1 Dustin Ave, Derry, NH. If you have any questions, please contact Bill Burke at 603-490-5386.

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## Who's Who at First Parish: Rev. James MacGregor

Believe it or not, spring is coming up! In recognition of the fact that First Parish Church often remembers its founders in April, this month's feature focuses on an important figure in our church's history.

Reverend James MacGregor (1677-1735) was the first pastor of First Parish Church. Born in Ireland in 1677, he lived for a time in Scotland, but moved to Ireland with other Presbyterians to pursue religious freedom. After experiencing years of conflict with the English, he and several families left for New England in 1718. Once they arrived in Boston, the settlers dispersed throughout the colony. MacGregor spent the winter in Dracut, Massachusetts. By spring 1719, 16 families settled in Nutfield (the area that eventually became Londonderry, Derry, Windham, and parts of Manchester).

Rev. MacGregor joined the Nutfield settlers and served as their minister. He preached the first sermon under an oak tree by Beaver Lake on April 12, 1719. MacGregor was pastor for 11 years, until 1729.

- Submitted by Nancy Heywood for the Historical Preservation Committee

## Nominating Committee

And then there were Just “5” ☺...The Nominating Committee is happy to present an almost full set of Boards and Committees! There are just (5) 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.

### VACANCIES FOR 2015

Board/Committee	# of Vacancies	Meeting Time	Chairperson(s)
Board of Christian Education	1	1st Thurs. @ 7p	Lianne Deranian/Janet Wetherbee
Stewardship Board	1	1st Thurs. @ 7p	Fran Berube/Margie Ives
Nominating Committee	1	2nd Sun. @ 7:30a	Carl Hepworth
Library Committee	2		

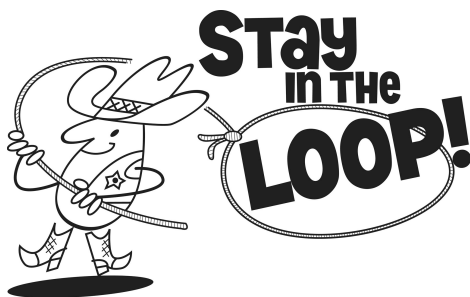
It is exciting to see so many fresh faces on our Boards and Committees. It is a time of exciting growth and renewal for our church. Please consider taking part in that excitement!

**Please contact any member of the Nominating Committee if you can help in these positions. We encourage “ad hoc” members!**

Yours always in Nominating Committee Faith,

Bill Armstrong (432-5446), Paul Dionne (244-8360), Carl Hepworth (434-2053),  
Gail Hepworth (434-2053), Joe Merrill (247-3051)

## Council News



This month, be on the lookout for a brand new “Know Who is Representing You” bulletin outside of the nursery. In an effort to improve and facilitate communications among our congregation, we will be implementing this bulletin, which allows everyone to review Board meeting minutes and members of each, so that we are all knowledgeable and involved in the life of our church.

We strongly welcome anyone to reach out to our various Board members with any concerns, comments or suggestions you may have regarding happenings in the First Parish community.

We are hopeful to expand this to include our various Committees and Members at a later date.



## Stewardship Board

### Stewardship...Plan by Design

The earth is a living thing, oh yes indeed, alive by design the earth was made to glorify and worship the Lord...This is not merely some ancient misguided folklore or notion...The air, the lungs we use to breath...The water is teeming with life beneath its depths...The land itself is a fertile field, a place where all life does grow...The Lord has graciously placed His seed of the Spirit upon us, so that all of man may know that all of this wonder, this wonder of life is by His design...That by Jesus' death and resurrected life we may have the gift of this continuous miracle...All I ask is that you have a deep sincere heart, ears to hear and a mind to follow instructions that our Heavenly Father sets before us...Be good and kind to the land; the beasts, the fishes of the water and the creatures and the birds of the air...Don't throw trash upon the land or pollute the air...Be kind to one another and let them know you really care!...Look deep inside yourself to make sure that there is a personal heaven inside your being so that one day soon, we can be beside our King that will come back to take up the Lordship of His lands...So what kind of stewards are we?...God does take an interest in these things!...

*The Lord had a plan, He knew what was needed for the earth, for us! What could we do for Him?*

Peace my friends from Your Stewardship Board:

Carl Hepworth, Margie Ives, John Bartel, Sue Weaver, Diana Roman, Joyce Pope, Glenn Pope and Fran Berube

## Thrive on a Tithe 2015!

We at First Parish are thriving! To thrive: to flourish, prosper, burgeon, bloom, blossom, mushroom, do well, advance, succeed! We have more people on Sunday morning – when the weather cooperates! We have fewer vacancies on Boards and Committees! We have an amazing CE Director! We have more children in Sunday school classes! We have a very active youth group!

We at First Parish look to the Bible for instruction. The ancient "tithe" means 10% off the top. It wasn't a request. It was understood.

Last year the Stewardship Board challenged us to donate 10% of our tax refund to First Parish. They called it "thrive on a tithe". We received hundreds of dollars in this effort, which is yet another contributing factor to us ending 2014 in the black. Let's do it again. When you receive your tax refund, will you consider taking 10% off the top and add it to your regular pledge or gift? God loves a cheerful giver!

We thank you in advance for prayerfully considering your financial gift to our precious mission called First Parish.

- Your Stewardship Board

## Around Our Church

### Family Promise Update

#### Homeless Families Need Your Help, April 5-12

The next week that we will co-host for Family Promise, the program that provides food and shelter to homeless families in Greater Rockingham County through 10 area churches, is April 5-12. We are in great need of volunteers from First Parish, because People's United Methodist, the host church that we support, is struggling. They only have 45 members, and without enough support from us and another support church, they may have to drop out. So please call Randy Brown at 603-612-0489 or email at [suerandybrown@gmail.com](mailto:suerandybrown@gmail.com) for more information or to volunteer to make and deliver a dinner (for up to 14 people; current info on guest families will be provided the week prior to hosting), to host the families (i.e., being present at the Center between 7-9 pm any evening), or to spend the night there (9 pm- 7:30 am). The hosting takes place at the Calvary Baptist Church, just a mile down the road from our own church. Thanks for your support; while the program is on very solid footing financially, your time is greatly needed.

- Submitted by Randy Brown

### Keeping In Touch (K.I.T.)

At our February meeting, we had a presentation from the Derry Humane Society. Three people came, Marty and Paula Dunlavey and Marilyn Bartnicki. They brought Willow, a mixed hound rescue dog adopted by Marty and Paula. Willow went round and round in MacGregor looking at people so naturally she got many loving pettings. The contact number for the Humane Society is 434-1512. They appreciate donations and willing foster homes. At the current time there are 6 foster homes. Marty and Paula currently have 2 birds, 2 cats with a 3rd coming and 2 dogs. You can understand their need for more foster homes! We applaud their efforts. They reformed their organization after the death of the former Chair, Barbara McCarthy. Heidi Heath will be our guest speaker at the March 11 meeting. Heidi is our new Christian Education Director. Remember to bring your lunch. We prepare the coffee, tea and refreshments.

### Recipe Correction

Please note the following correction to Marge Palmer's Banana Bread recipe on p. 78 of the FPC Cookbook:

**Add four Tablespoons of sour milk**

### Ecumenical Prayer and Communion

Need a midweek pick-me-up - a way to get through the rest of the workday and connect with God? Gather with us each Thursday at 12:15 p.m. in A/B for prayer and communion!



Dear Friends,

On Friday, March 20 through Monday, March 23, 2015, a team of women leaders and eight incarcerated women will gather for the third **N.H. Women's Kairos Inside Weekend, KI #3, in Goffstown, NH.**

We will be working together to begin to heal and celebrate God's love and forgiveness. During the weekend one of the many gifts that the guests receive comes in the form of **Agape**. Kairos is a ministry of passing on the love of God, and **Agape** plays a major role in that endeavor.

**Agape** is the love of God, delivered by God's people. All the gifts of **Agape** are tangible examples of His love, passed on by the family of God.

It is important to note: The power of those gifts of **Agape** does not come from the *items* we call **Agape**. The power comes from the *spiritual significance* behind the gifts.

**Prayer** – The Foundation of **Agape** is the starting point for unleashing the power of **Agape**. One of the most powerful visuals for the Guests is the **Agape Prayer Chain**. Here's how it works:

You need only take one moment out of the weekend to pray for our guests. If you choose to pray more than once, AWESOME! But please remember, *don't make it a burden*, as prayer is a form of **Agape**, and **Agape** is the greatest gift of all! "**Agape**, as expounded on by Jesus, is a form of love which is both unconditional and voluntary". Please see me to sign up. Once you have signed up, your name will be transferred onto a link of a prayer chain next to the time you signed up for. This chain is assembled by the team (on very colorful paper) and displayed throughout the weekend in the halls of the prison meeting room. It can be an emotional time for our guests, as they feel that people and God have given up on them. BUT, when they see this colorful chain displayed with people praying for them (people that don't even know them), they are touched very deeply and in many instances feel a sense of peace and hope about themselves.

**Posters – We Are Not Alone.** Posters put a face on the Body of Christ. Perhaps for the first time ever, men and women will see the Body of Christ through the tangible display of posters. I would invite you to be a part of stepping into the prison through your expression of Christ's love. I have coloring templates and colorful posters for you to color and to sign. Pass them onto family members and others who may want to pass their love onto someone inside the walls. Once you have completed your posters, please return them to me or leave them in the box in the office. I will bring them into the prison with me and throughout the weekend, they will be displayed on the walls of the meeting room and chapel for the inmates to see. Due to the strict rules of the institution, there are some guidelines to follow when preparing these posters. I will have these available with the posters.

Cont. on Page 12...

**Love Letters from God** – You may choose to write a personal note or “love letter from God” to one of our guests. God uses the hands and hearts of His people to transcribe His messages of love to a letter for the residents. Remember, it is not OUR letter, but a simple, profound message of love and hope that comes straight from God. During the weekend, each guest receives a special gift of “Love Letters”. They are allowed to keep these letters. They should be straight forward. They love the little messages from children, especially. Something like **“God loves you very much and so do I.. Love, Charlie, Age 9”** is excellent! Remember, no last names and no details...The letters can be written on stationery or cards, but no envelopes, please. No staples, glue or sparkles. Keep it simple!

**Financial Support** - It is the responsibility of our team to raise the funds needed for our weekend. Costs for our weekend includes meals (we have an outside team that prepares them), room and board (we are staying a retreat center in Manchester), and other miscellaneous supplies like paper, pens and posters.

We take the cost of the **Kairos** and divide it by the number of team members, resident servants and participants. The average cost is \$125 per team member and \$125 per resident. This weekend, there are no costs for the residents, so we are asking \$130 for the team for accommodations and supplies. If you want to donate in this manner, please contact me directly so I can provide you with the specifics.

If you are interested in being part of the gift of Agape or if you want to know more about the KAIROS Ministry, please give me a call (603) 965-5480 or send me an email at [angel369@comcast.net](mailto:angel369@comcast.net). On behalf of Women's KI Goffstown #3, Thank You!

Peace & God Bless,  
Diana Sweeney

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## Scout Section

February was a busy month for Troop and Pack 405! We started out the month at Camp Carpenter finishing up the Klondike Derby with a Winter camping experience. Scouts Scott Masessa and Colin Whitney earned 37 degrees of frost as the temperature fell to -5 degrees overnight. Sunday, February 8th was Scout Sunday and the troop and pack participated with enthusiasm and reverence. The 2015 Merit Badge Workshop is in full swing at St. Thomas with the boys joining several local units to work on advancement. Pack 405 held their Blue and Gold banquet on Saturday, February 14th with dozens of cubs and their families in attendance along with scouts and leaders from the troop to welcome the six newest scouts as they crossed over to Troop 405. Monday, February 16th, saw the troop welcome its newest members as we rolled out our 2015 summer camp plans which includes a new option this year for the boys to attend either Hidden Valley or Camp Bell. We also held Order of the Arrow elections (OA is the national honor society of scouting) and as a result we will be sending four scouts: Josh MacCuish, Josh Overton, Scott Masessa, and Colin Whitney to their Ordeal this year. As the snow continues to pile up and the boys head into school vacation week, the troop is gearing up for Winter Carnival at Camp Carpenter, February 28th where some of the boys will take the challenge to spend another night in the snow! Coming up in March, both the Troop and the Pack will hold their Friends of Scouting nights and the troop is gearing up for its Spring Equinox Hike which starts at the Highland Center at Crawford Notch and heads up one of the 4000 footers: Mt. Pierce, Mt. Field, Mt. Jackson, Mt. Webster, or Mt. Willey and we'll have a shorted day hike option to Mt. Willard.

## In the Community

### Sonshine Soup Kitchen

Please remember to donate food to the soup kitchen at the First Baptist Church and to the Food Pantry at the Baptist Church. There are two boxes underneath the desk in the Currier hallway as you enter Currier from the parking lot. We prepared dinner in February and will be on again April 27. The FPC SSK dinner team would like more volunteers to help so give us a call. Please contact Margie Ives for more information at 434-6539.

### Community Wellness at Parkland

#### AARP – Driver Refresher Course

*April 11 & 12, 9 am-1 pm – Dick Cote, AARP Nutfield Building - Parkland Medical Center Campus 44 Birch Street, 102B – Entrance C (rear of building) Derry, NH*

Designed to help participants understand the effects of aging on driving; learning driving strategies that take into account the effects of aging.

\$12 for AARP members, \$14 non-members.

**To register, call Consult-A-Nurse at 1-877-642-2362 or visit [parklandmedicalcenter.com](http://parklandmedicalcenter.com).**

### Memorial Fundraiser & Banquet

There will be a Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser & Banquet held in honor of Kayla Bertolami on Friday, March 13 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).

### Friday March 6<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 p.m. – Nutfield Parents Night Out & Fundraiser!

Snack, sip & socialize at You're an Artist, 16 Manning St., #108, Derry.

Bring your friends and family! \$40 per person includes all supplies. Reserve your canvas at: [tinyurl.com/nutfieldpaintnight](http://tinyurl.com/nutfieldpaintnight)





## UCC News

**At the core of our faith, the UCC is encompassed in these 10 powerful statements:**



- **Be the Church.**
- **Protect the environment.**
- **Care for the poor.**
- **Embrace diversity.**
- **Reject racism.**
- **Forgive often.**
- **Love God.**
- **Fight for the powerless.**
- **Share earthly and spiritual resources.**
- **Enjoy this life.**

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## One Great Hour of Sharing



When the early followers of Jesus suffered a famine in Jerusalem, the Apostle Paul organized an appeal to respond to their needs. Christian communities in distant places contributed to this ecumenical offering, just as we do all these centuries later through One Great Hour of Sharing.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering reaches those near and far, sometimes changing the life of someone in distress in your own community, while at other times impacting the lives of those we may never meet. God provides the resources so that we can give back.

Our abundance becomes their need and their need becomes our abundance. What if we all lived as if this is our call? We could change the world. Will you give to One Great Hour?

Envelopes will be available March 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in the pews during worship.

## Emergency Preparedness

With the second-snowiest winter on record, we're not out of the woods just yet – there is still the possibility of a snowstorm (although we hope not), and once spring comes, so do large thunderstorms and hurricanes. In order to stay as safe as possible during times of bad weather, below is a list of items to always ensure you have in your home and vehicle.

### Home:

- Landline phone (cable phones have a limited battery backup and cell phones lose their charge)
- Battery powered radio
- Candles, matches in waterproof container, batteries, flashlights
- Drinking water for 3 days, include pets, 1 gallon per person per day
- Stock non-perishable food, include pets
- Medication records for you and your pets such as proof of vaccinations
- First aid kit, waterproofed
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask, plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter in place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food
- Local maps
- Instant formula and diapers for those will small children
- Change of clothing



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## Safe Church

Perhaps you've heard of safe church, perhaps you haven't. Perhaps you've heard of safe church, but don't know what it is? Perhaps you've heard of safe church, but not in a while! Perhaps you have no idea what I am talking about. Safe church policy is alive and well at First Parish. Keep your ear to the ground for more info this spring.

- Pastor Heidi



## Scripture Readings

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

### **March 1<sup>st</sup> – Second Sunday in Lent**

Gospel of Mark: Chapter 5  
Reader's Theatre

### **March 8<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday in Lent**

Gospel of Mark: Chapter 7  
Reader's Theatre

### **March 15<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Gospel of Mark: Chapter 9  
Reader's Theatre

### **March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Gospel of Mark: Chapter 12  
Reader's Theatre

### **March 29<sup>th</sup> – Sixth Sunday in Lent (Palm Sunday)**

Gospel of Mark: Chapter 14  
Reader's Theatre

## Worship Leadership

### **Deacons & Lay Readers**

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

Brian Williams and Reni Harnden

**March 1<sup>st</sup>:** Pastor Heidi

**March 8<sup>th</sup>:** Julie Turner

**March 15<sup>th</sup>:** Reni Harnden

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Marge Palmer

**March 29<sup>th</sup>:** Cyndi Gray

### **Ushers & Greeters**

**Weekly Usher** – Michael Bryan

**March 1<sup>st</sup>:** Ushers: Diaconate  
Greeter: Verna Elwell

**March 8<sup>th</sup>:** Ushers: Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell  
Rod and Sue Hunt  
Greeter: Betsy McCall

**March 15<sup>th</sup>:** Ushers: Ross and Linda Webber  
Kevin and Diane Gordon  
Greeter: Ruth Honnors

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Ushers: Ken Gould, Bill Burke  
Dee Deranian, Shirley Dickason  
Greeter: Dave and Lorie McGrath

**March 29<sup>th</sup>:** Ushers: Stanley and Holly Gorgol  
Tom & Andrea Cooper  
Greeter: Bill Burke

### **Nursing Home Friends**

Patricia Rankin & Theo Johnson,  
Hillsborough Country Nursing Home  
Phil Guertin,  
Pleasant Valley Nursing Home

## March 2015 Calendar

FPC officeadmin, Contacts, First Parish Church UCC, Holidays in United States, Nutfield, Other Groups

Mar 2015 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7am - Best Breakfast ~ 9am - Sr. Choir 10am - Sun. Sch. 10am - Worship ~ 11:15am - Handchime 6pm - Youth Group ~	7pm - Trp 405 ~ Currier 7pm - Trp 405 Board of 7pm - Trp405 PLC ~	9:15am - Nutfield Gym 12pm - Ecumenical 4pm - GS Trp 6:15pm - GS 6:30pm - AA ~ Library 7pm - OA ~ A/B	6pm - GS Trp13152 ~ 6pm - Supper, Lenten ~ 6:30pm - Deacons ~ 7pm - Service, Lenten	12:15pm - Communion 6:15pm - Sacred Dance 6:30pm - Currier ~ Cub 7pm - CE ~ CE Office 7pm - Sr. Choir ~ Music 7pm - Stewardship ~	7pm - AA Serenity 9:30pm - AA Fri Night	9am - Next Charter 10am - Heart Saver 7:30pm - AA ~ Currier
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Daylight Saving Time 7am - Best Breakfast ~ 9am - Sr. Choir 10am - Sun. Sch. 10am - Worship ~ 11:15am - Handchime 12pm - Boards Mtg. ~ 6pm - Youth Group ~	7pm - Trp 405 ~ Currier 7pm - Trp 405 Board of	4pm - GS Trp 6:15pm - GS 6:30pm - AA ~ Library 6:30pm - Currier~GS 7pm - OA ~ A/B	12:30pm - K.I.T. ~ 6pm - GS Trp13152 ~ 6pm - Supper, Lenten ~ 7pm - Service, Lenten	12:15pm - Communion 6:15pm - Sacred Dance 6:30pm - Cub Pck405 ~ 7pm - Sr. Choir ~ Music	1pm - Nutfield Family 7pm - AA Serenity 9:30pm - AA Fri Night	2:30pm - Tri-Ess ~ 7:30pm - AA ~ Currier
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
7am - Best Breakfast ~ 9am - Sr. Choir 10am - Sun. Sch. 10am - Worship ~ 11:15am - Handchime 12pm - Committees 6pm - Youth Group ~	7pm - Trp 405 ~ Currier 7pm - Trp 405 Board of 7pm - Trp405 PLC ~	10am - Nutfield Gym ~ 4pm - GS Trp 6:15pm - GS 6:30pm - AA ~ Library 7pm - OA ~ A/B 7pm - Trp 405 Comm.	6pm - GS Trp13152 ~ 6pm - Supper, Lenten ~ 7pm - Cub Pck405 7pm - Service, Lenten	12:15pm - Communion 6:15pm - Sacred Dance 6:30pm - Cub Pck405 ~ 7pm - Council ~ Cook 7pm - Sr. Choir ~ Music	7pm - AA Serenity 9:30pm - AA Fri Night	10am - Heart Saver 7:30pm - AA ~ Currier
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
7am - Best Breakfast ~ 9am - Sr. Choir 10am - Sun. Sch. 10am - Worship ~ 11:15am - Handchime 6pm - Youth Group ~	7pm - Trp 405 ~ Currier 7pm - Trp 405 Board of	4pm - GS Trp 6:15pm - GS 6:30pm - AA ~ Library 6:30pm - Currier~GS 7pm - OA ~ A/B	6pm - GS Trp13152 ~ 6pm - Supper, Lenten ~ 7pm - Service, Lenten	12:15pm - Communion 6:15pm - Sacred Dance 6:30pm - Currier ~ Cub 7pm - PPRC ~ Offsite 7pm - Sr. Choir ~ Music	5pm - Spaghetti 7pm - AA Serenity 9:30pm - AA Fri Night	8am - Area Assembly ~ 7:30pm - AA ~ Currier
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
7am - Best Breakfast ~ 9am - Sr. Choir 10am - Sun. Sch. 10am - Worship ~ 11:15am - Handchime 6pm - Youth Group ~	7pm - Trp 405 ~ Currier 7pm - Trp 405 Court of	4pm - GS Trp 6:15pm - GS 6:30pm - AA ~ Library 7pm - OA ~ A/B	6pm - GS Trp13152 ~ 6:30pm - Deacons ~	12:15pm - Communion 6:30pm - Cub Pck405 ~ 7pm - Maundy Service 7pm - Sr. Choir ~ Music	1pm - Holy Friday 7pm - AA Serenity 9:30pm - AA Fri Night	7:30pm - AA ~ Currier

# First Parish Congregational Church, UCC

## 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

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## Check us out on the web:

[www.fpc-ucc.org](http://www.fpc-ucc.org)

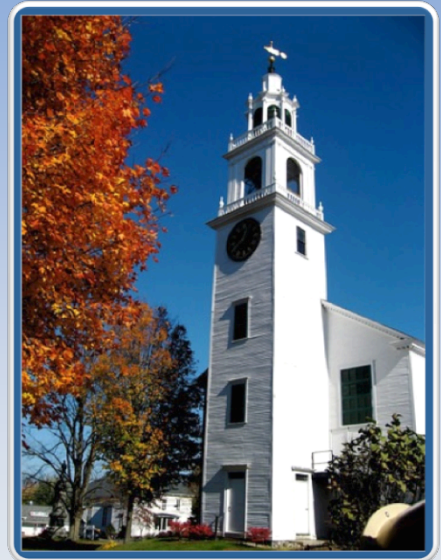
## Email our office manager, Lindsey Roman:

[officemgr@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:officemgr@fpc-ucc.org)

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

[pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org)

Call our office: 603-434-0628



First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
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