



Doris Merrill

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
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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 8, 2015 The Third Sunday in 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. 211

“Lord, Who Throughout These 40 Days”

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God.
The firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.

**All: Let us celebrate the steadfast love of God, our Creator.
Surely God is faithful to all who live in covenant.**

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

All-wise and all-loving God, we are drawn together in this place because all our knowledge and discernment is not enough to give meaning to our lives. All the pieces of our busy days need a center, and we have come to see that center in the “foolishness” of the cross. There, Love went the distance for us. There, the paths of service were lifted up above our passion for personal gain. We are frightened by what you might ask of us, but we long for wholeness only you can offer. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

*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.

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

Dave McGrath

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. 195

"The Old Rugged Cross"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

NEW TESTAMENT READING The Gospel of Mark: Chapter 7 - READER'S THEATRE

Pastor Deborah; Julie Turner; Dave McGrath; Dee Deranian; Carl Hepworth; Rebekah Kersten

INTERACTIVE REFLECTION – To consider: Traditions of Elders vs. Honoring God; What defiles?; Jesus confronts the "teachers" and instructs the people; Who is healed in this section?

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Lord of the Dance"

Carter, arr. Rutter

WE RESPOND WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP AND OUR PRAYERS

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH – Who is Augusta Fells Savage?

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Don't Be Afraid"

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

The commandments invite us to a Sabbath time in which we give ourselves completely to the worship of God. The gifts we bring are important, but even more, we are invited to commit ourselves to God's foolishness, to the way of love.

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

We bring our offerings, O God, not to buy your favor, but to express our gratitude, not to support an institution, but to further your mission. We support the church in its efforts to challenge the false wisdom that pervades our culture. We seek to make this community of faith a center of values that are consistent with your will. May we be zealous in your service, willing to sacrifice for love's sake, and eager to embrace your word in our everyday living. Amen.

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

*HYMN NO. 543

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

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
Julie Turner
Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell
Rod and Suzanne Hunt
Michael Bryan
Shirley Dickason
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
Rev. Chester R. Ham
Susan Handy
Jeff DeLangie
Lindsey Roman
Heidi Heath

First Parish Activity Calendar

Sunday, March 8

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

Monday, March 9

7:00pm Fun Raising Committee ~ Offsite
7:00pm Building Advisory Committee ~ Cook
7:00pm Trp 405 Meeting ~ Currier
7:00pm Trp 405 Board of Review ~ A/B

Tuesday, March 10

4:00pm GS Troop 20993 ~ Currier
6:15pm GS Troop 20321 ~ Luke
6:30pm GS 20570/BSA Venture 570 ~
Currier
6:30pm Deacons ~ Cook
6:30pm AA ~ Library
7:00pm OA ~ A/B

Wednesday, March 11

12:30pm K.I.T. ~ MacGregor
6:00pm GS Troop 13152 ~ Luke
6:00pm Lenten Supper ~ Currier
7:00pm Service and Sacred Conversation ~
Currier

Thursday, March 12

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

Friday, March 13

1:00pm Nutfield Family Fun Day ~ Currier
7:00pm AA Serenity Sisters ~ A/B
9:30pm AA Fri Night Assoc. ~ A/B

Saturday, March 14

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

Sunday, March 15

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 Committees Meeting ~ Currier
6:00pm Youth Group – Meet with Salem YG
~ Offsite

First Parish Congregational Church
General Announcements
March 8, 2015 Third 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.

**Reminder: Potluck lunch at 11:30 today followed by
all Boards meeting**

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.

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: The K-5 classes continue their Spark! journey through Holy Week and Easter this week. The K-2 students will be doing Bible Games in John, and the 3-5th graders will be cooking in Currier. Each class will also be creating Agape for the Kairos prison ministry as part of their class time today. Middle and High School students remain in worship during Lent. Pastor Heidi is offsite preaching in Kittery, Maine this morning. Thanks to Janet Wetherbee for serving as superintendent!

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 or 421-2728.

Maintenance Requests: Notice something around First Parish that needs fixing? There are now maintenance request forms available in the office to fill out if so. Write down the issue and your name, put it in the Maintenance mailbox in the office, and we will ensure it gets looked into. Let's all work together to keep our sacred space looking beautiful!

Holy Friday Service Correction: In the March newsletter, the schedule for the Ecumenical Holy Friday Service was printed on page 6 and there is a correction to be made – at 2:30 pm we will be going to St. Luke's United Methodist Church, **not** St. Mark's.

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.



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. 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!**

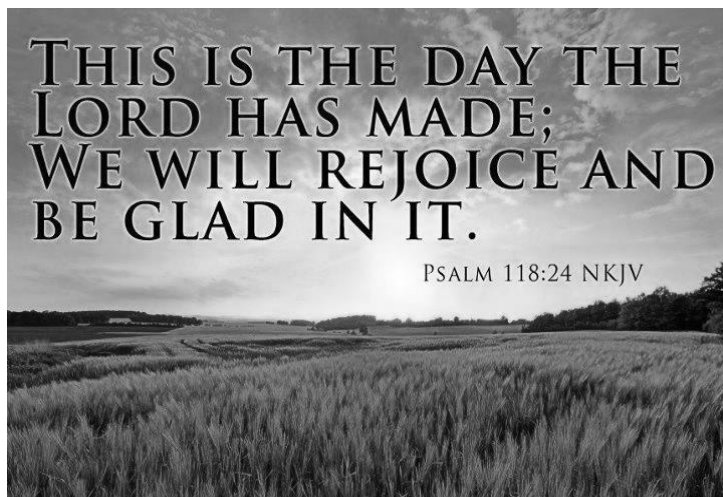
Marion Gerrish Community Center: The MGCC needs donations!!

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.



Operation: "Good Word"

On March 15 and 22, you will write **ONE GOOD WORD** –
An Affirmation; a positive sign-
On paper found in the bulletin.
The youth group will collect these
"Good Words"
at the conclusion of the service.

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Our website www.fpc-ucc.org Find us and 'friend us' on Facebook www.facebook.com/fpcucc

