



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)

## **April 26, 2015 Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**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. 455

*“I Am Thine, O Lord”*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Good Shepherd invites us to green pastures.

**All: God offers us everything we need.**

One: When we walk through shadowed valleys, God is with us.

**All: Our cups are filled to overflowing.**

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

**Good Shepherd, we meet in your name, confident that we are known and loved  
by you. Here we draw close to one another and to you, expecting to be  
empowered by fresh insights to live as your people. Help us grow in love that is  
genuine in its caring and self-sacrifice. We embrace the wholeness you offer and  
dare to risk acceptance of a healing role for ourselves and this faith community.  
Equip us for service beyond this hour of meeting. Amen.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE #756 - **Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo ; Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.**

### **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

Rev. Mollie Landers

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. 247

*"My Shepherd is the Living God"*

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

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23

(O.T. p. 553)

GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

(N.T. p. 107)

SERMON

"Pursued by God"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM

*"Shepherd Me, O God"*

Haugen

### **WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS**

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

*"Jesus, Remember Me"*

### **WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Bring your good deeds as an offering to God. Present to the Good Shepherd your firm commitment to care for others in the spirit of Christ.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*DOXOLOGY #785

**We give you but your own, what-e'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**How can we express our thanks, O God, for the one who laid down life itself in witness to your love for all people? We are aware that many have not experienced that love. We see their need, and we want to respond. Use what we offer to you to bring healing and peace to others not of this fold. Draw us together as one flock in the care of one shepherd, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

### **WE RESPOND WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP**

OUTDOOR MINISTRY MOMENT – Rev. Mollie Landers

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

\*HYMN NO. 518

*"Father Almighty Bless Us"*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*"We Will Take What You Offer"*

Bell

POSTLUDE

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

#### **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/fpcucc](https://www.facebook.com/fpcucc)



MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH  
DEACONS OF THE MONTH  
LAY READER  
USHERS

Members of the Congregation  
Pat and Dick Plouff  
Beth Hunter  
Ken Gould, Bill Burke  
Dee Deranian, Shirley Dickason  
Michael Bryan  
Lisa Hall  
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof  
Rev. Chester R. Ham  
Susan Handy  
Jeff DeLangie  
Lindsey Roman  
Heidi Heath

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

### First Parish Activity Calendar

#### Sunday, April 26

7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier  
8:00am Youth Ministry ~ A/B  
9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~  
Music Room  
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary  
11:15am Hand Chime Choir Rehearsal  
~ MacGregor  
11:30am Congregational Meeting ~ Currier  
6:00pm Youth Group ~ Luke

#### Monday, April 27

*No Events*

#### Tuesday, April 28

4:00pm GS Troop 20993 ~ Currier  
6:15pm GS Troop 20321 ~ Luke  
6:30pm AA ~ Library  
7:00pm OA ~ A/B

#### Wednesday, April 29

6:00pm GS Troop 13152 ~ Luke

#### Thursday, April 30

6:30pm CS Pack 405 ~  
A/B/John/Luke/Currier  
6:30pm Stewardship ~ Cook  
7:00pm Sr. Choir ~ Music Room

#### Friday, May 1

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

#### Saturday, May 2

9:00am FPC Car Wash Fundraiser ~  
BP in the Derry rotary  
7:30pm AA ~ Currier

#### Sunday, May 3

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  
11:30am Sacred Dancers ~ Sanctuary  
6:00pm Youth Group ~ Luke

## Scriptures – April 26

### Psalm 23

A Psalm of David.

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;

<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

### John 10.11-18

<sup>11</sup> 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'