

Peace
 Blessing
 Adoration
 Forgive
 Friends
 Hope
 Awesome
 Believe
 Compassion
 Renewal
 Inclusive
 Joy
 Understanding
 Youth
 Happiness
 Healing
 Love
 Faith
 God
 Light
 Blessings
 Courage
 Courtesy
 Gratitude
 Welcome
 Forgiveness
 Friendship
 Children
 Victory
 Taco

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
 P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road; East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
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Doris Merrill

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 5, 2015

Easter Sunday

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

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

*HYMN NO. 233

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

SACRED DANCERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

This is a great and joyous festival day.

Come to celebrate amazing good news.

We gather for worship in awe and wonder.

The tomb is empty; death is not the last word.

Sing songs of praise, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

God has answered our prayers with salvation.

Jesus Christ is alive and we, too, shall live.

Open your hearts and minds to the risen Christ.

You are greeted by name and welcomed here.

This is the day that our God has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

We greet the dawning brightness of this special day with hopes renewed. We have known grief and sorrow, loss and tears, fear and failure. Meet us here, living Christ, for we need this time of resurrection. We need your healing presence. Amen.

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

The apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth: "I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins..."

Let us bring our sins to the door of the empty tomb.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

We cannot truly worship you, loving God, until we recognize how unloving we have been. We cannot truly live until we admit the many ways we have been dwelling in self-interest. We cannot know forgiveness until we honestly face the wrong we have done and the good we have neglected... (moment of silence)

We admit before you now the anger and spite we have carried in our hearts, the doubts and fears we have allowed to paralyze us, the misplaced priorities that have led us away from your will and your way. Help us break down the barriers we have constructed so we can experience new life today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who loves wholeheartedly and does what is right finds forgiveness and acceptance. In Jesus' name, our sins are forgiven, and we are saved from our own undoing. The grace of God is extended to each of us on this day of resurrection. Praise God!

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*HYMN NO. 237

"I Come to the Garden Alone"

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 in hopes that you will talk about this sacred act of faith with them at home.

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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Christ is Risen! Alleluia!"

Hayes

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Gospel of Mark: Chapter 16

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION

WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Jesus, Remember Me"

WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

When we have seen the Christ, that makes all the difference in our view of life. Yes, a loving God, our gratitude pours forth in eagerness to share good news with the world.

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**

We consecrate all we have brought to share, that the message of today may spread through the streets and across the lands, beginning within these walls and bursting out for all the world to hear and observe. May the glad songs motivate practical ministries. As forgiven and forgiving people, we take new life into the marketplace, into our jobs and schools, into our social life and leisure hours. May all we offer express true thankfulness. Amen.

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

***HYMN NO. 245**

"The Day of Resurrection"

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"He Has the Power"

Roberts

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

"Operation Good Word" Sue Weaver, a member of the Stewardship Board, wrote to Pastor Deborah and said "There is so much negativity in the world. I have an idea that might help to contribute to positive thinking and maybe spread joy." We brainstormed and "Operation Good Word" was born! You, the members and friends wrote down one "good word". Lindsey made up the "Wordles" that are found on bulletin boards around the church. One portion of one "Good Word Wordle" is our bulletin cover today.

And the best is yet to come: you are receiving today a gift. Each person will receive a box that has been decorated by hand and prayed over. Inside each box is your very own "good word". This is your gift from God and from the Stewardship Board, reminding us that we are the hands and feet of Christ and it is up to us to share "good words" in the world. You are so loved!

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

LAY READER

USHERS

GREETER(s)

PASTOR

AFFILIATE PASTOR

MUSIC DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

CE DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR OF SACRED DANCERS

Members of the Congregation

Pat and Dick Plouff

Libby Keller

Diaconate

Michael Bryan

Verna Elwell

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Rev. Chester R. Ham

Susan Handy

Jeff DeLangie

Lindsey Roman

Heidi Heath

Darcy McGrath

Heartfelt gratitude to Diane Breeden for the amazing visual effects in our Holy Week services. This is an ongoing labor of love for Diane. Please thank her when you see her!

First Parish Activity Calendar

Sunday, April 5

EASTER SUNDAY

- 6:15am Sunrise Service ~ Parking lot in front of Forest Hill building
- 7:00am Breakfast Buffet ~ Currier
- 9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Music Room
- 10:00am Easter Sunday Service ~ Sanctuary

Monday, April 6

- 7:00pm Trp 405 Meeting ~ Currier
- 7:00pm Trp 405 Board of Review ~ A/B
- 7:00pm Trp 405 Patrol Leaders Council ~ John
- 7:00pm FunRaiser Meeting ~ 11 Dustin Ave., Derry

Tuesday, April 7

- 9:15am Nutfield Gym ~ Currier
- 4:00pm GS Troop 20993 ~ Currier
- 6:15pm GS Troop 20321 ~ Luke
- 6:30pm GS 20570/BSA Venture 570 ~ Currier
- 6:30pm AA ~ Library
- 7:00pm Missions ~ MacGregor
- 7:00pm OA ~ A/B
- 7:30pm Nutfield Board Meeting ~ Cook

Wednesday, April 8

- 12:30pm K.I.T. ~ MacGregor
- 6:00pm GS Troop 13152 ~ Luke
- 7:00pm Communication Cohort ~ Cook

Thursday, April 9

- 12:15pm Ecumenical Communion & Prayer ~ A/B
- 6:15pm Sacred Dancers ~ Sanctuary
- 6:30pm CE ~ Cook
- 6:30pm CS Pack 405 ~ A/B/John/Luke/Currier
- 7:00pm Stewardship ~ Nursery
- 7:00pm Sr. Choir ~ Music Room
- 7:30pm CE/YM/YG Joint Meeting ~ Cook

Friday, April 10

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

Saturday, April 11

- 7:30am CS Pack 405 Pinewood Derby ~ Currier
- 9:00am SoulCollage® ~ MacGregor
- 2:30pm Tri-Ess ~ MacGregor
- 7:30pm AA ~ Currier

Sunday, April 12

- 7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier
- 7:30am Nominating ~ 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
- 6:00pm Youth Group ~ Luke

First Parish Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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First Parish Congregational Church
General Announcements
April 5, 2015 Easter Sunday

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 worshipping with us. We are blessed to have you with us today.

Membership: Interested in becoming a member of our First Parish church family next week? It’s not too late! Please speak with Pastor Deborah or email her at pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org.

Membership Committee is in need of Members! This is a great way for members and friends to get involved in the church! The By-Laws direct the Membership Committee to: seek out visitors and identify non-members attending church; to maintain a list of prospective members and assist the Pastor in contacting them; to cultivate, prepare and assimilate new members; to identify members who have become inactive in the Church’s life; and to communicate all this information to appropriate Leaders in the church. Does this suit your gifts? If so, please see a member of the Nominating Committee or Pastor Deborah.

Communication Cohort: It’s back! We hope to see representatives of all Boards, Committees and Projects attend this important gathering. Please note: All members and friends are welcome to come.

If you want to know what’s going on, please attend! We gather the 2nd Wednesday of the month in April, May and June.

NHCUC State Women’s Fellowship: Calling all ladies of First Parish! On Saturday, April 18, 9:30am-3:00pm, the NHCUC State Women’s Fellowship Annual Spring Gathering will be held at First Parish. The theme this year is: Recharging our Spiritual Batteries. Guest speakers will be Rev. Dr. David Reynolds, “Replenishing Spiritual Energy;” and Debbie Gline Allen, “Recharging our Singing Spirits.” Registration begins at 9:30; the \$12 fee includes coffee in the morning and lunch. Registration forms are available in the narthex or from Lindsey in the office.

Make checks payable to NHCUC State Women’s Fellowship and mail them along with registration to Trudie Bergeron, 46 Nantucket Place, Greenland, NH 03840 by April 10th.

Noche Mexicana Fundraiser: Come to Margarita’s Mexican Restaurant in Manchester on Sunday, April 26, 4-7PM for food, fellowship, fun and fundraising! Our server will note that we are from First Parish Congregational Church and will mail us a check for 15% of our total food and beverage tab! We will have raffles and maybe a silent auction. Invite friends and family – all are welcome!

First Parish Car Wash: On Saturday, May 2 from 9:00-2:00pm, stop by Derry Rotary Auto Service on 133 E. Broadway for a scrub, buff and shine from our fellow FPC members! Donations are welcome and appreciated. A car wash makes a great early Mother’s Day present - spread the word!

SoulCollage®: SoulCollage® is a fun, creative, intuitive and absorbing process of creating cards with collated images. Liz Greenberg is trained to share this process with others and will be sharing her enthusiasm and knowledge at another **3-hour introductory workshop from 9-noon on Saturday, April 11.**

Please note: room has been changed to MacGregor

SoulCollage® is *stress-free* fun, with \$30 covering all materials.

Advanced registration is necessary: please RSVP by e-mailing Liz at

lizgreenberg26@gmail.com



Sad News: We received the sad news that Kris Barker’s father, and Kate and Meghan’s beloved grandfather, John J. Wawer Jr. of CT passed away peacefully at age 93 on Friday, March 27. He will be missed tremendously by his family. We ask that you please keep the Barkers in your prayers, and may the peace and comfort of God’s presence surround them at this time. Thank you.

We believe in the triune God: Creator, resurrected Christ, the sole Head of the church, and the Holy Spirit, who guides and brings about the creative and redemptive work of God in the world.

We believe that each person is unique and valuable. It is the will of God that every person belong to a family of faith where they have a strong sense of being valued and loved.

We believe that each person is on a spiritual journey and that each of us is at a different stage of that journey.

We believe that the persistent search for God produces an authentic relationship with God, engendering love, strengthening faith, dissolving guilt, and giving life purpose and direction.

We believe that all of the baptized 'belong body and soul to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.' No matter who – no matter what – no matter where we are on life's journey – notwithstanding race, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, class or creed – we all belong to God and to one worldwide community of faith. All persons baptized – past, present and future – are connected to each other and to God through the sacrament of baptism. We baptize during worship when the community is present because baptism includes the community's promise of 'love, support and care' for the baptized – and we promise that we won't take it back – no matter where your journey leads you.

We believe that all people of faith are invited to join Christ at Christ's table for the sacrament of Communion. Just as many grains of wheat are gathered to make one loaf of bread and many grapes are gathered to make one cup of wine, we, the many people of God, are made one in the body of Christ, the church. The breaking of bread and the pouring of wine reminds us of the costliness of Christ's sacrifice and the discipleship to which we are all called. In the breaking of bread, we remember and celebrate Christ's presence among us along with a 'cloud of witnesses' – our ancestors, family and friends who have gone before us. It is a great mystery; we claim it by faith.

We believe the UCC is called to be a united and uniting church. "That they may all be one." (John 17:21) "In essentials—unity, in nonessentials—diversity, in all things—charity," These UCC mottos survive because they touch core values deep within us. The UCC has no rigid formulation of doctrine or attachment to creeds or structures. Its overarching creed is love. UCC pastors and teachers are known for their commitment to excellence in theological preparation, interpretation of the scripture and justice advocacy. Even so, love and unity in the midst of our diversity are our greatest assets.

We believe that God calls us to be servants in the service of others and to be good stewards of the earth's resources. 'To believe is to care; to care is to do.'

We believe that the UCC is called to be a prophetic church. As in the tradition of the prophets and apostles, God calls the church to speak truth to power, liberate the oppressed, care for the poor and comfort the afflicted.

We believe in the power of peace, and work for nonviolent solutions to local, national, and international problems.

We are a people of possibility. In the UCC, members, congregations and structures have the breathing room to explore and to hear ... for after all, God is still speaking, ...

Welcome to First Parish Church!

“We affirm Christ’s call to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. We therefore pledge ourselves to be open to and affirming of all people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic status, family configuration, or cultural background. All who affirm the love of Christ in their lives are welcome into this community and to share fully in its life and ministry.

We rejoice in the worth, gifts, and dignity of every person as a child of God.”