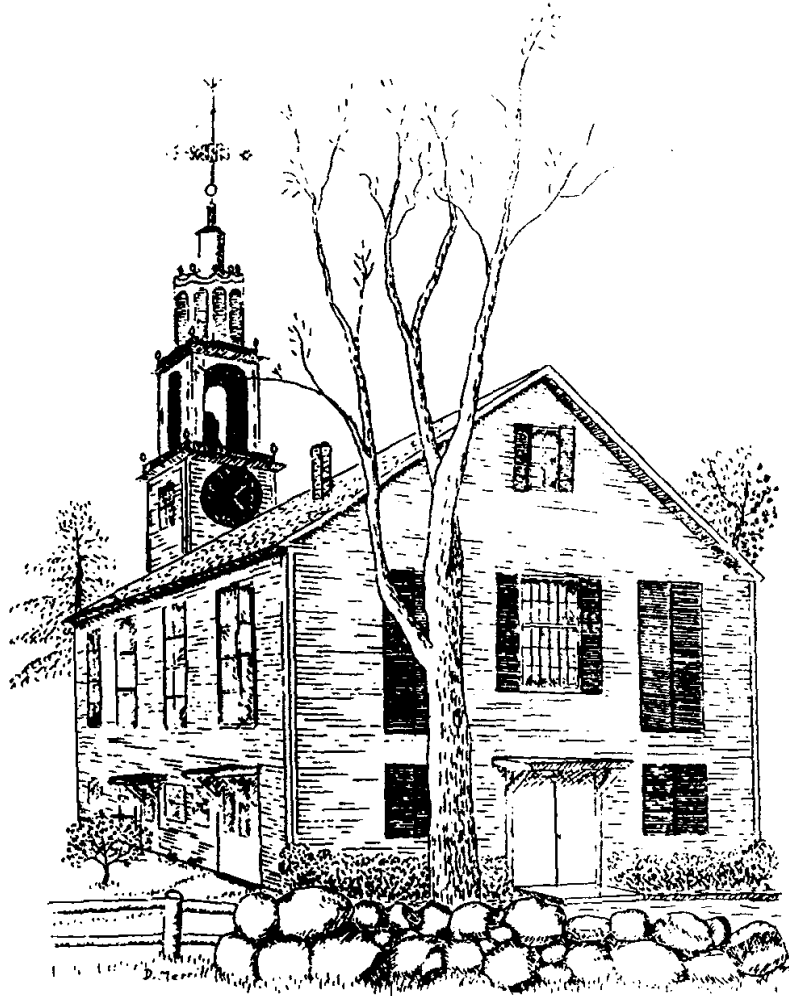


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

March 29, 2015



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)

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.)

*HYMN NO. 215

“Ride On! Ride On in Majesty”

WE RESPOND WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP AND OUR PRAYERS

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

“Don’t Be Afraid”

WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

What shall we give in the name of the One who gave everything for us? What do we offer in thanksgiving for the steadfast love proclaimed in Jesus Christ? How will good news be carried to the centers of power in our world today? What we give will make a difference.

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

What you have done for us is marvelous in our eyes, gracious God. Our gifts can never match your goodness toward us. Your saving grace, your healing light, your personal sacrifice are so far beyond our imagining! We can offer ourselves, and all we have and all we are, in response to the coming of Christ Jesus. Hosanna in the highest! Receive, O God, our humble service. Amen.

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

*HYMN NO. 216

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Seven-fold Amen"

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

FLOWERS Offered by Lindsay Huber

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

LAY READER

USHERS

Members of the Congregation

Brian Williams and Reni Harnden

Bill Burke

Stanley and Holly Gorgol

Tom and Andrea Cooper

Michael Bryan

Bill Burke

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Rev. Chester R. Ham

Susan Handy

Jeff DeLangie

Lindsey Roman

Heidi Heath

GREETER(S)

PASTOR

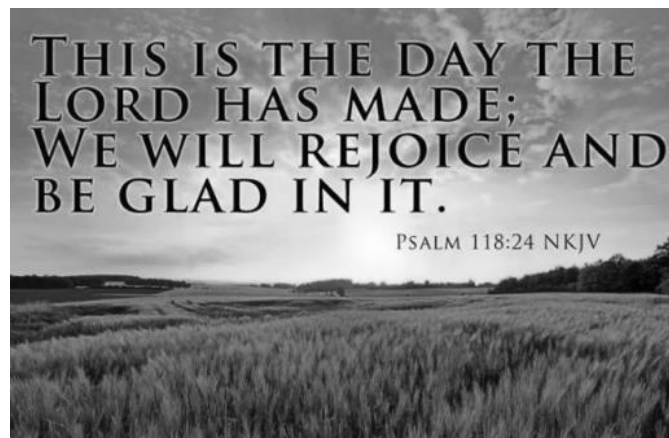
AFFILIATE PASTOR

MUSIC DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

CE DIRECTOR



First Parish 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 Find us and 'friend us' on Facebook www.facebook.com/fpccucc



First Parish Activity Calendar

Sunday, March 29

- 7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier
- 8:30am Youth Ministry ~ A/B
- 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
- 11:30am New to UCC/FPC? Informational Gathering: History, Present, Future: All are invited!
- 6:00pm Youth Group ~ Luke

Monday, March 30

- 7:00pm Trp 405 Court of Honor ~ Currier

Tuesday, March 31

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

Wednesday, April 1

- 6:00pm GS Troop 13152 ~ Luke
- 6:30pm Deacons ~ Cook

Thursday, April 2

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 12:15pm Ecumenical Communion & Prayer ~ A/B
- 7:00pm Sr. Choir ~ Music Room
- 6:00pm Soup/Bread Supper ~ Currier
- 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service ~ Sanctuary

Friday, April 3

HOLY FRIDAY

- 1:00pm Derry Ecumenical Holy Friday Service ~ Sanctuary
- 7:00pm AA Serenity Sisters ~ A/B
- 9:30pm AA Fri Night Assoc. ~ A/B

Saturday, April 4

- 7:30pm AA ~ Currier

Sunday, April 5

EASTER SUNDAY

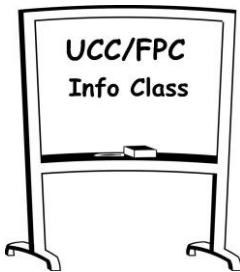
- 6:30am Sunrise Service ~ Outdoors
- 7:00am Easter Breakfast Buffet ~ Currier
- 9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Music Room
- 10:00am Easter Service ~ Sanctuary
No Kids Church School
- 11:15am Hand Chime Choir Rehearsal ~ MacGregor

First Parish Congregational Church
General Announcements
March 29, 2015 Palm 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 worshiping with us. We are blessed to have you with us today.

UCC/FPC Informational Meeting



Interested in becoming a member of First Parish? Or perhaps you're a current member who would just like to learn more about our church and the UCC? Join us for a UCC/FPC Informational Meeting **today, 3/29, at 11:30** in the A/B room, the classroom located in the Noyes Hallway across from the Missions bulletin board.

All are welcome to attend!

New members will be welcomed into the church on April 12.

Communication Cohort: It's back! We hope to see members 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.

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. 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 \$30 covering all materials.

Advanced registration is necessary: please RSVP by e-mailing Liz at lizgreenberg26@gmail.com



NHCUCC State Women's Fellowship: Annual Spring Gathering at FPC

Saturday, April 18, 9:30am-3:00pm. Theme: Recharging our Spiritual Batteries. Guest speakers: Rev. Dr. David Reynolds, "Replenishing Spiritual Energy;" and Debbie Gline Allen, "Recharging our Singing Spirits." Registration begins at 9:30; \$12 fee includes coffee in the morning and lunch. Registration forms will be forthcoming.

Dear Friends – Cold weather had an adverse effect on our financial Income!!

After recording collections from March 15:

Pledge Income: \$33,832 (Budgeted \$37,019.23) =
we are at minus -3,187.23

Plate Income: \$4,549 (Budgeted: \$6980.77) =
we are at minus -2,431.77

Total amount under our Budget = \$5,619

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, ...

**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.