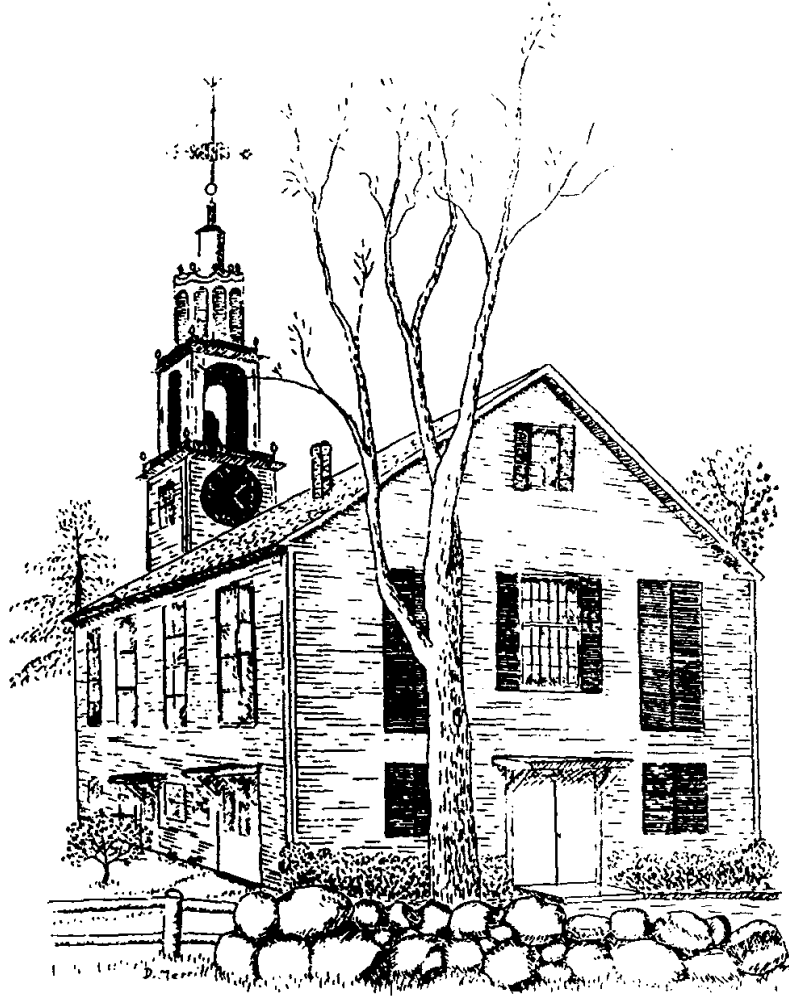


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

May 24, 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)

May 24, 2015 Pentecost 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.

Feel free to join us for refreshments in Currier Hall immediately following the service.

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 honored to have you with us today.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Lighting the Candles

*HYMN NO. 293

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Will the works of God be known among us today?

All: We live in the valley of dry bones.

One: All around us is emptiness and dust.

All: God's Spirit comes to give us new life.

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)**

Amazing God, how manifold are your works! The earth is full of life you have created, in forms too numerous to count. You have linked us, your people, to the earth and to all living things. We are interdependent. We can survive only if we have reverence for life. Come among us now to make your ways known. Help us to dream dreams and see visions of your intentions for this world and for your church. 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

Sarah Keller

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.

*HYMN NO. 270

"Like the Murmur of a Dove's Song"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 37:1-14

(O.T. p. 898)

SERMON

"Two Hearts Collide Among the Dry Bones"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
and Pastor Heidi Carrington Heath

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Fill-a Me Up"

Soloist: Bart Wetherbee

WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS

MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER

Pastor Heidi

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Deborah

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Eagle's Wings"

WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Our offerings are a small expression of thanks for the food we eat, the shelter we enjoy and the love that surrounds us.

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 (UNISON)

How manifold are your works, amazing God! When there are dry-bones times in our lives, we can look to you for new breath and hope and renewal of life. Your Spirit comes, and we are lifted up and linked to one another. We bring our offerings as an expression of thanksgiving for all your gifts. May your glory be proclaimed in all we give and all we do, when we are together and when we scatter to do your will in other places. Amen.

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

*HYMN NO. 368

"My Hope is Built"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated.)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

FLOWERS - Offered by Joe and Sue Weaver in honor of Sue's mother, Claire Boucher

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

LAY READER

USHERS

Members of the Congregation

Cyndi Gray and Steve Davis

Cyndi Gray

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 Carrington Heath

GREETER(s)

PASTOR

AFFILIATE PASTOR

MUSIC DIRECTOR

ORGANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

CE DIRECTOR

First Parish Activity Calendar

Sunday, May 24

7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier
9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Music Room
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary
11:30am Sacred Dance ~ Sanctuary
6:00pm Youth Group ~ Luke

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day – No Events

Tuesday, May 26

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

Wednesday, May 27

6:00pm GS Troop 13152 ~ Luke
7:00pm Facilities ~ Cook

Thursday, May 28

6:30pm CS Pack 405 Pack Rally ~ Currier
7:00pm Sr. Choir ~ Music Room
7:00pm PPRC ~ Offsite

Friday, May 29

5:00pm Spaghetti Supper ~ Currier
7:00pm AA Serenity Sisters ~ A/B
9:30pm AA Fri Night Assoc. ~ A/B

Saturday, May 30

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

Sunday, May 31

7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier
9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Music Room
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary
10:15am Kids Church Program ~ John
11:30am Sacred Dancers ~ Sanctuary
1:00pm Upper Village Fun Day ~ FPC Meetinghouse, Nutfield School, Taylor Library,
Upper Village Hall
6:00pm Youth Group ~ Luke

First Parish Congregational Church
General Announcements
May 24, 2015 Pentecost Sunday

First Parish Congregational MISSION STATEMENT: This is who we are!
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.

Thank You! Dear First Parish, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the wonderful birthday and ordination celebrations you lavished upon me! I thanked you for my birthday celebration - I do love birthdays. And to someone who has been ordained, the date of ordination is very much like a wedding anniversary. Recently I attended the ordination of Brother Joe at St Thomas as he became Father Joe. A lady sitting behind me said, 'This is like a wedding!' And indeed it is. An ordination is very much like a wedding, full of promise, and hope, and vows, and celebration. And so the anniversary of ordination -to the ordained person - is a big day! You honored me with your recognition of this important day. I am grateful beyond measure! Blessings and peace upon you now and in the days to come.
Pastor Deborah



Celebration "Word": "Ce-le-brate good times: come on!" So goes the famous song from the '80s. What can we celebrate here at First Parish Congregational? What is the music of your faith? What has made your heart sing over these last few months? A definition of music, found online, states that music is "indefinable by words alone. It is not only something you hear but what you feel. It is something your soul can reach out and touch".

We want to know where you have found your "music" here among the First Parish family. We will be celebrating all of the many programs and projects of FPC during the worship service on Celebration Sunday on June 14th. This Sunday and next, we will offer you the opportunity to give a "word" of celebration and we will make another "wordle" like the ones we created during "Operation Good Word". Please write your "word" of what you celebrate about First Parish on the colored piece of paper in the bulletin. Deacons will collect these in the foyer downstairs.

Applebee's "Dining to Donate" Fundraiser: Our second restaurant fundraiser is on the horizon - On **Tuesday, May 26 from 4:00-9:00pm**, please join us for food, fun, fellowship and fundraising at Applebee's in Derry! 15% of the check from participants will be donated to First Parish! Spread the word and bring friends and family, let's enjoy a meal and time together while supporting our church!



Christian Ed

NEWS



CE Update: A reminder - there is no Sunday School this week. However, activity bags are available! Just ask an usher!

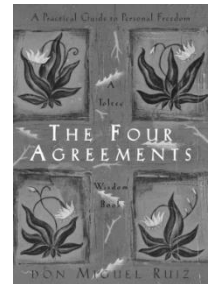
In the Spirit of Transparency: At the Council meeting this week, a detailed proposal was presented inviting us as a congregation to consider expanding our current CE Director position into an Associate Pastor/Minister of Faith Formation Position. This may surprise you or perhaps you have talked to your Council representative about it. The representative of the Personnel Board expressed that we have an amazing opportunity before us. The representative of Finance expressed that we don't know how we would pay for it. Several Council members are enthusiastic in their belief that God is presenting us with a gift if we have the courage to step into. Several Council members "remember the last time we stepped out on faith." In the end the Council approved the notion of a "feasibility study", which would mean that a target audience will be asked the following question:

"Above and beyond what you already give to the church, would you be able to pledge more? If so, how much?" At next month's Council meeting (**June 17**), the Stewardship Board will present their findings: out of "x" number of people, "X" amount of money is available, based on this study. Perhaps you will be asked to consider a gift. Perhaps you are able to write down a number that isn't zero. Perhaps you are able to write down "Zero.". It's all ok, as long as you are being impeccable with your word. At the last congregational meeting there were many voices in favor of this transition. Are there dollars? That's all we need to know. **FOR MORE INFORMATION:** All of the information (job description draft, compensation draft, etc.) will be made available in Currier on Sunday and in the office during the week. Talk to Pastor Deborah, Pastor Heidi, John Bartel (Stewardship), Cathy Zylinski (Personnel), Lianne Deranian (CE), Reni Harnden (Deacons), Ken Gould (Finance).

The Four Agreements: On **April 30, May 21 and June 25**, groups will gather to read this book together. We will begin at **6:30** and end close to **8:00**. We read together and discuss some of the basic understandings. It is hoped that all elected members and friends of First Parish will set aside a few hours to read this important book, either in one of the formal sessions or on their own.

This summer, when our worship service is from 9:00 - 10:00, we will have book discussions that are open to whoever has read the book. These sessions are tentatively scheduled for **July 12 and 26 and August 16**.

Please consider reading this simple yet profound book. The church has 10 copies that are circulating. Some folks have found the book on sale for as little as 50 cents. Keep your eyes open! Please see Pastor Deborah if you have any questions or concerns.



"Art of Healing" at PCS: Pastoral Counseling Services (PCS) welcomes the community to an open house at our offices in the Manning House. Partnering with the NH Institute of Art, PCS will display many works of art from alumni of NHIA.

This is an opportunity to see PCS offices, meet Staff and Board, and enjoy art by local artists. The gathering will happen on **Tuesday, June 2, 5:30 - 7pm** in the offices of PCS, 2013 Elm Street in Manchester. You may browse or purchase the art and 10% of all purchases will be donated to PCS. Come to see PCS and support the arts!

Upper Village Fun Day: Save the date and spread the word! On **Sunday, May 31** from 1:00-3:00pm, there will be an "Upper Village Fun Day" held by Taylor Library, Nutfield School, First Parish, and Upper Village Hall for all in our community to attend. Each location will provide open houses and activities for visitors, and our wonderful Historic Preservation Committee will be providing guided tours of our church. Join us for a day of fun, learning and community!



Scriptures – May 24

Ezekiel 37:1-14

37 The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, ‘Mortal, can these bones live?’ I answered, ‘O Lord GOD, you know.’ ⁴Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.’

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.’ ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, ‘Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.” ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.’