

First Parish Congregational Church

United Church of Christ East Derry, New Hampshire

We are 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.

Come visit us! Worship is at 10 am.



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Child of God,

Last Sunday we enjoyed our first "Ask the Pastor" together. There were many great questions. If you weren't able to be in worship with us, you may watch the video on our church website.

If it had been a "normal" Sunday, I would have preached on the Gospel passage: Mark 4:35-41. It is one of my very favorite passages! It goes like this:

"On that day, when evening had come, (Jesus) said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

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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

Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 4th
Independence Day!

Wednesday, July 8th
Fireworks Cruise (p. 15)

Sunday, July 12th
Outdoor Worship (p. 9)
Taste of History Gathering (p. 15)

Saturday, July 18th
NH Motor Speedway Cleanup Day (p. 15)

**Monday, July 20th –
Friday, July 24th**
Vacation Church School (p. 4)



Continued from Page 1:

"A great windstorm arose and the waves beat into the boat." How many times do we endure the "great windstorms" of life? How many times do people disappoint you? How often do circumstances "beat into your boat"? Perhaps you, like me, are left feeling once again shocked and unsettled that an unthinkable act of hate and violence was perpetrated upon innocent people. Perhaps you are feeling a bit lost after recent circumstances changed without warning. Perhaps you are worried about an uncertain future, complete with rough seas and violent winds. Where is God? Has he fallen asleep in some other part of the ship? Sometimes our feelings feel like tidal waves and we fear that we will be pulled under, or that we cannot survive them.

In our own human frailty, we cry out: "We're dying here! Don't you care?" People attending a Bible Study are shot to death. Loved ones suffer from cancer. Good friends leave. "Don't you care?"

God cares. God weeps. God holds us – as we weep. We cry over the hate; we cry over the illnesses, we cry over the misunderstandings.

When Jesus – who was never truly gone from their side – is beckoned, the first thing he does is to calm the violence. He rebuked the wind and calmed the sea. He'll do that – when you cry out, when you let him into your world, when you ask. He'll calm the wind and the sea will settle – for a while. He'll remind you that it is up to you to erase racism, it is up to you to work toward cures, it is up to you to reconcile with those who feel disenfranchised.

Why are we so afraid? Why are black men "thugs" and white men are "mentally ill"? Why do we spend so much energy on "cures" and spend so little on "wellness"? Why do we take things so personally, make so many assumptions without asking questions and clarifying information – before we become angry?



"Peace, my children" says Jesus: to the storms in our lives, in our relationships, in our hearts. "Be still" to the fears, to the worries, to the resentments. Jesus has not left our boat. We are not alone. There may be some wind and there may be some rain. These are facts of life. AND God is with us – as close as our breath – extending peace and love to all – even in the storms. These are facts of faith.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Deborah

Inspiration!

"God does not save us because of what we've done. Only a puny god could be bought with tithes. Only an egotistical god would be impressed with our pain. Only a temperamental god could be satisfied by sacrifices. Only a heartless god would sell salvation to the highest bidders... God does for His children what they can't do for themselves."

CE News from Pastor Heidi

Dear Saints,

As you read this letter, I will be finishing my last few days at United Church of Christ General Synod. This is the 30th time our church will gather as a national body, this time in Cleveland, Ohio. This biennial event pulls together delegates, visitors, and people from across the nation to consider the issues facing our 21st century church. As a self-professed church polity and process geek, it is one of my favorite times in the life of our church.

The word “synod” comes from the Greek “sun” (together) and “hodos” (way) = “sunodos” (meeting) which, in time evolved to the word synod in Middle English. It generally refers to a gathering of clergy or church-types. But I appreciate its Greek origins, because so much of what we are doing is finding a “way together”. Last General Synod was my first, and it was a profound experience for me. We confronted contentious issues and we come from so many different perspectives on things, we bother to do this at all because we hope to *find our way together*.¹

This is a particularly interesting time in our church history. We are standing at a Crossroads of sorts. We are facing many questions about who we are and who we want to be as a wider church. We know that we need to be a wiser church. We know that church in 20 years will likely look very different from how church looks today. We are also electing our next General Minister and President who will lead us in these changing times. I am grateful this time to be attending as a visitor with time to spend listening, praying, and gleaning wisdom from some of our denomination’s brightest minds.

I encourage you to visit the Synod website to read and learn more about what we’ll be studying, praying about, and voting on. You can find that here: <http://synod.uccpages.org/> I’ll also be sharing updates via our social media during the week.

This General Synod, I won’t be representing just myself as a minister, but also our small piece of the Body of Christ. I’ll get the chance to share a little bit about what we’re dreaming and scheming for God here at First Parish! Would you hold us in prayer? Please pray for safe travels for all who will come from all over the United States and beyond. Please pray that we will commit to deep discernment and listening prayerfully for where the voice of our Still Speaking God is calling us to go. May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Be blessed and be a blessing,
Pastor Heidi



Christian Education Updates

Summer Sunday School

Summer is a GREAT time to try out teaching Sunday School if you've always wondered what it's all about. It's low commitment and high reward. Please sign up for dates at the bottom of the stairs, or see Pastor Heidi.

VCS is Back!

First Parish is off to an Amazing Race this summer for Vacation Church School! Monday, July 20th - Friday, July 24th from 9 AM – 12 PM, join Sarah Keller, Libby Keller, Pastor Heidi, and your First Parish friends. Together we'll journey with some of our favorite Bible characters and have a lot of fun while we're at it. All children K-8th grade are welcome. To register, please fill out the form enclosed in this newsletter and mail it to the church address (on the form) or bring it into the office!



SPARK (Pre-K to 5th Graders) Update

The K-5th graders will continue to meet for Sunday School this summer for all who wish to join! We will have a casual, one-room schoolhouse with fun art lessons, games, and more. We'll even get outside as we are able to use our bodies that God made for us in play!

Confirmation Begins in September!

It's Confirmation time again here at First Parish! Pastor Deborah and Pastor Heidi will be co-teaching a confirmation class this coming year, beginning in September. Are you a rising 9th or 10th grader interested in taking the next step in your faith journey? Then, we want to talk to you! Are you an 11th or 12th grader who didn't get the chance to be confirmed? Then, we want to know who you are! Please email Pastor Heidi with interest or questions: pastorheidiheath@gmail.com

Finance Committee

What is new in the Finance Committee?

If you pledge to the finances of our Church, you will receive your status report in July. This will include data on your annual giving as well as your status on the capital campaign. Another report will be issued in October. Inquiring minds like to keep up to date.

We are launching an electronic giving opportunity. Many of us pay utility bills and such without writing checks anymore. Now we can give to our Church in much the same manner, weekly or monthly. This works through Automatic Clearing House and connects with your bank account (not your credit card). If this interests you, see Chris O'Brien or Pat Crowell or Ken Gould.

Finance and Council were concerned when worship services were shut down by snowy winter weather and there was very little giving on some Sundays. We are happy to report that after 24 weeks of 2015, we have received \$5000 more than budgeted in our pledge and plate giving. Congratulations, First Parish UCC!

- Deb Ambler, Fran Berube, Fay Chary, Pat Crowell, Lin dosSantos, Chris O'Brien, Ken Gould

Nominating Committee

#1. Strive for 100% occupancy of all elected positions of the Church. Select nominees with Focus consistent with the Mission Statement of the Church.

#2. Strive for 100% Occupancy of all elected positions of the Church. We're at 84% to date! 96 out of 110 Positions Filled!

VACANCIES

Board/Committee	# of Vacancies	Meeting Time	Chairperson(s)
Board of Missions	1	3rd Sun. @ 11:30a	Joe Weaver/Gloria Bingel
Board of Christian Education	1	1st Thurs. @ 7p	Lianne Deranian/Janet Wetherbee
Diaconate Board	1	1st Wed. @ 7p	Reni Harnden, Brian Williams
Stewardship Board	2	1st Thurs. @ 7p	Fran Berube/Margie Ives
Nominating Committee	1	2nd Sun. @ 7:30a	Carl Hepworth
Library Committee	3	TBD	TBD
Membership Committee	5	TBD	TBD

**** This time of year presents an Awesome opportunity for members and friends of First Parish Church to get their "feet wet" with these fourteen vacancies we have available on various Boards and Committee's. You can try them out until next Annual Meeting the end of January 2016 and see what you think!! We are looking for a few good people, and we have a place for You!! We need you and we would hope that you would consider being involved in one of these important positions in the life of our Church.****

Yours Always in Nominating Committee Faith,

Bill Armstrong 432-5446, Paul Dionne 244-8360, Carl and Gail Hepworth 434-2053, and Joe Merrill 247-3051.

Board of Christian Outreach and Mission

Liberty House - The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions (BOCOM) voted unanimously at their June meeting to support the Liberty House in Manchester, NH which has been providing a safe, supportive, substance-free housing community for more than a decade for American veterans transitioning out of homelessness. Since opening their doors in 2004, a dedicated team of staff and volunteers has helped more than 200 homeless veterans rejoin their communities and regain fulfilling, independent lives.

Each and every veteran that walks through the doors of the Liberty House is treated with the utmost respect, regardless of their combat status or length of service, and provided with a unique transition plan tailored to their needs. With the guidance and support of brother and sister veterans and a commitment to giving back through food pantry and clothing programs, Liberty House is more than just a community; it's a family. The transitional facility offers ten resident beds and a variety of services ranging from employment and housing assistance to case management and agency referrals.

Here are some of the items needed:

Personal Care Items: shampoo deodorant conditioner hand sanitizer Neosporin toothbrushes toothpaste tissues toilet paper disposable razors foot powder	Other food items: dry cereal oatmeal bread Ramen noodles mac & cheese (box) juice spaghetti/pasta shelf milk pancake mix coffee (instant/ground) turkey (frozen) peanut butter/jelly	Clothing (new and used): jeans (30-42" waist) sneakers/boots (sizes 7-13) hooded sweatshirts thermal underwear gloves warm hats warm jackets back packs sleeping bags
Canned goods: soup tuna ravioli chicken Spaghettios vegetables beef stew Spam	Household items: paper towels dish detergent sponges can openers (hand) trash bags	<p>These are the items needed by many shelters. Can you help? Please reach out in your community.</p> <p><i>Thank you from the BeachBums!</i></p> 

If you have any questions about physical donations, please contact Lindsay by e-mail at lindsay@libertyhousenh.org, by phone at (603) 669-0761 or visit the Liberty House website at www.LibertyHouseNH.org.

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Food Baskets – There are changes coming to the Food Basket program from the location of the baskets throughout the Church to the way the food will be collected and distributed. BOCOM recognizes the pressing need to collect food for the hungry in our community and is passionate about assisting in this matter. Be on the lookout for the new baskets over the summer. Watch for future notifications and additional information to come on how we hope to do this.

Donations – BOCOM provides regular monthly support to these local charities, as well as contributing 35% of monthly BOCOM income to UCC ministries:

Sunshine Soup Kitchen - **\$100**

Vintage Grace - **\$125**

First Baptist Food Pantry - **\$100**

Community Caregivers - **\$100**

The Upper Room- **\$100**

Family Promise - **\$100**

Pastors Discretionary Fund - **\$100**

Pastoral Counseling - **\$100**

Kairos - **\$100**

The Mission Board is grateful to all of you for so generously being God's hands and heart in our community.

Respectfully submitted,

The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions (BOCOM): Joe Weaver, Gloria Bingel, Sue Brown, Beth Hunter, Katelyn Whittier, Karen Wilson, Linda McCarthy



Stewardship Board

You may have heard, or have been part of this exciting study. It is our "Feasibility Study" asking you to consider how you may step up your pledge to expand our CE Directors position into an ordained ministry position. As we realize, First Parish Congregational is growing, and our youth also needs good, solid leadership. Along with our parenting, we depend on our CE Directors, and teachers to help us, as the parents, to guide our youth in Christian ways.

The Council has decided to expand the feasibility study to our congregation. You may have received a pledge card already, and returned it. Thank you!! You may not have returned the pledge card as of yet. Please do return it regardless of the amount of your pledge. Remember, this is a study, and everyone does count so we may have a idea as to whether or not it is possible to expand our CE Directors position. If you have not received a pledge card, and would like to participate, do not hesitate to ask for one. We do appreciate your interest, and input.

Here are some "what if" examples:

If you are currently giving \$25.00, could you give \$35; or if you currently give \$275.00, could you do \$300.00; if you currently give \$12.00, could you do \$15.00? Each of us knows what we can do, so we ask that you prayerfully take a look at your possibilities, fill out the card, and return it. And please remember: our Financial Secretary, Pat Crowell will be the only one who knows your decision.

If you should have any questions at all, please feel free to ask a member of the Stewardship Board, Pastor Deborah, Pastor Heidi, Cathy Zylinski, Lianne Deranian, Reni Harnden, Ken Gould.

With many blessings,
Your Stewardship Board

Stewardship

REPORT

Diaconate Board

Celebration Sunday: On June 14 all teachers and those who have helped with Christian Education and all of our graduating students will be honored.

New Faces: It is exciting to see so many new faces in our sanctuary and in Sunday School classes. Many of these new folks have already helped with various activities around the church. Please take a moment and extend a hand of Christian fellowship to any new visitor and introduce them to a Deacon &/or Pastor Deborah.

Reminders for Summer Services:

- Summer services begin on July 5th @ 9:00 AM.
- Outdoor services: July 12 & August 9. *Please remember to bring your own chair.* The Deacons will have a few chairs set up for those who do not have any chairs to bring or are not able to carry them.
- The 10:00 AM services will resume on September 9.

Diaconate Board Opening: Please speak to a Deacon, Pastor Deborah or Carl Hepworth if any one would be interested in becoming a Deacon or has any questions about the role of the Diaconate in the church.

Worship Preparation: Diane Breeden has been the creator of our worship preparations for these past few years. She has spent many hours with the actual preparations and several hours researching and planning. The Diaconate wishes to extend our gratitude to Diane for sharing her enthusiasm, creativity and spirituality with the congregation through her sanctuary artistic talents.

Blessings from your Diaconate members; Steve Davis, Cyndi Gray, Reni Harnden (Co-Chair), Sarah Keller, Fred Merrill, Cindy Pingree, Dick Plouff, Pat Plouff, Diana Sweeney, Julie Turner, Brian Williams (Co-Chair).



Fund-Raisen' Committee

We have already successfully raised \$3600 and are continuing to work towards raising the additional \$9400 needed to reach our initial \$13,000 goal. Some already planned events are the Speedway clean up (we still need at least 10 more volunteers), the popular monthly Dining for FPC Dollars events, and selling Advertising for placemats for church events (best breakfast, spaghetti suppers, Harvest Supper). We have also added two additional fundraising projects--one mostly for fun, and one which will not require any more money than you currently budget each month!

The fun filled event will be an All Church Cookout at the Cobban's Beach on Island Pond on Sunday, August 16th from midday to evening. Bring the whole family, bathing suit and towel, floaty toys, kayaks, lawn chairs, sunscreen, and a picnic dish to pass. Alec will be our grill master extraordinaire and will have his karaoke machine set up to set the mood with some music. Let's all gather together for some end of summer fun, frolic and fellowship. Tickets are \$5/person with additional donations accepted and include all grilled items.

We can use your help to brainstorm businesses that we can approach to buy advertising on placemats we will be starting to use at all our food related events in the church. If you own a business, or frequent a local business for services or products--your hairdresser or auto mechanic, for example--please contact one of us with the information and we can follow up with them on the details.

We are also exploring a brand new (to us) fund raising project that we expect to roll out starting in September. This is the one that won't require you to dig any deeper into your pockets for any more money than you already budget each and every month. We all buy groceries, right? Well, our local grocery chains offer community fundraising programs in which we can buy gift cards in any denomination that will pay our church 5% back. Doesn't sound like much? Well, here's an example:

If we had 150 participants purchasing \$200 of groceries monthly using gift cards purchased through the church, the church would make \$18,000 in a year!!!

Yes, friends, that's no more money out of your pocket than you already spend and the church has a steady income stream! What could be easier?

So starting this Fall, we will be piloting this program by selling \$100 Hannafords gift cards on Sundays in Currier after church. If there's enough interest and participation, we can then look into expanding to offering Market Basket cards too. Once you have your gift card, you can repeatedly reload them and the church will continue to receive our 5% of your grocery purchase!

Next FPC Dining for Dollars: T-Bones was approached, but they no longer do events of this nature. Derry Panera Bread has been approached to offer an event for us on Monday, July 27th; we are still waiting for confirmation as the newsletter is being published. Watch for updates in weekly bulletins and in Lindsey's Friday e-mail blasts. Panera is quite generous: if we use 50+ Coupons for our event, we will receive 20% of purchases!

- Submitted on behalf of Fund-Raisen Committee, by Liz Greenberg



Building Advisory Committee

LCHIP Grant Program and Application Background

One of our few remaining sources for large historic preservation grants is LCHIP, the State of New Hampshire's Land and Community Heritage Investment Program.

We have applied for LCHIP grants in the past without success (see below), but, undaunted, are trying again now. This article gives some background on LCHIP; please see the separate article in this issue for info on the project we're proposing.



LCHIP Overview

LCHIP grants awards in two categories, natural resource protection (land) and historic property preservation (buildings). The money comes from a small surcharge on four documents recorded at each NH county's Registry of Deeds.

LCHIP money is a "dedicated fund," but in some years the state legislature has still siphoned it off to cover budget deficits. There is a strong movement to prevent this for the current 2016 and 2017 fiscal years budget, but until that state budget is finalized (soon) the size of the LCHIP fund isn't clear.

The LCHIP board is confident, though, that a decent fund will be available, and on May 18th announced a 2015 application and funding round. (The 2014 round was about \$4M).

Application Schedule

The LCHIP application is fairly large and challenging, and the schedule is tight.

After the round opened May 18th, we worked quickly with our experts¹ to develop a project plan and strategic approach to the application. We also hosted representatives from the LCHIP Office and LCHIP Board for an extensive site visit on May 18th.

On June 8th we submitted the required Intent to Apply form ([click to download it](#)). The complete application package with cost estimates, and other supporting documentation is due in the Concord LCHIP office at noon Friday June 26th (about a week from now as I write this).

The LCHIP board reviews the 50–100 applications they receive through the late summer and fall, gathers to make their decisions in late November, and typically announces the awards in early December. Grant awardees have two years from notification to spend the money, or else it is returned to the LCHIP fund.

¹ Our experts have worked with FPC for several years now: historic architect Norman Larson of CPW Associates, and historic building pros Arron Sturgis and Ed Bell of Preservation Timber Framing.

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Award Criteria

There's a lot of competition for LCHIP grants. Applications are judged in these key areas:

- **Standards** — The project must adhere to the US Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Building Rehabilitation.
- **Suitability** — The building must be historically significant, serve as a community resource, and have an urgent need for repairs.
- **Match** — Awardees must pay for at least 50% of the project total in cash or donations. A higher match (e.g., paying for 75% of the project) seems to increase ones odds of winning an award.
- **Stewardship** — There must be a pragmatic, provable plan for properly maintaining the restored building over several decades.

LCHIP award success has so far eluded us four times (see sidebar). For the three most recent efforts, Paul Lindemann attended a “debrief” meeting to learn more about how our application was perceived and where we fell short.

Hopefully these experiences will help make our 2015 application a success. See “2015 LCHIP Proposal: Tower Rehabilitation in this issue for details on that application.

Learn More About LCHIP

See www.lchip.org for more information, related rules and background documents, the application and instructions, links to the Secretary of the Interior Standards, and more.

- Submitted by Paul Lindemann on behalf of the Building Advisory Committee
(Paul Ambler, Nancy Heywood, Larry Krantz, Paul Lindemann, and Bill Mann).

Previous FPC LCHIP Grant Attempts

2007: First Parish Congregational Church
300th Anniversary Structural Improvement
and Rehabilitation Project (by Charlie Stewart)
\$1,200,500 total | \$500,000 request

2011: FPC Rehab Phase 1a: Urgent Repairs
(Paul Lindemann) \$110,825 | \$29,600

2012: Urgent Stabilization of the FPC
Meetinghouse
(Paul Lindemann) \$27,000 | \$12,000

2014: FPC Meetinghouse Foundation Rehab
(Paul Lindemann) \$447,009 | \$100,000



Building Advisory Committee

2015 LCHIP Proposal: Tower Rehabilitation

You may have heard that our Tower needs help, and fast.

The structural analysis Arron Sturgis' team did in 2013 shows significant deterioration and damage to much of the Tower's timber frame. Internal stabilization we did that year slowed the decay, but analysis this May showed the Tower's longevity is likely down to months to a few years.

In particular, the top parts of the Tower above the clock faces—the Belfry Box holding the bell and the Lantern Frame above—especially need to be lowered before weather and gravity do this job.

Our contacts in the LCHIP organization (see the separate article in this issue for background) believe the grant-awarding LCHIP Board will be excited about the opportunity to help us remedy this dire situation. So we are making Tower Rehabilitation the focus of our 2015 LCHIP grant application.

Project Phases & Estimated Costs

We anticipate four distinct phases over two and a half years. The costs shown are estimates provided in a quote from Arron Sturgis of Preservation Timber Framing, who will likely serve as our general contractor for this project.

Summer 2015 — Fly Down the Top

\$57,090

A crane will lower the Belfry Box & Lantern Frame to a crib on the ground (on the street side of the Meetinghouse). We'll place the bell on the ground for restoration, and secure everything with fencing and lights. The crane will raise a temporary roof to weatherproof the open top of the Tower Box.

Summer 2016 — Repair the Top

\$79,340

Appropriately rehabilitate the Belfry and Lantern's internal structures and extensive external trim. This happens at about the same time the Meetinghouse Foundation Rehab and new Connector/Elevator projects are underway.

Summer 2017 — Rehabilitate the Base

\$85,834

Repair the timber frame and exterior of the Tower Box, rehabilitate the adjoining west-end Meetinghouse gable wall, and also repair the immediate roof structure. This has to wait until the Meetinghouse is on its improved foundation, which should take place the summer before (2016).

Early Fall 2017 — Finish it Up

\$78,947

Restore the Belfry and Lantern on top of the Tower Box and suitably finish the Tower's exterior. This needs to be completed before the two-year interval for using an LCHIP award runs out, which would be early December 2017.

Total Cost: est. \$301,211
Proposed LCHIP Request: \$125,000

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This gives us a 59% match, which we believe strikes a good balance between “trying to get as much as we can” and “making a modest request that’s likely to be successful”

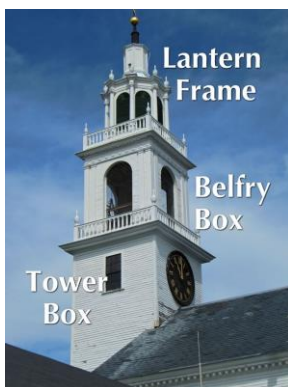
We will seek donations in materials and such for part of our matching amount, but mainly we’ll draw from the funds already in the bank (our earlier restoration fund plus recent Capital Campaign income).

Note that this Tower project really isn’t discretionary: we need to do it whether we win the LCHIP grant or not, and covering all the costs ourselves would have implications on funding for the other critical projects we’re planning.

We’ll make the full LCHIP Application available after we submit it June 26th. Then we wait until early December to (hopefully) celebrate!

Meanwhile, please see any of the members of BAC at any time for questions, suggestions, etc. regarding this or any aspect of the Meetinghouse Rehabilitation effort.

Submitted by Paul Lindemann on behalf of the Building Advisory Committee (Paul Ambler, Nancy Heywood, Larry Krantz, Paul Lindemann, and Bill Mann).



The upper parts of our Tower (or steeple)



Removing the top of the Center Meeting House in Newbury, NH. Our Belfry Box has similar "legs" that telescope down into the Tower Box. These will stay with it on the ground. Photo source: www.bit.ly/newbury-steeple



Watch the NH Preservation Alliance's video about the similar Acworth Meetinghouse steeple project at www.bit.ly/acworth-steeple

Around Our Church

Fireworks Cruise

It's that time of year again: Time for the First Parish Church Youth Ministry Sunset/Fireworks Cruise! We will set sail from Eastman's Docks in Seabrook, NH on Wednesday, July 8 from 6:30-10:00pm. Tickets are \$15 per person and \$7.50 for First Parish Youth. You can also purchase a 4-pack for only \$50! Drinks and snacks will be provided on the cruise. See us at Coffee Hour or get in touch with Jack Leonhard or any Youth Committee member. See you on the water!

Taste of History Gathering

Interested in becoming a member of First Parish Church? Want to know more about the history of our church? All are invited to join the Historic Preservation Committee representatives for a taste of history on July 12 at 10:30 in A/B.

(Remember that our worship service is at 9:00 outdoors that day.)

This gathering is for anyone interested in hearing more about First Parish! New members, longtime members, guests and friends! All are invited!

Prayer Shawls

If you were in church on Sunday, June 14, you heard Marilyn Ham talk about how comforting it was to receive a prayer shawl when Pastor Deborah visited her in the hospital. These shawls have been knitted or crocheted with loving hands working prayerfully. Our tradition is to also give them to high school graduates and to new members. We currently have a multitude of these shawls in the office. Do you know someone who might be comforted by receiving one of these shawls? Please let Pastor Deborah or Lindsey know.

NH Motor Speedway Cleanup

On July 18, we will be heading back to the NH Motor Speedway in Loudon for a cleanup fundraiser. This event was a great success in generating money for our church last year, and we are still looking for volunteers for this year! Please contact Ed Sullivan, Lianne Deranian or Pastor Heidi for more information. See you there!

Thank You!

Connie Cox would like to extend a BIG thank you to all those who sent cards and prayers her way during her surgery and recovery. They are much appreciated!

Poem

Please visit the church website to read "I Celebrate the Church of Jesus Christ" by Ann Weems, the poem read during our Celebration Sunday Service!

Response to Charleston

Dear Friends,

Several of you have talked to me about a Prayer Vigil - holding sacred space for Emanuel A.M.E. in Charleston. I am in communication with local Derry Clergy about doing an interfaith vigil. As soon as we have a decision, I will let you know more details.

If you have other thoughts on what we might do, please do not hesitate to let me know. Thank you to those who have done so already. If you have questions on how to help children deal with this tragedy, please visit www.auce-ucc.org (click on the Resources tab for the dropdown menu).

In Prayer, Pastor Deborah

Summer Opportunities for Youth!

JUNE

June 7th – Youth Group meeting at church 6-7:30 with Pastor Heidi and Reni Harnden

June 14th – Celebration Sunday

June 25th – Cookout, boat rides, and games at the Cobbans on the Lake

JULY

July 8th – Fireworks Cruise

July 11th – Pool party and Games at the Deranians

July 18th – Speedway clean-up

July 20th-July 24th – VCS, youth helpers wanted and needed!

July 26th-July 31st – Senior High Week at Horton Center

AUGUST

August 14th – Family Movie Night at Church

Movie and times to be announced as the date gets closer.

Pajamas welcome, we'll provide snacks, bring a friend!

August 23rd – Lunch and Canobie Lake Park with the Exeter Congregational Youth Group after worship!

Youth Ministry will also be continuing monthly visits to the Aurora Senior Center with the Youth Group. Stay tuned for more info!

Other things you'd like to see happen? See Pastor Heidi with ideas!



Scripture Readings

*Readings are from the Revised Common
Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals – Year B*

July 5th – Proper 9

2 Sam 5:1-5, 9-10

Psalm 48

Psalm 123

Mark 6:1-13

July 12th – Proper 10 (Outdoor Worship)

2 Sam 6:1-5, 12b-19

Psalm 24

Psalm 85:8-13

Eph 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

July 19th – Proper 11

2 Sam 7:1-14a

Psalm 89:20-37

Psalm 23

Eph 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-43, 53-56

July 26th – Proper 12

2 Sam 11:1-15

Psalm 14

Psalm 145:10-18

Eph 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

Worship Leadership

Deacons & Lay Readers

Deacons of the Month

Brian Williams and Sarah Keller

July 5th: Harry Handy III

July 12th: Brian Williams

July 19th: Sarah Keller

July 26th: Julie Turner

Ushers & Greeters

Weekly Usher – Michael Bryan

July 5th: Ushers: Diaconate

Greeter: Verna Elwell

July 12th: Ushers: Ken Gould, Bill Burke

Dee Deranian, Shirley Dickason

Greeter: David and Lorie McGrath

July 19th: Ushers: Stanley and Holly Gorgol

Tom and Andrea Cooper

Greeter: Ruth Honnors

July 26th: Ushers: Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell

Rod and Sue Hunt

Greeter: TBD

Nursing Home Friends

Theo Johnson

Hillsborough Country Nursing Home

Phil Guertin, Leon Berry

Pleasant Valley Nursing Home

First Parish Congregational Church, UCC

Church Office Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9 am – 4:30 pm

Thursday: 10:30 am – 6 pm

You are most warmly invited:

9:00 am Sunday Worship & Church School

10:00 am Coffee Hour

Check us out on the web:

www.fpc-ucc.org

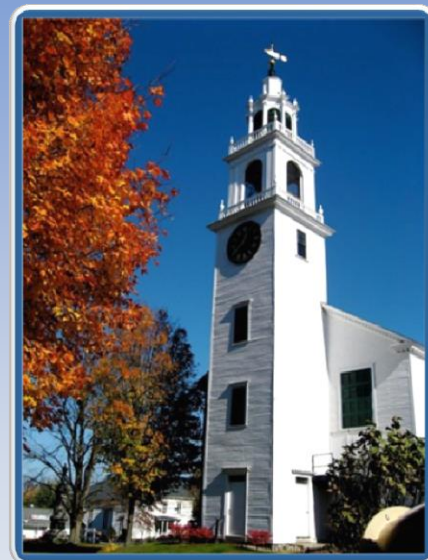
Email our office manager, Lindsey Roman:

officemgr@fpc-ucc.org

Email our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof:

pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org

Call our office: 603-434-0628



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