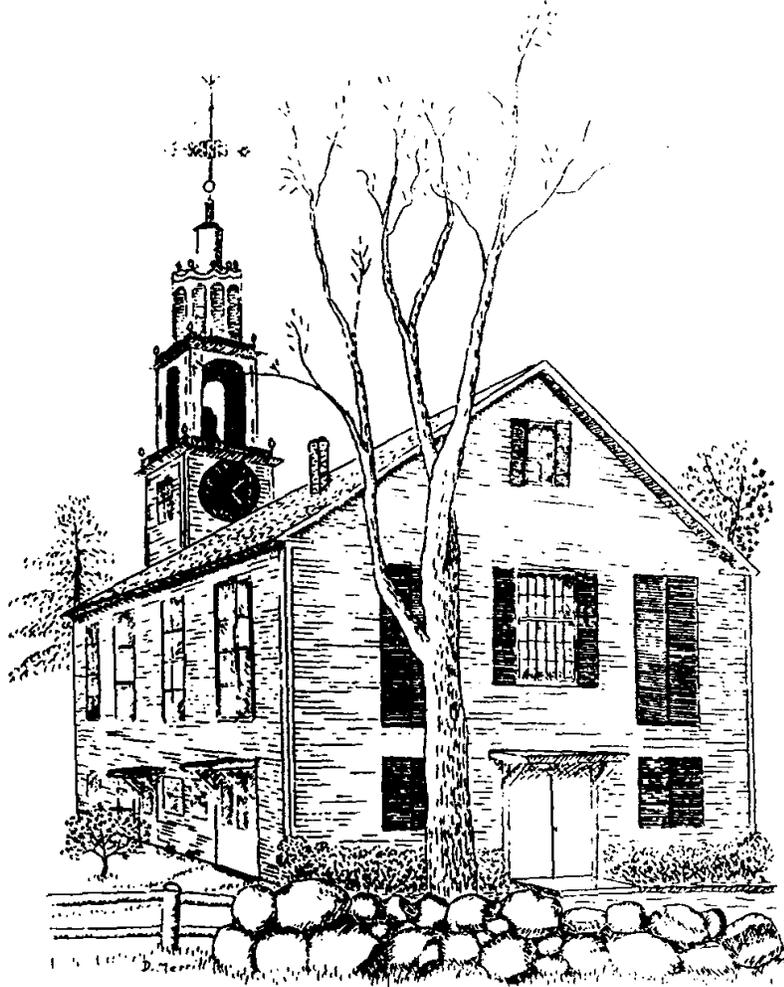


First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road  
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041  
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

**June 21, 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)

**June 21, 2015 Proper 7**

**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 and know that you are invited 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.

**Thank you for worshipping with us. We are honored to have you with us today.**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS**

*(Today is "Ask the Pastor". You may write your question on the index card provided. Deacons will be circulating during the hymns to collect the cards. May God be praised and we be blessed in this!)*

**WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Lighting the Candles

\*HYMN NO. 439

*"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Open your hearts to the steadfast love God offers.

**All: Our Creator is with us in all times and places.**

One: God is ready to listen to us in these moments together.

**All: Surely God will meet us here in our faith community!**

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

**We sing praises to you, O God, for you have been gracious to us amid the storms of life. We do battle with many enemies within and among us, but you give us confidence and courage to face them. Help us to discard the excess baggage and unnecessary armor that keeps us from the fullness of life you intend for us. Amen.**

**\*SONG OF PRAISE #759 – Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN**

**CHILDREN'S OFFERING**

*"I'm Gonna Sing"*

**I'm goin' a sing when the Spirit says sing (x2)**

**I'm goin' a sing when the Spirit says sing, and obey the Spirit of the Lord.**

**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**

Pastor Heidi

**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. 441

*"Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me"*

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

GOSPEL

Mark 4:35-41

(N.T. p. 39)

SERMON

"Ask the Pastor" Q&A

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM

*"The Storm is Passing Over"*

Tindley, arr. Baker

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

*"Spirit of the Living God"*

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Let us praise God with all we have to give. Christ walks with us through difficult days and sleepless nights. We give thanks for the church that proclaims good news. These moments of giving represent the commitment of our lives to God.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*DOXOLOGY #780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

**Thank you, God, for meeting us in our need. We are grateful for the trust you place in us. We give that others might respond to the good news of your love. We are hearing the word Jesus spoke in the midst of a storm: "Peace! Be still!" With fresh calm and confidence, we give ourselves that others might live. Thank you, God, for your steadfast love endures forever. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN NO. 593

*"Lift Every Voice and Sing"*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *"Every Time I Feel the Spirit" (chorus)*

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated.)

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

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

LAY READER

USHERS

Members of the Congregation

Fred Merrill and Julie Turner

Diana Sweeney

Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell

Rod and Sue Hunt

Michael Bryan

Ruth Honnors

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 Congregational Church General Announcements

June 21, 2015 Proper 7

**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.

You will be invited this morning to participate in the "feasibility study", regarding the expansion of the CE Director position into a ministerial position (Associate Pastor or similar title). The Council does not desire to proceed without the confidence of the congregation's additional financial support, in order to pay the salary of this expanded position and maintain a balanced budget. The pledge cards that you will be asked to fill out are promises of support and we trust that you will fulfill the promise you make with the help of God. Please fill out a card - no matter how great or small your contribution can be. To assure that we have reached everyone people who do not fill out cards will be called. Thank you.

**We need your help! 5 more representatives needed:**

The **Membership Committee** seeks to connect, to nurture, and to sustain evolving relationships within the First Parish Church Family. They seek out visitors and identify non-members attending church, maintain a list of prospective members and assist the Pastor in contacting them, cultivate, prepare and welcome new members, identify members who have become inactive in the Church's life, inform the Records Clerk concerning active and inactive members.

**BOCOM News:** The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions (BOCOM) recognizes the pressing need to collect food for the hungry in our community and is passionate about assisting in this matter. Watch for future notifications and additional information to come on how we hope to do this.

**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 in the office know.



**Christian Ed:** The K-5 class will be continuing their exploration of Queen Esther through a rotation of mini-lessons in John with Pastor Heidi and Ella Simpson. Following worship on June 28, there will be training for any 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders interested in becoming acolytes. Please contact Pastor Heidi with questions.

**Sunset Fireworks Cruise:** will be Wednesday, July 8, 6:30-10:00pm! Tickets are \$15 per person, \$7 for FPC Youth. Buy a 4-pack for only \$50! See Jack Leonhard for more information.

**The Four Agreements:** PLEASE come on June 25, at 6:30 (we end at 8:00). We read together and discuss some of the basic understandings. 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.



**Vacation Church School:** Vacation Church School is back at First Parish Congregational Church for kids from K-8th grade! This year's theme is "The Incredible Quest". We will learn about Bible characters who faced amazing challenges. Vacation Church School runs from **Monday, July 20-Friday, July 24 from 9:00am-12:00pm**. Early registration is \$13 per child for applications received by July 13. Registrations received after July 13 will be \$15 per child.

## Scriptures – June 21

### Mark 4.35-41

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, ‘Let us go across to the other side.’<sup>36</sup> And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him.<sup>37</sup> A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped.<sup>38</sup> 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?’<sup>39</sup> 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.<sup>40</sup> He said to them, ‘Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?’<sup>41</sup> 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?’