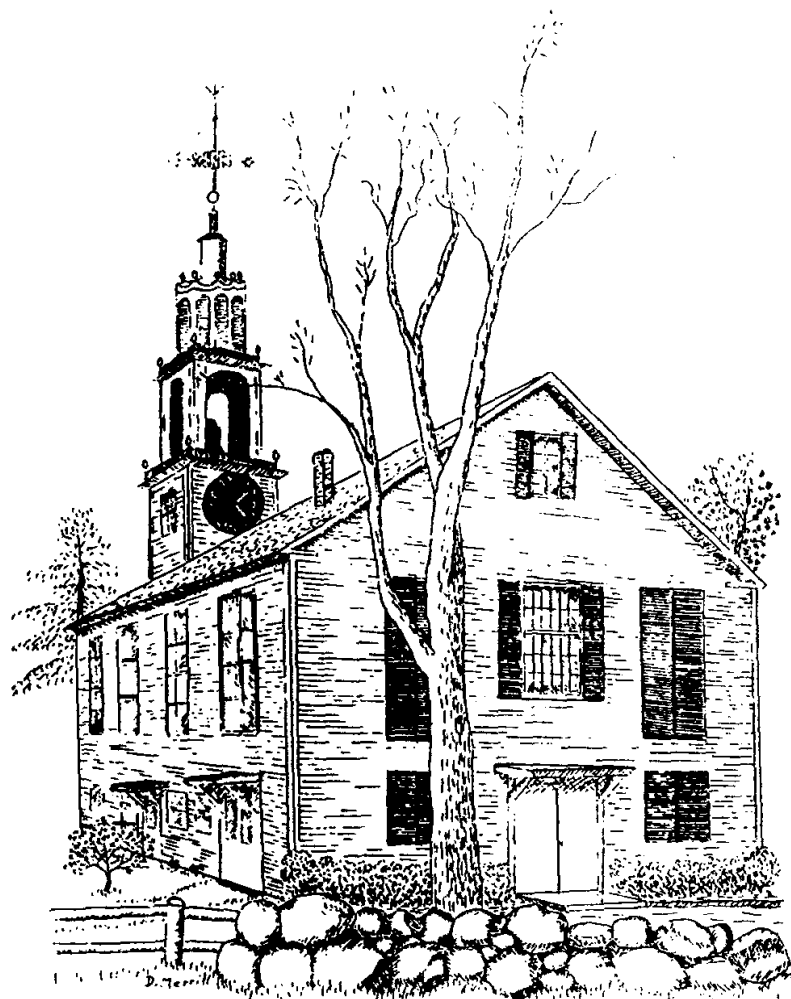


First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road  
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041  
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

**June 7, 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 7, 2015    Third Sunday of Pentecost**

**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 worshipping 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. 304

*“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: There are stirrings deep within that give us hope.

**All: There is a Spirit linking us to one another.**

One: The fires of love dispel life’s shadows.

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

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

**Speak to us, O God, for your servants are trying to listen. Amid the noisy claimants for our attention, our ears tingle at the prospect that you have a message for us. Show us how to proclaim Jesus Christ in our daily decisions so we can witness to your love through deeds of kindness and words that empower. 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.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

The One who listens and rescues gives us a solemn charge. Do not try to hide from me the iniquity I already know. Face up to your sin and let go of it.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Before a word is on our tongues, O God, you know it completely. Before we confess our broken vows, you are aware of them. Our unfaithfulness to you and to people around us is evident to you. We confess to you our individual and shared wrongdoing and neglect. Melt our hardness of heart that we may be forgiven and cleansed from our iniquity. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God is acquainted with all our ways and welcomes us into the light of knowledge of God’s glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Let the life of Jesus be visible to others through you. Stretch out your hand to help those who need a caring touch, a kind word, some practical assistance. What you give away will return to you as joy.

## WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S OFFERING

*"I'm Gonna Sing"*

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

Liz Greenberg

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.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

HYMN NO. 346

*"Bread of the World"*

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

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 and we trust that you will teach them the meaning of this sacred meal.

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.)

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

*HYMN NO. 286	<i>"Spirit of Gentleness"</i>	
GOSPEL	John 20:19-23	(N.T. p. 119)
NEW TESTAMENT	Romans 8:22-27	(N.T. p. 165)
SERMON	"Labor Pains"	The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
CHOIR ANTHEM	<i>"Amen, So Be It!"</i>	Sleeth

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER	
CHORAL RESPONSE	<i>"Spirit of the Living God"</i>

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS

### OFFERTORY INVITATION

We bring our offerings, not to win God's favor, but to express our thanks. We give because we cannot truly live if we only receive. It is our privilege to respond to God's mercy by doing good with the resources entrusted to us. Let us give with generosity and joy.

### OFFERTORY MUSIC

**\*DOXOLOGY #780**      **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter;  
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

**In answer to your call, gracious God, we have opened our ears for your instruction and our eyes to the needs of our sisters and brothers. Together, our effectiveness is multiplied, and your work is made visible. Bless our sharing and our sacrifices that your rule of love may grow among us and extend to all we meet. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN NO. 265      *"Come, O Spirit, with Your Sound"*

### 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  
Ella Simpson  
Diaconate  
Michael Bryan  
Verna Elwell  
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

## Scriptures – June 7

### **Romans 8.22-27**

<sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

### **John 20.19-23**

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’