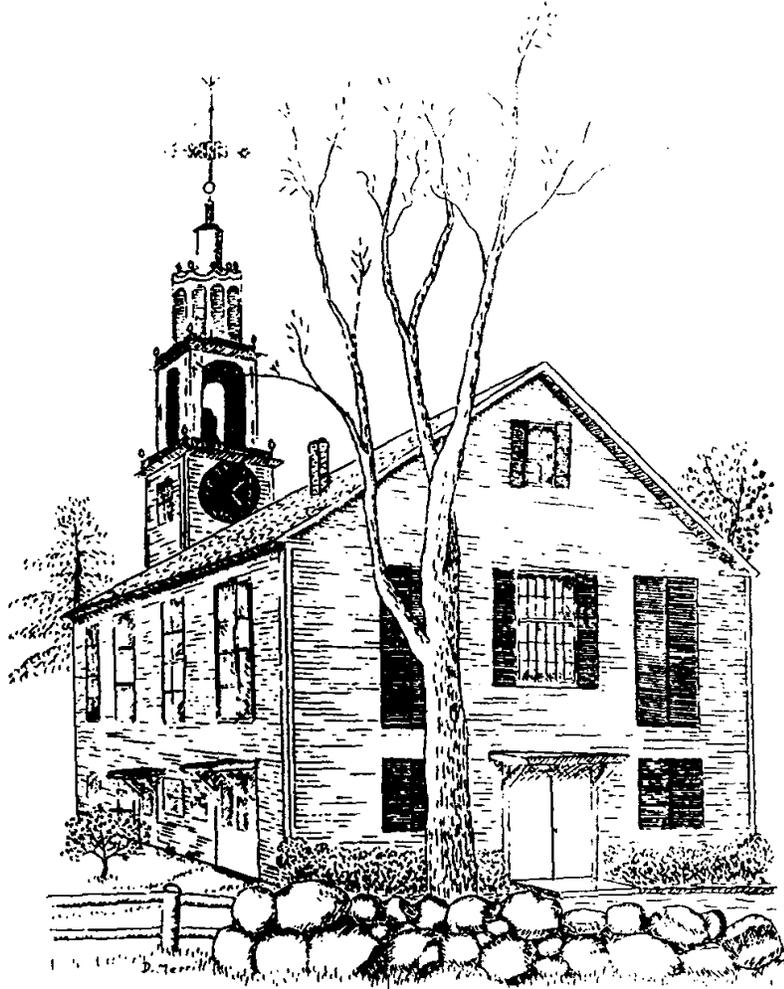


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

July 19, 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)

July 19, 2015 Proper 11

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. 252

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Questions raised in hearts and minds...

All: Is God in this place?

One: Hopes and fears brought to the cross...

All: Maybe God is in this place?

One: The sounds of voices, raised in prayer...

All: Surely, God is in this place?

One: A community gathered together, in love and grace.

All: Surely, God is in this place.

One: God's love and comfort, grace and challenge, surrounding us all, even now...

All: Surely! God is in this place.

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

Holy One, we come before you this morning to seek your presence. We turn our hearts to you in hope knowing you are near. Surely you are in this place. Guardian of our way, tend and befriend us in this hour. Let your Spirit move among us that we might recognize your presence in our own lives. May we worship you with open hands, willing hearts, and songs of praise. 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 onto their classes.)

*HYMN NO. 502

"Dear God, Embracing Humankind"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Genesis 28:10-19

(O.T. p. 27)

GOSPEL

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

(N.T. p. 42)

SERMON

"When We Least Expect It"

Pastor Heidi Carrington Heath

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now" (Bach)

Jim Stewart

WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

The earth belongs to God, and all that is in it. The world is God's creation, and so are we. All that we have is from the gifts of God, meant as a blessing for all to share. In these moments, we recognize our responsibility to manage these resources for the redemption of all God's people. Let us give with care.

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)

Creator, you are the light that is over all things. From you all came forth, and to you all is connected. We clean a racetrack, there we find you; if we lift a stone, there you are. Accept these offerings as our commitment to continue to search for you in unexpected places, and in unexpected faces. Amen.

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

*HYMN NO. 573

"Lead On Eternal Sovereign"

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE NO. 393

"Blessed Be the Tie that Binds (v.1)"

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated.)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH
DEACONS OF THE MONTH
LAY READER
USHERS

GREETER(s)
PASTOR
AFFILIATE PASTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
CE DIRECTOR

Members of the Congregation
Brian Williams and Sarah Keller
Sarah Keller
Stanley and Holly Gorgol
Tom and Andrea Cooper
Michael Bryan
Ruth Honnors
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
Rev. Chester R. Ham
Susan Handy
Jeff DeLangie
Lindsey Roman
Heidi Carrington Heath

First Parish Congregational Church
General Announcements
July 19, 2015 Proper 11

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.

Vacation Church School: Vacation Church School begins **TOMORROW**, Monday, July 20! This year's theme is "The Incredible Quest". We will learn about Bible characters who have faced incredible challenges, like Job, Noah, Ruth, and John the Baptist. We will face our own amazing challenges, too! VCS runs this Monday through Friday, 9:00am-12:00pm. If you have not already registered your child and they would still like to attend, you may register Monday morning (no cost required).



August Newsletter: Submissions for the August 2015 newsletter are due to Lindsey by **Thursday, July 23**.



"Four Agreements" Discussion: There will be a "Four Agreements" discussion on **Sunday, July 26 at 10:30 in A/B**. If you cannot make this date and time, please see Pastor Deborah. Since we will be having Adult Bible Wonder/Study Gathering on Tuesday evenings in the fall, maybe we ought to meet on a Tuesday evening to discuss? Let Pastor Deborah know what you would like to do!

Christian Ed: No church school this week! Activity bags are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please ask an usher for help. Kids are fully welcome in worship, wiggles, and giggles included. Kids learn by doing, so help someone around you follow along if they need it.



Please Note: Pastor Deborah is on vacation through **Wednesday, July 22**. Pastor Heidi will preach and lead worship on Sunday. She is also available via the office or cell phone for urgent pastoral care needs and emergencies. For non-urgent questions or concerns, email is best. You can reach her at: pastorheidiheath@gmail.com. She is off Friday and Monday, but will be here Tuesday-Friday next week for Vacation Church School, with extended hours on Thursday.

Scriptures – July 19

Genesis 28.10-19

10 Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. ¹¹He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹²And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³And the LORD stood beside him and said, ‘I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.’ ¹⁶Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, ‘Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!’ ¹⁷And he was afraid, and said, ‘How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.’

18 So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Mark 6.30-34, 53-56

30 The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹He said to them, ‘Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.’ For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

53 When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.