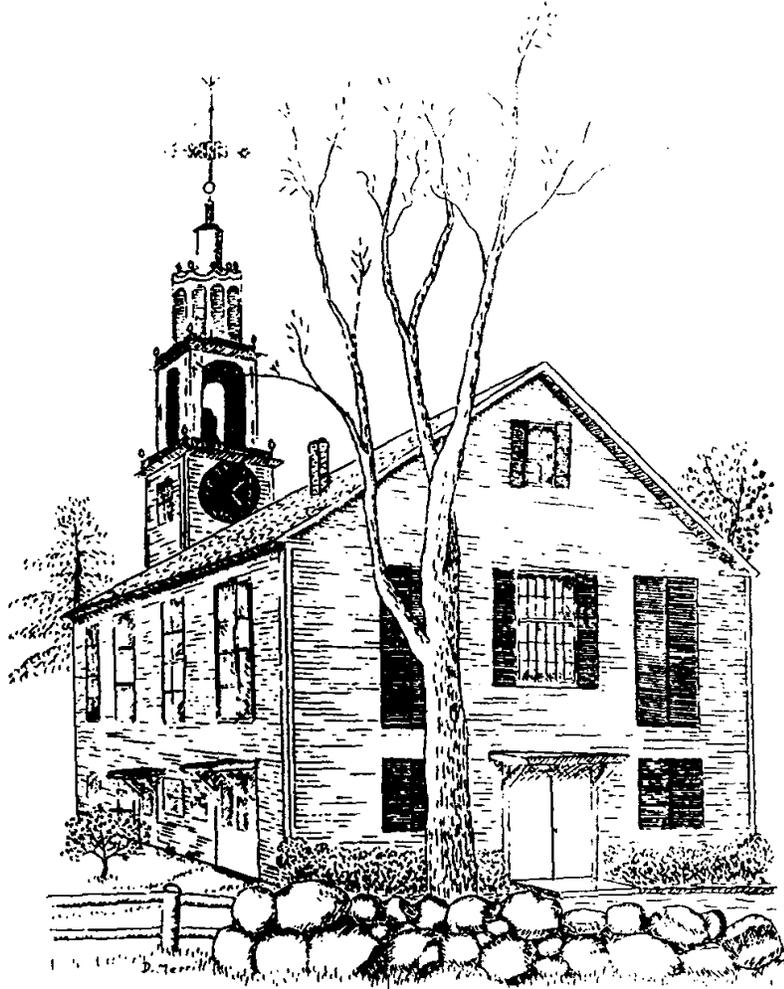


First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road  
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041  
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

**July 26, 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 26, 2015 Proper 12**

**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. 327

*"Jesus Loves Me"*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather before God, who sees all our deeds.

**All: Let us open our hearts to One who knows all our thoughts.**

One: We come to be strengthened in our inner being.

**All: Let us seek to pattern our actions after Christ Jesus.**

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

**We are seeking after you, loving God, for you are our refuge. Your power is at work within and among us, even when we are unaware. We want to respond, as faithful friends of Jesus. We have come to discover the riches we did not know we possessed. We are here to offer our best. Use us, we pray, to accomplish in and through this church, far more than we can ask or imagine. 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.)**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

FIRST READING	John 6:1-13	(N.T. p. 100)
SECOND READING	John 6:14-21	(N.T. pp. 100-101)
SPECIAL MUSIC		Debby McGrath
SERMON	"From Practical to Miracle"	The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS

\*HYMN NO. 505  
*"Sweet Hour of Prayer"*  
PASTORAL PRAYER

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS

### OFFERTORY INVITATION

We have gladly taken more than our share of the world's good. Let us give in proportion to the blessings we have received. May the church be at the forefront of feeding, healing, caring for, and loving God's people. We are the church, the body of Christ, making a difference in the world.

### 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)

**We join with Jesus in giving thanks for the little things we can see, that our eyes may be opened to the great possibilities we had not imagined. May our efforts be multiplied by your grace so there is more than enough for all – more comfort in sorrow, more relief from pain, more mercy to meet our treachery, more sense of presence amid our loneliness, more strength to overcome our weakness, more joy and enthusiasm to erase our apathy. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN NO. 80      *"Savior, Again to Your Dear Name"*

### 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

Members of the Congregation  
Brian Williams and Sarah Keller  
Julie Turner  
Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell  
Rod and Sue Hunt  
Michael Bryan  
Joe Weaver  
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 – July 26

### John 6.1-13

6After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup>A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. <sup>3</sup>Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup>Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. <sup>5</sup>When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, ‘Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?’ <sup>6</sup>He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup>Philip answered him, ‘Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.’ <sup>8</sup>One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup>‘There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?’ <sup>10</sup>Jesus said, ‘Make the people sit down.’ Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. <sup>11</sup>Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup>When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, ‘Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.’ <sup>13</sup>So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

### John 6.14-21

<sup>14</sup>When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, ‘This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.’

<sup>15</sup> When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

<sup>16</sup> When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, <sup>17</sup> got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup>The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup>When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. <sup>20</sup>But he said to them, ‘It is I; do not be afraid.’ <sup>21</sup>Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.