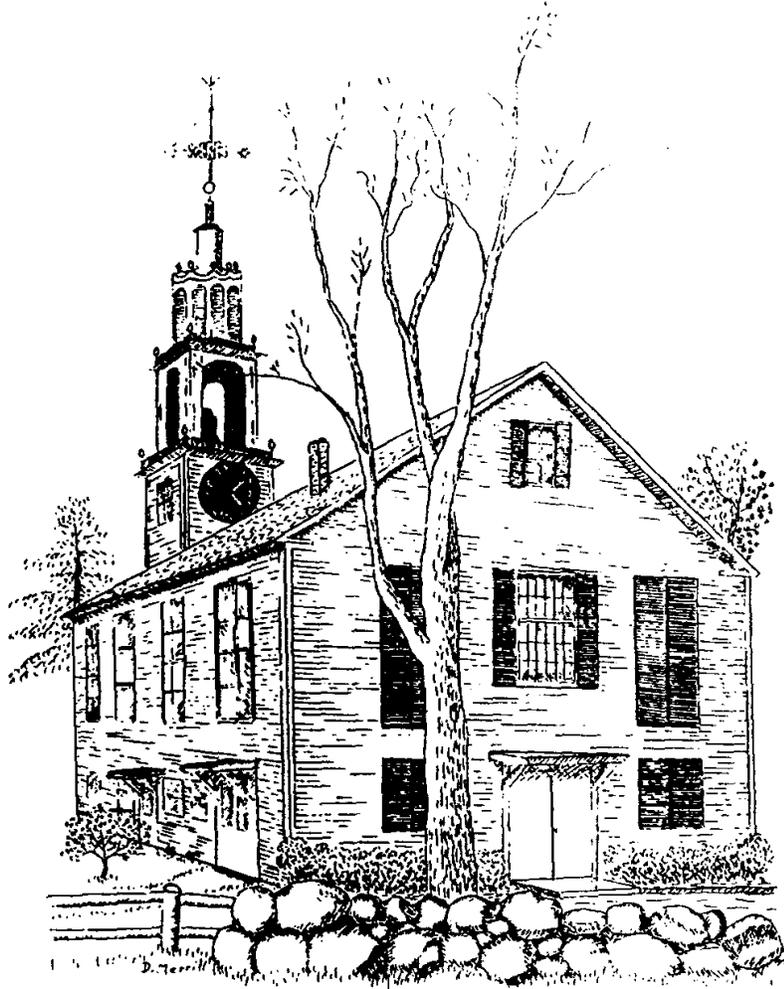


First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road  
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041  
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

**August 23, 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)

**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.**

PRESENTATION Certificate of Appreciation for support of OCWM, presented by Dick Cote of  
NH Conference Office

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS

**WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Lighting the Candles

\*HYMN NO. 1

*“Immortal, Invisible God only Wise”*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSE

One: With profound happiness, we welcome one another.

**All: Singing our praise to God fills us with joy.**

One: Here we welcome both friend and stranger.

**All: We greet one another by name in Jesus’ name.**

One: Open your hearts to receive new strength

**All: Surely God will equip us to face our world.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

**We come together in this house of prayer, trusting you, O God, to give us everything we need. As you provide for the birds of the air, you supply life’s necessities for your children to share. We choose to respond to your promises by identifying ourselves as your servant people who seek to be guided by your word. We gather to reclaim your covenant with 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 Deborah

## **WE RESPOND IN MEMBERSHIP**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (insert)

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. 319

*"Wonderful Words of Life"*

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Psalm 84

(O.T. pp. 600-601)

NEW TESTAMENT

John 6:56-69

(N.T. p. 102)

SERMON

"Something to Chew On"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

SPECIAL MUSIC

Sue Handy

## **WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS**

PASTORAL PRAYER

## **WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

The church is not a private club that we maintain for our own benefit. It is a mission outpost, constantly enlisting us and our resources for the spreading of good news and the increase of God's reign of love. Our offerings are one measure of how seriously we take our call as ambassadors for Christ.

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)

**May our giving add strength to the witness of your church as we humbly seek your truth and lovingly share it. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN NO. 473

*"Blessed Assurance"*

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 81 *"God Be with You (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  
Diana Sweeney and Reni Harnden  
Liz Greenberg  
Stanley and Holly Gorgol  
Tom and Andrea Cooper  
Michael Bryan  
Lisa Hall  
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof  
Rev. Chester R. Ham  
Susan Handy  
Jeff DeLangie  
Lindsey Roman  
Heidi Carrington Heath

### First Parish Activity Calendar

#### **Sunday, August 23**

9:00am      Worship ~ Sanctuary  
9:15am      Sunday School ~ John

#### **Monday, August 24**

*No Events*

#### **Tuesday, August 25**

6:15pm      GS Troop 20321 ~ Luke  
6:30pm      AA ~ Library  
7:00pm      OA ~ A/B  
7:00pm      BS Troop 405 Committee ~ Currier

#### **Wednesday, August 26**

7:00pm      Facilities ~ Cook

#### **Thursday, August 27**

7:00pm      Sr. Choir ~ Music Room

#### **Friday, August 28**

5:00pm      Spaghetti Supper ~ Currier  
7:00pm      “Tick Talk” Event with Dr. Jane Barlow Roy & Dr. Anne Barlow Barry ~ Currier  
7:00pm      AA Serenity Sisters ~ A/B

#### **Saturday, August 29**

7:30pm      AA ~ Currier

#### **Sunday, August 30**

*Last Sunday of 9:00am Worship*  
9:00am      Worship ~ Sanctuary  
9:15am      Sunday School ~ John

**Psalm 84**

To the leader: according to The Gittith. Of the Korahites. A Psalm.

<sup>1</sup> How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O LORD of hosts!

<sup>2</sup> My soul longs, indeed it faints  
for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh sing for joy  
to the living God.

<sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young,  
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.

<sup>4</sup> Happy are those who live in your house,  
ever singing your praise.

*Selah*

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

<sup>6</sup> As they go through the valley of Baca  
they make it a place of springs;  
the early rain also covers it with pools.

<sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength;  
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

<sup>8</sup> O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
give ear, O God of Jacob!

*Selah*

<sup>9</sup> Behold our shield, O God;  
look on the face of your anointed.

<sup>10</sup> For a day in your courts is better  
than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than live in the tents of wickedness.

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD God is a sun and shield;  
he bestows favour and honour.  
No good thing does the LORD withhold  
from those who walk uprightly.  
<sup>12</sup> O LORD of hosts,  
happy is everyone who trusts in you.

### **John 6.56-69**

<sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.'

<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'