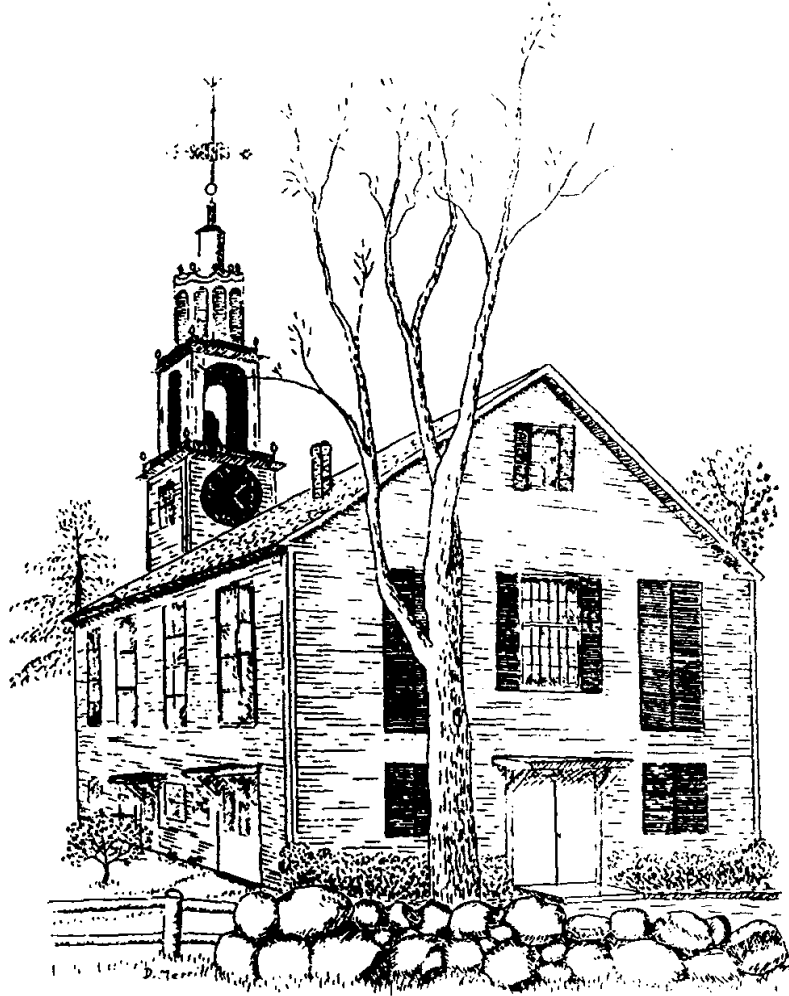


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

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 worshipping 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.

¹ How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!

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

³ 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.

⁴ Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.

Selah

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

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

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

⁸ O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob!

Selah

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

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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.
¹² O LORD of hosts,
happy is everyone who trusts in you.

John 6.56-69

⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This 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.' ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But 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. ⁶⁵And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.'

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