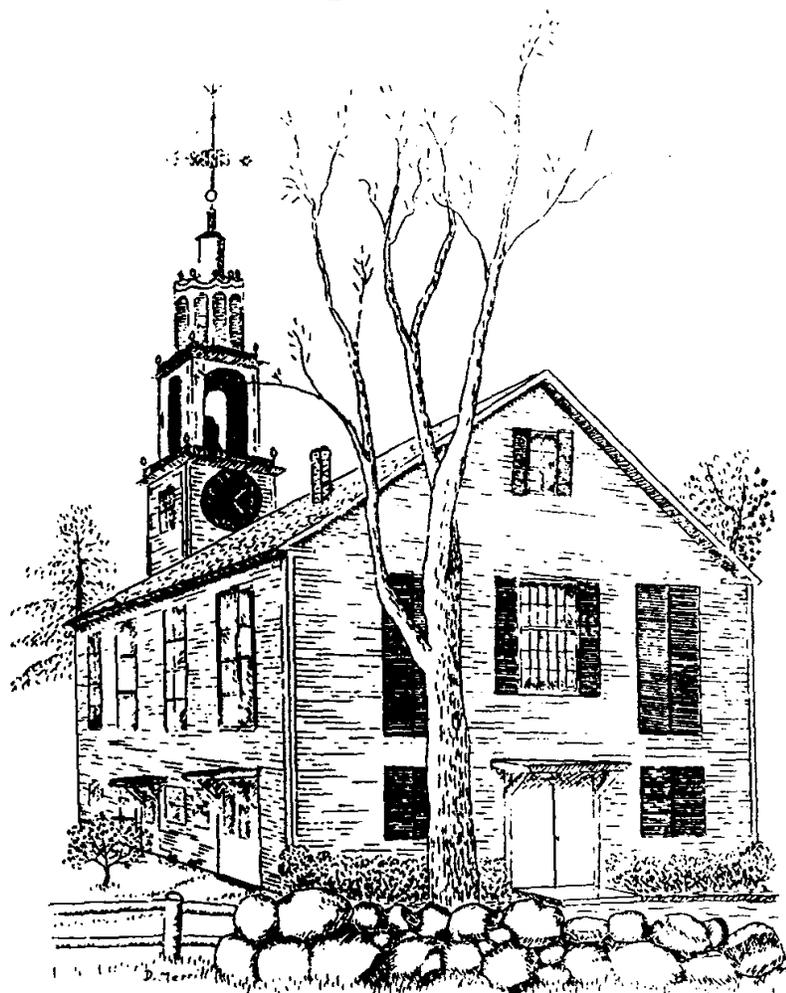


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

August 30, 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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Lighting the Candles

*HYMN NO. 67

“Let Me Enter God’s Own Dwelling”

*CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSE

One: Come to listen for all God seeks to teach us.

All: God has given us birth by the word of truth.

One: Every perfect gift comes to us from God.

All: God’s image is a part of each one of us.

One: God’s grace has been poured into our lives.

All: Wisdom and understanding are offered to us.

One: We will honor God by honoring our neighbors.

All: Let us act toward them as we wish to be treated.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

Our hearts overflow with gratitude, gracious God. You have been so good to us. We have many things to enjoy. Meet us here to anoint us with the oil of gladness. Awaken us with singing and speak your truth to us. May this time of worship help us to become a wise and understanding people, eager to live as the body of Christ, making a difference in the world as Jesus did so long ago on the Galilean shore. 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. 454

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

HEBREW SCRIPTURE I

James 1:17-22

(N.T. p. 46)

HEBREW SCRIPTURE II

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

(N.T. pp. 42-43)

SERMON

"Gander: A Modern Day Gospel"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Forest Green" (Richard Purvis)

Jim Stewart

WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Let us not forget that the bounty we enjoy is only loaned to us for a little while to be managed to the glory of God. Every generous act of giving is prompted by God's own generosity toward us. We are invited to return the first fruits of our labors that, through the outreach of our church, God may accomplish much good for those who most need to know that someone cares.

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)

Our hearts overflow with thanksgiving for all the bounty you entrust to our stewardship, O God of light. Bless our offering of self and substance, we pray. Amen.

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

*HYMN NO. 573

"Lead On, Eternal Sovereign"

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
Pat Plouff
Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell
Rod and Sue Hunt
Michael Bryan
Mark Pingree and Nancy Magee
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
Rev. Chester R. Ham
Susan Handy
Jeff DeLangie
Lindsey Roman
Heidi Carrington Heath

First Parish Activity Calendar

Sunday, August 30

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

Monday, August 31

No Events

Tuesday, September 1

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

Wednesday, September 2

6:30pm Deacons ~ Cook

Thursday, September 3

7:00pm Sr. Choir ~ Music Room
7:00pm Stewardship ~ Cook
7:00pm Christian Ed ~ Nursery

Friday, September 4

7:00pm AA Serenity Sisters ~ A/B

Saturday, September 5

7:30pm AA ~ Currier

Sunday, September 6

Worship returns to 10:00 AM
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary
No Sunday School

Scriptures – August 30

James 1.17-22

17 Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

19 You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.

Mark 7.1-8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23

7 Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' ⁶He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

“This people honours me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

⁷ in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines.”

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.’

14 Then he called the crowd again and said to them, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.’ ²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.’