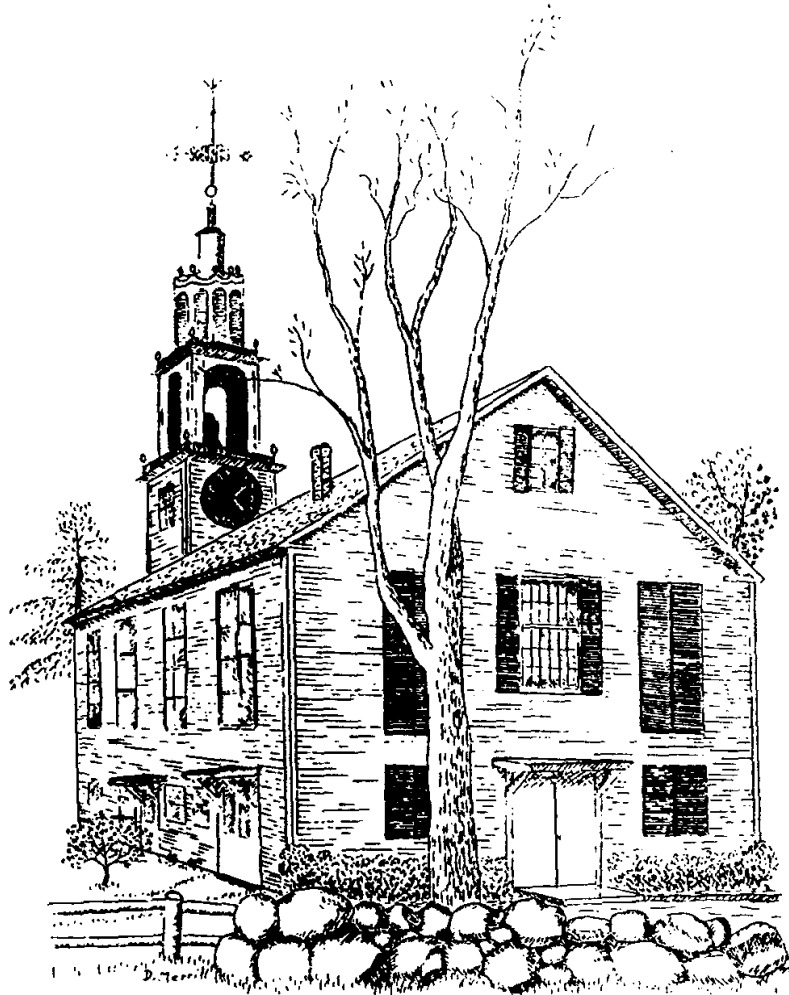


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

September 20, 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)

September 13, 2015 Proper 20

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. 315

"O Word of God Incarnate"

*CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSE

One: Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

All: God is always nearer than our next breath.

One: Knowledge of God is a delight to the righteous.

All: There is always more to discover than we know.

One: Put your trust in God as you prepare to serve.

All: Let us open our hands to the poor and needy.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

Watch over us, O God. Thank you for meeting us here. We submit ourselves to you for inspiration. Help us to be honest with ourselves and with you, voicing our doubts as well as our faith. Create in us a space for quiet listening and thoughtful meditation. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE #236 – **Halle, halle, halleluja. Halle, halle, halleluja.
Halle, halle, halleluja. Halle, halle, halleluja.**

WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S OFFERING

"Jesus Loves Me"

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.

*HYMN NO. 306

"The Church of God in Every Age"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

NEW TESTAMENT	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	(N.T. p. 248)
GOSPEL	Mark 9:30-37	(N.T. p. 46)
SERMON	Peaceful, Gentle, Filled with Mercy	The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
CHOIR ANTHEM	<i>"Come and Worship"</i>	Arr. Patti Drennan

WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER	
CHORAL RESPONSE	<i>"Nothing Can Trouble"</i>

WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

With free-will offerings, we will sacrifice to God, giving thanks for mercies too abundant to count. We want to share all that has been entrusted to our keeping so that God may be praised, and peace may come to all God's people.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

***DOXOLOGY #785 We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

Thank you, God, for this opportunity to support the ministry and mission of our congregation. May there be a harvest of righteousness among us, shown in the peaceful handling of disputes, in mutual love and support, and in courageous outreach to people near and far who need the help we can give. Bless each gift and giver. Amen.

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

HYMN NO. 539 *"Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?"

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

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
Diana Sweeney and Reni Harnden

Cyndi Gray

Ken Gould, Joe Weaver

Dee Deranian, Shirley Dickason

Michael Bryan

Ruth Honnors

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

First Parish Activity Calendar

Sunday, September 20

7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier
8:00am Historic Preservation ~ Archive
9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~
Music Room
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary
10:15am Sunday School ~ John
11:15am Handchime Rehearsal ~
MacGregor
11:30am Mission ~ A/B

Monday, September 21

Pastor Deborah Away

7:00pm Troop 405 Board of Review ~
A/B
7:00pm Troop 405 Meeting ~ Currier
7:00pm Troop 405 ~ Nursery

Tuesday, September 22

Pastor Deborah Away

6:15pm GS Troop 20321 ~ Luke
6:30pm AA ~ Library
7:00pm Faith & Film Gathering ~ Cook
7:00pm OA ~ A/B

Wednesday, September 23

Pastor Deborah Away

6:00pm GS Troop 13152 ~ Currier
7:00pm Facilities ~ Cook

Thursday, September 24

Pastor Deborah Away

6:30pm CS Pack 405 ~
Currier/AB/John/Luke
7:00pm Sr. Choir ~ Music Room

Friday, September 25

Pastor Deborah Away

5:00pm Spaghetti Supper ~ Currier
7:00pm AA Serenity Sisters ~ A/B

Saturday, September 26

Pastor Deborah Away

9:00am Baby Shower ~ MacGregor
7:30pm AA ~ Currier

Sunday, September 27

Pastor Deborah Away

7:00am Best Breakfast
9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~
Music Room
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary
10:15am Sunday School ~ John
11:15am Handchime Rehearsal ~
MacGregor

Pastor Deborah will be away from Monday, September 21 through Friday, October 2. For pastoral emergencies, please contact Pastor Heidi at the office, 603-434-0628 or by email at pastorheidiheath@gmail.com.

Scriptures – September 20

James 3.13-4:3, 7-8a

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

⁴Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Mark 9.30-37

30 They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, ‘The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.’ ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

33 Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, ‘What were you arguing about on the way?’ ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, ‘Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.’ ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷‘Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.’