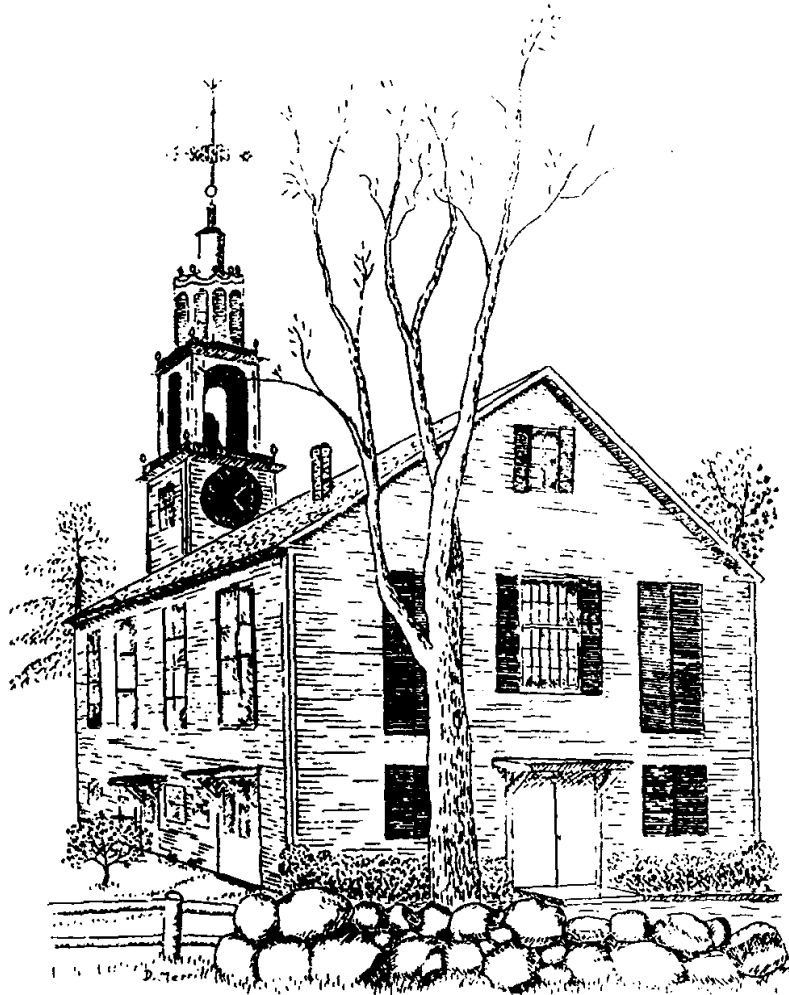


First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road  
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041  
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

**September 27, 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 27, 2015 Proper 21

### 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. 6

*“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”*

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSE

One: Gather us in, O God.

**Many: Gather us in!**

One: The lost and the lonely, the broken and the breaking, the tired and the aching, who long for the nourishment held in your hands.

**Many: Gather us in!**

One: The done and the doubting, the wishing and the wondering, the puzzled and the pondering who long for the company held in your hands.

**Many: Gather us in!**

One: The proud and the pretentious, the sure and superior, the never inferior, who long for the leveling held in your hands.

**Many: Gather us in!**

One: The bright and the bustling, the stirrers, the shakers, the kind laughter-makers, who long for the greater joys held in your hands.

**Many: Gather us in!**

One: From corner or limelight, from mansion or campsite, from fears and obsession, from tears and depression, from untold excesses, from treasured successes, to meet, to greet, to be given a seat, to be joined to the vine, to be offered new wine, to become like the least to be found at the feast.

**Many: Gather us in!**

#### PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

**O Holy One, may this place be filled with your Spirit. Gentle us into an unclenched moment, a deep breath, a letting go of heavy expectations, of shriveling anxieties, of dead certainties. That softened by your love, surrounded by your light, and open to your mystery, we may be found by wholeness, upheld by the unfathomable, entranced by the simple, and filled with the joy that is you. 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

Sue Handy

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. 410

*"If You But Trust in God to Guide You"*

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

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Psalm 139:1-18

(O.T. pp. 639-640)

GOSPEL

Mark 8:27-37

(N.T. pp. 44-45)

SERMON

Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time

Pastor Heidi Carrington Heath

CHOIR ANTHEM

*"O Breath of God"*

Pepper Choplin

**WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS**

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

*"Nothing Can Trouble"*

**WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

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)

**Lord, richly bless and multiply these offerings of gratitude, that all whose lives they touch may know the grace and power of your love. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN NO. 493

*"O Jesus, I Have Promised"*

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

GREETER(s)  
PASTOR  
AFFILIATE PASTOR  
MUSIC DIRECTOR  
ORGANIST  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
CE DIRECTOR

Members of the Congregation  
Fred Merrill and Cyndi Gray  
Cindy Pingree  
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, September 27

*Pastor Deborah Away*

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

#### Monday, September 28

*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 29

*Pastor Deborah Away*

4:00pm GS Troop 20993 ~ Currier  
6:15pm GS Troop 20321 ~ Luke  
6:30pm AA ~ Library  
7:00pm Faith & Film Gathering ~ Cook  
7:00pm OA ~ A/B

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](mailto:pastorheidiheath@gmail.com).

*Pastor Deborah Away*

6:00pm GS Troop 13152 ~ Currier

#### Thursday, October 1

*Pastor Deborah Away*

4:00pm GS Troop 11080 ~ John  
6:30pm CS Pack 405 ~  
Currier/AB/John/Luke  
6:30pm BSA Venture Crew 570 ~  
MacGregor  
7:00pm Stewardship ~ Cook  
7:00pm Christian Ed ~ Nursery  
7:00pm Sr. Choir ~ Music Room

#### Friday, October 2

*Pastor Deborah Away*

2:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive ~ Currier  
7:00pm AA Serenity Sisters ~ A/B

#### Saturday, October 3

7:30pm AA ~ Currier

#### Sunday, October 4

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  
11:45am **Congregational Meeting ~  
Currier**

**Psalm 139**

To the leader. Of David. A Psalm.

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.

<sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup> Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it completely.

<sup>5</sup> You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

<sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?

<sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

<sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

<sup>10</sup> even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

<sup>11</sup> If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light around me become night’,

<sup>12</sup> even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

<sup>13</sup> For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

<sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;

that I know very well.

<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

<sup>16</sup> Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written

all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.

<sup>17</sup> How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup> I try to count them—they are more than the sand;

I come to the end—I am still with you.

### **Mark 8.27-37**

27 Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that I am?’<sup>28</sup> And they answered him, ‘John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.’<sup>29</sup> He asked them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Peter answered him, ‘You are the Messiah.’<sup>30</sup> And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.<sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.<sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.<sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.<sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?