

First Parish Congregational Church

United Church of Christ East Derry, New Hampshire

We are a community of faith built upon a firm foundation of worship, prayer and education. In affirming diversity, we are dedicated to welcoming all people who seek the Word of God, Christian fellowship and service to others. In partnership with Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the ever-widening community through active and loving ministry.

Come visit us! Worship is at 10 am.



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Child of God,

There is a story about six blind men who lived in a village and someone said, "There's an elephant in the village today." None of them knew what an elephant was so they all went to discover it.

"Hey, the elephant is a pillar," said the first man who touched his leg. "Oh, no! it is like a rope," said the second man who touched the tail. "Oh, no! it is like a thick branch of a tree," said the third man who touched the trunk of the elephant. "It is like a big hand fan," said the fourth man who touched the ear of the elephant. "It is like a huge wall," said the fifth man who touched the belly of the elephant. "It is like a solid pipe," said the sixth man who touched the tusk of the elephant.

Each one believes that they are correct and doesn't really believe – or even comprehend – the others. Well, the story goes that a wise man came along and said, "You are all correct. It simply depends upon your perspective."



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Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 6th

Worship returns to 10:00AM

Tuesday, September 8th

Film & Faith Group (p. 3)

Wednesday, September 9th

Tower Takedown (p. 13)

Communication Cohort (p. 13)

Friday, September 10th

Parents' Night Out (p. 13)

Sunday, September 13th

Rally Sunday! (p. 10)

Sunday, September 13th

CE Meeting (7PM in Cook)

Finance Meeting (7PM in A/B)

Sunday, September 20th

Gathering Sunday - Sunday School (p. 4)

Best Breakfast Returns

Youth Group (p. 4)

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



Continued from Page 1:

Nothing breaks God's heart more than division. Jesus prayed: "that they may be one." We have learned through generations of divisions and splitting hairs that, as human beings, we will disagree. Disagreeing is part and parcel of diverse communities. Jesus knew that – he wasn't naïve. Maybe that's why he never prayed for us to "agree" – but he did pray for us to live in harmony, to unite in faith, to speak the truth in love.

In the United Church of Christ, we are a young church – only 6 decades. And we are historically four different denominations who came together to honor differences and to live together rejoicing in the diversity. It is so sad to hear that people have chosen to leave a faith family that has been their spiritual home for so long. We don't know why – we just know that they are no longer among us. For some reason their needs have not been met.

When I took the role of Senior Pastor, I told you that I would do my best – and that I would need your help. No one pastor can "do it all" – without the assistance of the people within the community. If you see a problem, tell your Deacon, tell your Council member-at-large, come talk to me. If you have a problem, come talk about it. Be part of the solution. Be an active force for good in bringing people together, and in doing so you are building up the Body of Christ.

We see things differently – depending upon our perspective. Let us use that as a gift for good and for the advancement of God's Word and work among us! May God's blessing be felt warmly in your life today and moving forward. I'm glad I'm here among you. I'm glad God has such confidence in us!

Peace to you and yours, *Pastor Deborah*

Many folks were able to read the Four Agreements this year. This amazingly helpful way of life is definitely a Christian way of life. Whether you have or have not read the book, here is a little reminder:

Agreement One:

BE IMPECCABLE WITH YOUR WORD

To be impeccable with your word means: to speak with integrity; to say only what you mean; to avoid using words to speak against yourself; to avoid using words to speak against others; and to use the power of your word for truth and encouragement

Our ability to use words sets us apart as humans, but this ability is also a two-edged sword. Words can create and words can destroy. When we misuse our words, we can create major problems, but using our words impeccably heals and empowers others. Gossip destroys lives and it also produces conflict and creates drama. Gossip works like a computer virus. Once it is introduced, your thoughts become mixed up and you stop producing good results. With gossip, one little piece of information can break down other communication. Gossip infects everyone it touches. With a computer virus, we have safety precautions that tell us "Don't open this file" because once you do, it's too late. When we gossip, we act like hackers who intentionally spread a virus to destroy how others think and to cause drama.

Here are guidelines to determine whether what you're saying is gossip:

1. Is it my story to tell? How do I know the information?
2. Do I have the right to speak the information?
3. What is my intention in speaking the information?

BEING POSITIVE AND TRUTHFUL

Keep in mind that your opinion is just your point of view and not necessarily true. Remember, your opinion comes from your own perspective and experience, your own beliefs and "rules." When you speak well of people and yourself, and when you stop yourself from demanding everyone live by your rules, you feel good and at peace with yourself. Use your words to speak truth and to encourage yourself and others.

Christian Ed News from Pastor Heidi

Beloved First Parish,

Happy fall! It feels strange to say that, doesn't it? The summer has flown by. Fall doesn't technically begin until September 23rd. But, it always officially feels like fall to me once back-to-school begins.

It's that time of year again, when mailboxes all over receive the celebrated (ok, and maybe to some, dreaded) back-to-school letter. Usually the envelope includes the name of the student's teacher, a few reminders about school policies, the first of many fliers printed on colored paper to sign and return, and of course: the supply shopping list.

Kids need supplies to help them make the most of their school days. Pens and pencils with which to write; notebooks and lined paper for taking notes; binders and folders to keep things organized; markers, crayons, and glue sticks for more creative endeavors. They need healthy food and emotional support, as well. Children who lack the right supplies may find themselves struggling with the tasks set before them, and that interferes with their learning. They need their backpacks filled with the right supplies to help them learn and grow.

This need doesn't end with graduation, however. As adults, we have spiritual backpacks that need to be filled (no trip to the store required!). In order to learn and grow in our spiritual lives, we need to make sure we have the right supplies for the tasks before us. What might those supplies be? Well, how about a Bible, to learn the stories of our faith ancestors? How about music to uplift and move us? Maybe a good pair of hiking boots or a yoga mat? Or some good chocolate, coffee, tea, bourbon...? Definitely a "village," "tribe," or "church" of some kind to surround us with support.

This fall, Pastor Deborah and I will be offering some new adult faith formation offerings. Sunday School isn't just for kids! One of the ways you can help fill up your backpack with faith and community is to join us on the journey. Tuesday nights at 7 PM, beginning September 8th, I'll be offering a film and faith offering using short films from SALT project. These are 10 minute films from an Emmy award winning production company I write for on faith, Christianity, and our own walks with God. We'll watch a film and talk about it together. They've been met so far with rave reviews from people who can't wait to hear more! Later in the fall, Pastor Deborah will offer Bible Wonder. I know you've all got questions you haven't dared to ask yet about our sacred story.

As we get ready to begin a new school year, eager to learn and experience new things, what would you put in your backpack? Let me know!

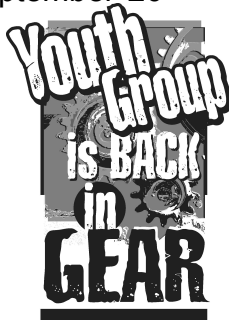
Blessings,

Pastor Heidi

Christian Education Updates

Youth Group!

Youth Group officially kicks off for the program year on Sunday, September 20th. We will meet every other week this fall led by Mr. Matt, Miss Kerri, and Reni! Join us Sunday, September 20th for pizza, planning, and a kick-off to the year.



Blessing of the Backpacks!

Rally Day is September 13th! This year we'll be doing something a little bit different. Students of all ages from preschool to grad school and beyond are invited to bring their backpacks to get supercharged for the school year! Plus, you'll get a little token of First Parish to remind you of how much we love you during the year. Teachers, we'd love to bless your bags too. Come one, come all.



SPARK (Pre-K to 5th Graders) Update

We are so excited for the kick-off of the official program year this fall! Church school will take 2 weeks off on Labor Day Sunday (September 6th) and Rally Day. We hope to see all of you in church for Blessing of the Backpacks on Rally Day/the official start to our program year. September 20th will kick off the church school year with a gathering Sunday. All classes of all ages will meet in John for fellowship and fun together. Stay tuned for more information on what's happening this fall!

Church School Teachers

We love offering such high quality programming for our kids and youth, but we don't do it alone! We need YOUR help. Stop by our table on Rally Day, or see a member of the CE Board to sign up to teach Sunday School! It's a low commitment, high reward way to serve our kids and youth, and be a good steward of Christian Education! Please won't you join us?

Finance Committee

Your Finance Committee is happy to announce First Parish Congregational Church will now be offering Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). EFT donations will be electronically transferred from your bank account to the Church's bank account on a scheduled basis at no charge to you. At this time, you would be able to select weekly or monthly transfers.

No need to worry about writing checks, stopping at the ATM prior to Sunday or setting up bill pay through your online banking. Please see Chris O'Brien before or after service if you have any questions or would like to pick up the form. You will need to complete the form and attach a voided check. Once you have completed the form please return it in a sealed envelope addressed to Pat Crowell. You can also place the sealed envelopes in the plate during service.

Nominating Committee

"Come Rally with Us on September 13th!"

#1. Strive for 100% occupancy of all elected positions of the Church. Select nominees with Focus consistent with the Mission Statement of the Church.

#2. Strive for 100% Occupancy of all elected positions of the Church. We're at 80% to date! 95 out of 110 Positions Filled!

VACANCIES FOR SEPTEMBER 2015

Board/Committee	# of Vacancies	Meeting Time	Chairperson(s)
Board of Missions	1	3rd Sun. @ 11:30a	Joe Weaver/Gloria Bingel
Board of Christian Education	1	1st Thurs. @ 7p	Lianne Deranian/Janet Wetherbee
Diaconate Board	1	1st Wed. @ 7p	Reni Harnden, Brian Williams
Stewardship Board	2	1st Thurs. @ 7p	Fran Berube/Margie Ives
Nominating Committee	1	2nd Sun. @ 7:30a	Carl Hepworth
Library Committee	3	TBD	TBD
Membership Committee	5	TBD	TBD
Personnel Board	2	TBD	Cathy Zylinski

**** This time of year presents an Awesome opportunity for members and friends of First Parish Church to get their "feet wet" with these fourteen vacancies we have available on various Boards and Committee's. You can try them out until next Annual Meeting the end of January 2016 and see what you think!! We are looking for a few good people, and we have a place for You!! We need you and we would hope that you would consider being involved in one of these important positions in the life of our Church.****

Yours Always in Nominating Committee Faith,
Bill Armstrong 432-5446, Paul Dionne 244-8360, Carl and Gail Hepworth 434-2053, and Joe Merrill 247-3051.

Stewardship Board

2015 Stewardship Campaign brings you
2016 PLEDGE DRIVE The Challenge: **"MODERN TITHE"**

Stewardship is a spiritual practice. Stewardship is a journey that is grounded in gratitude, revealed in prayer, and lived out in faith. Stewardship is a spiritual practice, one that like other practices has the potential to change us, to heal us, and to deepen our faith and our lives.

Stewardship is the call on member's hearts to utilize the gifts that God has given them and to support the mission of the church. Stewardship is about inviting each and every person to grow in the spiritual practices of generosity, of giving, and of sharing.

The Stewardship Board seeks to educate our wonderful congregation of very generous people about the junction of the church's needs and your generosity. Part of Stewardship is "financial stewardship." We, on the Stewardship Board, wish to talk to you about our God-given, God-inspired purpose and mission as the church of Jesus Christ – and we are inviting people to grow spiritually by growing in financial generosity.

The Stewardship Board and Pastor Deborah are challenging the members and friends of First Parish Church into a faith practice of a **"Modern Tithe"**. The modern tithe is the idea that we are challenged and encouraged to give 5 percent of our personal income to God's work through the church and 5 percent to God's work through other programs, mission, or charities that we believe are doing God's work in the world.

Part of the beauty of the "modern tithe" is that it is pretty simple, at least in one respect. That is, the real dollar implications are easy to determine and spell out. 5 percent translates to \$1.00 per week per thousand dollars of adjusted annual income (take home pay). 5 percent to God's work through your pledge and another 5 percent to other programs or ministries beyond the congregation. Not everyone will be able to give at these levels right away, but we encourage you to work toward these goals.

Financial stewardship is not primarily about "making the budget". Budgets have their place and can be helpful tools in managing the church and its resources, but they aren't the point. Neither is financial stewardship an appeal to "support the church", simply because people have an assumed obligation to do so. Neither "making the budget" nor "institutional obligation" are particularly inspiring or faithful, though both are often enough the basis upon which many churches conduct their stewardship pledge drives and make their appeal.

For those members and friends of First Parish Church who are already tithing, and giving more to our financial stewardship, we applaud your dedication, generosity, and continued support.

Our forefathers and mothers will be amazed and proud of the transformation that they will see with our church building and programs as we approach our 300th anniversary in 2019.

Your Stewardship Board,

John Bartel, Carl Hepworth, Margie Ives, Chris O'Brien, Glenn Pope, Joyce Pope, Sue Weaver

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,...to give you a future with hope.

Jer 29:11

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

There's a lot going on at Mission these days. The Mission brochure is almost ready for unveiling. Come to our table on Rally Sunday, September 13, and be among the first to see the new brochure.

We're also excited about a new venture. Be on the lookout for new food donation baskets, as well as the basket for Liberty House items in the choir room. So many chances to share!

Lastly, do you know who we are? Thanks to the wonderful talents of Gloria Bingel, Mission members will be sporting new nametags. Check out the new nametags and talk with us about mission.

Mission is thankful to each of you for sharing so generously with those in our community who are struggling. We can do nothing without your kindness. Below is our latest list of agencies receiving Mission support:

*OCWM - **\$350**
Sunshine Soup Kitchen - **\$90**
First Baptist Food Pantry - **\$90**
Community Caregivers - **\$90**
Vintage Grace - **\$90**
Family Promise - **\$90**
Pastoral Counseling - **\$90**
Upper Room - **\$90**
Kairos - **\$90**
Pastor's Discretionary Fund - **\$90**

Please note: On September 13th, a representative from the New Hampshire Conference of UCC will thank us for our *OCWM. We are a "5 for 5" Mission Church. It is an honor to be contributors to all 5 of the UCC's missions in addition to our local giving.

Respectfully submitted,

The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions (BOCOM): Joe Weaver, Gloria Bingel, Sue Brown, Beth Hunter, Katelyn Whittier, Karen Wilson, Linda McCarthy

*Our Church's Wider Mission www.ucc.org/ocwm

Fundraising Committee

We have already successfully raised \$4200 in all events to date, not including placemat advertising sales, and are continuing to work towards raising the additional \$8800 needed to reach our initial \$13,000 goal.

We have been busy during the month of August selling advertising for placemats for church events (Best Breakfast, Spaghetti Suppers, Harvest Supper). A big thanks to church members, neighbors, and friends who have supported this campaign by purchasing ads for their businesses. Watch for the placemats to be in use at all food related church events by the first Best Breakfast of the year! Please support our advertisers as they have supported us – and let them know where you saw their ad! As of this writing, we have sold \$4200 in ads and are hoping for more as additional responses come back. Final totals will be published in next month's newsletter.

The All Church Cookout at the Cobban's Beach on Island Pond on Sunday, August 16th was a great success. A good time was had by all who attended and we raised about \$125. A huge thank you to Alec Cobban, our grill master extraordinaire, to Rachel, our hostess extraordinaire, and the Cobban family for setting up to welcome our church family!

HANNAFORD'S GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER:

This is a brand new (to us) fundraising project that will be rolled out starting on Rally Sunday, September 13th. This one won't require you to dig any deeper into your pockets for any more money than you already budget each and every month. We all buy groceries, right? Well, our local grocery chains offer community fundraising programs in which we can buy gift cards in any denomination that will pay our church 5% back. Doesn't sound like much? Well, here's an example:

If we had 150 participants purchasing \$200 of groceries monthly using gift cards purchased through the church, the church would make \$18,000 in a year!!!

Yes, friends, that's no more money out of your pocket than you already spend and the church has a steady income stream! What could be easier!

So starting this Fall, we will be piloting this program by selling \$100 Hannafords gift cards on Sundays in Currier after church. If there's enough interest and participation, we can then look into expanding to offer Market Basket cards too. Once you have your gift card, you can repeatedly reload them through the church and we will continue to receive our 5% of your grocery purchases!

FPC Dining for Dollars:

We are working on bringing this popular event back in October. Local restaurants are being approached about their willingness to host our group as we dine out together and enjoy fellowship.

- Submitted on behalf of Fundraising Committee, by Liz Greenberg



Historical Preservation Committee

Acquiring the Parker Portraits

This summer, First Parish Church received a wonderful donation of portraits of Rev. Edward L. Parker and his wife, Mehetable (Kimball) Parker. Rev. Parker (1785-1840) was pastor at FPC for 40 years. He was a significant member of the church and community and he, his wife, and their daughter are buried in Forest Hill Cemetery.

Last month's newsletter featured an article about Rev. Parker and mentioned the acquisition of the portraits. The Historical Preservation Committee feels that it is worth sharing more information about the sequence of events that resulted in the paintings "coming home" to Derry and FPC, as his story illustrates both the challenges and the joys of acquiring important artifacts.



It began about four years ago. Derry Town Historian Rick Holmes received a call from a man named Mr. Paul L. Eagle of Virginia who had decided to donate the two portraits. They belonged to his wife, Ellen Pillsbury Parker Eagle, a descendant of the Parkers who unfortunately died in 2009.

Rick Holmes passed along the message to Marilyn Ham and she made some exploratory calls. The first plan (developed over a few months) was for Mr. Eagle to drive up to New Hampshire and drop off the portraits. Unfortunately the logistics of this trip—a significant endeavor for the elder gentleman—never worked out and more than a year passed by.

In the middle of 2013, Marilyn learned that Mr. Eagle had sadly passed away, in February 2013. She spoke with one family friend who gave her contact information for Sean Pugh, who would be dealing with some issues relating to Mr. Eagle's estate. Marilyn periodically made calls over the course of a frustrating year and a half, remaining persistent and optimistic. As we listened to Marilyn's updates about this project at committee meetings, we realized she really has a wonderful touch: she made sure Mr. Pugh knew that we were interested in providing a home to the paintings, but she was also very sensitive to the fact that he had a full life and schedule (we later learned he was facing various challenges with his business at the time). Throughout Marilyn was persistent while also conveying that we understood it took time to get the portraits appraised for the donation and to plan packing and shipping logistics.

Marilyn described her thoughts at this time during the acquisition process: "I always felt that there was a connection...and that, eventually, we would get the portraits." Marilyn had a wonderful sense of the appropriateness of the donation: "I felt strongly that the portraits need to come home. The Parkers are buried here behind the church. The Eagle family did not even know Rev. Parker's wife's name. Our church should be their home."

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Cont. from Page 9...

During the late spring 2015, Marilyn was thrilled to get the call from Sean Pugh informing her that he would indeed be able to bring the portraits to Derry during the summer. On July 13, 2015—one day shy of the 165th sad anniversary of Rev. Edward Parker's death on July 14, 1850—Mr. Pugh came to FPC with the gift of the portraits.



Members of the Historical Preservation Committee and Pastor Deborah had a wonderful meeting with Sean, and showed him the church and the Parker gravesite. He told an amusing story relating to his memories of the portraits. He had briefly dated the Eagles' daughter in high school, then remained close friends with her parents (Mr. Eagle's obituary listed Sean as a son). The Parker portraits hung in one of the staircases of the Eagle house. Sean found the portraits to be intimidating and he would try to avoid the staircase with the Parker portraits and take the other stairs in the house!

When asked what it was like to see the portraits, Marilyn Ham said she felt like cheering, "Yay! Rev.

Parker is back!" We are thrilled to have the portraits of the Parkers at First Parish Church! The HPC is reviewing options to display the portraits more permanently, although they need appropriate frames and would benefit from some restoration. In the meantime, we encourage you to look for the portraits on display during Rally Day in Currier Hall and try to remember Rev. Edward Parker's wife's name: Mehetable!

- Nancy Heywood and Ginny True on behalf of the Historical Preservation Committee

It's Rally Sunday – September 13, 2015

Coming "home" to First Parish on Rally Day? Just dropping by to check out this history-rich community on the hill?

We can't wait to see you!!

Enjoy a barbecue luncheon immediately after Worship in Currier Hall where you will also find all the activities currently ongoing and planned for the year ahead! Sign up for Sunday School! Sign up to be an usher or greeter on a Sunday!

Check out the happenings of each of our Boards and Committees and learn how you can join in! A sign-up sheet, if you wish to contribute a food item, will be in Currier Hall at Fellowship on Sunday, August 30th.

If you wish, please contact Linda Webber directly at 603-560-3526 or

rsamelin@comcast.net.



Thank You Racetrack Clean-Up Volunteers!

On Saturday, July 18, many members and friends of First Parish volunteered their time to clean up at the NH Motor Speedway after the NASCAR race. This clean-up, besides to do good in the NH community, is also an annual fundraising effort for the church. This year, we were able to raise \$1,286 in a check sent to us. Thank you so much to all those who came and helped – even though these pictures show everyone after they just finished picking up trash, it seems that everyone had fun!!



Family Promise Needs (a little bit of) Your Help

Our next Family Promise co-hosting week is Sept 14-20. For those of you who may not know, this is a mission-supported program that provides short-term shelter and food to homeless families in Greater Rockingham county. As usual, we will need as many helpers as we can get, either cooking a meal (to be delivered at 6 pm), spending the 7-9 pm evening hours one night with the families as “host”, or sleeping there overnight (9 pm-7 am). Each of these tasks is easy and painless, and essential to the program.

As always, the hosting takes place at the Calvary Bible church, right down the road from our own church on East Derry Road.

The program has been very successful, runs smoothly, and continues to improve. Our Executive Director, Maggie Doughty, is a delight and extremely efficient. And our caseworker Nicole is very good with the families. If you would like to learn more about the program, please visit the website www.familypromisegr.org or talk to me.

Right now, we have 3 highly motivated families in the program, and a fourth one joining us shortly.

A couple of the moms have jobs, a couple don't but are hard at work looking for employment while they look for housing. Family Promise is partnering with 4 transitional housing programs in the area that offer longer term housing in a single location, while families look for more permanent housing. This seems to work very well, and has shortened the families' tenure in the Family Promise program to the planned 90 to 120 days (or less) in most cases.

I'll also take this opportunity to tell you about a couple of upcoming fundraisers, which are very important to the program's continued success:

- **Monday, Sept 14:** Visit Five Guys Burgers and Fries at 61 Crystal Avenue in Derry. 15% of your bill will be contributed to Family Promise IF you have a copy of the flyer. Contact me in person or via email to get one, or pick one up in the church office.
- **Sunday, Sept 20 (2:00 pm):** Participate in the First Annual Closest to the Pin Challenge, at 145 Hampstead Road in Derry. Call or email Maggie Doughty at m.doughty@familypromisegr.org or 603-432-0400 for details and to register. Suggested donation is \$25.
- **Friday, November 13 (6:30 pm):** Attend our 3rd Annual Gala at Atkinson Resort and Country Club. This is a great evening of fine food, a silent auction, a raffle, and impressive entertainment provided by area youth. Tickets are \$45 per person. Contact me for tickets and info, including how you can be a co-sponsor of the event (sueandrandybrown@gmail.com or 603-347-6987) or order online at www.familypromisegr.org.

There are 4 reputable car mechanics that help the people served by Family Promise by providing them with free car repairs that would be difficult or impossible for our guests to pay for in their current situation. These wonderful places include LoLo's Garage (Derry), Tires Too (Londonderry), L Town Garage (Londonderry), and Lemires Auto (Londonderry). If you frequent any of these shops, please take a moment to express your thanks for assisting Family Promise. And if you're looking for a mechanic yourself, please consider these and let them know you chose them because of their generosity.

Please try to find a couple of hours to help out during the week of Sept 14-20 and email me at sueandrandybrown@gmail.com or call 603-347-6987 to let me know what you are volunteering for and when. The families are amazed and grateful that total strangers are willing to feed them, shelter them, and just talk with them.

- Randy Brown, Coordinator and FP Board Member

Around Our Church

Wanted: Handchime Players

The Handchime Choir is looking for a few new players. We are looking for anyone from grade 5 and up. Musical training is nice, but not required. We will teach. We are especially looking for someone tall to handle the larger bells. Rehearsals are after church on Sundays. The first rehearsal will be September 20th. If you are interested or would like more information, please speak with Ken Williams.

Parents' Night Out

Save the date! Friday, September 11th, drop your kids off at First Parish from 6-9 PM for a Parents' Night Out. We will provide a safe, fun evening of fun, including an age appropriate movie, for kids from K-5th grade. Youth members grades 6-12 are welcome to come as helpers. Adult helpers needed! Please see Pastor Heidi for more details or to volunteer!



Communication Cohort

The next Communication Cohort will be held on Wednesday, September 9th at 7:00 PM in Cook. If you are interested in what's going on at First Parish, please plan to attend.

Tower Takedown Update!

The highly anticipated takedown of our historic tower belfry and lantern has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 9th! More details about the time will follow, but save the date to come see all the action!

Adult Faith Formation

Tuesday Evenings, 7 – 8 PM in Cook

Pastor Deborah and Pastor Heidi will be offering adult Faith Formation gatherings. From Sept. 8 - Oct. 6, Pastor Heidi will offer Film and Faith discussions. From Oct. 27-Nov. 17, Pastor Deborah will offer Bible Wonder from 7-8PM in Cook. Hope to see you there!

Join the Sacred Dancers!

The Sacred Dance Choir is looking forward to an exciting 2015-2016 season! They are also looking forward to welcoming new members! If you would like to explore participating in this fun but very spiritual group, please get in touch with Kathryn Bell, Marie Greene, or Beth Hunter.

In Our Community

Derryfest 2015

Community activists have resurrected Derryfest! It will be held in MacGregor Park on Saturday, September 19th from 10AM – 5PM. Come show your support for our town and mingle with friends from across the community! For more information and a schedule of events, please visit derryfest.org.

NH Conference of UCC Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 24th

Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH

The Annual Meeting of the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ is fast approaching. All are invited to attend: UCC Clergy with Full Standing in NH, Lay Delegates, Members in Discernment and Visitors.

We hope all will attend for uplifting worship; to learn more about the NH Conference, UCC, and to meet the UCC General Minister and President-Elect, John Dorhauer, who will keynote this year's event.

Registration is now open! Please click here to register: <http://www.cvent.com/events/annual-meeting-2015/event-summary-03a7d9d2e0494c0185d30d2ed8d163b0.aspx>
For more information about the event, and a selection of resources, please visit www.nhcucc.org. We look forward to seeing you at this year's event!

Compassionate Care Hospice

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

You can help us make a difference in the lives of hospice patients and their families. Become a Compassionate Care Hospice Volunteer! Be a vital part of the team caring for people at the end of life by serving as a companion to persons with life-limiting illnesses.

You can assist patients by reading, writing letters, playing music, holding hands, or simply just sitting quietly with the patient. For individuals interested in this meaningful opportunity, a free volunteer training is provided. For more information, please contact Amanda Rushton at (603) 421-9887 or email: amanda.rushton@cchnet.net.



Scripture Readings

*Readings are from the Revised Common
Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals – Year B*

September 6th – Proper 18

Prov 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalm 125

Psalm 146

James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

September 13th – Proper 19

Prov 1:20-33

Psalm 19

Psalm 116:1-9

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

September 20th – Proper 20

Prov 31:10-31

Psalm 1

Psalm 54

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

September 27th – Proper 21

Est 7:1-6, 9-10

Psalm 124

Psalm 19:7-14

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

Worship Leadership

Deacons & Lay Readers

Deacons of the Month

Cindy Pingree and Cyndi Gray

September 6th: Ella Simpson

September 13th: Steve Davis

September 20th: Beth Hunter

September 27th: Cindy Pingree

Ushers & Greeters

Weekly Usher – Michael Bryan

Sept. 6th: Ushers: Diaconate

Greeter: Verna Elwell

Sept. 13th: Ushers: Ross & Linda Webber

Kevin & Diane Gordon

Greeter: Shirley Dickason

Sept. 20th: Ushers: Ken Gould, Joe Weaver

Dee Deranian, Shirley Dickason

Greeter: Ruth Honnors

Sept. 27th: Ushers: Stanley & Holly Gorgol

Tom & Andrea Cooper

Greeter: Beth Hunter

Nursing Home Friends

Theo Johnson

Hillsborough Country Nursing Home

Phil Guertin

Pleasant Valley Nursing Home

First Parish Congregational Church, UCC

Church Office Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday-Friday: 9 am – 4:30 pm

You are most warmly invited:

10:00 am Sunday Worship & Church School

11:00 am Coffee Hour

Check us out on the web:

www.fpc-ucc.org

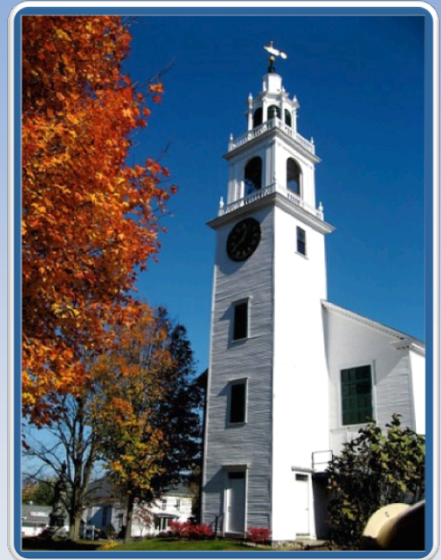
Email our office manager, Lindsey Roman:

officemgr@fpc-ucc.org

Email our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof:

pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org

Call our office: 603-434-0628



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United Church of Christ
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