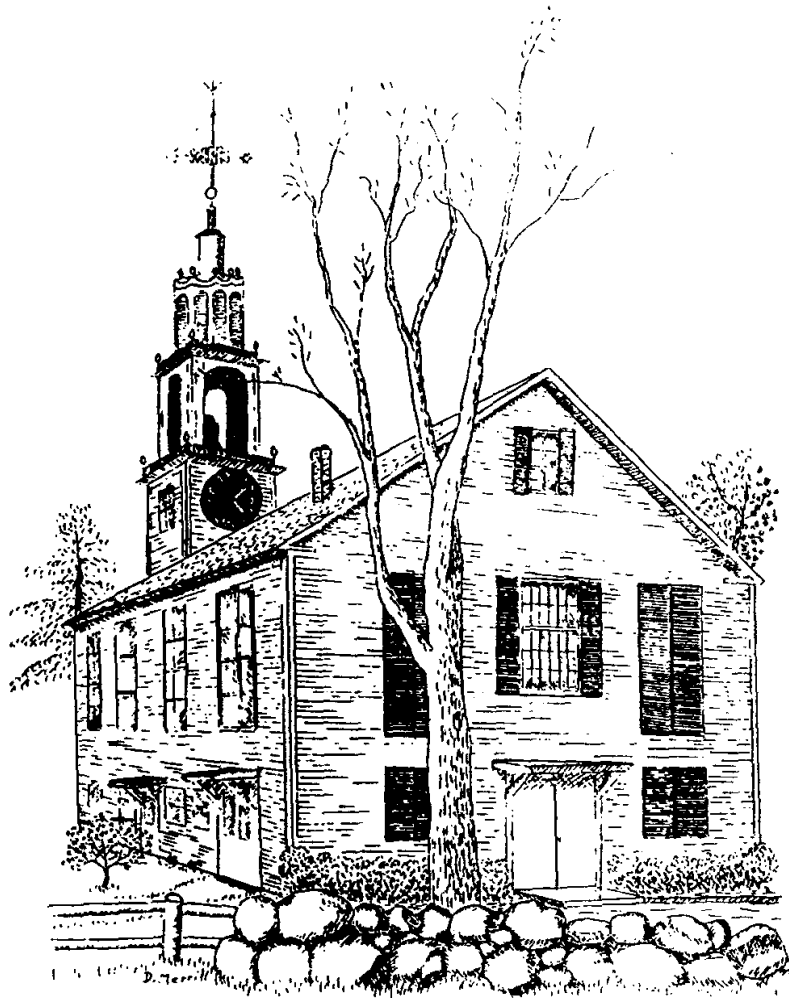


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

April 17, 2016 **Fourth Sunday of Easter**



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)

April 17, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is 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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

***HYMN NO. 379** *“Come, We Who Love God’s Name”*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Arise, people of God, to greet the one who calls us;

All: God awakens and restores our souls.

One: The shepherd is calling us to new ventures.

All: God’s love in Christ is with us everywhere.

One: Gather to find comfort and blessing here.

All: Surely God will guide our search for meaning.

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)**

Great God, unknown to us except in fleeting glimpses, we live for the moments when your voice is heard and your will is clear. We long to walk with you beside still waters and to lie down in green pastures. Nourish us now by your Word and Spirit, that we may join the heavenly chorus singing your praises while being of some earthly good to those who cannot hear the joyful sounds. 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

“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)

Dear God, we offer you our gifts with thanks and praise, be with us and guide us all of our days. Teach us how to love each other, and to shine your light into the world. Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Steve Davis

BLESSING OF MARATHON RUNNERS

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. 305

“Ye Servants of God”

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

HEBREW SCRIPTURES	Psalm 23	(O.T. p. 553)
NEW TESTAMENT	Acts 9:36-43	(N.T. p. 133)
GOSPEL	John 10:22-30	(N.T. p. 107)
SERMON	The Table is Set	The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
CHOIR ANTHEM	<i>"If Anybody Asks You"</i>	Traditional, arr. Hayes

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE *"Jesus, Remember Me"*

WE RESPOND WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT – Sue Weaver

EARTH DAY TEASER – Ashley Cox

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Surely the goodness of God overflows in our lives. Take time to count your blessings. The works of God are all around us. In these moments, we have the opportunity to offer ourselves and our substance to extend God's work on earth.

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

Make these moments a feast of dedication to your purposes among us, loving glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.

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

*HYMN NO. 252 *"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"*

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH
DEACONS OF THE MONTH
LAY READER
USHERS

Members of the Congregation
Fred Merrill and Joanne Worthen
Diane Breeden
Ross and Linda Webber
Kevin and Diane Gordon
Michael Bryan
Becky Fleury
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath
Susan Handy
Jeff DeLangie
Lindsey Roman

GREETER(s)
PASTOR
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Introducing the Finance Committee!

Chris O'Brien - Chairperson
Deb Ambler - Treasurer
Pat Crowell - Financial Secretary
Harry Carter - Assistant Financial Secretary
Bill Armstrong - Clerk
Joyce Pope
Fay Chary
Ross Webber

First Parish Activity Calendar

Sunday, April 17

8:00am Historic Preservation ~ Archive
8:00am Youth Ministry ~ A/B
9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Luke
10:00am Worship ~ Currier
11:15am Children's Choir ~ Luke
11:35am Handchime Rehearsal ~ Luke

Monday, April 18

7:00pm Troop 405 ~ Currier/AB/Nursery

Tuesday, April 19

9:30am Nutfield Gym ~ Currier
4:00pm GS Troop 20993 ~ Currier
6:15pm GS Troop 20321 ~ Luke
6:30pm Bible Study ~ Currier
7:00pm OA ~ Nursery

Wednesday, April 20

6:00pm GS Troop 13152 ~ John
7:00pm AA 12 Step Workshop ~ Nursery

Thursday, April 21

4:00pm Dining for Dollars ~
Applebee's Derry
4:30pm Daisy Trp 11080 ~ John
6:30pm CS Pack 405 ~ Currier/Luke/AB
7:00pm Sr. Choir ~ Luke

Friday, April 22

EARTH DAY

7:00pm AA Serenity Sisters ~ A/B

Saturday, April 23

7:30pm AA ~ Currier

Sunday, April 24

9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Luke
10:00am Worship ~ Currier
10:15am Sunday School ~ John
11:15am Children's Choir ~ Luke
11:30am Mission ~ A/B
11:35am Handchime Rehearsal ~ Luke

Scriptures – April 17

Psalm 23

A Psalm of David.

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths

for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff—

they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

my whole life long.

Acts 9.36-43

³⁶ Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity.³⁷ At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs.³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.'³⁹ So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them.⁴⁰ Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up.⁴¹ He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive.⁴² This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.⁴³ Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

John 10.22-30

22 At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter,²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon.²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.'²⁵ Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me;²⁶ but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep.²⁷ My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.²⁹ What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.³⁰ The Father and I are one.'