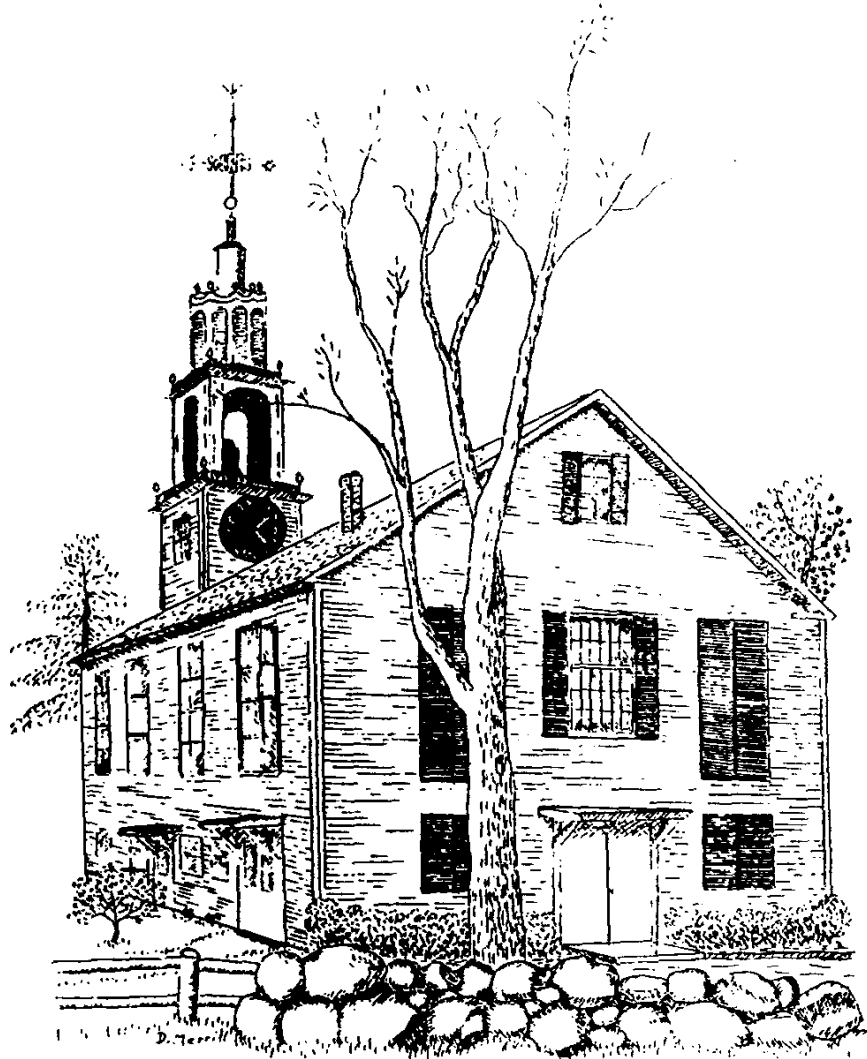


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

July 17, 2016

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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)

July 17, 2016

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus said: 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;

for I was hungry and **you gave me food**, I was thirsty and **you gave me something to drink**, I was a stranger and **you welcomed me**,

I was naked and **you gave me clothing**, I was sick and **you took care of me**, I was in prison and **you visited me.**' (Matthew 25:34-36)

WELCOME TO ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

*HYMN NO. 1

"Immortal, Invisible"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, people of faith, trust in God's steadfast love.

All: Let us take refuge in the eternal presence.

One: We will gather in heartfelt awe before the source of all things.

All: Let us climb God's holy hill, giving thanks.

One: Know that Christ is the image of the invisible God.

All: We are the church, gathering in Christ's name.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Awesome God, we thirst for your presence. We long to make sense of so much we do not understand. We want our worship to be more than a quick diversion from tasks that seem more pressing. We want to believe there is more to life than seeking personal gain. We bring to you today our troubles and anxieties, our estrangements and hostilities, our boasting and deceits. Meet us here with truth we cannot avoid. 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 YOUNGER DISCIPLES

At this time, all children are invited to come forward for the children's offering, and children's time. An offering is not required for participation. All are welcome, especially first time visitors.

CHILDREN'S OFFERING

"Jesus Loves Me"

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

Pastor Heidi

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 and youth may now go to their classes.)

*HYMN NO. 438

"It is Well with My Soul"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE Colossians 1:15-20 (N.T. p. 213)

NEW TESTAMENT Luke 10:38-42 (N.T. pp. 72-74)

SERMON "Choosing the Better Part" (N.T. pp. 72-74)

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

The psalmist laughs at those who trust in wealth. Perhaps we are ones who are objects of that scorn. Let us use our wealth to proclaim the one in whom we really trust, that creative energy of love who fills the whole universe and has been revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

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

Through our offerings, loving God, we proclaim Christ to the world. We dedicate all we are giving to preaching, teaching, and outreach that move people toward Christian maturity. We offer ourselves as advocates for the poor and needy, as seekers for justice, as stewards of hope. We turn from false securities to put our confidence in you, that the mystery of your glorious Word may be opened up among all your people. Amen.

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE A LOVING, SERVING GOD

*HYMN NO. 451

"Be Now my Vision"

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE **God be with you till we meet again;
By good counsel guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH
DEACONS OF THE MONTH
LAY READER
USHERS

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

Members of the Congregation
Sarah Keller and Diane Dunn
Pat Plouff
Stanley and Holly Gorgol
Tom and Andrea Cooper
Michael Bryan
Davis and Lorie McGrath
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath
Susan Handy
Jeff DeLangie
Rebecca Cobban

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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Interim Office Manager: Rebecca Cobban Email: officemgr@fpc-ucc.org
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Our website www.fpc-ucc.org Find us and 'friend us' on Facebook www.facebook.com/fpcucc



Food Pantry Donations – We are in need of food pantry donations, they must be nonperishable and non-glass. Please help us support our local food pantry, every donation counts.

Summer Faith Formation – **UPDATED: Join us for Summer Faith Formation reading *The Shack* by William Paul Young!**

Due to popular demand, we have updated dates, times, and expanded offerings for our summer reading group pursuing William Paul Young's *The Shack*. Our Pastors will lead an evening group from Tuesday, July 26th-Tuesday, August 16th from 7-8:30 PM on Tuesday evenings. We will also offer a daytime group from 9:30-11 AM on Wednesdays meeting August 3rd-August 24th. All are welcome! Please RSVP to Pastor Heidi and let her know which group you are attending, and if you need a book.

VCS – Vacation Church School is starting this week but have no fear you can still sign up! Registration forms are on the church website (www.fpc-ucc.org) or in the church office.

Boy Scout Bake Sale – July 24th after church the boy scouts are having a bake sale fundraiser.

Slow-Flow Yoga – Join Ali Bowen for slow-flow yoga on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.! Ali is a registered 200-hour YTT yoga instructor who has been attending First Parish since February. This three-week session will run from August 4th - August 18th, and the cost is \$25 for all three classes or \$10 per class. Twenty percent of the proceeds will benefit First Parish. No prior yoga experience required, but you will need to bring your own mat! Please sign up by Sunday, July 24th.

Fireworks Cruise!! – Join us on August 10th at 7pm for the annual Youth Ministry Fireworks Cruise. Tickets are being sold after church, \$15 each or 4 for \$50. Please see Reni Harnden for more information.

Colossians 1: 15-20

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross

Luke 10:38-42

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴² there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."