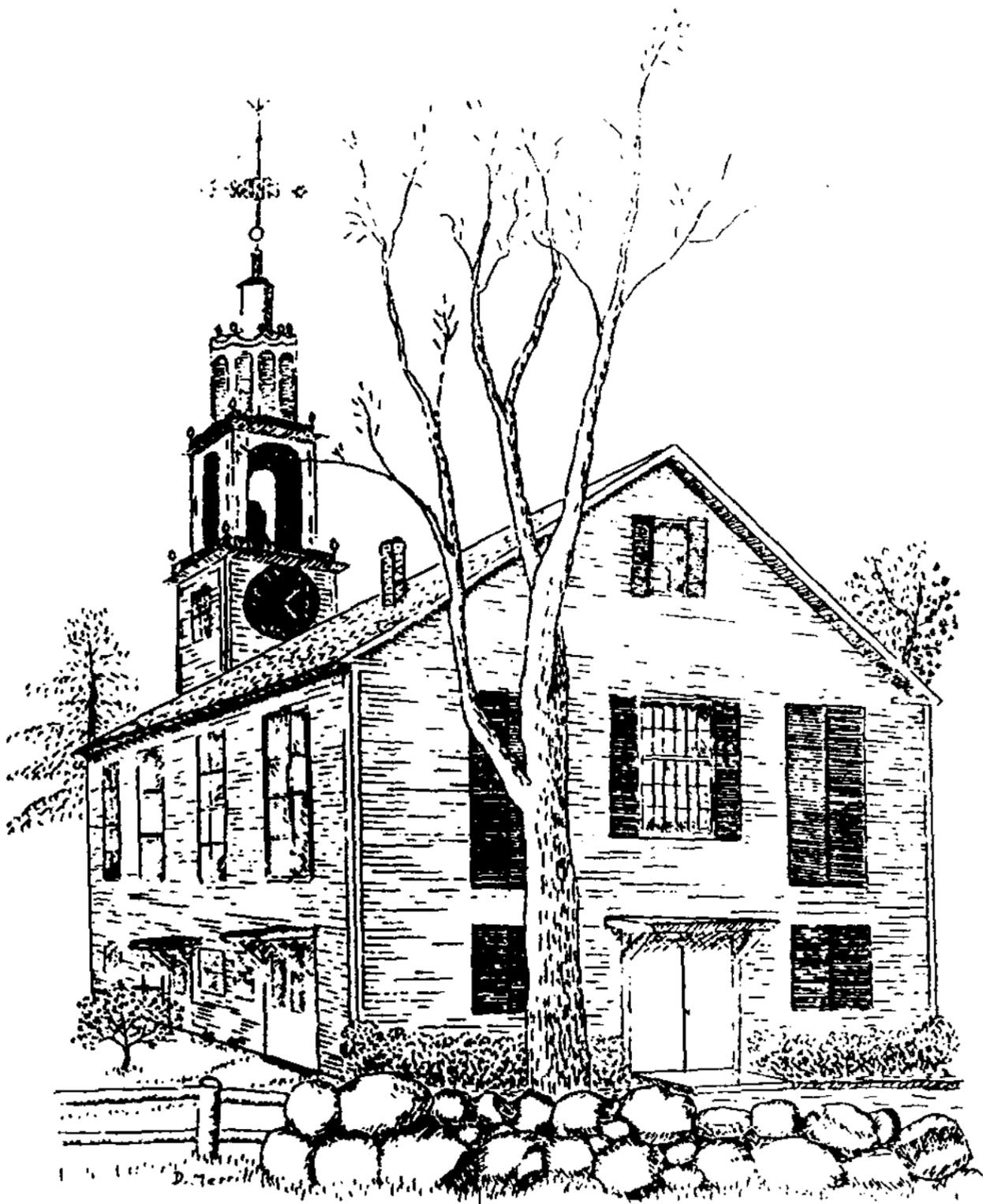


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

August 28, 2016

Twenty-First 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)

August 28, 2016 Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

**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 TO ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

*HYMN NO. 42 *"O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

*CALL TO WORSHIP (taken from the Iona Community)

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

All: Gather us in!

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

All: Gather us in!

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

All: Gather us in!

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

All: 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.

All: Gather us in!

*INVOCATION

**Gracious God, giver of life and breath, be present to us this day and
shower us with your love. In your nearness, call us forth. Help us to see
your blessings upon our lives, numerous as the stars above, and share
those blessings with others. May your presence bring praise from our
open hearts, service from our willing hands, and joyful spirits ready to
go where you send us. In Jesus' name we pray, 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

Sarah Keller

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. 473

"Blessed Assurance"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Psalm 112: 1-7

(O.T. p. 623)

GOSPEL

Mark 5:1-20

(N.T. p.p. 39-40)

SERMON

"Go Home"

The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Paul's letter to the Corinthians tells us that God loves a cheerful giver. Give
freely and from your heart that we might shine our lights beyond these
doors. The morning offering will now be given and received.

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**

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 GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE A LOVING, SERVING GOD

***HYMN NO. 393**

“Blest Be the Tie that Binds”

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

God Be With You

**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

Members of the Congregation

Cindy Pingree and Reni Harnden

Cyndi Gray

Becky Fleury and Verna Elwell

Joe Weaver and Sue Hunt

Michael Bryan

Becky Fleury

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath

Susan Handy

Jeff DeLangie

Rebecca Cobban

GREETER(s)

PASTOR

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

MUSIC DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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



Scripture

Psalm 112:1-7

¹ Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, who greatly delight in his commandments. ² Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. ³ Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever. ⁴ They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous. ⁵ It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice. ⁶ For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever. ⁷ They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.

Mark 5:1-20

¹ They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. ² And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. ³ He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain; ⁴ for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. ⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him; ⁷ and he shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." ⁸ For he had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" ⁹ Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion; for we are many." ¹⁰ He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹ Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding; ¹² and the unclean spirits begged him, "Send us into the swine; let us enter them." ¹³ So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned in the sea. ¹⁴ The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵ They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine reported it. ¹⁷ Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighborhood. ¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. ¹⁹ But Jesus refused, and said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you." ²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.