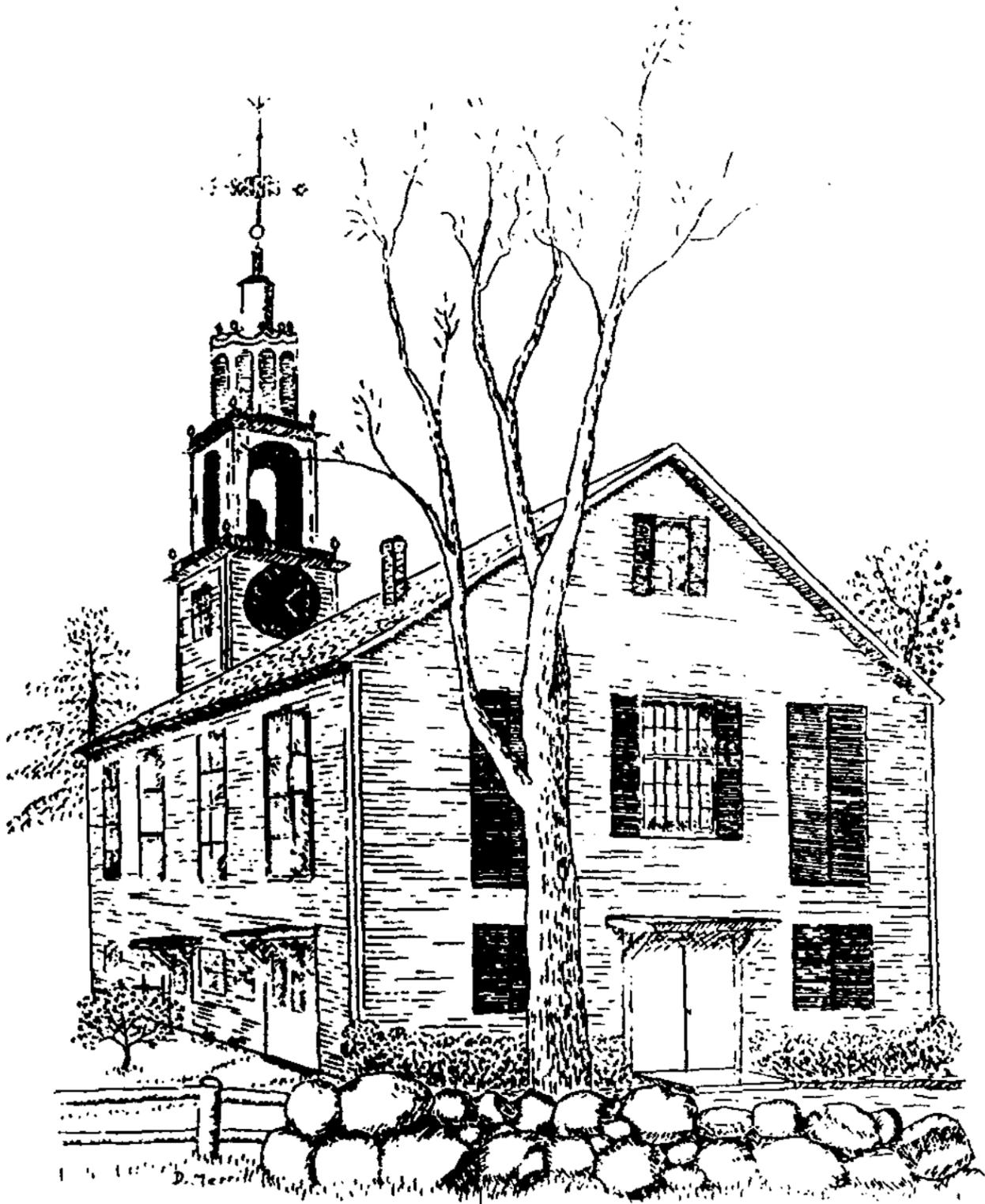


First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road  
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041  
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

**September 18, 2016**

**Twenty-Fifth 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)

**September 18, 2016**

**Twenty-Fifth 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. 28**

*"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**One:** Let us gather from our many wanderings

**All:** **Let us give thanks that God has found us.**

**One:** We will welcome all of God's people!

**All:** **Let us give thanks that God has found us.**

**One:** Let us share in the joy of salvation.

**All:** **Let us give thanks that God has found us.**

**One:** Let us praise our ever-seeking, always-finding God!

**All:** **We give thanks that God has found us!**

**\*INVOCATION**

**God of all people, who sent Jesus Christ to be a friend to tax collectors and sinners, fill us with love for all your children. Save us from violence to share in patiently searching for the lost. We would join you in rejoicing when anyone responds to your love and enters into your service. 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**

*"Come as a Child"*

**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.**

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.**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM of Emily Bell Baker

*When invited by the Pastor please stand as you are able and let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.*

PASTOR: Do you believe in God?

**PEOPLE: I believe in God.**

PASTOR: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**PEOPLE: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

PASTOR: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**PEOPLE: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

(Congregation may sit at this time.)

\*HYMN NO. 553

*"There is a Balm in Gilead"*

**WE ARE MOTIVATED TO SERVE**

MISSION MOMENT

Family Promise

Craig Everett

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

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

(O.T. p. 789)

GOSPEL

Luke 16:1-13

(N.T. p. 81)

SERMON

"Parable of Weird"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Offertory"

John Ness Beck

**WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

**WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We have the opportunity to join with God in providing for the poor and oppressed. Our gifts carry God's mercy to people who have not known God's love or discovered the joy of living in harmony with God's good earth and with their sisters and brothers.

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

**Because we have been blessed by you, O God, we are delighted to share.  
Because there are many who do not enjoy your bounty, we search for ways  
to help them. Thank you for showing us the way of mercy and patient  
example, the way of generosity and self-forgetful service, the way of  
faithfulness and joyous celebration. Bless us and our offerings, we pray.  
Amen.**

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

\*HYMN NO. 448

*"Take My Life, God Let it Be"*

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

GREETER(s)

PASTOR

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

MUSIC DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation  
Diana Sweeney and Brian Williams  
Diane Breeden  
Ken Gould and Diane Breeden  
Dee Deranian and Shirley Dickason  
Michael Bryan  
Dave and Lorie McGrath  
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof  
The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath  
Susan Handy  
Chris Ferrin  
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: Tuesday -Thursday 12:00 noon – 4:00 PM

Our website [www.fpc-ucc.org](http://www.fpc-ucc.org) Find us and 'friend us' on Facebook [www.facebook.com/fpcucc](http://www.facebook.com/fpcucc)



## Scripture

### Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

<sup>18</sup> My joy is gone, my grief is upon me, my heart is sick. <sup>19</sup> Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: "Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" ("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?") <sup>20</sup> "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." <sup>21</sup> For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

<sup>22</sup> Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? **9** O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people.

### Luke 16:1-13

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, "What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' <sup>3</sup> Then the manager said to himself, "What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, "How much do you owe my master?' <sup>6</sup> He answered, "A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, "Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' <sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, "And how much do you owe?' He replied, "A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, "Take your bill and make it eighty.' <sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. <sup>10</sup> "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup> If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."