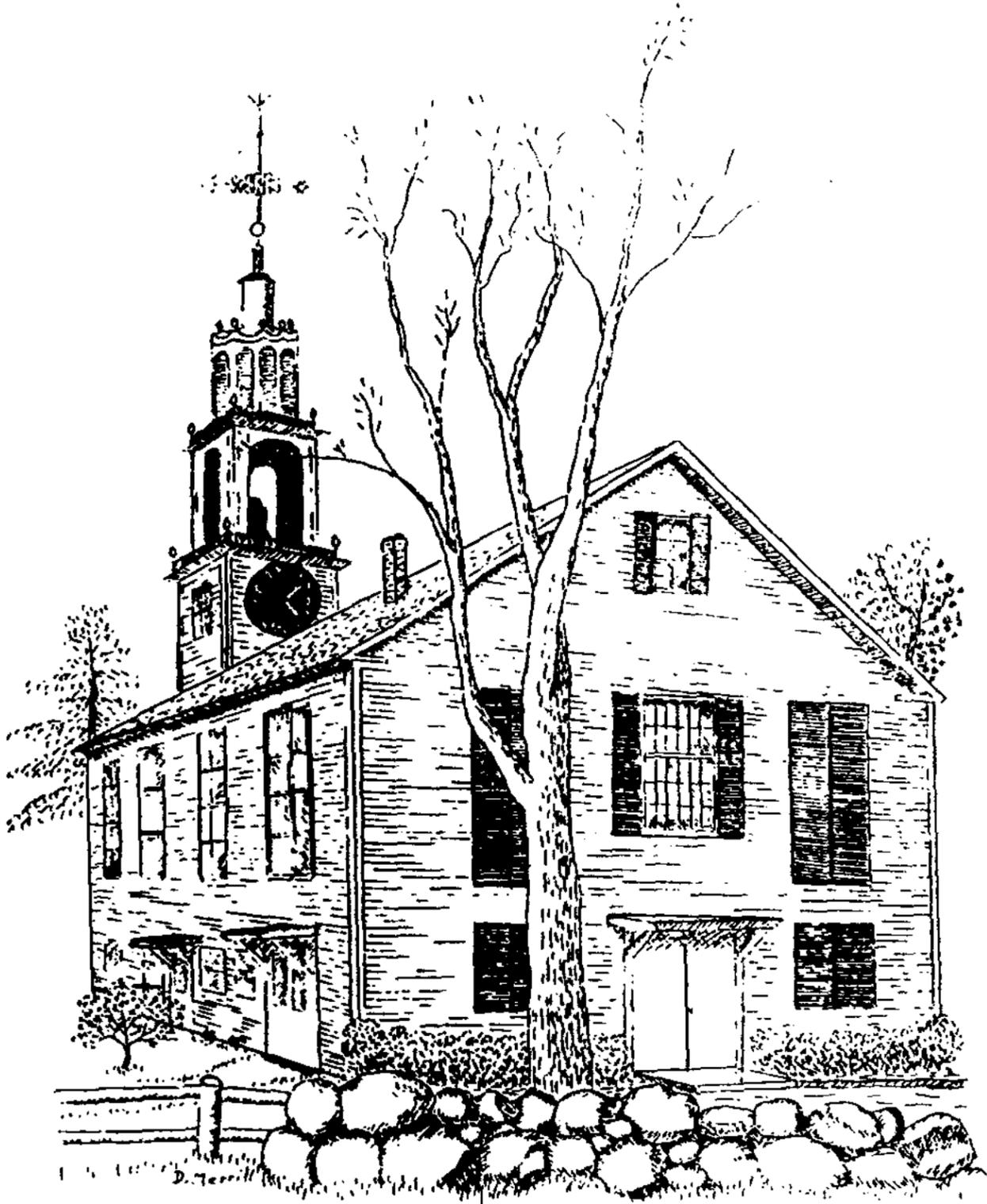


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

September 25, 2016

Twenty-Sixth 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 25, 2016

Twenty-Sixth 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. 305

"You Servants of God"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Gather together, all who hope in God Almighty.

All: Let us praise God as long as we live.

One: Trust in God, our refuge and our fortress.

All: God lifts us up when we are threatened or afraid.

One: Worship God, who richly provides us with all things.

All: Let us pour out our thankfulness in words and deeds.

*INVOCATION

Ever-present God, let your spirit fill this place, for we need to know that you are in charge. Through the terrors of night, amid the fears that surround us by day, we need to sense your power, your protection, your higher purpose. Show us here your saving, healing strength. Grant us such confidence and contentment that we may look beyond ourselves to become a blessing to others. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE #756

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Gloria, Gloria, Alleluia, Alleluia

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"

Come as a child, when He calls you to follow.

Just come as a child, for His love is untold.

Come as a child, when you seek His communion,

For then, all His blessings unfold.

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. (Children and youth may now go to their classes.)

*HYMN NO. 306

"The Church of Christ, in Every Age"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE WITH STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

John Bartel

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 146

(Insert)

NEW TESTAMENT

1 Timothy 6:6-19

(N.T. p.p. 226-227)

GOSPEL

Luke 16:19-31

(N.T. p.p. 81-82)

SERMON

"The Missing Link"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM

"We are Called"

Haas/Hayes

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Because love of money is the root of all evil, we seek to make wealth a tool for accomplishing good more than for accumulating things. Because we have been blessed in order that we might share, we bring our offerings with gratitude and rejoicing. Let us give thanks with glad and generous hearts.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #562, verse 1

**Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is riding, loaves of love to multiply!**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

What a joy to have something to give! Thank you, God, for granting us choices in the use of all you have placed on earth for our use. We have chosen this portion to dedicate for the ministry of the church in our community and in outreach throughout the world. Make us aware of the needy at our doors as well as lost ones everywhere who long for the bread of life. Amen.

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

***HYMN NO. 543** *“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”*

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
Diana Sweeney and Brian Williams
Cyndi Gray
Stan and Holly Gorgol
Tom and Andrea Cooper
Michael Bryan
Diane Breeden
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath
Susan Handy
Jeff DeLangie
Emily Howard

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

The flowers this morning are given in loving memory of Jeff Aho (RIP 9/23/15) by Melanie and Leo Van Steensburg.

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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Office Hours: Monday -Thursday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Our website www.fpc-ucc.org Find us and ‘friend us’ on Facebook www.facebook.com/fpcucc



Scripture

1 Timothy 6:6-19

⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. ¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. ¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames." ²⁵ But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us." ²⁷ He said, "Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house— ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment." ²⁹ Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them." ³⁰ He said, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." ³¹ He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead." "