

# *First Parish Congregational Church*

United Church of Christ East Derry, New Hampshire

We are 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.

**Come visit us! Worship is at 10 am.**



## From the Pastor's Desk

Beloved in Christ,

We have begun our goodbyes as we prepare for my departure on November 6th. My heart has been heavy with the beginnings of farewell, and yet full of hope of what is yet to come for both of us. Thank you all so much for your warm wishes and prayers as I move toward this new ministry adventure.

As I prepare to depart you, I want to take note of pastoral boundaries. Some of these may feel counterintuitive or unfamiliar to you. And, there is wisdom in this way. When I come to a congregation in ministry I commit to care for you both in my coming and even still in my leaving. One of the important ways I do that is to live into my ministerial covenant with you. On November 6th, we will celebrate a service of joint ministry together, and also partake in the UCC liturgy of pastoral leave taking. I hope that many (if not all) of you will be able to join us.

(Cont. on page 2)

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>**

Consecration Sunday

**Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>**

Stewardship Sunday

**Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**

Sugar Plum Fair

**Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**

Thanksgiving Sunday

**Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>**

First Sunday of Advent

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> Century Church in Hampshire, England



## From the Pastor's Desk Cont.

While our mutual love and care for one another remain, our professional relationship as pastor and parishioner must come to an end on November 6th. I will no longer be your spiritual counselor; I will no longer be visiting you in hospitals or your homes; I will no longer be leading worship, conducting funerals, weddings, or baptisms; I will no longer be leading youth events or teaching Sunday School. I will not be involved with church affairs or engage in conversation about the working of the church. Ethical guidelines insist that I refrain from being present or attending special events for a period of at least one year. This boundary also applies to social media. I will be releasing you all from social media connection with me. I must allow you to make space in your physical and virtual lives for whoever may follow me. I trust that God is already preparing a wonderful, new Associate Pastor for you. Around a year after you have called your new, settled pastor, you are welcome to send me a new "friend request." I will joyfully accept. So, in due time, if you want to reconnect, please feel free to reach out. (Until then, know that I find this difficult, too. I want to know what's happening with you!)

I commit to praying for you. This may sound dismissive, but it is not. We pray for those people we carry closest to our hearts. You are deeply important to me. Even though I cannot follow things closely, I will wonder how your knee is healing, how things have gone since you lost your beloved. I will profoundly care how you are doing. I will ask those answers in my daily prayers. And the answers God gives me will matter to me. I am invested in your future. I love you. And I always will, from afar.

I'm reminded in closing that the word goodbye derives from an old English contraction meaning God be with you. To say it is almost an act of faith that if somehow God is with you and God is with me, then we are together even when we are apart. There is comfort in that. And so dear ones, I say goodbye and God be with you, until we meet again.

God loves you and so do I,  
Pastor Heidi

## Faith Formation/Christian Ed/Youth Ministry Updates

### Sunday School

Katie Cobban has been hired on as Interim Church School Director.

Please welcome her into this new position! She is an integral part of our church family, and we value her service and dedication.

### Confirmation Quest

Are you in 9th and 10th grade? Are you feeling like you're ready to explore what your faith means to you? Have questions that you think aren't ok to ask in church? Then perhaps confirmation is for you. We'd like to offer a confirmation class in 2016-2017. If you're interested in being confirmed, contact Pastor Deborah ASAP! Pastor Deborah and Sue Handy are meeting with perspective confirmands and their parents on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 am in the Cook Conference Room.

## Adult Faith Formation

Tuesday Nights 6:30-8 PM

**October 18th-November 22th**

**Exploring the Bible: Hebrew Bible 6 week series**

We'll go from a broad overview to deeper exploration as we dive into the Hebrew Bible (sometimes called the Old Testament). This portion of the Bible contains some of our most challenging texts. While we can read them alone, it's so much richer to explore them in community. All are welcome if it's your first time or 100th time reading the Bible.

**December 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Blue Christmas Worship Service - 7:00 pm**

This Service is especially geared toward those of us who want to make sacred space for the more tender feelings at this time of year.

## From Pastor Deborah's Desk

Dear Child of God,

This year I put two conferences together for my Fall week of study and renewal. They were very different experiences and ones that were rich in their own way – not just for my personal study and renewal but also ones that will benefit the congregation of First Parish in the weeks and months to come. First, I went to Luther Seminary in St Paul, MN and attended a conference on preaching. I spent Monday in a “master class” with 11 other preachers from around the country. Our professor was the Rev Karoline Lewis, PhD, whom many of you had the pleasure to meet last year. Dr. Lewis listened to each one of preach and then gave us individual feedback on what we could improve upon. I have heard Dr. Lewis preach on many occasions but to preach to her was a pretty nerve-wracking experience. She had many good points of feedback and I am grateful for the experience. The next two days I heard sermons from Dr. Jana Childers, Dr. Thomas Long and Dr. Anna Carter Florence. Each one of them teaches preaching at the seminary level. They each had spent between 20 and 30 hours on the sermons that they preached to us. Dr. Long explained that he had that luxury because he doesn't pastor a church. He said that a good sermon takes between 15 and 20 hours to craft, but that he realizes that this simply isn't possible when you are pastoring a church. It was wonderful to have this opportunity. I learned that I need to refine my attitude toward the focus and function of my sermons. Sometimes the focus isn't as clear as I'd like. This conference allowed me an enormous opportunity and some really good insight.

I returned home and then drive to the Berkshires, to Rowe Conference Center, where I spent four days with Dr. Ysaye Barnwell and 50 men and women who love to sing as much as I do. If you attended the Songweavers concert here back in April, we sang several of Dr. Barnwell's arrangements. The name of her conference was “Building a Vocal Community.” We learned the history of music in the African American culture, starting with the polyrhythmic patterns that come from western Africa, where many slaves originated. We learned how the slaves used those rhythms to pace themselves in the hot sun all day long. They took the Old Testament stories what we call Spirituals, adding their own rhythms that came from Africa. Spirituals gave way to Gospel, when instruments were added. We learned so much and we sang many of the songs from the various eras of music. Dr. Barnwell is truly a genius when it comes to this genre and how a community comes together around listening to one another and singing together. I would love to invite Dr. Barnwell to come visit us at First Parish. This conference was so well done. I am grateful for the opportunity.

Peace and All Good,

Pastor Deborah

## Building Advisory Committee Update

Boy, have things happened in the last month; some you can see, some you can't. First the things you can't see:

- ◆ The floor joists below the first floor of the Meetinghouse have been leveled by PTF;
- ◆ Spray foam insulation has been applied to the interior of the foundation walls in the new Meetinghouse crawlspace; and
- ◆ A broken distribution box in the septic system was replaced.

Now the items that you may have noticed:

- ◆ The new connector building has been framed up;
- ◆ The roofing on the connector building has been completed;
- ◆ The cement block elevator shaft has been built;
- ◆ The new cement sidewalk to the main door of the connector building has been poured;
- ◆ A new cement sidewalk has been added from the connector building basement to the rear walk behind Carrier;
- ◆ The conduit for the electrical line from the road to the connector building was buried for the electric supply lines to operate the elevator;
- ◆ The grading around the Meetinghouse has started with some excess material removed from the site; and
- ◆ The contractors have cleaned up any unneeded materials.

What to expect over the next month as we complete the work for the year:

- ◆ As decided due to budget reasons, no siding will be installed on the new connector building this year;
- ◆ As the connector will not be occupied until completed next year, it will be closed off with only a locked door from MacGregor providing access for work purposes;
- ◆ The doors from the Noyes building to the connector and the door from the connector into the sanctuary will not be cut in until the connector is finished inside;
- ◆ Final grading will be performed;
- ◆ PTF will reinstall siding that was removed for the sill work on the Meetinghouse;
- ◆ The stained glass windows will be reinstalled;
- ◆ A door will be installed in the John classroom for the Noyes - Meetinghouse crawlspace pass-through; and
- ◆ The Rose of Sharon bush will be replanted next to the memorial pole/bench.

The construction work with our contractors, MCS and PTF, will be wrapped up for this year over the next month. PTF will continue to work on the top of the tower at their facility in Nottingham during the winter months.

If you have questions, talk with one of us. We love talking about all the work!  
BAC: Paul Ambler, Nancy Heywood, Larry Krantz, Paul Lindemann, Bill Mann

## Fundraising Committee

### FPC Dining for Dollars Fun and Fellowship Events Updates: Hannaford's Fundraiser Program

Our weekly re-load order is running between \$1000 & \$3000 weekly, earning the church \$50-\$150/week--just to buy groceries we would buy anyway! Remember you can load any amount up to \$500 on your Hannaford's gift card by cash or check and your card will be ready for grocery purchases by Tuesday. You can reload or purchase cards every Sunday following the church. Any questions, see Liz Greenberg or Joyce Pope.

Thank you, everyone, for participating and making these programs such a great success!

### Welcoming New Members of Fundraising Committee:

We would love to welcome more people to this committee to help brainstorm and implement fundraising and fun & fellowship ideas/programs! I am also looking for a few more people to assist on Sunday mornings with accepting checks and recording reload orders so I can participate in hand chime choir. If you have an interest, contact Liz Greenberg at (585) 472-0458 or [lizgreenberg26@gmail.com](mailto:lizgreenberg26@gmail.com)

Submitted by Liz Greenberg

---

## Board of Christian Education

### We have a new Interim Church School Director!

Thanks be to God, Katie Cobban will serve as our Interim Church School Director through Christmas Eve! Katie will work 8-10 hours per week supporting the Pre-K-4th grade Sunday School classroom, Advent Workshop, and the 4:30 Christmas Eve service. We are delighted to have her gifts in the classroom, and education training in this transition time.

### We need YOU to teach Sunday School!

Christian Education has a deep need for Sunday School teachers in the coming months for our Pre-K - 4th grade classroom. We are using a fun, user friendly, easy to teach curriculum called Whirl! from Sparkhouse this year. You can teach one Sunday, or multiple Sundays in a row as you prefer. We'd love to have you if you have never taught before or been teaching Sunday School for years. Please see Katie Cobban, Janet Wetherbee, or a member of the CE Board.

### College Care Packages

It's that time of year again! We are beginning to collect supplies and information to send holiday care packages to the college students of our church. If you have a college age student who is part of your family that you'd like to receive a care package, please make sure the office has their updated name, mailing address etc. Please do not assume we have an accurate address, even if they have received a package before.

## From The Stewardship Board

Ready or not, autumn is here. Students and teachers have returned to their classrooms. Summer vacations have refreshed our minds and spirits and we are ready for the new challenges that await us. Here at First Parish we are nearing the fiscal year end. Will we finish strong? Soon work will begin on the 2017 budget. Ready or now, the annual stewardship drive begins.

First Parish is a little church with a big heart – a **very** big heart. When the call went out that the community food pantry was low on supplies, you delivered. Big hearted people responded. We were awarded three gold stars and even a blue thunderbolt for our participation! Our mission board makes monthly contributions to 9 local charities. You delivered. Big hearted people responded. When the call went out for books and school supplies to be sent to Zimbabwe, you delivered. Big hearted people responded. The call went out when the summer offerings began to slump. You delivered. Big hearted people responded. The Try-a-Tithe campaign was a success. Again and again First Parish proves to be a little church with a **VERY** big heart.

Now it's pledge time. The call is going out to increase our yearly faith promise. Can we step up to the challenge and deliver again? Now it's that little church with the big heart who is asking for your support. We hope those big hearted people will again respond. Consecration Sunday is November 13th.

Submitted by Joyce Pope on behalf of the Stewardship Board.

## How Are We Doing?

| Financial Report as of 09/30/2016 | Received  | Budgeted  |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Pledges to Date                   | \$148,249 | \$157,500 |
| Plate Year To Date                | \$15,685  | \$21,000  |
| Try A Tithe Offering              | \$5,182   |           |

## An Update from the Diaconate

The Diaconate is very pleased at the overwhelming positive response to our new all gluten free communion. The preparation and serving time on Communion Sunday has certainly been streamlined, as well as providing a sense of inclusiveness to our congregation.

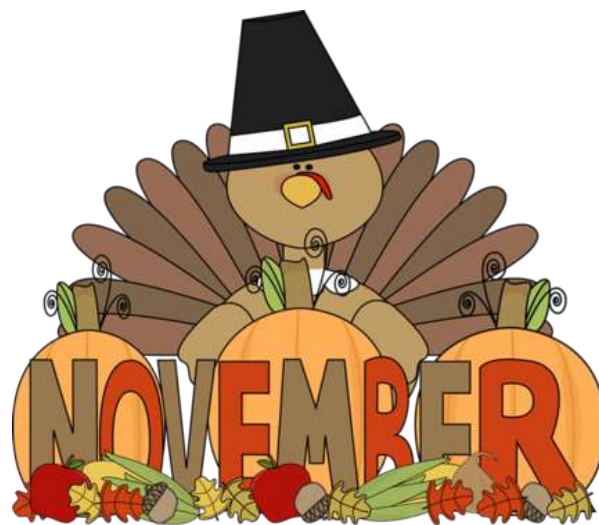
How about the decorations in Currier Hall for Sunday services? Awesome! We would like to give a Big Thank You to Diane Breeden and her team, as well as a "shout out" to the owner of "The Renewed Trading Company" in Derry, Patti O'Neil. She loans items to Diane for display at our church. Don't forget to thank her the next time you are in the store!

Reminders:

- 1). Please do your best to wear your name tags at service, as it allows not only current members to know each other,(a face and a name), but also for new folks to be introduced.
- 2). Hearing enhancement devices are available for those in need. They are located in the rear of the church during service. Just ask a deacon for help.

Lastly, it is with a heavy heart that we say Goodbye to Pastor Heidi, who has taken a full time position as Chaplin at Phillips Academy, Exeter. We have been so blessed to have her with us, to share in her ministry, and discipleship. She will be missed! God Bless you, Heidi, and may God keep you in Her hands.

Your Deacons, Carol Bates, Diane Dunn, Cyndi Gray, Reni Harnden, Sara Keller, Fred Merrill, Cindy Pingree, Diana Sweeney, Brian Williams, Joanne Worthen





## Around Our Church and in the Community

### 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Windham Turkey Trot

Thanksgiving Morning, 9:00 AM 70 Blossom Rd. Windham, NH

Rain, Snow or Shine!

Benefiting the Shepherds Food Pantry,  
Windham Helping Hands & Family Promise  
of Greater Rockingham County

INFOR & PRE-REGISTRATION:  
[WWW.WindhamTurkeyTrot.ORG](http://WWW.WindhamTurkeyTrot.ORG)

Pastor Heidi will hold her final office hours at the Coffee Factory this coming Wednesday (November 2nd) from 3:30-5:00 PM. If you'd like a chance to stop by for coffee, conversation, or a blessing on the way, please do. If you'd like the opportunity to get together 1:1 before her final Sunday on November 6th, please be in touch with her ASAP.

## Key Sundays and Services for 2016 & 2017

- Sunday, November 6th - All Saints Day
- Sunday, November 13th - Veterans Day and Stewardship Sunday\*\*
  - Sunday, November 20th - Thanksgiving Sunday
  - Sunday, November 27th - First Sunday of Advent
  - Tuesday, December 20th - Blue Christmas at 7 PM
- Saturday, December 24th - 4:30 PM Vibrant, Inter-generational Service with Pageant, 7:00 PM Lessons and Carols, and 10:00 PM Candlelight Service
  - Sunday, December 25th - Christmas Sunday
  - Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> - Happy New Year and Pajama Sunday!
- Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> - Epiphany - Intergenerational Weeknight Service. Supper at 6PM Worship at 7 PM.\*\*
  - Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> - Star Gifts/Epiphany Sunday
    - Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> - MLK Sunday

\*\*Subject to change

**72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sugar Plum Fair  
Saturday Before Thanksgiving!  
November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
9:00am to 3:00pm**

*CELEBRATING THE SEASON WITH OUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND OUR COMMUNITY.*

**Please check off any areas you would like to help with:**

- Make 2 double batches of home-baked cookies for the Cookie Walk
- Make a craft that can be sold at the First Parish craft table
- Bake a pie, cake, or holiday goodie for sale on the bake table \_\_\_\_\_
- Help set up for the fair (5:00pm Friday night)
- Help clean up and set the rooms to right (3:00pm Saturday)
- Direct Cars in Parking Lot     AM     PM
- Roll dough for Pecan Rolls (many other tasks also available)
- (See Reni Harnden or Wendy Staggs for details)
- Work at Cookie Walk, Craft Table, Bake Table, Lunchroom, etc.
- AM     PM
- We will be having a "modified" luncheon
- please contact Bill Mann at [nhmanns@msn.com](mailto:nhmanns@msn.com) or (603) 434-4063

**We need everyone's help to make this fair a success!!**

**Please drop this form in the church office or in the collection plate ASAP!**

**Thank You!**

Cathy Lee Pottle 668-4215

[clpottle@yahoo.com](mailto:clpottle@yahoo.com)

## Scripture Readings

*Readings are from the Revised Common Lectionary  
for Sundays and Festivals – Year C*

### November 6 – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Hag 1:15b-2:9 Ps 14:1-5, 17-21 or Ps 98

or

Job 19:23-27a Ps 17:1-9

**2 Thess 2: 1-5, 13-17**

Luke 20:27-38

### November 13 – 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isa 65:17-25 Isa 12 or

Mal 4:1-2a Ps 98

**2 Thess 3:6-13**

Luke 21:5-19

### November 20 – 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 23:1-6 Luke 1:68-79 or

Jer23: 1-6 Ps 46

**Col 1:11-20**

Luke 23:33-43

### November 27 – 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isa 2:1-5

Ps 122

Rom 13: 11-14

**Matt 24: 36-44**

## Worship Leadership

### Deacons & Lay Readers

#### Deacons of the Month

Carol Bates & Cyndi Gray

November 6<sup>th</sup> – Malysa Deranian

November 13<sup>th</sup> – Brian Williams

November 20<sup>th</sup> – Diana Sweeney

November 27<sup>th</sup> – Reni Harnden

### Ushers & Greeters

**Weekly Usher** – Michael Bryan

#### November 6<sup>th</sup>:

Ushers: Stanley Gorgol, Holly Gorgol, Tom Cooper, Andrea Cooper

Greeters: Maury Davidson

#### November 13<sup>th</sup>:

Usher : Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell, Sue Hunt,  
Greeter: Diane Breedon

#### November 20<sup>th</sup>:

Ushers: John Bartel, Kevin Gordon, Diane Gordon  
Greeters: Lisa Hall & Wayne Hall

#### November 27<sup>th</sup>:

Ushers: Ken Gould, Diane Breedon, Dee Deranian, Shirley Dickason

Greeters: Mark Pingree & Nancy Magee

### Nursing Home Friends

Theo Johnson

Hillsborough Country Nursing Home

Phil Guertin

Pleasant Valley Nursing Home

# First Parish Congregational Church, UCC

## Church Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday  
8:30 am – 3:00 pm

## You are most warmly invited:

10:00 am Sunday Worship & Church School

11:00 am Coffee Hour

## Check us out on the web or call our office:

[www.fpc-ucc.org](http://www.fpc-ucc.org) | 603-434-0628

## Email our Administrative Assistant:

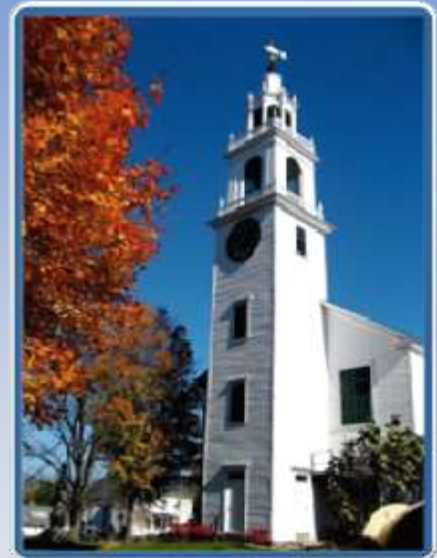
[officemgr@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:officemgr@fpc-ucc.org)

## Email our senior pastor, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof:

[pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org)

## Email our Associate Pastor, the Rev. Heidi Carrington

Heath: [pastorheidiheath@gmail.com](mailto:pastorheidiheath@gmail.com)



First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
47 East Derry Road  
PO Box 114  
East Derry, NH 03041-0114  
***Address Service Requested***

NOVEMBER