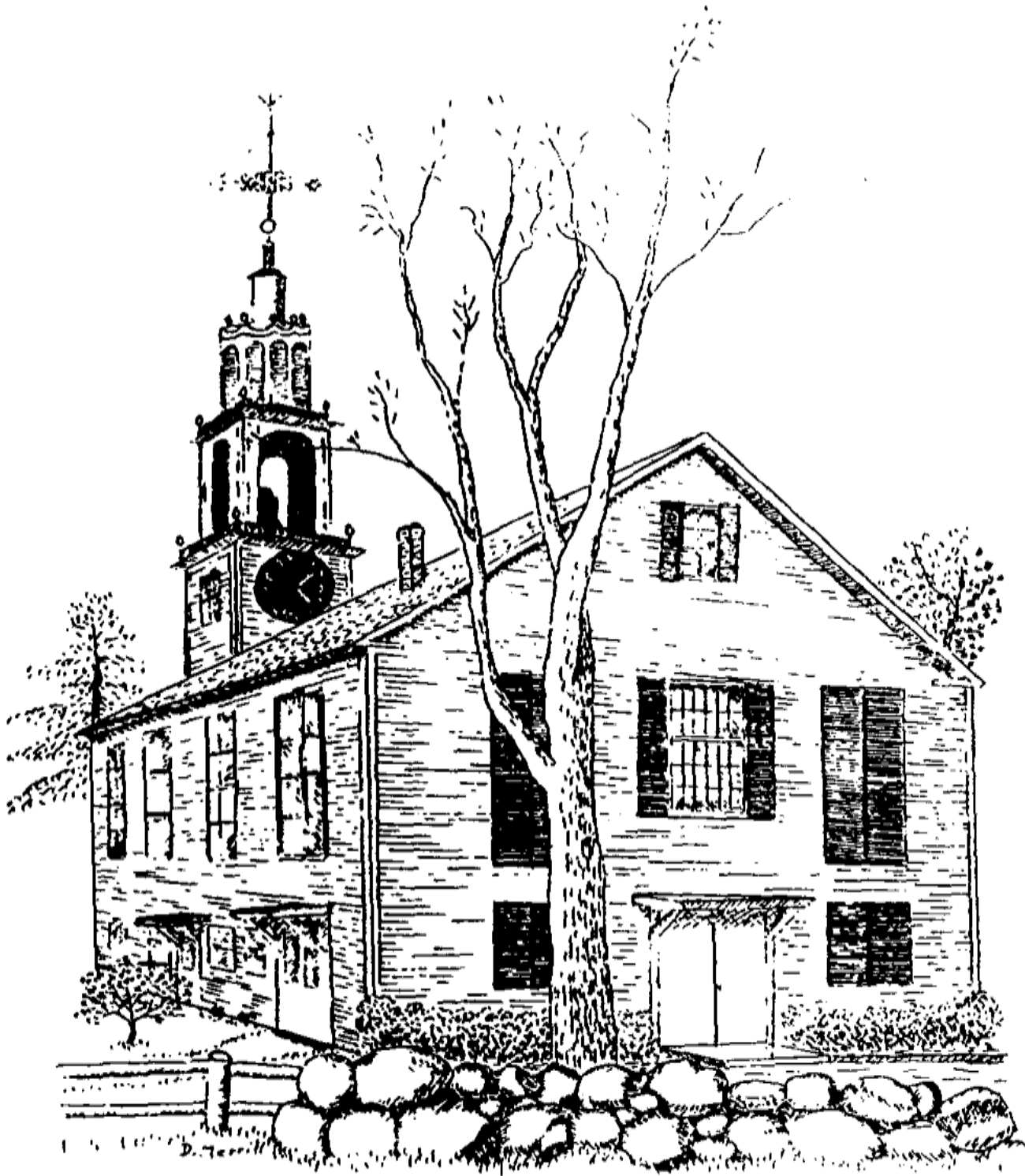


First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road  
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041  
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

**February 12, 2017**

**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**



*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)

Thought for the day:

“I was the first American citizen to be elected to Congress in spite of the double drawbacks of being female and having skin darkened by melanin. When you put it that way, it sounds like a foolish reason for fame.

In a just and free society it would be foolish. That I am a national figure because I was the first person in 192 years to be at once a congressman, black and a woman proves, I think, that our society is not yet either just or free.”

Shirley Chisholm, 1969

Welcome

A Reading: "Touched by an Angel" by Maya Angelou (read by **Julie Dubisz**)

**Julie Turner**: Proclamation: God's faithfulness endures forever. God forgives, renews, and restores. God's mercies are new every morning. We are called to seek the restoration and healing of others in our own forgiveness. Go with this good news, that God loves you deeply, and calls you into new life.

**Julie Turner** Call to Worship:

Our God is the creator of heaven and earth

**God created every blade of grass and towering tree**

Our God is the architect and builder of all things

**God formed the mountains and formed us all**

Our God is the molder and shaper of things to come

**God has plans for us, a future with hope**

Come, let us worship the Author of Life

**Let us celebrate our Creator and rejoice at being God's creation!**

Hymn: #519 Standing in the Need of Prayer

Jesus said, "Let the little ones come unto me."

I'm going to sing when the Spirit says sing (3x)

And obey the Spirit of the Lord.

Children's Message – Pastor Deborah

“What color are your eyes?”

Lord's Prayer

(Children up through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are excused to their classes.)

Moment for Mission (Guest speaker)

A Tapestry – “Hidden Figures: Catalysts for Change”

Scripture Readings: Matthew 5:21-26; Acts 9:10-15

Hymns: “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” sung by Sue Handy

"We Shall Overcome" #570 vs 1,3, 6: Congregation is invited to join in remaining seated.

Choir Anthem: “Lord, Have Mercy”

Community: Joys and Concerns: Help; Thanks; Wow

When we pray, we are asking for God’s help or we are giving God thanks for blessings received or we are praising God in recognition of something amazing.

You are invited to share the type of your prayer: help, thanks, or wow. You are then invited to share the first name of the individual for whom you are praying and a brief description.

Pastoral Prayer

Our Financial Offering:

Contributing to the Kingdom of God

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

A Reading: “I, Too” by Langston Hughes read by Dee Deranian

Closing Hymn: #497 Guide My Feet

Benediction

Postlude

*\*Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

LAY READER

USHERS

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER

MUSIC DIRECTOR

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation

Ken Gould and Julie Turner

Julie Turner, Julie Dubisz, Dee Deranian

Ken Gould, Brian Williams, Dee Deranian

Shirley Dickason and Michael Bryan

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Susan Handy

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Hannah Collier

**Touched by an Angel by Maya Angelou**

We, unaccustomed to courage  
exiles from delight  
live coiled in shells of loneliness  
until love leaves its high holy temple  
and comes into our sight  
to liberate us into life.

Love arrives  
and in its train come ecstasies  
old memories of pleasure  
ancient histories of pain.  
Yet if we are bold,  
love strikes away the chains of fear  
from our souls.

We are weaned from our timidity  
In the flush of love's light  
we dare be brave  
And suddenly we see  
that love costs all we are  
and will ever be.  
Yet it is only love  
which sets us free.



**Maya Angelou**  
April 4, 1928 – May 28, 2014



**Langston Hughes**  
February 1, 1902 – May 22, 1967

**I, Too by Langston Hughes**

I, too, sing America.  
I am the darker brother.  
They send me to eat in the kitchen  
When company comes,  
But I laugh,  
And eat well,  
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,  
I'll be at the table  
When company comes.  
Nobody'll dare  
Say to me,  
"Eat in the kitchen,"  
Then.

Besides,  
They'll see how beautiful I am  
And be ashamed—

I, too, am America