

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.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Child of God,

I prepared my monthly Pastor's Report for the May Council meeting on May 15, 2018. It was a poignant moment for me because it marked my 13th anniversary of ordination. As I reflected on what ordination has meant to me, I wondered how many of you understands everything that goes into the ordination process in the United Church of Christ. Allow me to briefly share with you the steps toward ordination. There are seven steps in the UCC.

1. "Feel a personal call by God." For me that happened when I was a child, but I ran and I ran – never feeling worthy of the vocation. That is, until that day when – like Jonah – I could not outrun God. One of the excuses I gave for judging myself unable to be a "good" minister is that I cry when people die. God did what God can so easily do: God turned what I thought was a curse into a blessing. I do shed tears when people lose their loved ones. This has been proven to be a blessing for many. After all, who created tears?

2. "Your community recognizes the potential you have for ordained ministry." My home church was Mt. Rise United Church of Christ in Fairport, NY, near Rochester. I was in seminary when I found them so they were used to the thought of me working in the church. And it was more than that. I worked with a committee with whom I shared many aspects of the journey toward service in the UCC. They saw a fit for sure.

3. "The wider church assists you in discerning your gifts and developing your skills for ordained ministry." This one looks like this: - a Master of Divinity program including studies in Bible, history of the Christian church, preaching, pastoral care, and UCC polity (governance);

Upcoming Events

June 2nd

Celebrate Moe LaDuke 10:00

June 3rd

Celebration Sunday~ 10:00

Moment for Mission~11:30

June 6th

Deacons Meeting ~ 6:30

June 7th

Stewardship Meeting ~ 7:00

June 9th

Youth Trip ~ 4:15

June 11th

Finance Meeting ~ 7:00

June 17th

Father's Day Celebration

Mission Meeting ~ 11:30

June 20th

Council Meeting ~7:00

June 24th

Moment for Mission~11:30

June 26th

Wonder Wednesday~7:00

June 29th

Spaghetti Supper ~ 5:00

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



From the Pastor's Desk

(Continued)

- Psychological testing, followed by counseling focused on my role as a pastor; - an ordination paper describing what I believe about God, Jesus, sin, grace, the church, and more; - Clinical Pastoral Education (We call it "CPE". For me, it meant a hospital chaplaincy position at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY. The requirement was 400 clinical hours but God imagined that I would benefit from more. I ended up with an additional 1600 hours.); - Field Education (I served South Church, PCUSA in Rochester, NY. God's sense of humor, since I had experienced a difference of theological opinion with the PCUSA several years prior); - many other reflection papers, check-in meetings with advisors within the church and within the denomination.

4. "Local Church approves you for ordination." I worked with a committee, who monitored my progress and read all of my papers. They helped me to shore up my 30-some page Ordination paper into one that was half as long.

5. "Association approves you for ordination" This is called an Ecclesiastical Council. It is a "jury of your peers" in a way. Delegates in the Association, e.g. all Pastors and voting delegates from each church in the Association, receive your ordination paper ahead of time. A date is set and the council can last several hours. This is your opportunity to "defend" the contents of your paper. It gives members of the Association an opportunity to ask questions about your theology. During mine, a pastor was grilling me about "blood theology", as it's called. He was relentless about the sacrificial act of Jesus giving himself up for slaughter. Basically, he was trying to put words in my mouth - words that weren't my own, thoughts that were not mine. I finally said, "If I understand you correctly, we are going to have to agree to disagree on this point." The gathered body stood and cheered! I hadn't realized that this interrogation had gone on so long. They were tired of him abusing the time. Someone immediately called for a vote and I was approved unanimously.

6. "A local congregation recognizes your call to ordained ministry and calls you to be their pastor." After the Ecclesiastical Council my status became "approved pending Call." That is to say, that even though my local church approved my Call, and my peers approved my Call, I wasn't "recognized" by a local congregation. I did a search and the local congregation that called me was the Lakeville United Church of Christ.

7. "Celebrate with an ordination service!" The Association ordains a Called person and selecting a date has to coordinate several calendars: the church, the church's Moderator, the Moderator of the Association, the Chair of the Committee on Church and Ministry, AND the Conference Minister. That is a lot of calendars! The first date selected was a day in January and there was a blizzard!! (I still have that Ordination certificate - with the wrong date!) We had to reschedule to May 15. It took that long to get everyone there.

Things are changing in the UCC. Seminaries all over the country are reducing staff and some are closing. This is the domino effect of churches getting smaller. There are fewer and fewer full-time positions out there. All of this means that over time the standards will also change. We actually are seeing that in our own congregation. We have a member who is pursuing a lay minister's degree. She will not seek the M.Div. but rather is attending classes with the New York and the New Hampshire School of Ministry. These are on-line programs which suit people who must continue to work full-time while they seek a theological education.

From the Pastor's Desk

(Continued)

With churches getting smaller, we need one another more than ever. You will hear more and more about First Parish doing activities with other churches, whether its youth programs, VCS, adult faith formation or mission. We are blessed to have a half dozen UCC churches within a 40-minute drive! Twice a year there are "Association Meetings". Everyone is welcome to attend those and find out what is happening in neighboring churches. Once a year there is the NH Annual Meeting in Concord. All are welcome! We have a vibrant Conference. I invite you to learn more about it. You can sign up for the weekly news from the Conference. You can get involved in some of the Conference wide programs.

When I first attended seminary, I did not know that the UCC existed. That can happen today, as well. Learn more about the UCC and pray that God lead you to have conversations with people who need meaning in their lives.

I thank God for leading me to the United Church of Christ all those years ago. I am grateful for the expressions of faith that I have witnessed and the faithful people that I have met. And I am proud to serve God and the people of this church through the United Church of Christ. There is so much more to learn and do! Let me know if you have any questions about anything I've written here. Let's spend some time together this summer and chat. I would look forward to that. I can usually schedule something within a couple of weeks. And if ever you have an emergency, I drop everything to come to you. You are in my daily prayers.

I thank God for you,
Pastor Deborah

Worshipful Prayer and Praise

Quaker Style Prayer Circle

Sunday from 9:20-9:45 - IN the Meetinghouse FOR the Meetinghouse

The power of prayer is the greatest of all powers. Jesus said; "Whenever two or more are gathered..." Please join us to pray for the successful completion of the rehabilitation of the Meetinghouse.

Starting the **first Sunday in June** and continuing every Sunday throughout the summer - from 9:20-9:45; Meetinghouse, first floor. Friends, this is not an Open House. It is not a tour. All "Prayer Angels" welcome.

"Quaker style" means that we will sit in silence for much of the time - focusing our intention on the Meetinghouse. When one of us feels called to lift up a prayer out loud, they are invited to do so. Please enter and exit in silence but please join us.

Wonder Wednesday June 27th

We will experience another wonderful and wonder-filled evening of prayer, praise, singing and wondering at 7pm on June 27th. Please come to our interactive, music-filled evening and bring a friend.

Council

Some Notes from Council

Recently I have seen a historian named Jon Meacham being interviewed while watching the latest political news on television. He has a new book which he is promoting. He said one thing that really jumped out at me. It is a quote from St. Augustine, the great christian mystic. Augustine defined a nation as "a multitude of rational beings united by the common objects of their love".

That definition sounds like it could be applied to this church council, and to each of the boards and committees that do the work of the church. And, of course, to the entire First Parish congregation. We are family, a group of individuals united by the common objects of our love.

As for council, this month those common objects of love include:

- Monitoring and approving the church financial statements;
- Receiving the latest news regarding the rehabilitation of our historic meetinghouse;
- Getting an update on the progress being made by the church restructure committee;
- Hearing about the excitement building over the church participation in NH Gives this year;
- Once more receiving a report from our beloved pastor documenting her incredibly busy schedule;
- As well as brief statements from each of the board representatives and other council members.

Just a few comments about this list.

The church is doing well financially. And we can always do better. Please pay attention to your pledge and try to keep up throughout the summer months. Get involved with our various fund raisers as they come up. Did you get a chance to come to the Potato Fest? It was great fun and a big thank you goes out to Nancy Heywood and Janet Wetherbee for organizing this event.

Speaking of the Potato Fest, it was a great way to highlight what is happening with the meetinghouse rehabilitation. Thank you also to Paul Lindemann and his team for their continued work on making this vital historic preservation happen.

The restructure committee is working hard to gather input from around the congregation to ensure that whatever changes we make to the organization of the church are based on a wide consensus.

Have you heard about NH Gives? You can find more information elsewhere in this newsletter and it's another very exciting way for us to provide some more visibility to our historic meetinghouse preservation.

Aside from the details in Pastor Deborah's report, I encourage you to continue to get to know her better. Make some time to meet her in the church office. Do not hesitate to invite her (and her loving wife) to dinner in your home. She is always anxious to get to know each of you in a setting different from Sunday morning worship.

Many thanks and be blessed in all you do in pursuing our common objects of love.

Submitted by John Bartel on behalf of church council.

Board of Christian Education & Faith Formations Update

Vacation Church School

July 23rd – July 27th

Join us for the best week of the summer! Register kids ages 4 – 12 FREE at fpc-ucc.org for our "Shipwrecked" Vacation Church School!

Everyday kids will :

- Make New Friends
- Experience Amazing Experiments
- Participate in Creative Games
- Enjoy Tropical Treats
- Dance to Incredibly Catchy Music

If you are unable to make these dates, our sister Church in Atkinson will also be hosting their Vacation Church School June 25th – 29th, register @ www.atkinsoncc.org



SUMMER

Sunday School

Summer Story Hour & Community Serve

Our Summer Story Hours are back! During the summer months, starting June 10th, in lieu of our regular Sunday School classes, we will be having a

one room schoolhouse with Preschool – Middle School students meeting outside on the playground for an enriching Bible Story and Community serving projects (weather permitting).

DATES TO REMEMBER:

SUNDAY, JUNE 3RD : Atkinson UCC VBC

Decoration Construction Volunteer

Date: 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm

THURSDAY, JUNE 7th : Christian Education Board Meeting

SATURDAY, JUNE 9TH : YOUTH GROUP EVENT, grades 5 – 12, Youth-Led Service, FOOD and FUN; Location: Hampstead UCC, meet at FPC @ 4:15 to carpool. Starts @ 5 pm.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10TH : Atkinson UCC VBC

Decoration Construction & Volunteer

Training Date: 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 7TH : First Parish Church VCS

Volunteer Training 8:30 am – 10:30 am

MONDAY - FRIDAY, JULY 23RD – 27TH : FPC's

Vacation Church School Week!!

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

Mission Moment:

On Sunday June 3rd Jack Kennedy (Karen Wilson's brother) will be coming down from Maine to make a presentation for us on the work he is doing in the remote islands of Indonesia. Jack lives in Bali part of the year and several years ago when visiting one of these islands contracted and almost died of Malaria. Jack will be presenting his story:

Small is Beautiful - The Health Access Sumbawa Story

"The biggest health agencies on the planet have spent billions of dollars on the fight to defeat malaria. Much of the effort over the decades has been unsuccessful. This is a story about the power of individual compassion. Three friends with no medical training and limited means set out to eliminate malaria from an isolated coastline on tropical Sumbawa, an island in Eastern Indonesia. Despite all odds, they are succeeding. Ordinary individuals can accomplish extraordinary things when they focus their energy on solvable local problems that others have ignored."

Come join us at Coffee Hour and learn more how one person can organize others to educate and save lives. You are guaranteed to be fascinated and entertained! Bring a friend.

UCC Certificates

We have received two certificates from the NH Conference of the UCC, which the Board of Christian Outreach and Missions accepted on behalf of the Congregation. One was for being a 5 for 5 Congregation which means that we have contributed to all five special offerings throughout 2017 (Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, The Christmas Fund, and Our Churches Wider Mission). The second one was for contributing \$4,700 towards Our Churches Wider Mission in 2017. Both awards are on display on the Missions bulletin board outside of the AB classroom and are a testament to your commitment toward our Church's mission work. Thank you.

Horton Center Scholarships

The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions plans to help defray the costs of sending our children to summer camp at Horton Center on top of beautiful Pine Mountain this year as was done last year. We are in the process of determining where we can help and how much funding is needed to assure that every child who desires to go to Horton Center will be able to without regard to financial status. Last year the children who received scholarships contributed by performing community service within the Church.

Missions Giving:

The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions is thankful to each of you for sharing so generously with those in our community who are struggling. We can do nothing without your kindness. Below is the list of charities who received your support last month:

Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) - \$350.00
 First Baptist Food Pantry - \$100.00
 Derry Friendship Center - \$100.00
 Pinkerton Homeless Program - \$100.00
 Pastor Discretionary Fund - \$200.00

Sonshine Soup Kitchen - \$100.00
 Community Caregivers - \$100.00
 Pastoral Counseling - \$100.00
 Upper Room - \$100.00
 Family Promise of Nashua - \$100.00

Please note that the amount of funds available for Missions work is what you designate on your Pledge card. You may also designate money towards special offerings throughout the year by writing Missions in the memo field of your check followed by where you want the donation to go. For example: *Missions: Hurricane Irma Relief*. The Missions board will send the donation to its destination in the most efficient way.

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

(Continued)

First Parish will participate in this year's New Hampshire "day of giving" along with several of the missions that we serve. Spread the word about the day of charitable giving:



NH GIVES

June 6 to June 7

An online, day of giving to support NH nonprofits. Starts June 6th at 6 PM & ends at 6 PM on June 7th

Donate to these local nonprofits:

Community Caregivers of Greater Derry

End 68 Hours of Hunger, Derry

First Parish Church

The Liberty House:

The Liberty House in Manchester, NH has been providing a safe, supportive, substance-free housing community for more than a decade for American veterans transitioning out of homelessness. Please visit libertyhousenh.org for additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions (BOCOM): Joe Weaver, Sue Brown, Beth Hunter, Karen Wilson, Kathy Holland, Bart Wetherbee, Melanie VanSteensburg, Sharon Hartmann

Summer Hours

Summer Worship Service Hours will stay at 10:00 am all summer.

Select dates in July for an outdoor worship service will be announced soon.

Board of Deacons

Summer is on the way and the Diaconate has been busy. Not only have we continued to care for the spiritual life of the church by connecting with church members who are ill or grieving, but also we pray over the verbalized Joys and Concerns from Sunday service. Daily gratitude texting continues with three texting groups sharing love and thanks.

The handbook for the Usher/Greeters is complete and can be found in the basket with the new Welcome Bags in the office. In our ongoing efforts to "Welcome the Stranger," as Jesus taught us, we now have Welcome bags for new visitors which contains information about Who we are, a Communication data base card, a small bookmark, and a pen.

Please say "Hello" to anyone you don't know, and make everyone feel welcome in our church.

You may have noticed that the Greeter now stands more inside from the door, in front of the Name Tag Tower, near the entry to Currier Hall. This is to help relieve blockage at the front door and encourage name tag wearing. Please leave a path open in the foyer for folks to reach the Greeter. On nice Summer days, the Greeter may choose to stand outside.

There is a sign up sheet on the board near the office if you need a name tag.

Anyone wishing to serve as an Usher or Greeter, please contact Diane Dunn, or any deacon. A new Deacon's Handbook is also being drafted, as an easy reference for anyone who would like serve as a Deacon.

Should you have any questions or comments about worship, please see any member of the Diaconate. Have a Blessed, Safe Summer!! Your Diaconate: Carol Bates, Diane Breeden, Diane Dunn, Harry Handy, Ryan Lehoullier, Sue Lindemann, Cindy Pingree, Julie Turner(Chair), and Joanne Worthen.

Submitted by: Diane Dunn

Board of Stewardship

"Thrive on a Tithe" has been a successful program of helping us bridge financial gaps the last couple years.

During the month of June the Stewardship Board challenges you to give to the church 1/10 (a "tithe") of your weekly income. The month of June is chosen for this campaign in order to help generate a "53" week of income IN ADDITION TO your yearly pledge amount. Since the summer season has arrived family vacations and outings sometimes interfere with Sunday attendance. This campaign helps keep First Parish Church's finances healthy.

The Bible asks us to give of ourselves willingly and generously. We give in gratefulness for the abundance God has provided to us. Please join us in this endeavor.

Please insert your check in the special "Tithe" envelope found by the entrance to Currier Hall OR write the words "Thrive on a Tithe" on the memo line. Your church family thanks you for all you do.

The Stewardship Board

Board of Facilities

Second Quarter Facilities Board Update: to give you an idea of our projects, here is the May agenda:

- Opening prayer
- Review Minutes
- Projects completed
 - Women's bathroom painted
- Fire Inspection
 - Issues corrected - need to pay for / pickup permit - Dave?
 - Update evacuation plans - Dee
 - More Handicap parking spots -- Stencil - Dee; Signs - Bill
 - "Not an Exit" signs
- Facility use form / fee schedule review - Michelle?
- Church Cleanup 05/26, 8:00-12:00
- Agera Energy - Energy audit
- AED maintenance
- New Heating system
 - Oil tank - replace / relocate - assistance from State - Bill?
- Rehabilitation update
 - MacGregor tower work in-process - almost complete
 - MacGregor ceiling removal - May / June - BAC?
- Church Council
 - 05/16/18 - Bob
 - Next - 06/20/18
- Our "Things to Do" List
 - Discuss current "top" projects in progress
 - Currier rear door Fence repair
 - Currier Girls room - faucet replace - Bob
 - Hand washing sink in Kitchen - Panel fabbed - ready to install
 - Sound System tamper-proofing
 - Replace Currier entry trim - Rod
 - Security cameras - Dave
 - Water Cooler
 - Fire Alarm / E-lights updates
 - Furnace air intake fill / roof drainage - spring / summer
 - Woodpecker repair - require lift
 - Replace Bathroom partitions - winter project
 - New additions to list?

Next Facilities Meeting Tuesday 06/26/18

What's the State of Meetinghouse Preservation?

We've practically completed the **Tower Base Rehab Project**, including installing the new 60' tall corner posts and reconfiguring the first level to make the historic west-facing Tower door usable once again.

Next is **Steeple Restoration**, up at Preservation Timber Framing's shop in Nottingham NH. Work on the structure will likely begin in late June, with a start on the trim hopefully in August. The effort is extensive: much of the original material is decayed beyond use and must be reproduced following preservation guidelines. If this proceeds quickly, we may be able to bring the Steeple back and finish the whole Tower exterior in late Fall. (If not then, we may time this to the April 2019 Nutfield 300th kick off.)

As for the complex **Interior Refurbishments Project**, in June we plan to start working with experts Sutherland Conservation & Consulting to help us develop a plan addressing preservation, function, beauty, and safety. We will plan two paths in parallel, the minimum to begin using the Sanctuary again ASAP, and the full-scope preservation and lower-level rebuilding we want to eventually perform. Even the minimum work includes dealing with the failed lead ceiling paint and cracked asbestos flooring.

2018 (?) Reuse Sanctuary Tasks	Future Full Rehab Tasks
Address Lead Paint	Abate & Replace
Address Asbestos Flooring	Sanctuary Flooring
Make New Entrance from Connector	Finish Wall Around New Connector Entrance
Patch Hazardous Plaster Areas	Restore Historic Ceiling & Plaster Walls Throughout
Repair Electrical	Update All Electrical
<i>Finish Connector</i>	Rebuild Lower Level Rooms
	Paint and Finish Throughout

Once we have more information and preliminary plans, we can determine the best course of action on the interiors.

The **Roof System Rehab Project** must eventually be done, but with no significant roof leaking (and insufficient funds) it will be delayed another year or so.

The **Accessibility Connector Project** can't be delayed longer. We need this finished for even short-term use of the Sanctuary, and we need to at least complete the current building shell's exterior (doors, windows, siding) to weatherproof it before winter.

Project Costs and Fundraising

Projects have been delayed due to the challenges faced in our Phase 2 fundraising efforts, which have been mainly focused on the community. Here are the current priorities.

The **top priority** is raising the \$60K cash we need to match and receive the 2017 LCHIP award of \$30K for the Steeple Rehab. We need this by July to complete the Steeple work this summer/fall.

State of the Meetinghouse Preservation

(Continued)

If we don't finish the Steeple and the entire Tower by the end of this December, we'll have to request a second extension from LCHIP for our 2015 Tower award (LCHIP grants normally must be completed two years from their December award notification; we've had one extension already.) Getting a second extension is likely because of LCHIP's overall investment and support of our project.

If we don't finish this year and fail to get the extension, we must return the Tower grant money we already received and spent—\$100K—and forfeit the remainder of the Tower grant (\$25K) and the Steeple grant (\$30K). This would require us to then raise the \$100K to pay back the state, and likely terminate our preservation work for some period of time.

The **second priority** is an additional \$30K necessary to cover various extra costs for the Tower Rehab Project, including refurbishing the historic door, and adding a new timber frame top plate. We need this by August/September in order to finish the Tower Rehab by the end of this calendar year.

The **third priority** is \$70K we need to resume the Elevator order and to get it installed. This is essential to enable reuse of the Sanctuary, since accessibility for all is a requirement. Receiving the elevator can take six months after we resume the order.

The **fourth priority**, completing the Accessibility Connector that holds the elevator, can have two phases. The first is to fully weatherproof the shell for \$30K, which needs to be done by winter to protect the structure. The second is completing the rest of the building—interior finishes, electrical & lighting, etc.—for about \$150K. (Material donations may make up some of these amounts.)

The **fifth priority** is to complete the least amount of work required to resume safe and functional (but not pretty) use of the Sanctuary. Until we get advice from the experts on the easiest remedies for the lead paint etc., we're guessing \$200K for this.

The rest of the fundraising goals include:

- Doing full preservation and rehab of the interior—including building the new rooms in the lower level—for a roughly estimated \$350K.
- Executing the Roof System Rehab project, for which we need \$118K in matching funds to receive the \$59K LCHIP award won in 2016. (Slipping completion past December this year will require an LCHIP extension, which could be a challenge depending on our other preservation progress.)
- Eventually raising an additional \$500K for ongoing stewardship.

Where We Are with Funding

As I write this, we have roughly \$35K in available Rehab Funds, and this amount is slowly growing every week with new donations. About \$1,500 from this fund will have to go to the Interior Refurbishments consultant. The rest is available to split among the projects already described.

We'll get another \$30K in LCHIP award cash and be able to complete the Steeple Restoration once we can prove we have that 2017 grant's \$60K cash match in hand. (Hence this \$60K being the top priority fundraising goal.)

Part of that \$60K match will come from a new grant we recently won. The Methuen Festival of Trees program has awarded us a 50% matching reimbursement grant for an \$8,800 Steeple trim sub-project (so that's \$4,400 cash towards the \$60K goal).

State of the Meetinghouse Preservation

(Continued)

The NH Gives fundraiser the church is executing in June has a goal of \$8,000, which will go towards the extra \$30K needed for the Tower Project overruns.

There is also about \$40K remaining in the construction line of credit the church has with Enterprise Bank. We could use this for immediate rehab needs, but any additional amount drawn from the line of credit would raise current interest payments and increase the principal in the future conversion of this line of credit into a mortgage.

Conclusions

The rehab project work and the necessary fundraising are significant challenges, but no more intimidating than the entire project was when we started this effort in 2012. Our accomplishments so far vastly outweigh those of most historic preservation projects, and we have tremendous respect and support from the state-wide preservation community.

We need to proceed with confidence and faith – and also smart strategy, good management, and diligent effort – and continually refine plans to pursue the best path forward as situations evolve.

Paul Lindemann, for the Building Advisory Committee Larry Krantz, Nancy Murdoch, Bill Mann, Bob Wilson

Restructuring Committee

The Restructuring Committee has met with 5 of the Boards over the last few months to receive their opinions to determine if there is a need to look at the structuring of our governance, boards, commissions and ad hoc works. The answers to that question were varied. We stressed that at the very least we hoped to make the work passion based, using volunteers in the talents they have to offer and not to have any one individual feeling overburdened.

Some Boards feel they are working effectively, that they have enough input and assistance. Others felt that they were struggling with membership and workloads. All were receptive to hearing about other churches and their successes and failures. No definite decisions were made either from those Boards or from the Restructuring Committee.

Our next step is to meet first with the Deacons on May 30th to bring some of the suggestions and comments back to them and to determine what changes are needed to assist them in their work for the church.

Please pray for us as we go through this journey together and please approach the members of this group with any suggestions or comments.

Fred Merrill, Anne La Duke, Becky Fleury, John Bartel, Melanie VanSteensburg, Reni Harnden, Cyndi Gray, Pastor Deborah.

Capital Campaign

Thank you to those of you who have completed your Capital Campaign pledge. If you have not, any contributions at this time would be much appreciated. However, if your financial situation has changed; and starting or completing your pledge is not possible, please contact me so I can make the necessary adjustments.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Pat Crowell, Financial Secretary at 434-4865. Thank you.

Community Life

There are many empty spots to be filled on the coffee hour calendar

If anyone is interested in taking a Sunday, and you have not done so before, Jean Brodeur is happy to show you what to do to prepare for coffee hour. We also welcome back organizations, committees and others that have done so in the past. Please call Jean Brodeur at 603-434-5084 for further information.

American Cancer Society

Have you been affected by cancer? Do you want to see a cure found? FPC doesn't have a team for the **American Cancer Society - Relay for Life** this year, but you have an opportunity to contribute through Mike and MaryAnn Schroeder. The Relay will be on June 23rd. You don't need to be at the Relay, or join the team. You can contribute anytime. Please make checks payable to "American Cancer Society." If you have questions, call 432-3434.

Building Space Available for Use

We offer our conference rooms and large fellowship hall for use by the broader community.

We are available for events such as; Weddings & Anniversary Parties, Concerts & Recitals, Meetings. For more information, contact us at 603-434-0628 or officemgr@fpc-ucc.org

Scripture Readings

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

June 3rd

Old Testament: I Samuel 3:1-20
Psalm 81:1-10
Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
New Testament: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

June 10th

Old Testament: I Samuel 15:34-16:13
Psalm 20
Gospel: Mark 4:26-34
New Testament: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10
(11-13), 14-17

June 17th

Old Testament: I Samuel 8:4-20
(11:14-15)
Psalm 138
Gospel: Mark 3:20-35
New Testament: 2 Corinthians 4:
13-5:1

June 24th

Old Testament: I Samuel 17: 1a, 4-11,
19-23, 32-49
Psalm 9: 9-20
Gospel: Mark 4: 35-41
New Testament: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Worship Schedule

Deacons of the Month: Julie Turner,

Ushers & Greeters

Weekly Usher – Michael Bryan

June 3rd:

Ushers: Diaconate
Greeter: Verna Elwell, Diane Dunn
Lay reader: Harry Handy
Children's Message: Ann-Marie Merrill
Acolyte: Mikayla Henrick

June 10th:

Ushers: Tom Cooper, Andrea Cooper,
Nancy Berry
Greeter: Joyce Pope
Lay reader: Cindy Pingree
Children's Message: Christine Lehoullier
Acolyte: Heather Richardson

June 17th:

Ushers: Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell,
Sue Hunt
Greeter: Carol Guerrin
Lay reader: Ryan Lehoullier
Children's Message: Sarah Keller
Acolyte: Alyssa Carvalho, Laila Barcomb

June 24th:

Ushers: John Bartel, Brian Williams,
Pat Cefaly, Margie Ives
Greeter: Maury Davidson
Lay reader: Beth Hunter
Children's Message: Melanie VanSteensberg
Acolyte: Charlotte Dugan

First Parish Congregational Church

**PO Box 114, 47 East Derry
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Office Hours

Monday: Closed
Tuesday- Friday:
Hours vary, please call
before visiting

Check us out on the web

www.fpc-ucc.org

Administrative Assistant:

officemgr@fpc-ucc.org
603-434-0628

Senior Pastor and Teacher

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof:
pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org

First Parish Congregational Church, UCC

You are most warmly invited:

10:00 am Sunday Worship & Church School
11:00 am Coffee Hour

First Parish Congregational Church History

The oldest church in the immediate area, First Parish Church was founded by Scotch-Irish Presbyterians in the spring of 1719. Faith was and continues to be a priority. Worship was held one day after arrival, a church body was organized in one month and a building was built in 1722. A "more imposing structure" replaced the first in 1769, and although altered and expanded through time, the main building and sanctuary remain our center of worship.



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