

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.

Upcoming Events

October 3rd

Deacon Meeting ~ 6:30

October 4th

Stewardship Meeting ~ 7:00

October 7th

Rockingham Association ~ 1:30
Debbie Gline Allen Installation ~ 3:00

October 8th

Finance Meeting ~ 7:00

October 9th

Facilities ~ 7:00

October 10th

K.I.T. ~ 12:30

October 13th

Harvest Supper ~4:30 & 6:00

October 14th

CE Meeting ~ 11:30

Windham Comm. Band ~ 2:00

October 19th

Contra Dance ~ 7:30

October 20th

NH UCC Annual Meeting ~8:00

October 21st

Special Meeting ~ 11:30

October 24st

Wonder Wednesday ~ 7:00

October 26th

Spaghetti Supper ~ 5:00

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Child of God,

We are reading Michael B. Curry's book in the Adult Faith Formation class: "Crazy Christians: a Call to Follow Jesus." What Christian church doesn't want to follow Jesus? Jesus calls us into relationship with God and with one another. And Jesus says not to repay evil for evil. And Jesus says that the merciful and compassionate are blessed. Jesus also says that the ones that are persecuted for trying to love and do what is good will also be blessed! Curry says that that's some crazy behavior!

We live in 2018. Everyone knows what the rules are. We live in an age where people don't talk to others about religion or politics because if they think differently than you do, you will have to "unfriend" them. It is much more common today to avoid confrontation at any cost. If someone does something that upsets you, just tell all your friends and acquaintances. Talk about the person but don't talk to them. And the overarching message is that it's silly to ever give people the benefit of the doubt. It makes much more sense to assume the worst because that is what is probably true.

But wait. That might work out in the world – and if we're honest, not one of those behaviors is life-giving and none of those behaviors truly "works" in the long-run. As Christians, we are called to follow the Christ, the One who lived love large; who gave love; who taught love; who died for love's sake. We are called to follow that One but it isn't easy. Culturally, we are brainwashed to pit neighbor against neighbor, even though this is not the will of God. We are taught to show hospitality to the stranger because we were once the stranger. Blessed are the merciful and the compassionate. A group of people has decided that I am not worthy to be the Pastor of First Parish Congregational Church. They have followed the "rules", the Council has responded and a Congregational meeting has been called. There will be a vote: does she stay or does she go? I came to this church with a sense of Call to serve to the best of my ability. I am human. I have made mistakes. I

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)

have asked forgiveness. I am working with the Personnel Board on goals that reflect the concerns written in my evaluation. At this writing, I still feel called to lead this church to the best of my ability, praying for compassionate leadership alongside me. After the vote it will be a very different church. "Sides" have emerged. If I stay, people will leave. If I go, people will leave. Either way, we lose the church that we all love- more than anyone can calculate.

Now would be a good time for a miracle. Would you pray for one? I would ask that you would pray with me for this church; pray for its leaders; pray for all those who are angry and pray for all those who are hurting. Most importantly, pray that God's will prevail. God has a vision for this church. Are we crazy enough to work toward that vision?

God be with us all,
Pastor Deborah

Letter from Council

Council met on September 19. The usual agenda items included an opening prayer, approval of the previous month's minutes, a review of the church financial statements, and Pastor Deborah's report. However there were two items that deserve special mention.

First there were possibly more than 30-40 people in the room as Kathryn Bell delivered a petition requesting a congregational meeting to discuss and vote on the termination of Pastor Deborah's employment at First Parish. The petition was accepted by our moderator, Fred Merrill, without further discussion.

More exciting was our Christian Education director, Christine Lehoullier's introduction of a "Kindness Curriculum". It seems like this couldn't come at a better time for our church. It's been said that kindness is not only teachable but contagious. We are asked to model visible acts of kindness to foster a culture of kindness and love that God has called us to be.

This idea of kindness brought a couple of 1960's era songs to mind for me. Bob Dylan's "All I Really Want To Do" has been running recently in a television commercial for Nellie's Free Range Eggs. The song goes on for six verses but I'll just include the first verse here:

I ain't lookin' to compete with you,
beat or cheat or mistreat you,
simplify you, classify you,
deny, defy or crucify you.
all i really want to do
is, baby, be friends with you.

I don't know what that has to do with eggs, but I would guess that Nellie's might be trying to encourage some movement away from the polarization and division that is plaguing our country. What could be simpler than just being kind, to just love our neighbor.

Letter From Council (Continued)

The other song I thought about is "Easy To Be Hard", from the musical "Hair". Here are a partial list of the lyrics:

How can people be so heartless
 How can people be so cruel
 Easy to be hard
 Easy to be cold
 How can people have no feelings
 How can they ignore their friends
 Easy to be proud
 Easy to say no
 Especially people who care about strangers
 Who say they care about social injustice
 Do you only care about the bleeding crowd
 How about a needing friend
 I need a friend

There's that word friend again. The song calls out the unkindness of people, pointing out that it's easy to be hard, cold, proud, to say no. I think our C.E. Director is suggesting that it's even easier to be kind. Blessed Be.

Submitted by John Bartel on behalf of the church council

First Parish Special Congregational Meeting

You are called to a special congregational meeting, Sunday, October 21, 2018 immediately following worship to discuss and vote on the recall (termination of employment) of the Reverend Doctor Deborah Roof. A petition to do so, signed by 42 members, was presented to Council on September 19, 2018

Consider These Words

Before You Fire Your Pastor

It happened again this week.

A pastor contacted me to let me know his deacons asked for his resignation. The reason? No one was really clear about it. The best I can discern the issue was change, or the pace of change.

The church is known in the area unflatteringly as a "preacher-eater church." They figuratively eat pastors and spit them out. And it is happening again.

Continued..

I understand. The fault does not always reside with the church. Pastors aren't perfect, and many of them have done some things that may deserve firing. But that is not the case with the vast majority of churches where I have details and good familiarity.

Stated simply, too many pastors are getting fired. It feels like an epidemic.

So, please church leader, consider these words before you fire your pastor. Please take a breath and see if any of my admonitions hit home.

1. **Pray more fervently.** You are about to make a decision that will shape your church, the pastor, and the pastor's family for years to come. Make certain you have prayed and prayed and prayed about this decision.
2. **Understand fully the consequence to your congregation.** A church is marked once it fires a pastor. Members leave. Potential guests stay away. Morale is decimated. The church has to go through a prolonged period of healing where it cannot have much of an outward focus.
3. **Listen to other voices.** Many times personnel committees, deacons, or elders decide to fire a pastor because they listen to a few malcontents. I know one church with a weak personnel committee that fired a pastor after listening to an executive pastor and a bully deacon. And they never asked to hear the pastor's side of the story.
4. **Consider the church's reputation in the community.** You are about to receive the label: "The church that fired their pastor." That will be your identity for some time.
5. **Seek mediation.** There are some very good mediation sources available. Why not at least give it a shot before you make a rash and often uninformed decision?
6. **Let your pastor know why.** Look at number three again. That church never told the pastor why he was being fired. Seriously. I guess it's hard to explain that the deacon and the executive pastor have orchestrated a successful coup. I am amazed how many pastors have no idea why they are being let go. That is cowardly. That is not Christ-like.
7. **Consider a transition plan.** Another church approached their situation with greater wisdom and Christian action. They shared sadly with the pastor that the chemistry was just not working between him and many parts of the congregation. But, instead of firing him, they let him stay on for up to one year to find another church. It's always easier to find a church if you have a church.
8. **Be generous.** If your church does make the decision to fire your pastor, please be generous with severance and benefits. Don't treat your pastor like a secular organization might treat an employee. Show the world Christian compassion and generosity.

Forced terminations of pastors are sadly common. Please consider these eight thoughts before your church makes such a serious and long-lasting decision.

Thom S. Rainer / Growing Healthy Churches. Together.

Christian Education

(Continued)

Christian Education Updates



We are now accepting **candy donations** to hand out during Derry's Downtown Trick or Trick event, October 27th from 12-3pm. We will be stationed at the Marion Gerrish Community Center. All leftover candy will be mailed to 'Soldier's Angels Treats For Troops'. Donations will be collected in the lobby.



YOUTH GROUP HALLOWEEN PARTY!

Students from grades 6th – 12th are invited to our first inter-church youth group gathering! Activities will include Pumpkin carving, pumpkin painting for local nursing homes, FOOD, games, music and making new friends! You won't want to miss this opportunity to meet some truly awesome people!



Christian Education meeting October 14th, 11:30 – 12:30pm



Christmas Preparations

That's right! Proper preparation for our Holiday events = less stress and more joyful experiences for all!

We will be starting signups for our annual **Christmas Pageant** the first weekend in October! If you are a parent of a child who would like to participate, please see us October 7th after service!!

We'll need anyone with crafty talents and holiday enthusiasm to start signing up for our *Advent Workshop* that will take place December 2nd! Please see Christian Education representatives after service Sunday, October 7th!

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

Neighbors in Need (NIN):

The Neighbors in Need offering is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

Beginning Sunday, September 16th, there will be collection envelopes in the Bulletin for those wishing to donate to this important cause. UCC congregations receive the NIN offering on **October 7, 2018** as part of their World Communion Sunday observance.

Thanksgiving Baskets:

For many this is the hardest time of the year to get through and the time in which many of us need a helping hand. Each year the Board of Christian Outreach and Missions receives a list of names of people who need some extra help managing the holidays. Recipients are recommended to us through a number of organizations such as the Derry Community Caregivers, The Upper Room, and by word of mouth. If you know of anyone or any family that is in need of help this holiday season, please talk to Pastor Deborah so that we may add them to our list.

Missions will have a table setup in Currier hall on Sunday, November 4th and Sunday, November 11th. We will be providing grocery bags for collecting the Thanksgiving food along with any special instructions. Written on each bag will be one or more item(s) which we will need in order to complete a basket.

Food will be collected up to and including Saturday, November 17th. There will also be collection baskets at the side entrance to the Church outside of Currier Hall. The baskets will be distributed to individuals/families on Sunday, November 18th. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Food Basket Program:

The Food Basket program is a vital part of our Missions work as a Church of Christ. The food basket is kept outside of Currier Hall. The food from the food basket alternates between the Derry Food Pantry and the Upper Room, both important programs supported by your missions giving. If you have donated canned goods or other food items to this program in the past, thank you. If not, please consider dropping off items in the food basket on Sunday, or anytime the Church is open. Donations are desperately needed and always appreciated.

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

(Continued)

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 our list of charities that received your support over the last two months:

Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) - \$350.00
 Sonshine Soup Kitchen - \$100.00
 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
 Family Promise of Nashua - \$200.00
 Pastoral Counseling - \$100.00
 Upper Room - \$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 needs 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.

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 their website to learn more about their current needs. www.libertyhousenh.org

LIBERTY HOUSE WISH LIST

Donations can be dropped off at 75 W. Baker St, Manchester NH during daylight hours.

FOOD

- ★ Pasta & Pasta Sauce
- ★ Canned Soup
- ★ Mac & Cheese
- Canned Tuna
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Chicken
- Fruit Cups & Canned fruit
- Granola bars
- Spam
- Canned potatoes
- Beans
- Canned ravioli
- Canned veggies
- Ramen noodles

CLOTHING

- ★ Men's shorts waist sizes (30-34)
- ★ Men's workboots, sizes (10-10.5 preferred)
- ★ Men's sneakers all sizes
- Men's jeans waist sizes (30-34)
- Men's and women's hooded sweatshirts
- Men's boxers small, medium and large
- Flannel Shirts
- Thermal Underwear
- Socks
- Women's Clothing

HOUSEHOLD

- ★ Paper towels
- ★ Toilet paper
- 35 gallon trash bags
- Air freshener

MISC

- ★ Bicycles
- Shaving razors (disposable)
- Shaving cream
- Deodorant
- Conditioner full size
- Shampoo full size

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE

- ★ Sleeping bags
- ★ Backpacks
- ★ Tents
- Can Openers
- Tarps
- Blankets

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

Board of Deacons

Autumn is upon us! As we prepare for the change of season and the glorious colors that abound, the Board of Diaconate is hard at work facilitating reverent and worshipful services in partnership with our beloved Pastor Deborah.

Our Advent Wreath needs replacement and we are looking into using wood from the Meetinghouse rehabilitation project to build a beautiful and unique piece with a special connection to this church. We have seen a few proposals and look forward to seeing the finished product once available. It is guaranteed to impress.

You have a Deacon! That's right, each parishioner has a member of the Diaconate that is their point person for joys and concerns or to share ideas for the worship service. We would love to hear from you. If you do not know who your Deacon is, reach out to anyone on the Board and we would be glad to help.

As was presented at Welcome Home Day, the Board of Diaconate has many projects and ministries available and we are always looking for passionate volunteers to help. Some examples include:

- Ushers
- Greeters
- Lay Readers
- Funeral coordination
- Acolytes
- Visuals and decorations

If you have desire to participate in any of these ministries or would like to offer a hand for projects, please let a member of Diaconate know and we will ensure you are connected to the correct person.

We are excited to welcome new members being installed at First Parish on October 7, 2018. If you are interested in becoming a member, please see Pastor Deborah or a Deacon for more information.

Finally, the Board of Diaconate is considering fun and innovative variations to our worship service to keep the atmosphere engaging and invigorating to the spirit. One such proposal is to do something unique on the 5th Sunday of a month. Four times per year there are 5 Sundays in a month. We would like to try Fabulous Fun on the Fifth to explore options for service that meets the objective while maintaining appropriate reverence and spirituality at service. If you have any suggestions, we would love to hear them. Peace and love to all.

*Today will never come again.
Be a Blessing.
Be a Friend.
Encourage someone.
Take time to care.
Let your words heal, not wound.*

Submitted on behalf of the Board of Diaconate by Ryan Lehoullier

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee and Council are responsible for tracking and managing the finances of the church. Provided here are the church's Balance Sheet and Income & Expense Report as of August 31, 2018.

The Income & Expense Report tracks the budget as approved at the Annual Meeting in January. The budget was passed with a \$4,109.18 negative balance. The negative balance has persisted throughout the year, with a negative \$7,145.06 balance as of the end of August. The Finance Committee and Council will continue to monitor the status of the budget and provide additional updates, especially if it appears the budget will end the year in a deficit.

The Finance Committee has begun work on the 2019 budget and plans to present the preliminary budget at the October Council meeting. There will be opportunities for the congregation to learn about the proposed budget at after worship informational meetings in late October/early November.

Please contact Finance Committee or Council members if you have questions related to the finances of the church.

Finance Committee reports are available online under Newsletters

[October 2018 Finance Committee Reports](#)

Board of Stewardship

The Stewardship board has met with the structure committee in an effort to facilitate the 2019 pledge drive, and to consider ways of making the drive more effective and efficient. There will be one or two congregational meetings, informational in nature, in conjunction with council and the finance committee, to inform you as completely as possible about the church budget and the importance of the faithful practice of generously pledging your financial support to the church. We hope that you will make the time to attend one or more of these meetings. Thank you for all you do and God bless us all.

Submitted by John Bartel on behalf of the Stewardship Board.

Project Linus

New Dates: every other Thursday beginning October 11, 2018

Time: 10am- Noon

Place: Currier Hall

We will be cutting and tying blankets for children who have experienced a traumatic event in their life. We usually make 3 quilts per gathering. Please join us. If you would prefer to knit or crochet just bring your supplies. Are you a quilter? Bring your machine and materials to make a quilt for Project Linus. The Mission Board thanks you!

Email Questions:

mvansteensburg@yahoo.com

From the Interim Director of Music Ministry

The Choir is off and running for the fall and promises to offer the best and most beautiful music they are able for worship. They also have created a mission statement together to help them focus on their role. See what you think:

We understand that singing is an expression of the love of God.

We understand that singing and playing music are forms of offering praise to God.

Music and singing bring prayerful inspiration to worship and to those who come to worship.

Through the singing of hymns, songs, and anthems, we celebrate and pass on our Christian heritage and traditions.

Musical song leaders assist the congregation in worshipping as completely as possible, providing a grandness and a cohesiveness while serving Jesus Christ.

"The one who sings prays twice." [Anonymous]

Submit Your Favorite Hymns for Worship

Do have a favorite hymn or two that you would like to sing in worship more often? Please send it Debbie Gline Allen at glineallen@mac.com and she will be sure that it is chosen for an upcoming service of worship (as long as it is in our *New Century Hymnal*). If you can't decide which is your favorite, how about choosing a hymn or two that you hope our young people will carry with them as they grow up in this church. We will be sure to sing it as our first hymn so that they can sing it with us! Thank you in advance for participating in choosing the songs of our faith to sing together.

Invitation to Celebrate our Covenant!

You Are Invited to Celebrate Our Covenant!

Sunday, October 7, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. at First Parish Congregational Church

This service of celebration will establish a four-way covenant between our church, the Rockingham Association, the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, and Debbie Gline Allen.

Why?

Because the polity of the United Church of Christ is grounded in covenants, particularly the one made between ministers and their congregations. Since Debbie is not currently serving in a local church in her ministerial role as a Commissioned Minister of Christian Education (she is currently serving the MA Conference UCC as their Consultant for Christian Education and Youth Ministry), she is required to have an official connection with a local church. And it makes sense that it is this church, where she has been a member since 1985. (By the way, this is only about her ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ; it has nothing to do with her role as our Interim Director of Music Ministry.)

The fourth party in the covenanting process is the Rockingham Association. The Rockingham

Celebrate our Covenant! (Continued)

ministers. The Association's Committee On Church and Ministry keeps the records of the ministers, checks in with them annually, and works with students who wish to become ordained ministers. Unlike other denominations, the oversight and decision-making power lies within the local church, through sending delegates to these wider bodies within the structure. So this is why this installation of the covenant is happening within the Association at our church.

Who will be there?

- Representatives from the Rockingham Association churches (our neighbor churches)
- Rev. Ellie Richardson, Associate Conference Minister for Lay and Clergy Leadership Development for the Massachusetts Conference, UCC who is Debbie's supervisor and who will be preaching
- Karen Ziel, Minister of Faith Formation and Leadership for the Connecticut Conference, UCC who is a colleague of Debbie's and will be delivering the charge to the Rockingham Association and to First Parish Church
- Rev. Dr. Marian Plant, Professor of Religious and Ministry Studies at Defiance College, and author of *Faith Formation in Vital Congregations*, who is a colleague of Debbie's and will be delivering the charge to Debbie and to the Massachusetts Conference
- Our own Pastor Deborah and Anne LaDuke will be the official representatives from First Parish Church

The Rockingham Association Fall Meeting will be held prior beginning at 1:30 p.m. in Currier Hall. All are welcome to attend to hear about the work and ministry of our Association and its churches. Then we will gather for worship as we celebrate our covenants.

Harvest Supper

81st Annual Harvest Supper October 13, 2018



This year will be a family style service with two options to join us: 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m

As always, the meal includes squash, vegetables, stuffing, homemade gravy and homemade desserts.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for children 5-12 Child 4 & under are free. Tickets are available at the Church Office Tuesday-Friday 9am-3pm and Sunday Morning and payable via cash or check. If not sold out, tickets will be available at the door.

Volunteer opportunities are still available! Please see Liz Greenberg, Cathy Zylinski, or call Michelle Guerrin in the office 603-434-0628.

Sugar Plum Fair

**74TH ANNUAL SUGAR PLUM FAIR
NOVEMBER 17TH 9 AM TO 3 PM**

Please remember to add to your schedule the Sugar Plum Fair!!

This is a great start of the holiday season and a wonderful team-building event!

Dust off those cookie recipes, those pie and cake ideas you have been wanting to try.

Save those 'still goods' for the White Elephant

Have some crafty ideas you want to try to support our FPC craft table.

Block off your time to volunteer to help out the week of November 12th – the 17th.

If you have any questions on how you can help – please reach out to Cathy Pottle to connect you to the 'point' person for the functions involved.

Adult Faith Formation & Wonder Wednesday

Adult Faith Formation ~

It's not too late to join us! We continue to meet this month October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

We will read two chapters a week of Bishop Michael Curry's "Crazy Christians"! Come and enjoy an invigorating view of faith from the first African American Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church whose theology includes a belief that the Church's missionary goal is to live, witness to, and share the gospel of Jesus Christ in order to make disciples who will join us in making a real difference in the world for the cause of God's Kingdom and the realization of God's dream."

Wonder Wednesday ~ October 24th

We will experience another wonderful and wonder-filled evening of prayer, praise, singing and wondering at 7pm on October 24th. Please come to our interactive, music-filled evening and bring a friend.

Scripture Readings

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

October 7th

Psalm 26
Genesis 2:18-24
Hebrews 1: 1-4: 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

October 14th

Psalm 22:1-15
Amos 5:6-7, 10-15,
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

October 21st

Isiah 53:4-12
Psalm 91:9-16
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

October 28th

Jeremiah 31:7-9
Psalm 126
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52

Worship Schedule

Deacons of the Month:

Julie Turner and Cindy Pingree

Ushers & Greeters

October 7th:

Ushers: Diaconate
Greeter: Verna Elwell
Lay reader: TBD

October 14th:

Ushers: Dusty Patrick, Verna Elwell, Joan
Crimlisk, Michael Bryan
Greeter: Joyce Pope
Lay reader: TBD

October 21st :

Ushers: Brian Williams, Margie Ives, Pat
Cefaly, Michael Bryan
Greeter: Diane Dunn
Lay reader: TBD

October 28th

Ushers: Ken Gould, Dee Deranian, Nancy
Berry, Michael Bryan
Greeter: Carol Guerrin
Lay reader: TBD

**First Parish
Congregational Church**
PO Box 114, 47 East Derry
Road, E Derry, NH 03041

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

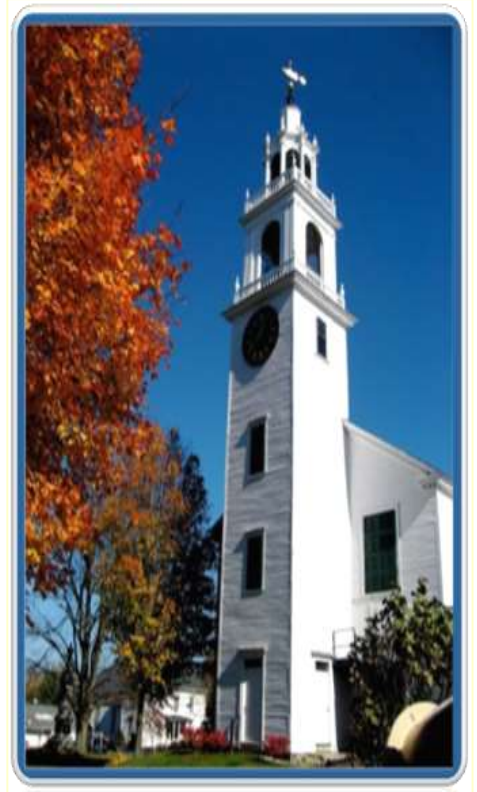
First Parish Congregational Church, UCC

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
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