

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,

Happy New Year! We arrive at the long-awaited year 2019! This year marks the 300th anniversary of First Parish! 300 years! So much has happened over the last 300 years! Our founder was Presbyterian and along the way we became New England Congregational and in recent history started affiliating with and then joined the United Church of Christ. We are First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. It's a mouthful, but it contains many aspects of who we are and where we came from.

In a very real way, 2019 will offer us the opportunity to look back and to pay attention to what our church ancestors went through over the centuries. They experienced days of hope and glory, as well as days of division and worry. This is very similar to what we have experienced over the past few decades. It also speaks truth to the statement that "our history informs us." And indeed, our history can reassure us that God isn't done with us!

We are moving forward into a new era – the next step in our development – and we do so with the deepest respect for our history and with the excitement of what the future may yield. God assures us in Jeremiah 29:11 "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." No matter what we are going through in our daily lives, God wants us to live in hope.

But how do we do that exactly? These concerns staring us in the face seem all too real.

During Advent, I referred to Christmas Eve as the night that love was born. The baby Jesus was divine love, born to set us free from the heaviness of our human existence. And the truth is that we, too, were born as love. Spiritual

Upcoming Events

- 1/1 **Vision Board** ~10:00
- 1/2 **Deacons** ~ 6:30
- 1/6 **Fundraising Mtg** ~11:30
- 1/7 **Annual Report Submissions Due**
- 1/8 **Adult Faith** ~ 6:20
- Finance** ~ 7:00
- 1/9 **K.I.T**~ 12:30
- 1/10 **PPRC** ~ 6:00
- 1/13 **Finance Mtg**~ 11:30
- 1/15 **Adult Faith** ~ 6:20
- 1/16 **Council** ~ 7:00
- 1/20 **Mission** ~ 11:30
- HPC History Party**~ 11:30
- 1/22 **Adult Faith** ~ 6:20
- Facilities** ~ 7:00
- 1/23 **Wonder Wed**~7:00
- 1/25 **Spaghetti Supper** ~5:00
- 1/27 **Annual Meeting**
- 1/29 **Adult Faith** ~ 6:20
- 1/30 **Deacons** ~6:30

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

leader Marianne Williamson says it this way: "Love is what we are born with. Fear is what we learn. The spiritual journey is the unlearning of fear and prejudices and the acceptance of love back in our hearts. Love is the essential reality and our purpose on earth. To be consciously aware of it, to experience love in ourselves and others, is the meaning of life. Meaning does not lie in things. Meaning lies in us."

Oftentimes people equate finding God with finding meaning in life. As Christmastime, we hear over and over about love in Jesus the Christ child. We can feel that in our hearts. As we look into the new year ahead of us, it is time to bring that message to our heads where rational thought reminds us of the teachings of the man Jesus, who taught us about our own divinity within and the possibilities that await in a life of faith. Once we can wrap our rationale mind around these faith facts, and then bring that message back into our hearts? That is when we can live by what Williamson suggests: "Love is the essential reality and our purpose on earth. To be consciously aware of it, to experience love in ourselves and others, is the meaning of life. Meaning does not lie in things. Meaning lies in us."

With continuing gratitude to Williamson, pray with me the following prayer for the new year: Dear God, May my life be of use to You this year. May my talents and intelligence help heal the world. May I remember how much I have by remembering how much I have to give. May I not be tempted by smaller things but serve my larger mission of forgiveness and love. Thus, shall I be lifted, God, and know joy this coming year and beyond. Bless me and work through me to bless the entire world. Amen"

I thank God for each of you,
Pastor Deborah

Ministry of Care Team

As a result of multiple meetings and on-going process of the Structure Task Force, a group of people have self-selected to enhance our faith community's connection. After studying the By-Laws, a suggestion was made to offer aide to an overtaxed Diaconate. Beth Hunter made an announcement in church and 8 people met with Pastor Deborah to investigate the needs of the community and also to better equip and inform the Pastor about needs that arise within our congregation.

The group has met twice. They are: Connie Cox, Diane Dunn, Anne Engelhardt, Beth Hunter, Mary LaFrance, Pat Plouff, Wendy Williams and Karen Wilson. They are brainstorming the kinds of needs that might arise and the way to communicate those needs to Pastor Deborah and to one another. They also are taking on the task of welcoming new members by hosting a reception within the coffee hour and hope to integrate new members in a more intentional way.

This is a work in progress and anyone with ideas, suggestions or gifts is welcome to participate in this process.

Board of Christian Education & Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation: Beginning Tuesday, January 8, 2019; 6:20 pm, through the end of February. The Book of Acts continued! We've enjoyed our adventure reading and discussing the Book of Acts so much that we've decided to extend it. Come join us anytime!



...an outdoor church for people experiencing homelessness, and their friends. **City Reach:** All those interested in attending City Reach, an urban outreach program, March 8th – 9th overnight in Boston will need to fill out a registration form as soon as possible. Please see or e-mail cedirector@fpc-ucc.org for further info and registration forms. Visit <http://commoncathedral.org/cityreach/> to read more about the program.

Sunday, January 20th; 11:30 am – 12:30 pm: Christian Education Board Meeting
ATTENTION: All who are interested in joining a collaborative group to work toward the goal of making a prayer wall and a kindness tree a reality please e-mail cedirector@fpc-ucc.org.

Sunday, January 27th; 11:45 am – 1:30 pm: Kindness Rocks Project rock painting gathering. Join us for refreshments and help us spread some kindness by painting rocks with messages of encouragement to share with our Greater Derry community.



Board of Christian Outreach and Missions



Angel Tree:

Each year at Christmas time, Missions sponsors the Angel Tree program which assists families in need in providing a little more Christmas joy for their children. We have also provided gifts to shut-ins to brighten their Christmas. This year your generosity provided 123 gifts to 25 families which included 34 children and 29 adults.

Christmas Fund:

Thank you to all who contributed to this special offering. If you would still like to donate, please see a member of the Missions board. The Christmas Fund Offering (formerly the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross), one of five Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ (UCC), is an important way of sharing our joy at God's renewing and life-giving grace. The Offering, which is administered by the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance of the Pension Boards on behalf of the UCC, is an expression of joy and gratitude to, and for, those who serve the church. Gifts to the Christmas Fund help provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, emergency assistance to the families of clergy and lay employees and Christmas Gift Checks to hundreds of annuitants.

Derry Friendship Center:

On Sunday, January 20th a Mission Moment will be given highlighting the contributions of the Derry Friendship Center to our community which we support through your Missions giving. The Derry Friendship Center is a non-profit community organization that provides a safe and supportive environment for twelve-step recovery regardless of race, creed, color, gender or ethnic origin. For over 30 years, The Derry Friendship Center, Inc. has provided a safe, confidential, alcohol and drug free environment for people seeking and/or maintaining recovery from substance abuse and to participate in activities and ongoing rehabilitative peer support to people in recovery from alcoholism and drug abuse.

Zimbabwe Container Update:

The shipping container filled with supplies from New Hampshire Churches to our respective sister Churches in Zimbabwe, which was sent Sept 2017, made it to Beira via ship and to Mutare, Zimbabwe ZIMRA station via truck, last November on schedule. After months of careful negotiation with ZIMRA, a portion of the goods from the container are ready to be liberated. The contents of the container have been off-loaded into a storage warehouse in Mutare.



It is a long complicated scenario, and it involves ridiculous fees on boxes of shoes and clothes (assessment of \$5 per kg (\$2.72 per pound)), of which there are hundreds among the 1200+ boxes/items loaded onto the container. The plan is to prioritize medical supplies, tools, school supplies, etc. and liberate as much of the shoes and clothes as available funds allow. The Missions board has donated \$100 towards helping to liberate supplies from the container so that the supplies can make it to our sister church in Mutare.

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions continued

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.

For more information about the First Baptist Church Food Pantry you can visit them on their website at: <https://www.fbcfoodpantry.org/>. Here is a list of their most needed items:

Fruits & Vegetables	Protein Items	Mixed Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetables (canned) Fruit (canned) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peanut butter Canned meats (i.e. tuna, chicken) Baked beans Fresh/frozen meat (when available) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mac and cheese Canned meals (i.e. ravioli, spaghetti)
Grains & Cereals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pasta Rice Breakfast cereals and bars 	Drinks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milk (shelf milk) Juice 	

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 last month:

Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) - \$350.00	Sonshine Soup Kitchen - \$100.00
First Baptist Food Pantry - \$100.00	Community Caregivers - \$100.00
Derry Friendship Center - \$100.00	Pastoral Counseling - \$100.00
Pinkerton Homeless Program - \$100.00	Upper Room - \$100.00
Pastor Discretionary Fund - \$200.00	Family Promise of Nashua - \$100.00
Friends of PRZ- \$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.

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions *Continued*

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.

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

A Message from the Financial Secretary

If you want contributions to be included in your tax returns for **2018**, they must be at the church on or before **January 6, 2018** and should be dated **December 31, 2018**.

The books will be **closed Monday, January 7, 2018**.

Thank you,

Pat Crowell, Financial Secretary

Annual Meeting

January 13th- Finance Budget Info Meeting~ After Worship Service

January 27th - Annual Meeting ~ After Worship Service, lunch is provided

The deadline has been changed to a hard deadline of Monday January 7th. It is our goal to have a clean concise report without the need for an addendum. Please send to officemgr@fpc-ucc.org-
Thank you!

Fundraising/ Community Building

FUNDRAISING/COMMUNITY BUILDING Brain-Storming Session

Sunday January 6th, after church, grab your coffee and join us in A/B classroom for a lively brainstorming session for new and exciting fundraising/community building activities for our church community!

Have an idea for a project or some energy and passion around fundraising possibilities?

Let's join together to see what we can accomplish!

Submitted by Liz Greenberg

BAC Rehabilitation

If you have been anywhere near the church you have noticed that there is lots of activity around the tower. There are two areas of staging (inner and outer) around the tower, wood framing and lumber on the ground and the belfry tower frame erected within the staging. The materials for rebuilding the belfry and lantern have been moved back to FPC from Preservation Timber Framing's (PTF) workshop in Nottingham, NH.

For the last several months PTF has been busy reproducing the materials needed to reconstruct the belfry and lantern, the steeple portion of the tower. Most of the wood in the original structure was unusable and had to be duplicated from new timber. That work is now done and all those materials are back on site. On December 12, a crane was on site to erect the belfry frame within the inner staging frame. The framework of the lower lantern was placed upon its base frame within the outer section of the staging. The upper lantern, completely covered in protective copper, was subsequently placed upon the outer scaffold awaiting placement on top of the lower lantern once it has been encased in its wood sheathing.

Work will continue throughout January to complete the steeple components. The staging will be wrapped in tarps to protect the work area from the wind and weather. PTF has set up a workshop within MacGregor to work on the various siding and finish components for the belfry and lantern. When the belfry and lantern components are nearly complete, another crane day will be scheduled around mid-January to raise the upper and lower lantern pieces and place them on top of the belfry. In March, when the weather warms (hopefully), all parts will have finish painting performed and be ready for unveiling for the Founders Day 300th celebration on April 14. Following that weekend, a very large crane will be on site to place the finished steeple back to its majestic place on top of the tower to again watch over the Nutfield area.

BAC members continue to meet with PTF owner Arron Sturgis regularly to monitor the work schedule and costs. In addition, PTF provides a detailed weekly summary of work progress. BAC would like to have one or two more members join our committee to help manage all the rehab work planned. If you have any interest in participating in this extraordinary historic rehabilitation work, please talk with any one of us on the committee.

BAC Committee: Larry Krantz, Paul Lindemann, Bill Mann, Nancy Murdock, Bob Wilson



You are invited to a History Party!

Please Come to a History Party at First Parish!

First Parish (our congregation) and Nutfield (the name of the community established by Scots-Irish settlers in 1719) will be turning 300 years old in April 2019. Please attend a party that will provide a fun refresher about key points in our long history. If you already know our history, then please come and share your enthusiasm and interest! Our church is part of a long, rich, meaningful community history with ties to Scotland and Ireland. As we gear up for Founders Weekend in April 2019, let's gather together and remind ourselves of some highlights of the past.

In addition to a lightning talk presentation about Nutfield history, three new short films will be shown about the connections between Northern Ireland and the settlers of Derry and Londonderry, New Hampshire and also Belfast, Maine. The films were produced by Macmillan Media in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and commissioned by our partner on the 300th, the Ulster-Scots Agency. They include shots and scenes of places you are familiar with in our community, as well as some locations in Northern Ireland. The films also feature some fantastic aerial footage. You will see shots of Derry, the Meetinghouse, Forest Hill Cemetery, Beaver Lake, and Londonderry unlike any you have seen--unless you are able to fly around like a hawk or a drone!

The Historical Preservation Committee will host the event and will provide some refreshments. Our History Party will be held two different times; (same event, but at two times to allow for as many people to attend as possible). Each event will be about 45 minutes long.

- Sunday, January 20, 2019, after service (front of Currier)
- And the second party will be scheduled based on room availability at FPC during the second half of January. Please email nancyheywood@yahoo.com if you would like to be part of a poll to determine the second time!

-Nancy Heywood for the Historical Preservation Committee

Bricks, Bricks, Bricks

It is winter and I'm sure snow and cold weather is covering New Hampshire. As I write this from Texas where I am for the next few months I want to assure everyone that the Brick Memorial/Welcoming garden around the flagpole is going forward.

We have the Phase One bricks on site and ready to install as soon as the weather permits. The four benches have been ordered and will be inscribed with the dedication each group has requested.

If you did not yet purchase a brick for the Memorial garden you are encouraged to do so now. The brick you order will be on site in time for the Phase One installation. Cathy Pottle our great brick organizer has an ongoing process and will order any brick purchased after our first order in time for the spring.

So, consider getting your brick now. The information to do so is this:

- SEE CATHY POTTLE AFTER WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS or Pick up a form at the church, in the Narthex outside the office or Ask Michelle for a form in the office
- Go to the Friends of the Meetinghouse website <https://fotmh.org/bricks/>
- CONTACT CATHY POTTLE (603) 668-4215 or clpottle@yahoo.com She will send you a form with instructions.

I had a goal of too many bricks but I do hope we will sell 500 inscribed bricks. That would do much to get our congregation back into the Sanctuary.

Submitted by Nancy Murdock

Vision Board Workshop

Create your own **2019 Vision Board in a Workshop** - January 1 from 10:00 to 2:00 in Currier Hall

Liz Greenberg, Soul Collage® Facilitator, will offer a workshop assisting you to put your vision into images by creating your personal vision board for 2019. Liz will include Soul Collage® techniques and will provide thousands of images to choose from. You may also bring specific images that you hope to incorporate, as well. Liz will lead you in a centering exercise to focus your energy and then she will assist you in creating a vision board that is all about you and your vision for 2019. The tuition is \$25 to cover the cost of supplies. Please let Pastor Deborah know if you need help with tuition. No one will be turned away. If you are willing, please bring one sandwich, cut into quarters, that will be shared. We will put the quarters on a platter and mix and match for fun! Coffee and tea provided. Please email Liz to sign up- lizgreenberg26@gmail.com



PIZZA, MUSIC, GIVEAWAYS & MORE!

This is a **FREE** community event with pizza, music and young adults talking about problem solving and access to community resources.

Visit www.URTeachers.org
or call 603-437-8477.

WE ARE ONE
Empowered through
connections united by hope.



HAVE YOU EVER WORRIED ABOUT YOURSELF OR A FRIEND?

Join youth advocates for free pizza and a community conversation about mental health, substance misuse and suicide prevention. Hear from your peers about their lived experiences and how they found a new path and continue their own journeys through hope and healing.

JANUARY 15, 2019
6pm to 8pm
Greater Derry Boys & Girls Club
Snow Date: **JAN 22, 2019**

TO REGISTER

Eventbrite : We Are One

 The Upper Room,
a Family Resource Center

In partnership with these community sponsors:












Scripture Readings

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

January 6th

Isaiah 60:1-6

Matthew 33:14-16

January 13th

Isaiah 43:1-7

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 20th

Psalms 36:5-10

John 2:1-11

January 27th

Psalms 19

Luke 1:14-21

Worship Schedule

Deacons of the Month:

Diane Breeden, Joanne Worthern

Ushers & Greeters

January 6th

Ushers: Diaconate, Michael Bryan

Greeter: Verna Elwell

Lay Reader: Ryan Lehoullier

January 13th

Ushers: Ken Gould, Dee Deranian,

Nancy Berry, Michael Bryan

Greeter: Joyce Pope

Lay Reader: Sue Lindemann

January 20th

Ushers: Stanley Gorgol, Holly Gorgol, Tom

Cooper, Andrea Cooper, Michael Bryan

Greeter: Carol Guerrin

Lay Reader: Steve Davis

January 27th

Ushers: Dusty Patrick, Verna Elwell, Joan

Crimlisk, Michael Bryan

Greeter: Beth Hunter

Lay Reader: Fred Merrill

New Members of 2018- Welcome Reception!

On January 13, 2019 the Ministry of Care Team will host a reception during coffee hour to welcome our 2018 ten new members. They are: Shellie Aseltine, Sharon Getz, Libby Leblanc, Dusty and Dottie Patrick, Alan Pawl, Mike Rounds, Jeff Slowick, Wendy Williams, and Tom (Woody) Wood.

Please stay after church and introduce yourself to our new members.

First Parish Congregational Church

**PO Box 114, 47 East Derry
Road, E Derry, NH 03041**

Office Hours

Monday: 9:00-3:00
Tuesday: 9:00-3:00
Thursday: 9:00-3:00
Friday: 9:00-3:00

Check us out on the web

www.fpc-ucc.org

Senior Pastor and Teacher
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof:
pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org

Michelle Guerrin:
officemgr@fpc-ucc.org
[603-434-0628](tel:603-434-0628)

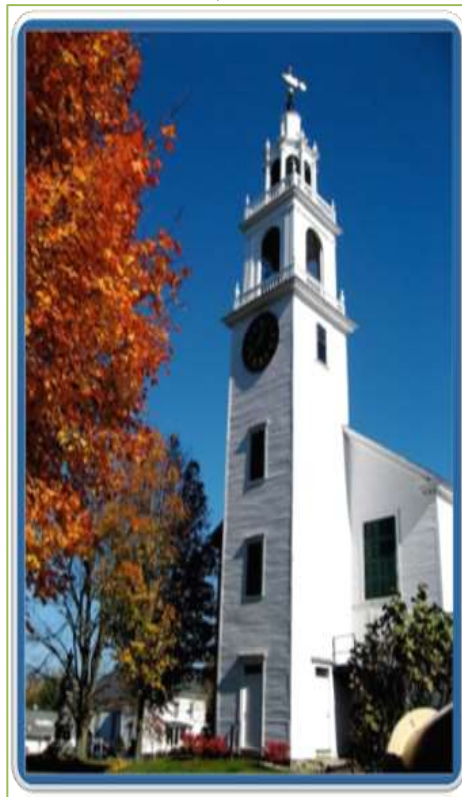
First Parish Congregational Church, UCC

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