

# *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- De-cluttering - a Spiritual Practice*

Dear Child of God,

Everywhere you look these days, you'll see trending buzz words like "simplify", "meditation" and "mindfulness". More and more people are wondering about, fascinated with or just plain intrigued by the vast sea of modified behavior that is derived from the practice of yoga. In the past, Christians held anything that didn't sound like Jesus at arm's length, thinking that ignoring other forms of spirituality was the second greatest commandment. Today, however, enlightened Christians look at these practices through the lens of Christ and through the lens of Jesus himself. The surprising reality is that Jesus would not have been so opposed to many of the new age spiritual trends because, in fact, these trends can very well be paths to a deeper relationship with the Divine. Isn't that why Jesus was sent to us in the first place?

Our sacred Christian practice of Lent begins next week on Ash Wednesday. Lent has historically been a time of focusing on faith and on our faith in action through three core practices that Jesus taught in Matthew 6 during the Sermon on the Mount. Some even go so far as to call them "pillars". Whether you call them practices or pillars, it is clear that these three examples of 'faith in action' will serve whomsoever indulges in their potential bounty. They are, of course, praying, fasting and almsgiving.

### *Upcoming Events*

March 2<sup>nd</sup>

Kindness Rocks ~1:00

March 3<sup>rd</sup>

Youth Group ~ 5:00

March 6<sup>th</sup>

Ash Wednesday  
(Loaf & Ladle) ~6:00

March 8<sup>th</sup>

Vendor Bingo ~ 5:30

March 10<sup>th</sup>

DAYLIGHT SAVING!  
CLOCKS AHEAD!

CE Meeting ~ 11:30

March 11<sup>th</sup>

Finance Meeting ~ 7:00

March 13<sup>th</sup>

Lenten Service (Loaf & Ladle) ~ 6:00

March 16<sup>th</sup>

Contra Dance ~ 8:00

March 18<sup>th</sup>

Mission Meeting ~ 6:00

March 20<sup>th</sup>

Lenten Service (Loaf & Ladle) ~ 6:00

March 26<sup>th</sup>

Facilities ~ 7:00

March 27<sup>th</sup>

Lenten Service (Loaf & Ladle) ~ 6:00

March 29<sup>th</sup>

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



## *From the Pastor's Desk Continued*

An up-and-coming new kid on the block of modern spirituality is the practice of mindfulness. What might occur when we look at praying, fasting and financial generosity through the broader lens of mindfulness? One can only wonder. Unless, of course, we give it a try. The practice of mindfulness is the idea of being fully present to the here-and-now, whenever and wherever, that here-and-now moment takes place.

An age-old practice of Lent, that was supposed to be, but often was not linked to praying, fasting and almsgiving was “giving up something for Lent”. I remember doing it in my younger days – without the lens of mindfulness but rather just to say I’d done it. When I was in college I remember giving up chocolate for Lent. It was really, really difficult! I pined and complained about it – all the while believing that I was somehow more spiritual for having given up something so important to me. About ten years later, I learned about God’s sense of humor and perfect timing when I discovered that I was actually allergic to chocolate! This new information came as quite a shock to me but I must confess that in the over thirty years of not eating chocolate, I have not pined or complained hardly at all - so much the better off I am without it!

Praying, fasting and generosity through the lens of mindfulness! What a concept!

This year there may be a practical way of melding these sacred practices together in a way that would benefit the church as well as your Spirit. What if you *mindfully* offered thanks and praise to God for the clothing that you have been gifted to wear a bit and no longer use? What if you *mindfully* fasted from the idea that ‘more is better’ and instead embraced that ‘less is more’? What if you *mindfully* gave away items that have brought you joy, warmth and/or comfort?

You will read about a project that is being brought to us by the fundraising committee. Through the store Savers, we will collect your worthy and no longer wanted “soft goods”: clothing, shoes, sheets, towels, blankets. These items must be in good enough condition to be resold. We will collect your items at church, bless them and trust that God will multiply the benefit for those who will receive these goods and for us. Go to the article about the project offered within this edition of the newsletter for details.

Set a goal for yourself: one item a day or 7 items a week. Prayerfully thank God for the item and bless it to its new owner. Fast from any judgment or resentment. Give the item to the greater good that will come of this project.

Simplify. De-clutter. Untether yourself from the weight of having so much more than you need. It is common in our culture to do this. Here is an opportunity to mindfully reverse the habit of acquisition in support of a new behavior of relinquishing the ties to material goods. Some of us can’t give as much money as we’d like to give to the church but we do manage to collect items of clothing, linens and other “soft goods”. Everyone can participate in this project in one way or another. Let’s do so mindfully and gratefully.

We hope you’ll join us in this Lenten practice this year. Be mindful. Be prayerful. Fast from negativity. Be generous in new and exciting ways.

Grace, love and peace this Lenten Season,  
Pastor Deborah

## Council

Some thoughts from the February council meeting. The January minutes were approved. Paul Lindemann gave an update on the meetinghouse rehab and fundraising (exciting stuff this month with the work done on the steeple last week). And in Becky's absence, Fred gave a quick financial report. Pastor Deborah presented her report. In other words, the usual stuff.

After many years working on or with the Stewardship board, I'm beginning to believe that the finances will take care of themselves. Not that we don't need a Finance committee. We do need them to keep an eye on things. And pledging seems to happen with only a gentle nudge from the folks running the pledge drive. Many thanks to all those who pledged so generously this year.

And thank you to Liz Greenberg for taking the lead again this year, this time with a very ambitious goal for the fundraising committee. She will need help, so jump in wherever and whenever you can. And let's put some fun in fundraising. Take a cue from Christine Lehoullier. That young woman looks like she is having a lot of fun leading the Christian Education program.

There are two other very important activities happening at this time, the Moving Forward task force, and a new committee to review and update the church by-laws.

In the effort to find a path forward for our congregation, the task force has developed a draft covenant and they are looking for your input. Do you have ideas that can help us all move forward with love? With joy? Improved communication always comes up. What are your thoughts on how to improve? Personally I would like to see a renewed emphasis on our Open and Affirming covenant. Where would you like to see more emphasis?

And updating the by-laws flows from the efforts of that task force. To move forward we should take a good look at rules that may have become outdated. We can keep what works and change what doesn't. One thing we know, from the experience of the past year, is that the process for recalling a pastor is wrong and actually superfluous. Speak up if you have thoughts on the church by-laws.

One final thought. There is a popular expression that "Perception is reality". All this talk about moving forward and updated by-laws got me thinking about it. And I don't think it's correct. Perception is perception. Reality is reality. In "For What It's Worth", by Buffalo Springfield, they sing "Nobody's right if everybody's wrong." If my perception is that you're wrong, and your perception is that I'm wrong, then who is right? And what is reality?

Reality is God. God is eternity. God is love. Everything else is temporary. In Matthew 24:35 Jesus says "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

In the song "Love Loves You Too", Bruce Cockburn sings:

"Everybody's got to find their own way through  
But if you love love then love loves you too"

You can change your perception. You can't change reality. Blessed be.

Submitted by John Bartel on behalf of the church council

# Board of Christian Education



Kindness Rocks Project Painting Event



March 2<sup>nd</sup> , 1 pm -4pm, John Conference Room (or Rainbow Room as some know it, downstairs)

Invite friends and family to join you! All ages are welcome. Supplies will be available and donations are always welcome (rocks should be at least 1 inch and paints acrylic).



(\*The Kindness Rocks Project™ promotes everyone to be MINDFUL be RESPECTFUL and be KIND to our environment. Dropping 1 rock with encouraging words on it in a public place can be inspirational, dropping hundreds could undo any good intentions you have created. Never leave Kindness Rocks in national parks, hiking trails, businesses or without prior permission from your town. Thank you for your continued kindness and for the beautiful work you are doing making this world a more compassionate place to live in! Please see Christine Lehoullier, this event's coordinator, or refer to the #Kindness Rocks Project website and Facebook page for questions\*)

**Next Meeting: Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm, First Parish Church, East Derry**

- ✚ Food
- ✚ Surprise Games
- ✚ Artistic Community Service Activity
- ✚ Help us decide between which fun field trip we will prepare for next month!

# Board of Christian Education

## (Continued)



<https://hortoncenter.org/camp/schedule/2019-horton-center-brochure/>

Click on the link above to view the brochure online, stop by the office, or have a look on almost any of our display areas to view what Horton Center has in store for us this summer! From Hogwarts-themed to Archery fans to opening work days and open house weekends free of charge, don't miss the spiritual opportunity of the wilderness that is Horton Center on breath-taking Pine Mountain! YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS YEAR'S DEALS AND SCHOLARSHIPS:

### 'Early-Bird Discount:

Automatically get last year's prices when you register by February 15th!

### \*\*\*Bring-a-Friend Discount:

Get \$50 off both registrations if you get a new camper to come to camp!!

### \*\*\*Double-Header Discount:

Get \$100 off your 2nd or 3rd camp session this summer!!

**\*\*NOTE-** To get the Bring-a-Friend or Double-Header discount, before you register, contact Karen (207) 724-3200 or Karen.HortonCenter@gmail.com

### Opening Work Days

May 24-26 - Deans: Rueben Rajala & Tim Hughes

No charge, donations accepted Help prepare Horton Center for a summer of campers. Folks are invited to come up for the day or come for a few days to spruce up the camp. Youth 9th grade & older are welcome with adult supervision and signed parent permission. See the website for registration instructions.

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ADULTS

### Open House on Pine Mountain!

June 8 - Deans: Outdoor Ministry Group

All are welcome!

No charge, donations accepted. Explore Horton Center for a few hours! New campers see where you'll be staying! Arrive at 11 and hike up to worship on Chapel Rock, followed by a cookout, tours, and games. Head home by 4pm.

ALL AGES

**CE BOARD MEETING REMINDER!**

**MARCH 10<sup>th</sup>. 11:45 pm. NURSERY**

In the spirit of Lent, a season of preparation, I offer up an inspirational message of sacrificing those things that may hold us back during this spiritual journey as shown below. This is personally inspired by the UCC's

["Take Nothing With You" 2019 Lenten Devotional from the Still Speaking Writer's Group](#)



## Board of Deacons

The Lenten season is upon us!

Please join us March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm for table fellowship over soup and bread and at 7:00 pm for the Ash Wednesday service.

The five Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday will be a worship while at tables illustrating that supper and service co-exist; the sharing of the meal and the worship weave together. Join us at 6:30 pm when we pray, get our food and go to tables. Songs of praise will be interspersed while eating; sharing of joys and concerns and a community prayer to close. All are welcome!

March 31<sup>st</sup> is a Fabulous Fifth Sunday and the theme is a “Throw Back” more traditional service with lots of pomp and circumstance. We hope you enjoy the occasional variation in worship, either trying something new or going back to traditional roots. We welcome feedback.

Our board is looking for volunteers! Please contact a Deacon, Nominating Committee or the Pastor for more information.

Peace and blessings to all,  
Submitted by Ryan Lehoullier on behalf of the Board of Diaconate

## Fundraising Committee- Savers Clothing Drive

The Fundraising Committee is Planning a Savers Clothing Drive in conjunction with Lent this year. Our theme is *Simplifying and De-cluttering Your Life as a Spiritual Practice*. Over the course of the next month, we will be accepting clean, gently used donations of clothing and fabric household goods. **See the flyer in this newsletter** for a list of items we can accept. Bring your bags of donated items to church **between March 1st and April 5th**. We will then transport the entire collection to Savers in Manchester on Saturday, April 6th and receive \$0.20/lb so the more we collect, the more we can make!

Take some flyers, share them with friends, family, neighbors, anyone you know who is doing Spring Cleaning, moving, or downsizing. Offer to pick up their donations and bring them to the church. Let's work together to make this new fundraising project a huge success!

## *Lent 2019 - Exploring and Experiencing Sacred Table Fellowship - Wednesday 6-8pm March 13 to April 10*

When the Old Testament prophets wanted to speak of the day when God's reign – or what we call God's Presence - would finally come into its fullness, they portrayed a great feast. The great poet/prophet Isaiah spoke of a coming day when Yahweh will prepare "a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine – the best of meats and the finest of wines" (Isa 25:6). In that day when all that is wrong is made right and all that is broken is made whole, there's going to be one extravagant meal.

The closest we have come to God's Presence among us was the time when Jesus walked among us, teaching, healing and blessing all of the people of God. He taught without restraint; he healed without reserve and he blessed all those within reach – and sometimes those out of immediate reach (centurion's daughter)! New Testament Scholar N. T. Wright wrote: "When Jesus himself wanted to explain to his disciples what his forthcoming death was all about, he didn't give them a theory, he gave them a meal." And in his book, *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places*, Eugene Peterson observed that this pattern of being "blessed, broken, and given" is at the heart of the Christian story. "This is the shape of the Eucharist. This is the shape of the Gospel. This is the shape of the Christian life." Theologian Christine Pohl observed in her book *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*: "A shared meal is the activity most closely tied to the reality of God's kingdom, just as it is the most basic expression of hospitality."

This year, as we celebrate our sacred 300<sup>th</sup> year, we will "come to the Table" each Wednesday of Lent. The first Wednesday of Lent is Ash Wednesday, which we will celebrate in our traditional way: soup and bread shared from 6-7, with a Worship Service at 7, including the imposition of ashes. Starting Wednesday, March 13 through April 10<sup>th</sup> our meal will be shared within the context of table fellowship. Plan to arrive by 6:00 for pre-dining fellowship and preparation. At 6:30 we will begin a service of worship and praise within the context of Table Fellowship. Together we will look at Biblical examples of Table Fellowship, we will eat, we will pray – all the while seated with one another at tables. Here are some of the many examples of food hospitality in the Bible: God provided manna and quails for the Israelites in the desert; Abraham feeds the three visitors, who were angels in disguise; I Samuel 25, Abigail provided food to David and his men after her husband refused to do so; Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:8-16) - a beautiful story of hospitality and gratitude; Jesus eats with tax collectors (Luke 5:27-32); hospitality at the home of Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42); feeding the 5000; the road to Emmaus, institution of the Lord's supper (Luke 22:7-20), Zacchaeus (Jesus invites himself even if we don't see the meal); breakfast on the beach with the disciples and the resurrected Jesus (John 21: 4-14). And there are many more!

Blessed, broken and given. Please plan to join us this year for Wednesday evening during Lent. There will be opportunities for you to share your expression of Christ in the world by setting up or cleaning up; or by preparing and bringing food for others to share. We hope you'll join us.

## *Adult Faith Formation will resume Tuesday evenings following Lent*

## *Founders Weekend is Coming!*

Derry is part of a geographic area that was called Nutfield by the Scots-Irish families who arrived in April 1719 and started building a community (and planted the first successful crop of white potatoes in North America!). The Nutfield 300th celebrations will kick off in East Derry with Founders Weekend on Friday, April 12 through Sunday, April 14. The weekend will include a variety of events for people from the community who are interested in the history of Nutfield – today's Derry, Londonderry, Windham, and Derryfield – as well as a conference for descendants of the Scots-Irish settlers.

The weekend includes something for everyone! The events for the general public are free; there will be a registration fee for the genealogical conference, and there are two advance-ticket evening events. The public celebrations on Saturday will take place at First Parish and will include history displays, tours of the meetinghouse, lightning talks, artisan demonstrations, and activities for children. On Sunday, in addition to First Parish's special Founders Day Worship Service at 10AM, there will be an ecumenical worship service with houses of worship from across the region in the afternoon. The genealogical conference will primarily take place at Upper Village Hall and include keynote talks, family stations where descendants can share their family history information, and consultations with genealogical experts.

The events for the general public are listed under the heading "Heritage Weekend" and the components of the genealogical conference are listed under the heading "Families Conference" on the Nutfield 300th Founders Weekend website:

<https://www.nutfieldhistory.org/300th/founders-weekend/program>

We need your help! We are expecting hundreds of visitors and are looking for volunteers to help with many aspects of the weekend! Please save some time over the weekend of April 12-14 to volunteer and also attend events.

Nancy Heywood ([nancyheywood@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyheywood@yahoo.com)) and Cathy Zylinski ([czylinski@hotmail.com](mailto:czylinski@hotmail.com)) are coordinating the schedules for volunteers. Please consider whether you could volunteer to make the weekend a big success. We need help greeting people (at First Parish and Upper Village Hall), and also help with activities for children, introducing lightning talks, sharing information about the historic meetinghouse, and/or helping with food service. Thank You!

Submitted by: Nancy Heywood, for the Historical Preservation Committee & Nutfield 300th

## *Please sign up & participate!*

We invite you to check the bulletin board in the lobby- options to sign up for weekly Fellowship Hour, Loaf & Ladle during Lent, set up and bulletin folding for Maundy Thursday Service.

Volunteers are needed for Vendor Bingo, Founders weekend!

Many fun ways to participate and support the church!

## *Board of Christian Outreach and Missions*

Missions would like to take this opportunity to thank Joe Weaver for the many years he dedicated to serving on the Mission Committee. He is going to be missed. He was especially committed to making sure we were always updated on what was going on at our sister church in Dangamvura Zimbabwe. He attended as many Zimbabwe gatherings as he could so we had the latest information. THANK YOU JOE.

We are sad to accept the resignation of Sharon Hartmann. She has been dealing with some health issues and needs to concentrate on healing. THANK YOU SHARON.

Melanie Pawl has joined us and we are grateful to have her working with us. WELCOME MELANIE.

We have decided to change our meeting date. We will now meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday night at 6:00pm. The mission meetings are open to everyone. If you have questions or suggestions please join us on Monday night or speak with one of us.

The Board of Christian Outreach & Mission is very grateful for your generous gifts. Each month FPC gives to the following local organizations:

Community Caregivers \$100

First Baptist Food Pantry \$100

Pastoral Counseling \$100

Sonshine Soup Kitchen \$100

Derry Friendship Center \$100

The Upper Room \$100

Pinkerton Homeless Program \$100

Family Promise Nashua \$100

We also give to Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) \$350. OCWM is the local church giving to the global settings. 60% stays here in NH to help strengthen local churches, support pastors & seminarians, make possible camp experiences at Horton Center and much more. 40% helps support UCC ministries in the United States and around the world.

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund receives \$200 each month. This fund helps people here at FPC who may need financial support. It also provides gas cards & grocery cards for local residents who are in need.

We are a blessed and generous congregation. The Board of Christian Outreach and Mission wants to thank you for all that you do for others.

Melanie Van Steensburg, Karen Wilson, Kathy Holland, Bart Wetherbee, Melanie Pawl, Sue Brown, Beth Hunter

## Meetinghouse Update: Steeple Crane Day and Next Steps

Paul Lindemann, for the Building Advisory Committee

The current Steeple preservation project successfully met a major milestone on Thursday, Feb. 21, when the Bell came home to the Belfry, and the Lantern got lifted on top.

Arron Sturgis and a large crew from Preservation Timber Framing did an excellent job (as usual). The Bell with its timber cradle weighed 3,900 pounds. It now rests on the freshly copper-clad floor of the Belfry, sitting on raised blocks that are also copper clad.

The partially reconstructed Lantern weighed about 14,000 pounds. It is snugged down with chains and come-along winches—easily handling the recent 50mph wind gusts—and along with the Belfry will receive the rest of its new trim and other details over the next few weeks.

The team also lifted up into the Tower a replacement horizontal beam (a “girt”) and two large bed timber beams, which together will help hold up the Steeple once it's raised and inserted into the top of the Tower.

The current goal is to have the Steeple completely done and freshly painted for the April 12-14 Founders Weekend kick-off of the Nutfield 300th, where the Steeple's unveiling—and ringing of the bell!—will be a big feature. Then we'll lift it up in place on top of the Tower on another Crane Day in probably May.

Much fundraising and preservation work remains on the full Meetinghouse project—specifically all the interiors and the elevator with its Accessibility Connector building have to be done, plus the Roof—but we should all be happy and proud to be nearing completion of the Steeple and Tower projects.



## Meetinghouse Update - continued

Visit Nutfield History on Facebook (facebook.com/nuthist) to see posts with links to crane day coverage by WMUR-TV Channel 9 and local papers, plus photos, additional updates, and more. To help with fundraising, please see the Friends of the Meetinghouse website (www.fotmh.org) or talk with any FPC member of the Friends Board of Directors: Kevin Gordon, Nancy Heywood, Beth Hunter, Paul Lindemann, or Bill Mann.

# # #



## NH UCC Women's Fellowship

The New Hampshire Women's Fellowship is compiling a booklet entitled *Prayer, Prose, and Potpourri*. It will be the Third Edition; the Second Edition was published in 1997 and the First Edition was published in 1984. We will dedicate our Third Edition to Janet Anderson, Alma Healey, Esther Murray, and Dot Pitman—all Past Presidents and faithful women involved in NH Women's Fellowship for many years. All these women contributed to the First and Second Editions; Janet and Dot will be involved in the Third Edition as well. We thought it was time for a new booklet with more contemporary prayers and inspirational pieces to guide us during these times.

The booklet will consist of favorite prayers and sayings or inspirational readings you have found humorous or helpful during your lives. We wish to compose the booklet so that we can share our faith with each other and those women we meet along the way.

We ask you, as Liaison Women in your parishes, to help us reach all women in New Hampshire by posting this letter and announcing in your church services the opportunity to contribute to this booklet. If you wish to submit to the booklet, do so by E-mailing the piece you wish to share to Margie Kreidler, Chair of the NH Women's Fellowship at [mykreidler@gmail.com](mailto:mykreidler@gmail.com). Deadline is August 1<sup>st</sup>. Please include your name, telephone number, and name of church with your submission.

The booklet will be done by our fall meeting in September for you all to carry with you. The booklet will be sold and proceeds will be used for scholarship money to aid women in attending Women's Gatherings hosted by churches.

Thank you and blessing to each of you,  
Your New Hampshire Women's Fellowship Board: Margie Kreidler, chair; Janet Anderson, Elaine Barker, Trudie Bergeron, Anne Crawn, Joann Duncanson, Donna Lee Lewis, Lee Miller, Dorothy Pitman, Roberta Pratt, Hollis Thompson, Diane Wells, and Claudia Wright.

## *Music Ministry*

### Applause in Worship

I have wrestled with the concept of whether or not to clap in worship. Is it a “disrespectful” act during a service of worship? Or is it an expression of thanks and praise such as when we sing or say, “Hallelujah” together? Is it a secular behavior? Or is it something that God appreciates?

Frankly, I can go either way. And so has this congregation over the years. And I believe that most of us, when so moved and inspired to do so, we go ahead and clap no matter what the “rule” may be.

When the Choirs and musicians offer their gifts of music to the service of worship, these pieces of music are just that — gifts — offered to God through the enhancement of the worship experience for the congregation. In this moment, clapping might be more of a response to a “performance,” rather than an offering or a gift.

Yet there are many congregations that show their praise to God in worship through clapping. And while this does not tend to be our tradition, as long as it is not a response to a “performance,” I’m sure God is appreciative.

So should you clap after one of our choirs offers its gift in worship? I still don’t have an answer for you. But if you are so inspired to respond to how you receive this gift, who am I to say that your clapping is not a true part of worship?

Debbie Gline Allen,  
Interim Director of Music Ministry

## *Ministry of Care*

The Ministry of Care team has met several times. We have discussed how we can work together as a community of Christians to care for each other when we face challenges in our lives.

One of our goals is to streamline the process of helping members of our congregation who are in need of “care”. That care could be a home cooked meal, a visit, a phone call or a card etc. Communication is key to making this ministry work. Communicating a need to the congregation and making sure the congregation has a way of communicating a need to us.

We have been busy. We are bringing weekly meals to the Coopers, sending out a lot of cards and making phone calls to keep in touch with those who have been facing ongoing challenges.

We have 11 people who have signed up to write cards and Connie calls, & sends out texts/emails to those people when there is a need. We have 8 people willing to cook meals or pick up food, 8 people who will make visits & 5 who have volunteered to make phone calls. Please feel free to write cards, make phone calls, visits and send food even if you are not on our lists. We want you all reaching out to our families in need. If you want to receive requests for help from the Ministry of Care there are forms in the office you can fill out.

The following people are coordinating specific needs: Intake Coordinator: Beth Hunter 505-0704/Deborah Roof 585-472-4284 Coordinator of Cards: Connie Cox 479-9150 Coordinator of Visits: Wendy Williams 860-287-1750 Coordinator of Food: Anne Engelhardt 321-9428

This ministry is a work in progress and we would love any input you can give us. Your Ministry of Care team, Mary LaFrance, Karen Wilson, Connie Cox, Wendy Williams, Anne Engelhardt, Beth Hunter, Diane Dunn, Pastor Deborah, Rachel Cobban

## *It's Fun! It's Shopping! It's Bingo! It's Dinner!*

Invite your family and friends for an evening out at **VENDOR BINGO** on March 8 at 5:30PM There will be time to browse and shop at our vendors, check out raffle baskets and gift cards, purchase some dinner and PLAY BINGO. For a \$10 donation you will be able to play 10 rounds of bingo and each prize will be donated by a vendor: Thirty-One, Tupperware, Inspire Jewelry, Lularoe, Festive Wreaths, MaryKay, Leisure Leggings, Pampered Chef, Festive Stockings plus, Younique, Connie Cox's Jewelry and more.

We will be serving quiche, salad, pizza and special desserts for a nominal charge. Coffee, tea and water will be available.

If you would like to donate an item for the raffle or have any questions, please contact: Stephanie Crowley Berg: [tulipstephie29@yahoo.com](mailto:tulipstephie29@yahoo.com) Cathy Zylinski: [czylinski@hotmail.com](mailto:czylinski@hotmail.com) Carol Guerrin: [carol.guerrin@yahoo.com](mailto:carol.guerrin@yahoo.com)

All proceeds go to support First Parish Church, Friends of the Meetinghouse and REACH: Respect, Encourage, Assist, Care, Hope - Jaime Robinson's new community outreach mission



## *Contra Dance ~ March 15<sup>th</sup>*

Line Dancing meeting square dancing! No partner necessary. All dances taught. Please bring soft-soled shoes. Lessons available starting at 7:30pm

## *Spaghetti Supper ~ March 29<sup>th</sup>*

Spaghetti Suppers are held the last Friday of every month. Suppers are free and open to the community. We serve anywhere from 75-120 meals each supper. The meal offers a generous portion of spaghetti with tomato sauce, meatballs, green beans, garlic bread and dessert. In the summer months June-August, we offer fresh garden salad. More than that we offer a setting for fellowship, sharing joys, hardships, encouragement, comfort and thanksgiving in a relaxed and non-judgmental atmosphere. All are Welcome!!!

Please contact Bill Mann or Kevin Gordon to volunteer for set up, serving or clean up!

## Scripture Readings

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

### March 3<sup>rd</sup>

Exodus 34:29-35  
Luke 9:29-36, (37-43a)

### March 10<sup>th</sup>

Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Luke 4:1-13

### March 17<sup>th</sup>

Genesis 15 1-12, 17-18  
Luke 13:31-35

### March 24<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 55:1-9  
Luke 13:1-9

### March 31<sup>st</sup>

Josh 5:9-12  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

## Worship Schedule

### Deacons of the Month:

Joanne Worthen, Rachel Cobban

### Ushers & Greeters

### March 3<sup>rd</sup>:

Ushers: Diaconate  
Greeter: Tom Woods

### March 10<sup>th</sup>:

Ushers: Dusty Patrick, Joan Crimlisk,  
Michael Bryan  
Greeter: Tom Woods

### March 17<sup>th</sup>:

Ushers: Brian Williams, Margie Ives,  
Michael Bryan  
Greeter: Liz Greenberg

### March 24<sup>th</sup>:

Ushers: Ken Gould, Dee Deranian,  
Nancy Berry, Michael Bryan  
Greeter: Joyce Pope

### March 31<sup>st</sup>

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

## **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  
Wednesday: 9:00-3:00  
Thursday: 9:00-3:00  
Friday: 9:00-3:00

### **Check us out on the web**

[www.fpc-ucc.org](http://www.fpc-ucc.org)

**Administrative Assistant,**  
[officemgr@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:officemgr@fpc-ucc.org)  
[603-434-0628](tel:603-434-0628)

**Senior Pastor and Teacher**  
**The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof:**  
[pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org)

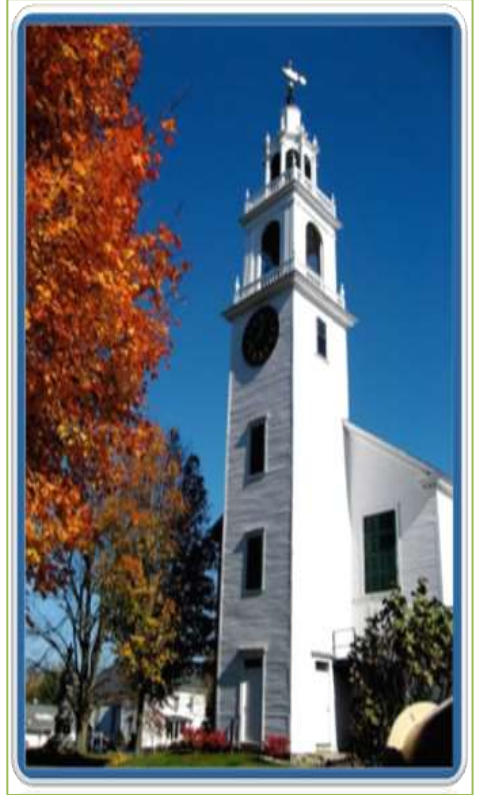
# **First Parish Congregational Church, UCC**

### **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***