

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,

We are 300 years old! I have been working toward and waiting for the moment to say this for several years! I think it merits repeating, don't you? We had an amazing Founders Day Weekend. There was so much excitement and activity in and around the church. It was a joy to meet descendants of Pastor MacGregor and of the sixteen families. It was an honor to host two amazing worship services: one with former pastors and one with ecumenical partners in the area! And with all the publicity that we attained - and truly, it was well-done - I've talked to so many people who didn't know about it! Half of those people said, "You should do it again!" My initial reaction was, "how would we do it again?" How do you have a second birthday party? But you know after 300 years, why not? I don't know how and I don't know when but what do you think? Shall we have another party in the next six months and get more townspeople up to our hill?

In the midst of all of the 300 preparations, I wrote a grant for my 2020 Sabbatical. I had a lot of help from church members. There were a total of 8 draft copies; rewrites; tweaking; consolidating. We ended up with an amazing proposal that I pray will be impressive to the folks who give out these grants. Just to recap, in case you missed that piece of news, my plan is to look at three different Christian settings and specifically their singing together and then to bring some of those songs back to First Parish. The three settings are: Celtic spirituality, African American Christian, and contemporary praise. The grant was for \$49,000 and covered the expenses of traveling, not just for me but also for Liz, my spouse and for the resident artist, who travels with me and then comes back and shares with all of you in church and after church what we've learned that month. The grant will also pay for the supply preacher who will come in my absence and who will be available for pastoral

Upcoming Events

May 2nd

Personnel ~ 5:00

May 5th

Rockingham Association ~ 1:30

May 8th

K.I.T ~ 12:30

Wonder Wednesday ~ 7:00

May 9th

Security Training ~ 4:00

Etz Hayim Synagogue

May 13th

Finance Meeting ~ 7:00

May 15th

Council ~ 7:00

May 17th & May 20th

Office is closed

May 17th

CONTRA Dance ~ 8:00

May 19th

Mission Moment & Horton presentation during Worship Service

May 20th

Mission ~ 6:00

May 21st

Adult Faith Formation ~ 6:20

May 22nd

By-Laws ~ 7:00

May 23rd

PPRC ~ 7:00 offsite

May 25th

Kindness Rocks ~ 9:00

May 28th

Adult Faith Formation ~ 6:20

Facilities ~ 7:00

May 29th

Deacons ~ 6:30

May 31st

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

emergencies. Pray with me that the grant be accepted.

AND in the midst of all of that, I prepare for my May study leave to New Mexico. Last year I began my training to become a Labyrinth Facilitator. I went to Prescott, Arizona for the first training. In May, I will go to Ghost Ranch in New Mexico to receive the advanced training. You may remember the indoor labyrinth that we borrowed a few years back. Or you may remember that the Facilities Board had three unhealthy trees taken down west of the tower. It was a vision to install an outdoor labyrinth in that location. The vision has not gone away. Timing is important and there were priorities that took our attention elsewhere. And now, a year later, God has opened another window of opportunity. I met a geomancer from Maine who is willing to come and evaluate our plan and give us a specific "to do" list so that the labyrinth that we install is one that future generations will enjoy for some time.

Friends, God is good and we are thriving! The Spirit of God is at work and can efficiently work on numerous projects simultaneously! As always, I would like you to talk to me if you have ideas, comments or questions regarding anything that I've written. Plans evolve and they need your input. Would you like to meet the geomancer when he comes or be involved in the labyrinth? Would you like to be involved in planning another birthday party for the church? Would you like to be involved in figuring out how to make the most of my sabbatical if we don't get the grant? Just let me know!!

In faith and love, I am your
Pastor Deborah

Letter from Alice M.C. Ling

My dear friends,

How I wish I could be with you as you gather to celebrate the first 300 years of Nutfield and what we know now as First Parish Church. You cannot begin to know how grateful I am for our years together, and how fervently I pray for you this weekend as you celebrate the milestone before you.

When Pastor Deborah invited me to share a memory or two, I faced an avalanche of memories: Horton Center weekends and Best Breakfasts, Bible Study in the nursery and Mission Trips to New Orleans, Women's Retreats and Vacation Church Schools, ministry with Lucy and the everyday give and take, conversational work of being in community and living as the Church of Jesus Christ.

Before I had a chance to get too carried away with all of those memories or even pretended to take on the impossible task of choosing one, I remembered that the invitation I received related to the history of the church. Again, there are many, but I think one of the aspects of First Parish that has always struck me as most important is the fact that the initial settlers, before they did anything else, gathered for worship and founded a church. There's nothing like a 1700's ocean crossing to help a community know their need of God, and to focus their priorities for life in their new land. And so, before they organized a town or erected buildings, they met for worship: to gather themselves as the

Letter from Alice M.C. Ling... continued

people of God, to express their gratitude for safe passage, to dedicate themselves to service and mission in Jesus' name. Everything else they would do and be in the new frontier would follow from that. I think that is a powerful and important aspect of the legacy you celebrate this weekend, and one from which we can all learn.

I wish you every blessing as you continue to gather as the people of God, and live and move together as followers of Jesus Christ. May God richly bless you in the weekend's festivities and in the years to come.

Peace, my friends. And congratulations.

Alice

Council

Do you have 1.2 million dollars you can donate to the rehabilitation of our 250 year old meetinghouse? No? Do you know someone who might? Or do you know someone who knows someone who could make a significant contribution toward that 1.2 million dollar goal? The church council is looking for ideas for raising a significant number of dollars toward completing the rehabilitation that will allow us to return to worshipping in that beloved sanctuary. Let's all put our heads together and see if we can't come up with a number of ideas to raise tens, even hundreds of thousands of dollars to this end.

Debbie Gline Allen is returning to school with the hope of achieving the goal of becoming an ordained minister in the not too distant future. As a first step, at the spring meeting of the Rockingham Association on May 5, a vote will be taken to accept Debbie as a member in discernment at First Parish. Three council members at large will attend as voting delegates and it would be very nice to have several more members of the congregation in attendance to support Debbie.

Please check out the congregational covenant developed by the Moving Forward Task Force elsewhere in this newsletter. The task force has worked hard to produce a document that reflects what we want this church to be in terms of behavior and relating with each other as we move into the future. Your thoughts are solicited and the team would like to hear your comments.

It's unfortunate that Pastor Deborah couldn't be at this last council meeting because there were many comments about her Herculean efforts over the past month. In addition to regular Sunday worship and Wednesday evening Lenten services, there was Founders Weekend. Pastor Deborah was involved in many of the activities in the week leading up to the weekend, most importantly planning, arranging, and leading not one but two beautiful worship services on Sunday, April 14. That was immediately followed by Holy Week, with a Maundy Thursday service of Tenebrae, participation in an ecumenical Good Friday service, and of course Easter Sunday with the usual increase in attendance. Thank you, Pastor Deborah, for all you do.

Submitted by John Bartel on behalf of the church council

Board of Christian Education & Faith Formation

MEETING REMINDERS: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD MEETING

TBD 11:45 am, A/B Conference Room

HORTON CENTER VISITOR PRESENTATION

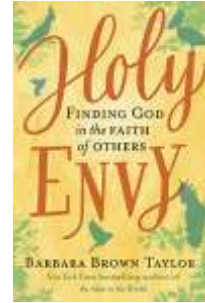
Sunday, May 19, 2019. Welcome back Horton Center! We are so excited to see what is new and excited up on the mountain this year! A representation will be giving a short presentation during service and be available to answer any questions after service.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Tuesday, May 21, 6:20 pm; Barabara Brown Taylor's *Holy Envy* [SIGN UP HERE](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D49ADAD2DA5F58-barbara), type <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D49ADAD2DA5F58-barbara> into your browser OR sign up at the front office.

#THE KINDNESS ROCKS PROJECT!

Saturday, May 25th, 9:00 am – 11:00 am ALL AGES ARE WELCOME, BRING YOUR FRIENDS! MEET DOWNSTAIRS IN THE RAINBOW ROOM!



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Classes start Tuesday, May 21st, 6:20 pm Sign up using the Sign Up Genius link to the left under "Meeting Reminders" or in the front office.

Book Synopsis: Christians are taught that God is everywhere--a tenet that is central to Barbara Brown Taylor's life and faith. In *Holy Envy*, she continues her spiritual journey, contemplating the myriad ways she encountered God outside of the church, while teaching a college course on the world's religions.

Throughout *Holy Envy*, Barbara weaves together stories from her classroom with reflections on how her own spiritual journey has been challenged and renewed by connecting with people of other traditions--and by meeting God in her communion with them. Join us in exploring this brand new book release together!

SHARE YOUR TALENTS FOR A GOOD CAUSE!



JUNE 22ND 3 PM – 5 PM

Art Exhibit, Talent Show, & FUNdraiser to help raise funds for our homeless outreach program **R.E.A.C.H.**. All art exhibits are due by June 9th. Mandatory auditions and rehearsals will take place June 9th from 12 pm – 2 pm at First Parish Church. Please call or e-mail Christine Lehoullier at cedirector@fpc-ucc.org or call 603-264-9261

Board of Christian Education & Faith Formation



VACATION CHURCH CAMP DECORATION SUPPLIES & ASSEMBLY HELP NEEDED!

Calling all vacation church camp enthusiasts and volunteers! Let's get crafty...Join us throughout the months of May and June for decoration assembly as we prepare to create an out of this world scene for our VCC "To Mars and Beyond Theme." A list of supplies needed will be posted for any church members who are able to donate and all able bodies are welcome to help construct our space themed items. Construction dates will depend on availability of volunteers. See or contact Christine Lehoullier

cedirector@fpc-ucc.org.

SHOUT OUT TO GRADUATES!

Are you the parent, grandparent, uncle, aunt, sister, brother, cousin, friend or neighbor of a soon-to-be graduate? High school or otherwise? We want to know! Please inform us so that we may bless and celebrate them together! Contact the front office or Christine Lehoullier by e-mail or otherwise. Thank you! Thank you to those who have submitted, we will compile all submissions for next month.

By-laws Review is in Process and asks you to participate!

The By-laws Committee is reviewing our current By-laws and is asking YOU, the members, to review and provide your input, as well. The boards and committees will be reviewing their sections. Suggestions can be submitted to the FPC office or speak with a committee member. The By-laws can be found at www.fpc-ucc.org (under Resource tab) or there is a copy in the office for review. The committee will review all suggestions but requests that all input by members be sent in by May 15th. Please send these to officemgr@fpc-ucc.org or leave in the office for Michelle. Our goal is to have the church By-laws reviewed with recommendations submitted to Council in early summer. This is an important activity for our church, and we hope all members will participate.

Thank you from the Bylaws Committee: Anne Engelhardt, Fay Chary, Wendy Williams, Ryan Lehoullier, Cathy Zylinski, John Bartel, Lianne Deranian, and Pastor Deborah Roof: ex-officio advisory member.



Founders Weekend

Wonderful Camaraderie and Helpfulness of Founders Weekend Volunteers!

The success of Founders Weekend on April 12-14, 2019 was due in a large part to the efforts of all the volunteers! The combination of a conference for Scots-Irish descendants and a full schedule of activities for the general public required teams of volunteers to handle preparations, food service, conference support, hospitality, meetinghouse tours and greeters,, children's activities, lightning talks coordination, and cleanup. Thank you to all who helped make Founders Weekend at First Parish and the Upper Village Hall a success! The energy, good humor, innovation, and care you all displayed contributed to the event.

I heard wonderful things from the conference attendees who spent time at Upper Village Hall, on Meetinghouse tours, enjoying activities in Currier, and exploring the Forest Hill Cemetery. Everyone I saw in the Meetinghouse, and Currier and the classrooms was exploring and having a good time!

Some notable quotes:

- "Why is it so high" (young person's comment about the meetinghouse tower and steeple)
- "You guys are inspiring to be around" (one of our volunteers commenting on energy of meetinghouse team)
- [I can't remember the actual quote but something like]: You all seem really normal and nice for a church (our shuttle bus driver)
- "You all should be so proud of your event. What a welcoming community." (one of our musicians)

"Beaver Lake Sermon

Settlers planting potatoes

Weaving their future"

[Haiku by a writer who identified themselves as "Shakespeare"]

I heartily thank all of the volunteers and I truly apologize if I have inadvertently left off anyone from this list of Founders Weekend volunteers: Brian Williams, Sue Lindemann, Ufuk Cav, Laura Newell, Connie Cox, Alan Cox, Ken Williams, Alan Pawl, Melanie Pawl, Wendy Williams, Mike Rounds, Larry Krantz, Diane Dunn, Pat Cefaly, Pat Plouff, Kris Soltis, Linda Webber, Janet Wetherbee, Bart Wetherbee, Julie Turner, Bill Mann, Kevin Gordon, Kristin Lindemann, Chris Alexandre, Lisa Hall, Dee Deranian, Lianne Deranian, Debbie Gline Allen, Karen Blandford-Anderson, Beth Nelson, Beth Hunter, Anne Engelhardt, Kathy Gallagher, Christine Lehoullier, Joanne Morganti, Louise Gagnon, Mike G., Bud Smith, Dottie Puleo Patrick, Dusty Patrick, Bob Wilson, Karen Wilson, Cathy L. Pottle, Shanna Pottle, Chris Cox, Paula Robinson, Eileen Cox, Jaime Robinson, Jennifer Robinson, Cathy Zylinski, Carol Guerrin, Liz Greenberg, Margie Ives, Harriet Gottlieb, Barb Heywood, Suzanne MacGibbon, Laura Newell, Jo Worthen, Paul Lindemann.

The Spudcrow assembly team included Sue Weaver, Laura Newell, Ginny True, Sue Lindemann, Paul Lindemann, Janet Wetherbee, and Barb Heywood

I am also grateful for the envisioning, planning, and coordination efforts of Paul Lindemann, Michelle Guerrin and Pastor Deborah Roof, who worked hard to ensure a solid conference for descendants, lively public celebrations, and inspirational Sunday services.

[Submitted by Nancy Heywood, for the Historical Preservation Committee]

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

You probably noticed the One Great Hour of Sharing information and envelopes in the Sunday bulletin. You also may have heard about cyclone Idai that devastated parts of Zimbabwe where several of our partner churches are located. Part of what the OGHS offering goes to is emergency relief. The NHUCC Conference has let us know that we can designate our 2019 OGHS offering to help our partner churches in Zimbabwe. The mission board has voted to do that. We also voted to add to your donations and send OGHS \$1000.

On Sunday May 19th Shelly Koza from The Upper Room will come to worship with us and tell us about another ministry that we support. She is willing to stay after worship and answer question. We hope you will be here to hear about the wonderful programs the Upper Room offers to families and teenagers.

In March David Reynolds and Calvin Genzel from pastoral Counseling visited us during worship. David Reynolds has retired as director and Calvin Genzel is the interim director. They spoke briefly about the programs at PCS and thanked us for our continued support. We have been giving to PCS for many years and in fact quite a few years ago they had an "office" at FPC and offered counseling to our congregation. Pastoral Counseling was founded in 1979 and is an independent, non-profit & non-denominational consulting center. Their motto is "Feel Heard, Feel Cared For, Feel Better". For more information about PCS you can visit their website www.pcs-nh.org

The mission board is so very grateful for all the financial support you give so we can help the following local non-profits with monthly gifts:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| The Upper Room | Community Caregivers |
| The Sonshine Soup Kitchen | The First Baptist Food Pantry |
| Pastoral Counseling | Nashua Family Promise |
| Derry Friendship Center | Pinkerton Homeless |

We also give monthly to the NHUCC Conference & the Pastor's Discretionary Fund



Sonshine Soup Kitchen

Serving free hot meals, five days
per week in Derry, NH since 1989



Family Promise[®] of Greater Nashua
at Anne-Marie House

Ending Homelessness One Family at a Time

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

Pinkerton Homeless

Let me tell you a little bit about our homeless/needy program at Pinkerton. A friend and I started this about 20 years ago when we had one homeless student attending High School here. We thought it would be nice to provide that family with an unexpected Christmas. We personally bought gifts for the entire family that year. Before we knew it the numbers of homeless were more than we could handle. We began asking the faculty for help and we were able to cover the needs for a while. Now we are helping anywhere from 60-100 folks a year. We depend on the outside community now to pitch in where ever they can. We provide school supplies, new clothing, lunches, Christmas and sometime Thanksgiving when we have the funds. Your donations go toward all these things. It is nothing for us to spend \$800 or more on just one family sometimes.

A little example for you. We recently bought school clothes, shoes, book bags filled with supplies, food cards, etc. for a family of 6 living in a tent. I can't tell you how bad I felt as I looked out the window as the rain was pouring down thinking about that family in a soggy tent in a muddy campground packed with their belongings and children from 2 years old to 14 years old. When I called the mom to say our shopping was complete, I could hear the 2 and 4-year-old crying in the background. Mom borrowed a car and was here in a flash and so grateful she was crying. I could not help but notice that they were all dirty and anything but odor free and wearing the same clothing they were in when I met them days ago. The smiles were infectious and this is why we do what we do. The high school boy and 5th grader can now go to school in nice new clothing with new book bags and no one will guess they are living in a tent.

Most years we need about \$10-\$12,000 to support our program needs. Most of the funds are raised here and some are from our community churches. We are happy to receive any amount that we can and are thankful for your continued support.

Nancy Cofrin/ Homeless liaison/Pinkerton Academy

The Outdoor Ministry

The Outdoor Ministry is looking forward to exploring many new (to us) trails and activities this year. We recently walked the Head's Pond Trail in Hooksett, which turned out to be a gem of a trail. If you would like to lead an event, or have an idea you would like to recommend, please let me know. Don't miss out on an upcoming event. Send me an email at willibi1910@gmail.com.



Fundraising Committee

Thanks to all who participated in the Savers Clothing Drive in conjunction with Lent this year. Our theme was *Simplifying and De-cluttering Your Life as a Spiritual Practice*. Many thanks also to Alan Pawl for his donation of a rental truck to transport all the goods to Savers. We collected 1,850 pounds of soft goods and have received payment of \$370.

Two upcoming dates for the popular Dining for Dollars events – Save the dates:

Tuesday, May 7th, 4-9 pm Panera Bread in Derry.

Tuesday June 4th, 4-9 p.m. Texas Roadhouse in Manchester. Please note, this is Kid's Night, with crafts, mascot Andy the Armadillo will be there, and Kid's meals are only \$1.99! In addition, we will have a raffle on site for a Fisher Cats Ticket & parking package, as well as some scratch off ticket baskets!

For each of these events, you will need a flyer to give to the server for the church to be credited. We hope you will come out with family and friends for these great opportunities to share fellowship with one another!

We are still waiting for the check from Applebee's to learn how profitable that event was, but it was really well attended and everyone had a great time visiting and building fellowship and community!

Save the date: Saturday June 8th, 7-10 a.m. We are planning a Best Breakfast style celebration of the Mothers and Fathers of the church and wider community in between Mothers and Fathers Days. If you can help cook or serve, please contact Liz Greenberg @ lizgreenberg26@gmail.com or (585)472-0458 as soon as possible.

As you know, our first Vendor Bingo event was a huge success! Everyone had a great time and the Vendors did so well, they want to return again, so we're already planning Vendor Bingo, Part II this Fall. **Save the date: Friday, September 6th**

As always, you can continue to support the church budget by purchasing or reloading **Hannaford gift cards** after church each Sunday. You get the full amount loaded on your card, and Hannaford donates 5% of our total weekly purchase to the church (for example, \$1000 loaded by a group of people one week=\$50 to the church budget). Gift cards can be loaded in any amount from \$5-\$500 and make great gifts too! Payment can be made by cash or check.

Plastic Utensils- phasing out

In an effort to reduce our footprint we will not be using plastic utensils any longer.

Thank you for your assistance with moving forward plastic-less!

When dining out, refuse the straw!!!

Moving Forward Task Force

UPDATE AND INVITATION FROM THE TASK FORCE FOR MOVING FORWARD

The Task Force has been hard at work and will hold congregational discussions over the next 6 weeks to describe what has come out of that process. We ask that all members attend one of the 3 sessions, each of which will have the same agenda and format. The discussions, which will be held on Sunday, May 19 and Sunday June 9 immediately after church, and on Sunday evening June 2 at 6:30 pm, will be 90 minutes. We'll introduce the covenant that we have drafted (see below), describe the goals, do a quick role play to show what a difference living by the covenant can make, break into small groups of 8-10 people to discuss reactions to the covenant and then get back together to pool our thoughts and address questions. Each breakout session will be facilitated by a member of the Task Force. Please sign up in Currier on May 5 or May 12 for the session that works best for you, so we can have a head count.

WHAT IS A COVENANT, AND WHY DO WE NEED ONE?

We are a church family. Like any family, we sometimes have difficulty communicating without hurting each other's feelings. A covenant is an agreement – a mutual promise made by all those who sign on to the covenant. It is through a covenant that God binds himself to his people in a relationship of fidelity and care. God pledges fidelity to his people Israel, both the historic Israel of the Old Testament and the renewed Israel of the New Testament ([Ephesians 2:11-22](#)). This binding to his people is a solemn one and God remains faithful even when his people are not. We acknowledge this covenant each time we take Communion "this cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood (Luke 22:20)." The Task Force on Moving Forward and the Council of First Parish Church believe that our church needs a Covenant that describes how we agree to treat each other.

The goal of adopting a Covenant is not to stifle disagreement, which is healthy and inevitable. Rather, the goal is to promise each other that we will have these disagreements in ways that are respectful and constructive. The Task Force has drafted a Covenant, based on extensive reading, reflection, prayer, and discussion. Every suggestion in the draft Covenant below is based on God's word--on how God expects us to act. They are not "rules" that we are required to obey, but rather commitments that we willingly make to each other to help us live the Golden Rule. Members of the Covenant commit to holding themselves and each other accountable to the Covenant, by gently telling the person who has hurt us about the pain we are feeling and forgiving them, and asking for forgiveness when we hurt others. The Task Force and the Council of FPC seek to have the Congregation review, clarify, embrace, and adopt this Covenant.

Adhering to a Covenant is not easy. Even within the Task Force, we have repeatedly failed to abide by the Covenant, despite our best intentions. But ultimately, we have found that it works, and that our interactions are more respectful, more productive, healthier, and less stressful. It feels better. We feel like we are doing a better job of living up to the Golden Rule. A church family is built when people make promises to one another, hold each other accountable, and sacrifice together in interactions toward a common end. That is the goal of adopting a Covenant at FPC.

Moving Forward Task Force... continued

DRAFT COVENANT (4/26/19)

Behave like Christ expects us to

1. Pray for one another.
2. Forgive one another, and ask for forgiveness when you have hurt others.
3. Seek what is best for the church as a whole, not what is best for an individual or group.
4. Find time for humor and fun, even in the midst of struggles.
5. Make positive investments in others' lives (through support, ministry of care, inquiring about their well-being, etc.).

Keep an open mind

1. Recognize that conflict and differences are a normal part of life.
2. Acknowledge and respect others' views/opinions.
3. Believe the best about others' words and actions; assume positive intent.
4. Actively participate in and support the decisions of the group.

Communicate clearly and listen carefully

1. Do more listening than talking, practice "active listening", with genuine desire to understand.
2. Speak only for yourself, using "I" statements.
3. Focus on issues not people, interests not positions.
4. Ask questions for clarification instead of assuming or making judgments.
5. If you have a disagreement with someone, talk to them directly.

Wonder Wednesday

Wonder Wednesday ~ May 8th

We will experience another wonderful and wonder-filled evening of prayer, praise, singing and wondering at 7pm on May 8th. Please come to our interactive, music-filled evening and bring a friend.

Spaghetti Supper May 31st

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!!!

Ministry of Care

Ministry of Care is First Parish Church members loving & caring for one another as the Bible tells us to do. The Ministry of Care Team has made meals, sent cards, made calls and visits.

We are looking for more people willing to be called on to make a meal once in a while. When there are many hands the work load is light. Think about when you are making a meal for your family why not double the recipe and make two meals. Freeze one and when the need is there you have a meal waiting and ready for heating. If you are someone who does not like to cook or does not have the time a monetary gift will help. There are several people who love to cook, but just do not have the funds to do this on a regular basis. A check with Ministry of Care in the memo or cash put in an envelope marked Ministry of care can be put in the offering plate on Sundays.

We are also looking for people willing to send cards. There is nothing like getting a card in the mail and know there is someone who cares and that you are not alone during your journey. When you go through medical issues and the highlight of your week is going to the doctor there is also nothing like receiving a phone call or a visit to see how you are doing.

If you have the time and the resources and feel this is something you would like to do please contact the following members: Beth Hunter, beth.hunter2@comcast.net or 603-505-0702 intake coordinator, Connie Cox, alanconnie@comcast.net or 603-479-9150, coordinator of cards and Anne Engelhardt, annehardt@comcast.net or 603-321-9428, coordinator of visits and meals.

Thank you to all of you have been a part of this team in the past few months and to all of you have spoken to us and want to join us in this growing ministry.

Beth Hunter, Connie Cox, Wendy Williams, Diane Dunn, Karen Wilson, Mary LaFrance, Anne Engelhardt, Pastor Deborah

Rockingham Association

Spring Rockingham Association Meeting

Sunday May 5th 1:30-4:00

Deerfield Community Church, 15 Church Street Deerfield, NH

SongWeavers

For close to 25 years the SongWeavers got together from September to April just to sing together. They then had one concert. When I joined five years ago I encouraged the conductor to do a "pre-concert" concert at First Parish. The women loved the idea. The Songweavers concert in April 2016 was the last thing that happened in our sanctuary in the Meetinghouse before the rehabilitation project began. The following year, the SongWeavers sang in our Currier hall. Last year the pre-concert concert was in a church on the west side of the river in Manchester and this year it was at the First Congregational Church in Manchester. (The same day as our Founders Day!)

We never get sheet music. Peggo sings our parts to us and we listen, we sing it back to her. We learn by singing. It is powerful. Lyrics of songs can be especially moving and very powerful. This year the theme was "I Am Light", which is a song by Indie. Arie. Here are some of the words to that song: "I am light. I am light. I'm not the things my family did. I'm not the voices in my head. I'm not the mistakes that I have made or any of the things that caused me pain. I am not the pieces of the dream I left behind. I'm not the color of my eyes. I'm not the skin on the outside. I am not my age. I am not my race. My soul inside is all light. I am light."

The whole program was full of songs that spoke of the power and dignity of the human spirit. We sang tribute to our ancestors who taught us goodness and kindness and integrity. We heralded the strength of women who persevered and yes, persisted. "I come from women who gave up their power; I come from women who gave up their name; I come from women who rocked their babies; I come from women who know nothing ever stays the same; I come from women who vow to do better; I come from women who know no one ever walks alone, fights alone."

There are SongWeaver Drummers who always do an amazing job and there is often a guest group who sings a song. This year the Concord Community Music School's Women's Ensemble sang a song entitled: "Kinder" by Copper Wimmin. (Please forgive the punctuation and capitalization: it is not correct, nor is it original. In the song, there is no punctuation at all. I wanted to get it all into one paragraph so I took complete license. I left the capitals so that you might see what each phrase starts with.) "I've decided to be happy; I've decided to be glad; I've decided to be grateful; For all I ever had. I've decided to let go; Of all this pain tonight; I've decided to let go; Of all these demons inside. I know I am blessed; I know All I ever wanted was this. I know I don't need more; I've got What I came for. I've decided to be open; To that little voice inside; Telling me I'm beautiful; It's ok to be alive. I've decided to be kinder; To myself when I feel sad; I've decided to be grateful; For all I ever had; I know; I am blessed; I know; All I ever wanted was this. I know; I don't need more; I've got What I came for"

Music is powerful and song lyrics offer consolation and courage or strength and power. May you be blessed by reading them. In hope, Pastor Deborah



Scripture Readings

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

May 5th

Psalm 30
John 21:1-19

May 12th

Psalm 23
John 10:22-30

May 19th

Psalm 148
John 13:31-35

May 26th

Psalm 67
John 14:23-29

Worship Schedule

Ushers & Greeters

May 5th :

Ushers: Diaconate
Greeter: Tom “Woody” Woods, Verna Elwell
Lay Reader: Cyndi Gray
Deacon: Diane Dunn, Ryan Lehoullier

May 12th :

Ushers: Stan & Holly Gorgol, Tom Cooper,
Michael Bryan
Greeter: Diane Dunn
Lay Reader: Diane Dun
Deacon: Ryan Lehoullier

May 19th :

Ushers: Dusty Patrick, Joan Crimlisk,
Verna Elwell, Michael Bryan
Greeter: Liz Greenberg
Lay Reader: Rachel Cobban
Deacon: Sue Lindemann

May 26th :

Ushers: Brian Williams, Margie Ives,
Pat Cefaly, Michael Bryan
Greeter: Joyce Pope
Lay Reader: Ryan Lehoullier
Deacon: Brian Williams

Please bring this flyer with you to support First Parish Church
on May 7th 4:00-8:00pm!



HELP SUPPORT

FIRST PARISH CONGREGATIONAL UCC CHURCH

WHERE 19B Manchester Road, Derry, NH 03038

WHEN Tues, May 7th

FROM 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Bring this flyer or show an electronic version to the cashier
when you place your order and we'll donate a portion of the
proceeds from your purchase.*

Ordering Online for Rapid Pick-Up or Delivery?*

Enter **"P&FUND"** as your Promo Code to have a portion of your proceeds donated to
your organization.

Learn more at fundraising.panerabread.com

*Gift card purchases and catering orders are excluded and will not count toward the event.
Rapid Pick-Up and Delivery only where available.

©2019 Panera Bread. All Rights Reserved.

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

Administrative Assistant,

officemgr@fpc-ucc.org

[603-434-0628](tel:603-434-0628)

Senior Pastor and Teacher

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof:

pastordebora@fpc-ucc.org

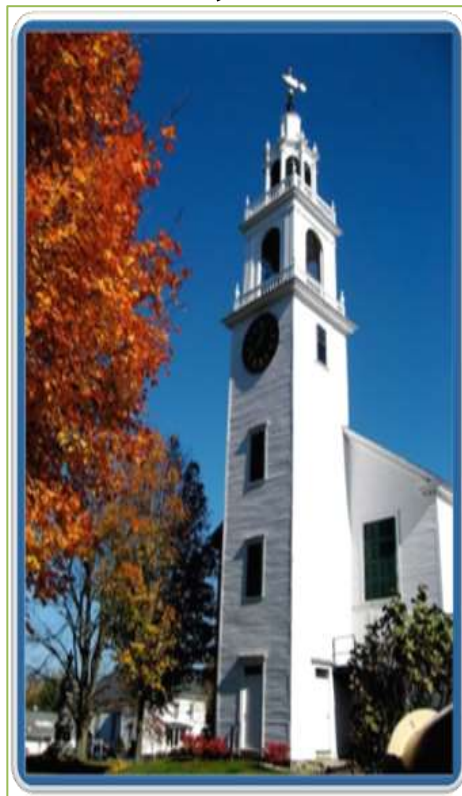
First Parish Congregational Church, UCC

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