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,

This is the August newsletter of our 300th year! Do you remember all the planning and preparation for the 300th celebration in April of 2019? And now we are on the other side of it. An important part of life is the planning and the preparation AND it is equally important to acknowledge that one day we will be 'on the other side' of that long-awaited date.

While God is our Alpha and Omega who has no beginning and no end, we are finite – complete with past, present and future lives. God is timeless, God is on 'kairos' time whereas we are on 'chronos' time. Many times we spend a lot of energy in planning for the future or rehashing the past. Christian mystics all agree that giving our attention to the present is the most spiritually profound.

Alas, this is a good habit to cultivate and it can be hard work! There are 8 things to remember as you try to focus on the present – especially when you are going through challenging times. 1. Everything can – and will – change. 2. You've overcome challenges before – you can do it again. 3. These are learning experiences. Look for the lesson. 4. Not getting what you want could be a blessing. 5. Allow yourself to have fun along the way! 6. Be kind to yourself – even when you make a mistake. 7. Other people's negativity isn't worth your energy. 8. There is always, always, always something to be thankful for.

Our present at First Parish is very bright! The steeple is back and looks fabulous! We have a new choir director/accompanist, Joan Virga

Upcoming Events

August 1-12

Office Hours Vary-please see calendar online

August 4th

Fundraising ~ after worship

August 6th

Lectionary ~ 7:00

August 7th

Dining for \$

East Derry Tavern 4-9pm

August 12th

Finance ~ 7:00

August 13th

PPRC ~ 6:00 offsite

August 14th

K.I.T ~ 12:30

Wonder Wednesday 7:00

August 18th

Outdoor Worship ~8:00 Regular Worship at 10:00

August 19th

Mission $\sim 6:00$

August 20th

By-Laws ~ 7:00

August 21st

Council ~ 7:00

August 27th

Facilities ~ 7:00

August 28th

Deacon Meeting ~ 6:30

August 30th

Spaghetti Supper ~ 5:00

August 31st

R.E.A.C.H. Outreach- all day

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

(see her article in this issue). (Debbie Gline Allen did a great job and we celebrated her last week.) The Moving Forward Task Force is presenting a behavioral covenant in this issue. Thank you for your work! The By-Laws committee is making great progress and will be rolling out their suggestions soon. Great job! Many of you at First Parish contributed to the projects of solar panels for the seminary in Zimbabwe! (We collected \$3, 370!! We should have photos next month. Thank you!) People continue to visit and become involved in our church. People are inviting their friends to church! Wonderful! Contributions are coming in for the Meetinghouse project! Thanks be to God! I now have a Labyrinth Group to work with me on labyrinth activities. I'm grateful to Eileen Cox, Reni Harnden, Sue Lindemann, and Cathy Pottle.

Our future is also very bright! The Outreach and Mission Board continues the good work of helping others! Watch for a Mission Moment on August 18 from Jack Kennedy. We continue to collect food for the local food pantry. The R.E.A.C.H project is collecting goods to be distributed in the future to those in need. The "Narrative Lectionary" folks will be working in August to develop a plan of telling our sacred stories more intentionally during our worship Sunday morning. The Adult Faith Formation is planning a Bible Wonder class starting in September. We'll be reading one of Paul's letters from the New Testament. The labyrinth activities will include an Advent "Talk and Walk" this December.

May you be confident of God's presence in our midst. God is with us whether we feel that presence or not. We can be assured of God's presence in the future. Remember to ask, to seek and to knock! Most importantly, remember to trust in God and trust in the process. No matter what!

Peace and all good to each and every one, Pastor Deborah

Rev. Dr. Gondongwe from Zímbabwe



During the week of July 8-15 the New Hampshire Conference had the honor of hosting the Rev. Dr. Kennedy Gondongwe. Dr. Gondongwe is the Principal of the United Theological College in Harare, the primary center for theological studies in Zimbabwe. We raised \$3,370 for solar panels on the library of the seminary.

Address: United Theological College, Rev Dr. Gondongwe - PO Box H97, Hatfield, Harare Zimbabwe

Board of Christian Education

Reminders

Christian Education Board Meeting ~ August 15th, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm R.E.A.C.H. outreach event ~ August 31st, All day, Location TBD Lectionary meeting ~ A/B Conference Room 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm, 7/30, 8/6

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who made this year's Vacation Church Camp, "To Mars and Beyond,"

a wonderful success! Thank you for all of the fantastic food donations, for the parents who support our programs and, of course, the invaluable volunteers who devote their time, talent and energies during the summer to make this a memorable experience for our kids!

In the coming weeks, a compilation of pictures from Vacation Church Camp will be available for participants to view on our website and Facebook. Please keep in touch so as not to miss all the collective pictures and memories!

DONATION STATION



During Vacation Church Camp, the children's mission projects for the week were to not only collect school supplies for local schools in need, but also to collect used



clothing and supplies in support of the R.E.A.C.H. There is still some time left before we need to deliver these supplies and could definitely use everyone's help to donate to these very important causes. Here are a list of supplies for both causes, every little bit helps, thank you for considering helping the kids and homeless of our surrounding areas!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES	R.E.A.C.H.
#2 pencils	Backpacks
Backpacks	shoes
gluesticks	boots
pens	jackets
notebooks	toiletries
composition notebooks	blankets
erasers	mittens
pencil box	hats
highlighters	coats
colored pencils	Feminine hygiene products
plastic 2-pocket folders	*New socks* (we can never have too many of these)
scissors	*New undies*(we can never have too many of these)

Submitted by Christine Lehaullier

August 2019 **FPC Newsletter**

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

Summer is here and sometimes we forget that there are children who get much of their nourishment from free or discounted meals at school. Not having these meals from school puts extra pressure on parents and local food pantries. FPC collects non-perishable foods to give to the **First Baptist Food** Pantry (www.fpcfoodpantry.org) and The Upper Room Food Pantry (www.urteachers.org). Will you consider giving a little extra this summer to help feed these children? Your gifts will not only help these kids, but also their families who struggle every month to make ends meet and the elderly who must decide whether to buy their medications or food. There are bins in the entry to the FPC office.

Here is a list of needed items:

Vegetables (canned) Fruit (canned)

Pasta Rice

Breakfast cereals and bar Peanut butter Baked beans Canned meats (i.e. tuna, chicken) Fresh/frozen meat (when available) Milk (shelf milk) Mac and cheese Canned soups

Canned meals (i.e. ravioli, spaghetti)

Liberty House

There is another bin in the entry way. It is for Liberty House (www.libertyhousenh.org) a place for struggling and homeless veterans. These men and women have given so much to protect our freedom. What can we do to help them? Check out their wish list.

Food Gifts Cards

Canned Meats (i.e., tuna, chicken, etc.) Market Basket/Hannaford Peanut Butter and Jelly Walmart or Gas Cards

Canned Pastas Manchester Transit Authority Bus Passes

Tarps

Soup

Cold Weather Warm weather Clothing **Pants**

Shorts and Pants Long Sleeve Shirts

Short Sleeve Shirts Sweatpants Underwear **Sweatpants** Underwear Winter Coats

Light Coats or Hoodies Winter Boots

Sneakers Tents Sleeping Bags **Backpacks**

Letter from our Choir Director

Hello,

I'm Joan Virga, the new Choir Director/Accompanist here at First Parish. I have lived in Derry for almost 10 years with my husband, Joe Virga (32 years woo hoo!) and my two daughters, Laura Kling, recently married, and Maria Virga, a junior at UNH in mechanical engineering.

I graduated from The Hartford Conservatory in 1982 with a Piano Performance Diploma, but my love of music started way before college. My maternal grandmother was a Congregational church organist for over 50 years, as well as my Aunt Jeanie. My mom has been an organist for almost as many years and my sister as well. I started my church career in a small church called The Barkhamsted Congregational Church in 1988. We had 7 choir members and we grew that to about 15. From there my husband and I moved to Mystic, CT where I became the Music Director for St. John's the Evangelist church that had a 25 member choir, that was for Sunday morning. We built a contemporary choir as well as a Teen Youth Choir. When Christmas came and the choirs sang together, we had 50 voices, what a glorious sound! Since then, I have worked in 3 other church, all as Director/accompanist. I love our Lord Jesus Christ and love the ministry and gifts He's given to me to serve Him. I also work at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Derry as their Music Teacher and Choir Director.

I'm looking forward to working with a choir who draws energy from singing together in a variety of styles. I'm hoping to bring the congregation into the singing experience that encourages participation. After all, the Psalmist said, "Sing a Joyful Noise unto the Lord, all ye lands." Let's work together and sing together, because we all know, singing is praying twice. Join us for Wonder Wednesday on August 14! If you are interested in joining the choir, come to our potluck and first sing-a-long on Sunday, August 18 after Sunday refreshments.

I hope to meet you all soon.

Blessings to you all, Joan Virga First Parish Choir Director/Accompanist

Wonder Wednesday August 14th

We will experience another wonderful and wonder-filled evening of prayer, praise, singing and wondering at 7pm on August 14th.

Please come to our interactive, music-filled evening.

Invite a friend.

A Report from the Task Force on Moving Forward

In June, the Task Force for Moving Forward invited members of the congregation to attend a discussion of the draft covenant we had prepared over the preceding months. The meeting, which was attended by about 12 church members, included a short skit that contrasted the very different ways that two fictional churches responded to the same situation—discovering an hour before church was to start on a frigid Sunday morning that the furnace had quit working during the night and the temperature in the church was 45 degrees. And that 2 inches of putrid sewer water had backed up into the day care rooms. In one church, the situation resulted in a lot of finger pointing, pulling up old grievances, and people (including the pastor, the custodian, and the building committee chairperson) all feeling unappreciated and undervalued. The other church, while equally discouraged and concerned about the situation, pulled together and focused on how they would all pitch in to deal with the immediate situation, expressed their appreciation for each other's efforts, and kept a positive attitude. While the two scenarios were both somewhat exaggerated versions of likely reality, they illustrated vividly how much difference it can make to a church's health if its members adhere to a code of conduct or covenant.

We had a great discussion, using the skit as a jumping off point, and got some very good comments about the draft covenant. These comments led us to make some important changes to the draft. Here is the revised version:

A COVENANT FOR FIRST PARISH

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 pledges fidelity to his people Israel, in both the Old Testament and the New Testament (Ephesians 2:11-22). 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 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. 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.

Adhering to a Covenant is not easy. But ultimately, with these as aspirational goals for our behavior, it will help us do 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.

THE COVENANT

Behave like Christ expects us to

- 1. Pray for one another.
- 2. Truly forgive one another, and ask for forgiveness when you have hurt others.
- 3. Before speaking or acting, take into account the effect it will have on others' feelings.
- 4. Find time for humor and fun, even in the midst of struggles.
- 5. Make positive investments in others' lives by providing support and care, and by showing interest in their well-being.

Task Force on Moving Forward continued...

Keep an open mind

- 1. Acknowledge and respect others' views/opinions.
- 2. Recognize that conflict and differences are a normal part of life.
- 3. Believe the best about others' words and actions; presume 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, honestly and respectfully.

While nearly everyone with whom we have shared the covenant agrees that the concept and content are valuable, the Task Force has repeatedly heard three concerns:

- We are "preaching to the converted"—that is, those who participate in discussions about the covenant and continue to support our church aren't the ones who need to change their behavior.
- Everyone thinks they already ARE complying with the covenant
- How can adopting a covenant as a church bring back those who have left?

We understand these concerns. However, the Task Force would like to make the following points:

- 1. Even those of us who like the idea of the covenant and are still in the church can do a LOT better; we need the reminder of the behavior we aspire to practice, and the support to help us do so. Even at Task Force meetings, we found ourselves repeatedly failing to adhere consistently to the covenant, despite our best intentions.
- 2. The covenant is just a way of codifying the Golden Rule, which is easy to state, but really hard to practice. And the covenant is intended to empower everyone to speak up when they feel hurt or insulted, or when they see others being disrespected. But to do it in a way that is constructive, honest, and respectful.
- 3. Establishing a covenant and asking church members to adopt it as our promise to each other was never expected to bring members who have left back into the church. While true reunification would be wonderful, those who have chosen to leave must make their own decision about whether to return. All we who remain can do is make clear to them that they are welcome, and that we are committed to abide by the covenant, under which we can express disagreement about issues, but only with honesty and respect.

We welcome your input on the covenant; please contact any Task Force member with any comments or questions you have. Our next steps are to meet with individual church commissions and committees to discuss the covenant, and to have a congregational vote on whether to adopt the covenant as a church.

Respectfully, The Task Force on Moving Forward Randy Brown, Steve Davis, Anne Englehardt, Beth Hunter, Alan Pawl, The Rev. Deborah Roof, Cathy Zylinski

Fundraising Committee

There will be a Fundraising committee meeting on Sunday, August 4th after church in A/B. Everyone is welcome! We will be planning for our fall fundraising events beginning with the Vendor Bingo in September, the Harvest Supper in October, and the Sugar Plum Fair in November. We will need all hands on deck to make all these events a continued success!

Dining for Dollars returns Wednesday August 7th from 4-9, this time across the street from church at the East Derry Tavern. Sam is very excited to welcome us and will be offering the church 15% back on all our purchases that evening! So grab a flyer and bring family and friends out for a great evening of dining and fellowship!

Vendor Bingo will be back on Friday September 6th at 5:30 pm. Many of the same vendors will be returning and it's only \$10 to play and win great prizes! Food will be available for purchase during the evening.

Hannaford grocery gift cards can be purchased or reloaded each Sunday following church. 5% of your grocery purchases goes to the church budget. We must have a minimum order of \$1000 each week to earn this benefit. I'm trying to expand the participation base for this program because some of my regular Hannaford shoppers have left the area or will be leaving for extended periods of the year. If you're curious and want to know more about the program and how it could work for you, see Liz Greenberg or email her at lizgreenberg26@gmail.com

Submitted by Liz Greenberg







VENDOR BINGO!

Friday September 6, 2019 5:30-8:30

First Parish Church

Admission is free! \$10 per person for 10 games!

10 vendors and 10 games, each vendor will donate a prize for one of the games.

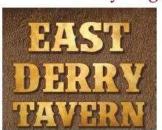
You will have the opportunity to shop before, during an intermission and after the games. Food will be available for purchase.

This event supports: First Parish Church, Community Outreach Missions, and Friends of the Meetinghouse

FIRST PARISH CHURCH 47 East Derry Rd., East Derry 603-434-0628 The, Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Dining for Dollars for First Parish Church!

Wednesday August 7, 2019 4:00-9:00pm





Enjoy a fantastic dinner and 15% of your check will be donated back to the Church.

Located across the street at 50 East Derry Road

Please present this flyer to your server for the church
to receive the credit for you meal.





Spaghettí Supper~ August 30th

Spaghetti Suppers are held the last Friday of every month. Suppers are free and open to the community. All are Welcome!!!

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

Plastic, Styrofoam-phasing out continues..

In an effort to reduce our footprint we will not be using plastic utensils or Styrofoam any longer (once our current supply is depleted). Thank you for your assistance with moving forward plastic-styrofoam-less!

When dining out, refuse the straw!!!

"A Weekend of Mindfulness and SoulCollage®"

Theme: "A Weekend of Mindfulness and SoulCollage®" with Pastor Deborah Roof and Liz Greenberg, both from East Derry. The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof, Senior Pastor and Teacher of First Parish Congregational Church, UCC in East Derry, will present interactive sessions on mindfulness, simplicity, and gratitude. Pastor Deborah is a life-long learner, not only in Christian theology, but also in non-Christocentric wisdom traditions. Liz Greenberg, L.I.C.S.W. and SoulCollage® facilitator, will guide you in using your intuition and inner wisdom to create a SoulCollage® Deck, "The Story of You." You will love your Deck. It is a tangible way to know yourself in your diversity and depth and you will discover wisdom within yourself that will amaze you. Creating and sharing your Deck can be a fun, profound, and sacred experience.

Camp Sentinel is located in the foothills of the Ossipee Mountain range in Center Tuftonboro, New Hampshire. Sentinel hosts year round rustic retreats and is known for its home-cooked meals, attention to detail, and Christian hospitality. For more information, visit www.campsentinel.org.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE- SEE PASTOR DEBORAH

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

NO LINENS ARE SUPPLIED—you will have to bring a **sleeping bag** or **sheets**, blanket, pillow, **towel**, and **wash cloth**. You might also want to bring a **flashlight**, mosquito **repellant**—non-aerosol, and maybe a folding chair—although there are plenty of benches around. There is also a very small camp store.

Some basic policy rules:

- No swimming alone. You MUST have a buddy, and there MUST be a lifeguard on duty.
- No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are allowed on the grounds.
- Smoking is not allowed in any building or on the grounds.
- No pets are allowed.
- The property and buildings must be left clean and all furniture returned to original place upon departure.

There are three to seven beds in each room in the lodge. There are bathrooms on the main floor and the third floor. There are three-plus beds in each cabin. Most cabins do not have bathroom facilities within—there are outside bathrooms shared by all the cabins.

NHCUCC WOMEN'S FALL GATHERING 2019 CAMP SENTINEL, TUFTONBORO NH

THE NOW OF YOU

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE):	
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 2:00–5:00 Registration, waterfront c	activities, labyrinth, hiking, indoor activities
Coming to the NOW with ${\sf S}$	acred Pathways
Campfire Vespers—the R	lev. Dr. Deborah Roof
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 7:00Enjoy a brisk morning wa	lk lad by Digna Walls
8:00Breakfast	ik led by Didfie Wells
Worship with communior	—the Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
BEING IN THE NOW WITH SOUL	.Collage®
12:00Lunch	_
1:00GROWING THE NOW WITH A (Closing (Around 3:30)	Gallery Walk
overnight accommodations (but no bed lin lunch—Make checks payable to: NHCUCC checks are due by September 22. Mail all r Nantucket Place, Greenland NH 03840. Q	egistrations and checks to Trudie Bergeron, 46 uestions? Contact Trudie at IMPORTANT: Please call, text, or e-mail Trudie by to attend Camp Sentinel THE WOMEN'S ASE HELP US.
Address	
	_ Tel. Cell
E-mail (if none, please write "None")	
Emergency contact—name and telephone	e number:
Do you require a first-floor bed?—there are a	only eight beds on the first floor. Yes
Special Dietary Needs? If yes, please expla	in:
manner.	nodate special diets if you register in a timely
Do NOT expect dietary accommodations if	you register after September 15!!!
Please mail early; do	NOT WAIT UNTIL THE DEADLINE!

From Bob Dylan (in honor of John)

Saving Grace Written by: Bob Dylan

If you find it in Your heart, can I be forgiven?

Guess I owe You some kind of apology
I've escaped death so many times, I know I'm only living

By the saving grace that's over me

By this time I'd-a thought I would be sleeping
In a pine box for all eternity
My faith keeps me alive, but I still be weeping
For the saving grace that's over me

Well, the death of life, then come the resurrection Wherever I am welcome is where I'll be I put all my confidence in Him, my sole protection Is the saving grace that's over me

Well, the devil's shining light, it can be most blinding But to search for love, that ain't no more than vanity As I look around this world all that I'm finding Is the saving grace that's over me

The wicked know no peace and you just can't fake it
There's only one road and it leads to Calvary
It gets discouraging at times, but I know I'll make it
By the saving grace that's over me
Copyright © 1980 by Special Rider Music

Congratulations to another Graduate!

Congratulations, Malyssa Deranian!

Malyssa will attend Polytechnic Institute (Engineering).

August Office Hours

Due to vacations, office hours will vary throughout the month. The office will be open normal hours unless noted on the calendar. This will be posted in the vestibule and online. Thank you!

Scripture Readings

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

August 4th

Psalm 107:1-9, 43 Luke 12:13-21

August 11th

Psalm 50:1-8 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

August 18th

Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19 Luke 12:49-56

August 25th

Jeremiah 1:4-10 Luke 13:10-17

Worship Schedule

Ushers & Greeters

August 4th:

Ushers: Diaconate

Greeter: Tom "Woody" Woods

Deacons: Joanne Worthen, Rachel Cobban

August 11th:

Ushers: Brain Williams, Margie Ives,

Pat Cefaly, Michael Bryan Deacon: Ryan Lehoullier

August 18th:

Ushers: Ken Gould, Dee Deranian, Nancy

Berry, Michael Bryan Greeter: Diane Dunn

Lay Reader: Ryan Lehoullier

Deacon: Diane Dunn

August 25th:

Ushers: Stanley Gorgol, Holly Gorgol, Tom

Cooper, Michael Bryan Greeter: Liz Greenberg Deacon: Sue Lindemann

Outdoor Worship Service August 18th 8:00am! Please bring your own chair or blanket to sit on.

This is an extra Worship Service for the early riser and outdoor lover among you. Pastor Deborah will meet you under the flag pole.

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

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

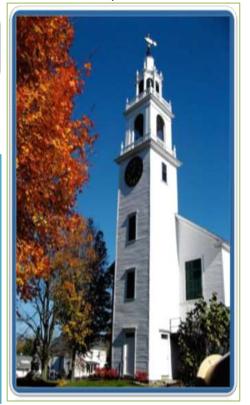
First Parish Congregational Church, UCC

You are most warmly invited:

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

First Parish Congregational Church History

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



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