

First Parish Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

East Derry, New Hampshire



We are a community of faith built upon a firm foundation of worship, prayer and education. In affirming diversity, we are dedicated to welcoming all people who seek the Word of God, Christian fellowship and service to others. In partnership with Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the ever-widening community through active and loving ministry.

Upcoming Events

July 2nd

Adult Faith ~ 6:30

July 4th

Happy 4th of July!
Office Closed

July 8th

Finance ~ 7:00

July 10th

K.I.T. ~12:30

at Ruth Lee Roots Home!
Wonder Wednesday ~ 7:00

July 14th

Special Outdoor Worship
Service ~8:00

Regular Worship at 10
CE Meeting ~after worship

July 15-18

Church Vacation Camp!
9:00-12:00

July 15th

Mission ~ 6:00

July 17th

Council ~ 7:00

July 23rd

Facility Meeting ~ 7:00

July 26th

Spaghetti Supper

July 31st

Deacon Meeting ~ 6:30

From the Pastor's Desk-

Dear Child of God,

"The meetinghouse at First Parish is one of the most beautiful and significant 18th century New Hampshire buildings still in active use. We applaud and support the church's dedication and perseverance in beginning this rehab effort, and look forward to seeing their great results over the next three years." (Maggie Stier, Shared Field Service Representative, NH Preservation Alliance, 2015)

We **are** dedicated and we **have** persevered these last few years. As I write this article, the crane is here and the scaffolding is coming down. When you read this article, the steeple will once again be where it first began centuries ago – renewed and ready for another couple of centuries.

"Renewed" and "ready": to what end? What is our purpose here at First Parish? Our mission statement is clear: we are a faith community who values worship, pray, education and service to others. Our actions demonstrate that we are a faith community who cares deeply for the surrounding community, who cares deeply for our children and youth, and who cares deeply for one another because we know that God cares deeply for us.

Although our attention is drawn into the wood and pegs and rehabilitation of an historic building, we are simultaneously guided by a loving God who encourages us to feed the hungry and welcome the stranger. In other words, we are doing both in-reach AND outreach. While we pray for and spread the word about the much-needed funds to finish the rehabilitation project, our members continue to serve the hungry at the soup kitchen and at our own spaghetti supper, among other mission-oriented tasks.

What is our "fuel" for the work that we do? Where do we find the motivation for both in-reach and outreach? As Christians, we look to the

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

sacred scriptures. The New Testament tells us about Jesus' life: what he said and what he did. The Old Testament is important to us, because it was important to Him! He quoted those books and those stories often! We find strength and reminders in the stories that are then woven into the fabric of our faith.

I recently saw a list of "50 stories that young people should know" - *before* they begin Confirmation. As I looked at that list of stories, as I listen to people talking about church, as I read articles about churches that are growing - and churches that are not! - I am struck by the critical importance of those "stories". We are a faith-based people who rely on the sacred stories of our forebears -especially Jesus! Another word for 'story' is narrative. I remember when the Stewardship Board explained our financial scenery using a "narrative budget".

So, what *are* our faith stories? Not just snippets of stories or scriptures taken out of context. What is the story of Ruth? Of Esther? Of Josiah? Of Jeremiah?

After several conversations with numerous lay leaders, it was decided that our Sunday morning worship is going to feature more regularly the stories of our faith tradition. Up until now, we have followed the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). This summer, I will meet with a group of interested folks and together we will plan the schedule for the year and develop a "narrative lectionary". This information will be available in the same way that the RCL is now available. If you would be interested in helping us devise our schedule - OR if you have a favorite story and you want to make sure that we include it, please don't hesitate to let me know!

Our faith is strong and our steeple is back home. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Deborah

And a special post-script:

We would like to welcome Joan Virga as our new Choir Director/Organist beginning July 1st! Joan comes to us from a long line of musicians-her grandmother, aunt and mother were all organists. She has been a church musician for decades and brings her love of God, her dedication to serving God through music and her love of teaching to us now!

We also wish to thank Debbie Gline Allen for serving as our Interim this last year. Debbie has offered us her wonderful presence of leadership and musicianship and we are so grateful.

Worship Services will be held at 10am all summer.

Outdoor Nature Worship Service July 14th 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.

Board of Christian Education

School is out for the summer and camp is in session! Here comes the fun and adventure! Registration is still open. We have a great program planned and welcome all. Please share with family and friends. Families do not need to attend church to enjoy the fun. Please contact Christine or the office if you have any questions.



Where? FIRST PARISH CHURCH, 47 EAST DERRY ROAD

When? MONDAY, JULY 15TH – THURSDAY, JULY 18TH

What time? 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

For information, call or contact

CHRISTINE LEHOULLIER, CE DIRECTOR

CEDIRECTOR@FPC-UCC.ORG

OR CONTACT FPC @ 603-434-0628

or visit our website at

FPC-UCC.ORG

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
Canned meats (i.e. tuna, chicken)	Baked beans
Fresh/frozen meat (when available)	Milk (shelf milk)
Juice	Mac and cheese
Canned meals (i.e. ravioli, spaghetti)	Canned soups

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

Canned Meats (i.e., tuna, chicken, etc.)
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Canned Pastas
Soup

Warm weather Clothing

Shorts and Pants
Short Sleeve Shirts
Sweatpants
Underwear
Light Coats or Hoodies
Sneakers

Gifts Cards

Market Basket/Hannaford
Walmart or Gas Cards
Manchester Transit Authority Bus Passes

Cold Weather

Pants
Long Sleeve Shirts
Sweatpants
Underwear
Winter Coats
Winter Boots
Tents
Sleeping Bags
Backpacks
Tarps

Letter from Council

As we come to the end of the month of June, I'm thinking about change. The season changes, sometimes dramatically, from spring to summer. We celebrate the season of Pentecost, the birth of the Church, the change that that represented for humankind. There are weddings. There are graduations. All represent big changes for the individuals involved. I am personally about to embark on a huge change with a move from New Hampshire to Florida. Among the things I will miss are the many warm relationships I have developed here at First Parish. And the influence Pastor Deborah has had on my personal faith journey.

Some say change is inevitable. Van Morrison wrote a song called "Enlightenment" from which I quote:

Every second, every minute
It keeps changing to something different
Enlightenment, don't know what it is

That is truth. None of us knows what enlightenment is. And we do know everything is changing in God's creation, second by second. Can we embrace the change with love, as progressive Christians? Or struggle in an impossible battle to stop the inevitable march of change.

During the civil rights era, Sam Cooke wrote a song called "A Change Is Gonna Come". In it he sang:

I go to the movie and I go downtown
Somebody keep telling me don't hang around
It's been a long, a long time coming
But I know a change gon' come, oh yes, it will

and

There've been times that I thought I couldn't last for long
But now I think I'm able to carry on
It's been a long, a long time coming
But I know a change gon' come, oh yes, it will

Sounds to me like he has faith in God and the Holy Spirit to bring about the change that his community is longing for. Might we also find that kind of faith right here in our church community?

And of course Bob Dylan has written about change. First from the "The Times They Are A-Changin'":

The line it is drawn
The curse it is cast
The slow one now
Will later be fast
As the present now
Will later be past
The order is
Rapidly fadin'
And the first one now
Will later be last
For the times they are a-changin'

Letter from Council continued..

That sounds a lot like something Jesus said in Matthew, chapter 20 in the parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard:

But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

Generosity. We have just recently celebrated Father's Day. My own father was one of the most generous people I have ever known. May we all aspire to such generosity, and embrace the changes that have been occurring and continue to occur here at First Parish and in our personal lives.

And again Bob Dylan, in one of my all time favorite lines from a song called "Things Have Changed":

Lot of water under the bridge, lot of other stuff too
Don't get up gentlemen, I'm only passing through

First Parish has been through some stuff, as have we all, and undoubtedly there will be more stuff before our lives are finished. And for those who follow us in generations to come. Change is inevitable. May we find joy in the promise of a bright future while acknowledging the sadness at the passing of times past. They are all blessings.

And one final quote from a Joan Baez song titled "Carry It On", also from the civil rights era:

When you can't go on any longer,
Take the hand, hand of your brother,
Every victory brings another,
Carry it on, carry it on.

This is the message from your council this month. Embrace change! Keep the faith! Be generous! And carry it on!

Blessed be, and thank you for all you do!!

Submitted by John Bartel on behalf of your church council

Contra Dance- Taking the summer off!

Contra Dance will take July & August off! Please check back for dates for the fall!

Letter from the Deacons

June has been a busy month. The Ministry of Care Team has sent out many cards and provided meals to those in need. In worship, we celebrated our teachers and graduates this month. The last Sunday in June will be a special Sunday. It is called a "Prayground Sunday". The children will be invited to sit up front with their families on the floor or at a table until they go downstairs for church school.

At our last Deacons meeting, we discussed how people liked the move of the sharing of joys and concerns in the worship service to right before the prayer. Most of the feedback we got from the congregation was positive, so it was decided that it will stay there for now. Remember that anyone can submit a joy or a concern for our printed bulletin by writing to officemgr@fpc-ucc.org or leaving Michelle a note with your name and request.

Summer services will remain at 10:00am, however on July 14th at 8:00am Pastor Deborah will offer a nontraditional outdoor worship experience (**weather permitting**). You must bring your own chair or blanket to sit on. We will gather on the lawn and worship together in the glory of God's great outdoors and without all of the traditional church trimmings. There will also be a 10:00am

Wonder Wednesday July 10th & Rev. Dr. Gondongwe from Zimbabwe

During the week of July 8-15 the New Hampshire Conference will have 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. On **Wednesday, July 10, Dr. Gondongwe** will be here to worship with us at the **Wonder Wednesday service**. We would love for this summer visit to be meaningful for him. Please plan to join us.

We will experience another wonderful and wonder-filled evening of prayer, praise, singing and wondering at 7pm on June 12th. Please come to our interactive, music-filled evening and bring a friend.

Spaghetti Supper~ July 26th

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!

Steeple Raising June 27, 2019

Great success with the Meetinghouse Steeple raising ! It was a day of excitement, suspense, goose bumps and bells ringing in celebration. The playground and front lawn were filled with our congregation, supporters of the Meetinghouse Preservation efforts, local residents, media and some people who were driving by from out of town who stopped to watch!

WMUR aired a beautiful feature on the 6:00 news, that can be found on their website www.wmur.com (search tip: type "steeple" into the search bar and a few will pop up!)

The best place for timely Meetinghouse preservation updates is the Nutfield History Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/nuthist/> .

Many. many photos and videos will follow, thanks to the efforts and eye of Paul Lindemann- but here are a few highlights, that I took with my phone- so please enjoy! ~ Michelle Guerrin





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!!!

Letter from Finance

On June 9 the congregation was invited to take part in a conversation about the Building Rehabilitation Project work. The goal of the conversation was to let us know what has been done, what is left to do, and what it will take to complete the rest of the project.

Following is the financial information provided for that conversation. It provides a summary of the money raised for the Building Rehab project, how the money was used, mortgage details, how the mortgage affects the general budget, and a general budget update.

We would like to note that Pledge & Plate income are running behind anticipated budget levels. If you're wondering where you stand in terms of your pledge commitment, mid-year giving summaries will be sent out in early July. We encourage you to review your statement. If your situation has changed and you believe you won't be able to keep your pledge commitment, please be in touch with Pat Crowell.

Building Rehab Funding: Where It Came From

Rehab Money Raised Before 2014	\$306,877
<i>Investments/Parsonage Proceeds/Bequests</i>	
Capital Campaign 2014-2018	\$738,532
<i>\$800,000 pledged</i>	
Phase 2 Capital Campaign 2016 - Present	\$154,014
<i>Includes transfers from Friends of the Meetinghouse</i>	
Elevator	\$6,507
LCHIP	\$155,000
<i>2015 Tower Grant = \$125,000</i>	
<i>2017 Steeple Grant = \$30,000</i>	
Building Loan	\$500,000
Total Funding to Date	\$1,860,930

Building Rehab Funding: How it was Used

Meetinghouse/Connector	\$988,174
<i>Also includes Architect, Exterior Painting & Misc.</i>	
Tower/Steeple	\$497,160
Building Loan - Interest/Insurance/Fees	\$54,128
Building Loan - Principle Payments	\$109,318
Expenses for Capital Campaigns	\$97,359
<i>Consultants & Misc</i>	
Capital Campaign to Facilities	\$100,000
Total Expenses to Date	\$1,846,139
Total Funding to Date	\$1,860,930
Current Rehab Balance	\$14,791

Building Loan → Mortgage

- Total Amount Borrowed = \$500,000
- Principle Payments = \$109,318
- Loan Balance to be Converted to a Mortgage = \$390,682
- Term of Loan = 20 years
- Interest Rate = 4%
 - 5-year variable rate loan
 - Interest subject to change July 1, 2021, and every 5 years thereafter.
- Estimated Monthly Payment = \$2,367.45

How the Mortgage Affects the Budget

- 2019 budget included \$10,250 for mortgage payments, based on a lower loan balance
- Will add \$1,587 to budget expenses in 2019
- Total Annual Mortgage Payments = \$28,409 at current 4% interest rate

2019 Budget Update

- 2019 budget approved with a \$3,820 deficit
- Current deficit is over \$9,000
 - Income – Pledge & Plate both running behind
 - Expenses – On target

Fundraising Committee

Thanks to everyone who came out to support any of our events in the month of June. We made **\$1080** on all events combined and everyone had a great time! Thanks to everyone who worked at one of the events and to our community supporters who donated food for the Best Breakfast—**Marianne's Restaurants, Shaw's Markets, Hannaford Londonderry!** And a big thank you to Northeast Photobooths who set up for some fun photographic hijinks and offered us a discount on their fee for the morning!

The owners of **Northeast Photobooths** have offered us a special follow up fundraising opportunity for the church—for anyone calling to book an event and mentioning that they were referred by First Parish Church, their company will make a **donation to the church in the amount of \$25/hour!** So if you're planning a graduation or birthday party, a baby or a wedding shower, a wedding reception or a family reunion and would like to book a photobooth to liven up and memorialize your event, give **Lisa Bradford** a call at **(603)505-5929** or book online at www.NortheastPhotobooths.com and be sure to mention you heard about them from First Parish Church in East Derry! Share this information with friends and family too!

Save the date: Friday September 6th Vendor Bingo!!!

This event was so well attended, fun, and successful as our first fundraiser event of the year that we are coming back in the fall by popular demand. Some of the same awesome vendors will be there as we'll as some new ones! Watch for more details in the August newsletter!

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.

Fundraising Committee meetings are open to all and you are invited to come and share ideas for projects or to find out about short term, time limited projects that you may be able to help out with. **Next Fundraising meeting will be August 4th, immediately following coffee hour.** We will be planning for late summer and early fall events.

Submitted by Liz Greenberg



Northeast Photobooths is New England's highest rated and most affordable photo booth rental company!

A family owned and operated business dedicated to making your event the best.

They have graciously offered to donate \$25 PER HOUR back to First Parish Church for all referrals! Please call Lisa Bradford 603-505-5929 to schedule your next event and visit www.NortheastPhotobooths.com

First Parish Church www.fpc-ucc.org 603-434-0628

Scripture Readings

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

July 7th

2 Kings 5: 1-14
Luke 10: 1-6

July 14th

Colossians 1:1, 9-14
Luke 10:25-37
Sermon: Trick Question

July 21st

Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

June 28th

Pslams 85
Luke 11:1-13

Worship Schedule

Ushers & Greeters

July 7th :

Ushers: Diaconate
Greeter: Tom “Woody” Woods
Lay Reader: TBD
Deacons: Brian Williams, Sue Lindemann

July 14th :

Ushers: Ken Gould, Dee Deranian,
Nancy Berry, Michael Bryan
Greeter: Joyce Pope
Lay Reader: Diane Dunn
Deacon: Ryan Lehoullier

July 21st :

Ushers: Stan & Holly Gorgol, Tom Cooper,
Michael Bryan
Greeter: Tom Cooper
Lay Reader: Fred Merrill
Deacon: Sue Lindemann

July 28th :

Ushers: Dusty Patrick, Joan Crimlisk,
Nancy Berry, Michael Bryan
Greeter: Maury Davidson
Lay Reader: TBD
Deacon: Rachel Cobban

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

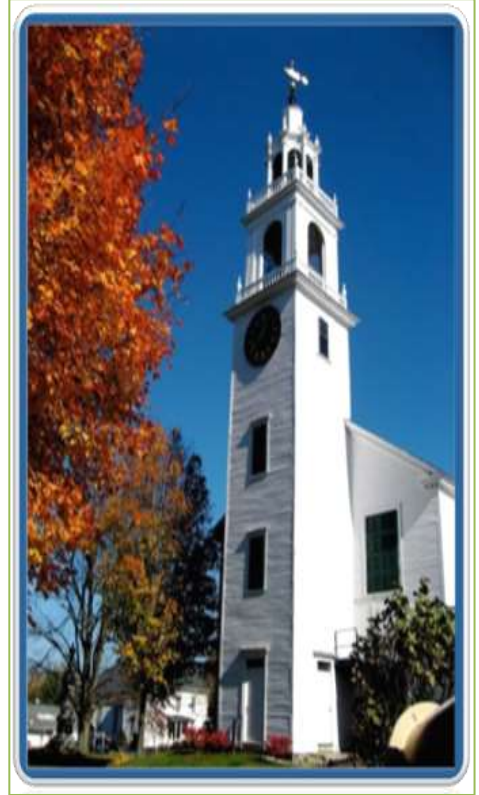
First Parish Congregational Church, UCC

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.



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United Church of Christ
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