

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

October 1st
Adult Faith/Bible~ 6:30
October 3,10,17,24,31
Choir~ 7:00
October 8th
Adult Faith/Bible~ 6:30
October 9th
K.I.T ~ 12:30
Wonder Wednesday~ 7:00
October 12th
HARVEST SUPPER~4:30/6:00
October 13th
By-Laws ~ 11:30
Christian Ed ~ 11:30
October 14th
Finance ~ 7:00
October 15th
Adult Faith/Bible~ 6:30
October 16th
Council ~ 7:00
October 18th
CONTRA DANCE~ 7:30
October 19th
NH UCC Annual Meeting
October 21st
Mission ~ 6:00
October 22nd
Adult Faith/Bible~ 6:30
Facilities ~ 7:00
October 25th
Spaghetti Supper ~ 5:00
October 29th
Adult Faith/Bible~ 6:30
October 30th
Deacon~ 6:30

From the Pastor's Desk-

Labyrinth Meditation

(Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof, 2019)

We are on a journey.

It is the journey of a lifetime.

It takes a lifetime to complete.

And no matter where you are on your journey,
there are hopes and dreams of what lay ahead
and there are memories of past events
- some bittersweet, some majestic, some may even be tragic.

And if we're paying attention

there are moments when the curtain between humanity and divinity
is so thin
you forget to breathe.

It is the way of life:

a series of straightaways and twists and turns

And we come back home again.

And we are not alone.

Ever.

We walk with one another -

And God walks with us.

Always.

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

Dear Child of God,

The labyrinth work that I have been doing this past year has been a metaphor for life in and of itself. It's like a spiral: the years go by and with each year we experience something a wee bit more profound – **when** we are paying attention. The labyrinth is a metaphor for life. It is an experience of reconnecting with self and reconnecting with God AND reconnecting with the Christ within us that the Bible talks about.

We walk the pathway of life in the footsteps of some and casting a shadow on others. We sometimes walk alongside another sojourner. We meet someone leaving the place where we are going. We pass by one another – we're headed in one direction, the beloved Other headed in the other direction – and we are both headed toward the center or toward the exit.

The best part of the journey has been walking it with members of our First Parish faith family. In the past month, I've had two wonderful experiences with the labyrinth and members of our church. Earlier in September, I was a participant like many of you when Eleanor MacLellan brought the labyrinth that she created as part of a "senior project" when her son was a senior in high school. The Rev. Gayle Murphy, who is known to many of you, was one of the five women who accompanied Eleanor in her labyrinth journey, came with her. The two of them led us in a profound labyrinth experience – asking us to consider how 'friendship' informs us and how life is a process of "loving accompaniment". We processed together the power of the experience and we talked about the ways that we could have a labyrinth here on church grounds. We are prayerful and hopeful that God will show us the way.

The second experience was when Liz and I were co-presenters at the NH UCC women's retreat. Liz presented SoulCollage® and I presented the labyrinth. It was such a rich time together – with many women from our own church and with women from around the state of NH. When I was facilitating the labyrinth walk, it was a spiritually profound experience for me – as I held sacred space for the many walkers on the labyrinth. I was overcome with the sacredness of the "journey". Each individual was going at their own pace – just like life; each individual headed into the 180 degree turns in their own particular way – just like life; each individual arrived at the center with a reaction that was particular to themselves – just like life. It was so luminous to observe the coming and going as people passed one another with calm presence and attention on the journey. The Presence of the Holy Spirit was palpable. Our combined spirits danced as One – just like life can be!

From the Pastor's Desk continued

I have been pondering in my heart what made that labyrinth experience such a religious experience for me. And not just me. Several participants said that they've walked the labyrinth before but that this time there was a holiness about walking it with this group. Several women had profound awakenings to Spiritual truths that opened to them.

And then an enormous truth occurred to me. As a labyrinth facilitator, it is my role to express the truths of the labyrinth: "you can't get lost"; "you are free to go at your own pace"; "maintain 'soft eyes' (accepting, non-judgmental, non-critical)"; "go around someone if you need to without fuss or bother". There was such a Spirit of Love in that room. What if we walked through life holding on to a 'labyrinth approach'? What if we realized that we are on a journey and we are not going to get lost? What if we went at our own pace – and not someone else's? What if we maintained 'soft eyes' – never criticizing someone else's approach? What if we simply went around obstacles – ever so gently without anger or criticism?

If the labyrinth truly is a metaphor for life, what if we approached life with a labyrinth attitude? How much more peace might we find? How much more Spirit might we encounter?

May God bless you and guide you on your path,
Pastor Deborah

Harvest Supper- October 12th!

This year will be a modified buffet style service with two options to join us: 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

As always, the meal includes squash, vegetables, stuffing, homemade gravy and homemade desserts.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for children 5-12 Child 4 & under are free.

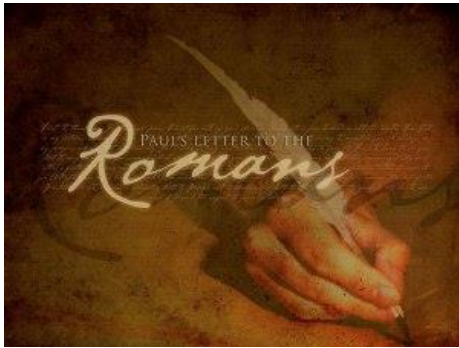
Presale Tickets are available for the 4:30 seating only at the Church Office Monday-Friday 9am-3pm and Sunday Morning and payable via cash or check. Credit cards are also accepted this year, a 4% fee will be added to the total.

Volunteer opportunities are still available

- Kitchen prep- Thursday & Friday & Saturday.
- Please deliver Friday- Bags of rolls or home baked rolls, cooking turkeys or turkey breasts, baking pies, baking apple crisps
- Servers/Runners/ Cleaning – Saturday.

Please contact Cathy Zylinski, Beth Hunter, or Michelle Guerrin in the office 603-434-0628 or officemgr@fpc-ucc.org.

Board of Christian Education



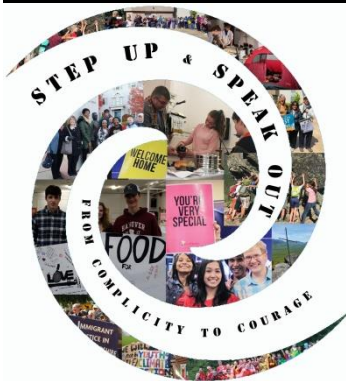
Adult Faith Formation: Book of Romans Bible Wonder Study

The book of Romans is one of the most well-known books of the Bible. This book has had a life-changing impact on the lives of millions of people. It's not hard to argue that this short letter written to a group of Christians two thousand years ago has changed world history. So whether you know it or not, you have probably been influenced by the book of Romans. **It's difficult to know where to start.** The irony is that the very importance of Romans is what makes it such a difficult book to study in a serious way. The fact that it speaks to many of the core doctrines of the church also means it's one of the most argued-about books of the Bible. Scholars have written back and forth over the centuries. Passages from Romans have been used as ammunition in fights over justification, election, salvation, and the life and work of Paul. That's just the start. **Come and join in the riveting discussion as we delve into the depths of this book of the Bible!** Tuesdays, 6:20 pm in Luke Conference Room downstairs at First Parish Church until November 26th.

The 218th Annual Meeting New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ
Saturday, October 19, 2019; 9:00 am (8:00 am – 8:45 am
registration and refreshments)
Grappone Conference Center, 70 Constitution Avenue,
Concord, NH 03301

[Register Here to Attend](https://www.nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/2019-annual-meeting) or visit

<https://www.nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/2019-annual-meeting>



Older Elementary Halloween Gathering ~ Sunday, October 20, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm, All Older Elementary School and Middle School Children are invited to a pizza and pumpkin extravaganza! Children are welcome to bring friends, we only ask that you let us know ahead of time so that we have enough supplies to accommodate everyone. See Christine Lehoullier if you have any questions.

Board of Christian Education *continued*

Christian Education Board Meeting ~ October 20th, 11:45 am, A/B Conference Room



Bible Presentation

Presentation of the Bibles ~ October 20th, during worship

All parents who have requested bibles for their children on the parent survey will have their bibles presented to their children on October 20th. Please let us know if you have not filled out a parent survey or are not able to make it and we will arrange a time to get your bible to your family. Contact Christine Lehoullier @ cedirector@fpc-ucc.org or the front office @ #434-0628, officemgr@fpc-ucc.org. Thank you!



Candy Donations

Derry's Downtown Trick or Treat will be here before we know it and First Parish Church is so excited to participate at Marrion Gerrish Community Center **October 26th**! We are looking for donations of candy or small non-candy goodies.

If anyone would like to help by volunteering (be prepared to dress up in costume) to help give out goodies, please see or contact Christine Lehoullier (cedirector@fpc-ucc.org), set-up starts at 11 am. Trick-or-Treating runs from 12 noon – 3pm that day. We hope to see you there!



Christmas Pageant Signups and Preparations

It's a favorite every year: the kids acting out the Christmas story for us in worship... as worship! Sunday School has begun to prepare for this year's pageant in worship on Sunday, Dec. 24th by beginning signups starting the month of October! Please make sure everyone who would like to participate is signed up on the signup sheet, available on Sundays after Sunday School

First Parish Church Garden



Thank you to Cathy

Zylinski for donating the seeds, to the children and everyone who helped to tend the garden in the playground area! We were able to grow plenty of fresh mixed greens and some beautiful squash to give to this year's Harvest Supper!

Board of Christian Outreach & Mission

Fall is here and that means the holidays will be here soon. At Thanksgiving time FPC reaches out to Community Caregivers and the Upper Room for names of families and individuals that could use the gift of a Thanksgiving basket. We hope to do this again this year. On Sunday November 3 & 10 we will have paper grocery bags (with a list of needed food items written on them) for you to take. We ask that you return the items before Sunday Nov.17. There will be more information and reminders as we get closer to November.

One of the ministries whose clients receive baskets from FPC is Community Caregivers (www.comcaregivers.org). They are also one of the nonprofits that receive monthly gifts from FPC.

Community Caregivers has 3 programs:

VOLUNTEER CARE-GIVING is a free in home and transportation assistance program for elderly and disabled individuals in 7 southern New Hampshire towns.

THE LOANERS CLOSET loans wheel chairs, walkers, commodes, bath chairs etc. to anyone is NH with a need, as long as the item is needed. This service is free of charge.

PROJECT UPKEEP is a special set of "handyman" volunteers that make handicap improvements and repairs to low-income clients' homes.

Your Board of Christian Outreach & Mission,

We are very grateful for your gifts that help local ministries and those in need.

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

Proposed Article III & IV Bylaws Changes

Bylaws Article III and Article IV are not ready for the newsletter this month. Council didn't have enough time at the last council meeting to review. So council will be meeting on Wednesday, October 2nd just for that reason.

So you should see Article III next month in the newsletter and as Article IV is fourteen pages long it will go out in a church e-blast. Copies will be available in the church office once they are ready.

Also the Bylaws informational on Sunday, October 13th will be postponed until next month. The purpose of the informational meetings is to explain the process the bylaws committee went through and to explain the process of making an amendment to the proposed bylaws at the congregational meeting when the bylaws will be voted on Article by Article. Council will schedule the date of that meeting once all Articles have been presented.

Bylaws Committee members, Anne Engelhardt Chair, Pastor Deborah Roof, Fay Chary, Reni Harnden, Cathy Zylinski, Ryan Lehoullier, Wendy Williams and Lianne Deranian.

Board of Deacons

Are you interested in becoming a member of First Parish Church, or just want to learn more about our church? There is a new member class scheduled for October 27th, with new members being received on November 10th during church service. Talk to Pastor Deborah or one of the Deacons to learn more.

The Playground was launched successfully on September 22nd. We are excited about this opportunity to provide a welcoming area for families with children.

After much discussion it was decided to return to the "old way" of serving communion with a couple small differences to accommodate the logistics of Currier Hall. We are to remain seated while the Deacons serve the bread and juice/water. The other change is that we hold the bread and partake together, while we drink the juice/water as we are ready. The Deacons will then return to pick up the empty cups.

We are pleased to say that we have started a new tradition of providing blankets to babies being baptized. If you are interested in making a blanket, please see Barbara Williams.

The Narrative Lectionary bible stories have been well received thus far, but we would like to receive additional feedback. Let us know what you think.

If you are interested in being on the Diaconate Board, or would just like to learn more about what we do, please let us know. We would love to talk with you. We usually meet the last Wednesday of the month beginning at 6:30 PM and adjourn by 8:30 PM at the latest.

Your Diaconate,

Diane Breeden, Rachel Cobban, Diane Dunn, Ryan Lehoullier, Sue Lindemann, Brian Williams, and Joanne Worthen

BRICKS- Please submit your request by October 11th!

The brick project around the flagpole will be professionally installed this Fall. This is your last chance to have your brick included in this installation!

No more procrastinating! Do Your Order NOW!

Contact Cathy Pottle or pick up an order form at the church.

Each brick is \$100 (2x4) or \$250 (4x4). You decide on the inscription.

Profits go toward the Meetinghouse Rehabilitation.

UKAMA MISSION GROUP

NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE, UCC

UKAMA MISSION GROUP

CHARACTERISTICS OF A VIBRANT, SUSTAINABLE RELATIONSHIP WITH A PARTNER CHURCH IN THE UCCZ

What follows is a summary of a webinar presented on August 28, 2019 by the Ukama Mission Group. The characteristics listed here are the result of conversations with representatives from a number of Ukama congregations in the New Hampshire Conference.

The full, one hour webinar will be uploaded to the NH Conference YouTube Channel and can be accessed through the Ukama page on the conference website.

FIRST CHARACTERISTIC: PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

- Connect with social media: many people in Zimbabwe use WhatsApp to communicate. Also Facebook. Email is used but not as much as WhatsApp and Facebook. UMG is working with partners in UCCZ to get updated contact information.
- Share the news! If individuals in your congregation have contacts with members of your partner church, encourage them to make use of formal and informal opportunities to share what they are receiving.
- Take advantage of visits of people from Zimbabwe. A small weekday gathering can be very useful in strengthening our relationships.
- Invite NH people who have visited Zimbabwe to present a program at your church. (Access through the Mission Group)

SECOND CHARACTERISTIC: INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT

- Remind yourself and your church that Ukama is a covenantal commitment which was created by a vote of the entire congregation.
- Make sure Ukama “belongs” to a standing board of your church.
- Your pastor should be engaged in the relationship, but Ukama should not depend on the pastor. (there is an email listserv for Ukama pastors; make sure yours is on it)
- There should be a few people sustaining the relationship, reporting to the standing board, and connected to conference Ukama through the Ukama Network listserv.

THIRD CHARACTERISTIC: SEE IT AND CELEBRATE IT!

- Set up a visual display with photos, letters, news
- Share news through newsletter and bulletin articles
- List your partner church on your prayer list, and see to it that it is regularly named in prayer
- Celebrate Ukama Sunday! (always as near to October 19 as possible)

UKAMA MISSION GROUP continued

FOURTH CHARACTERISTIC: KEEP IN TOUCH

- Establish at least one effective means of communication with someone in your partner church (UMG can help)
- Recognize that communication can be spotty and inconsistent because of circumstances in Zimbabwe, but ask for confirmation that anything you've sent has been received, and let your partner know when you've received anything – even a FB post!

FIFTH CHARACTERISTIC: GET CONNECTED!

- Make sure someone from your church is on the conference Ukama listserv
- Plan to attend Regional Gatherings. (Usually twice a year)
- Make sure someone attends Ukama workshops at Prepared to Serve.
- Visit the Ukama display at NH Conference Annual Meeting.

HINDRANCES TO AN EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIP (other than the opposite of the above referenced 'characteristics')

- Thinking of Ukama as a *mission* (us helping them) rather than a partnership in which both parties have needs and assets.
- Changes in church leadership or losses of people enthused about Ukama—both in NH and in Zimbabwe churches. Especially when there's a pastoral transition, it's important to make sure Ukama remains intact.
- Confusing Ukama with other projects and activities related to work in Zimbabwe. There are many worthy ways to support the people of Zimbabwe – some of which, such as the container shipments, Ukama churches may be involved with, but they are not the unique church-to-church partnership which is Ukama.
- Frustration with short-term lapses in communication rather than commitment to a long term relationship. Ukama has the greatest potential for real benefit when the relationship is sustained over time.

Horton Center Fall Work Weekend is October 4 - 6.

There is a lot to do and there is plenty of room so you can come join the fun and do some much appreciated work to close up camp for the winter. Lodging and food will be provided. The foliage last year was stunningly beautiful! And it looks to be fantastic again this year. If you are interested, contact Brian Williams no later than October 2 at willibi1910@gmail.com.

2020 Financial Stewardship Campaign

Dear First Parish Faith Family,

We need your help. Your financial contributions are what help us pay the bills. There are salaries: our five employees do an enormous amount of work! Just like you, we have to pay the electric bills and the heating bills. We've enjoyed the AC in Currier Hall. We have to pay for garbage removal and for septic services. We pay to get the lawn mowed in summer and we pay to get the parking lot plowed in winter.

None of this is glamorous AND all of it is essential so that our ministry maintains its visibility here on the hill.

Not everyone come to church every week - but the church is here and running when you do come! Help us, won't you?

Pledging is a faith practice. If there is anything you don't understand about the budget please ask. Please fill out a pledge card early. This year they are printed on all different colors!

God loves a cheerful giver!
Your Stewardship Angels

Family Promise of Southern NH

SAVE THE DATE--THURSDAY DECEMBER 5

That's the date of the major fundraising dinner and auction event for Family Promise of Southern NH. It would be great if we could have a table full of attendees from our church. It's been a fun event in the past--really good food, interesting items being auctioned off, and a bunch of good hearted people to be around, all for a great cause. The event is at the Radisson Hotel in Nashua. Tickets will go on sale soon. You can read about last year's event at: <http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/news/local-news/2018/12/09/homeward-bound-event-raises-over-75000-for-homelessness/>

Also, if you have any items of value that you are able to donate for auction, that would be terrific. Please let me know. People have donated a week at a vacation property they own (e.g., family cabin on a lake), wine baskets, gift cards, kayaks, paddle boards, fancy dinners prepared in the winner's home, and all kinds of things. If you have such things you might want to donate, please let me know (randybrown1119@gmail.com).

Thank you to those who have volunteered and/or contributed in the past. There are a lot of homeless people in the Rockingham county/Nashua areas, and Family Promise has been serving them successfully. But it can't do so without your support.

Wonder Wednesday~ October 9th

We will experience another wonderful and wonder-filled evening of prayer, praise, singing and wondering at 7pm on October 9th .
Please come to our interactive, music-filled evening.
Invite a friend.

Spaghetti Supper~ October 25th

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!

Dining for Dollars- East Derry Store- Continues through October!

Every Sunday during October- East Derry Tavern will donate 10% of the check back to First Parish Church during brunch 10am-3pm! Flyers are available online and in the lobby!
The brunch menu is fantastic and their full menu is available as well!

The 218th Annual Meeting of the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ

When: Saturday, October 19, 2019

Where: Grappone Conference Center 70 Constitution Avenue, Concord, NH

Theme: The theme of our meeting this year is, "Step Up, Speak Out – from Complicity to Courage". The theme will be unpacked as we explore an adaptation of Deuteronomy 31:6-7, "Be strong, bold, and courageous as you lead...for God goes with you."

Register Now at: <http://www.cvent.com/d/gyq8ry>

HARVEST SUPPER 2019!

Saturday, October 12th

Tickets available now for the 4:30 seating!

Modified Buffet service with two options to join us: 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The Harvest Supper meal also includes squash, vegetables, stuffing, homemade gravy and homemade desserts.

Advanced sale tickets available for the 4:30 seating only- please purchase tickets for 6:00pm seating at the door only.

Thank you!



75th Annual Sugar Plum Fair 2019!

Saturday, November 23rd

SAVE THE DATE!!

200+ Dozen Cookies in the Famous First Parish Church Cookie Walk

White Elephant Sale in the Meetinghouse!

Yummy Hot Soups, Delicious Sandwiches

Satisfying Treats and Refreshments

Scripture Readings

*Readings are from the Narrative Lectionary for
Sundays and Festivals – Year 2*

October 6th - Hear O Israel

Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9
Mark 12:28-31

October 13th - Ruth

Ruth 1:1-17
Mark 3:33-35

October 20th - David Anointed King

2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5; Psalm 150
Mark 11:8-10

October 27th - Kingdom Divided

1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29
Mark 10:42-45

Worship Schedule

Ushers & Greeters

October 6th : World Communion Sunday

Ushers: Diaconate

Greeter: Tom Woods

Deacons: Sue Lindemann, Brian Williams

Lay Reader: Dee Deranian

October 13th:

Ushers: Dusty Patrick, Jack Martin, Joan
Crimlisk, Michael Bryan

Greeter: Maury Davidson

Lay Reader: Brian Williams

Deacon: Ryan Lehoullier

October 20th :

Ushers: Brian Williams, Margie Ives, Pat
Cefaly, Michael Bryan

Greeter: Shirley Dickason

Lay Reader: Fred Merrill

Deacon: Joanne Worthen

October 27th :

Ushers: Ken Gould, Dee Deranian, Nancy
Berry, Michael Bryan

Greeter: Diane Dunn

Lay Reader: Jack Martin

Deacon: Diane Dunn

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. We will participate on October 6th as part of their World Communion Sunday observance as well as October 13th.

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:
pastordebora@fpc-ucc.org

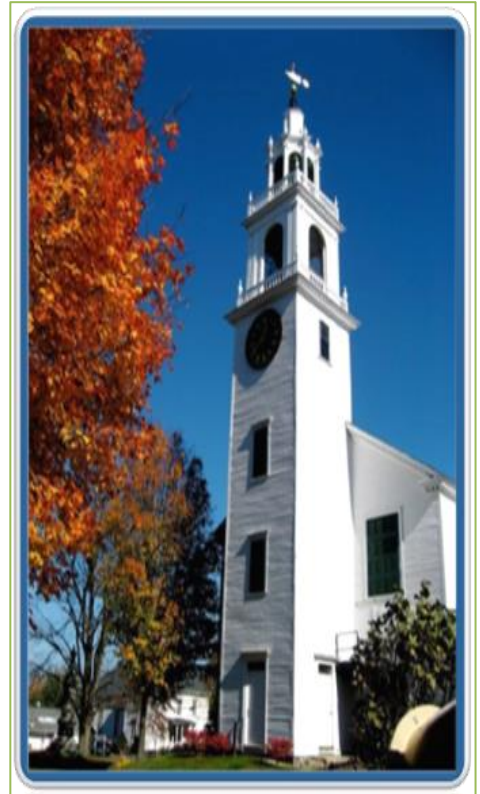
First Parish Congregational Church, UCC

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
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