

First Parish Congregational Church
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041/
47 East Derry Road
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

January 19, 2020



Parables in Mark

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)

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

SINGING: "Enter, Rejoice and Come in!" and LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #459 Come O Fount of Every Blessing

*CALL TO WORSHIP LITANY: in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, his legacy and his dream for a better world through living a life of love and peace.

One: God, we are living inside your dream,

Many: The dream of creation,

One: The dream of time and space,

Many: The dream of humanity.

One: You dreamed us up

Many: And we're all yours.

One: The dream of the Kingdom of God;

Many: In which all is done according to the law of Love;

One: In which exploitation, inequality and poverty are unheard of;

Many: In which peace is normal;

One: In which separation from you and each other is an illusion;

Many: In which Christ is King:

One: This is the dream we are living for.

Many: This is the dream we must live out.

One: When it seems just beyond our reach

Many: Love will bridge the gap.

One: When it seems unimaginable

Many: Love will give us imagination.

One: When it seems impossible

Many: Love will make a way.

One: Help us to bravely step out now,

Many: Into the unknown

One: Into the dreamed-of future

Many: Into the beauty of now

One: For you are Love,

Many: And your dream is alive in our hearts.

All: Amen

***SONG OF PRAISE:** This is the Day
**(This is the day that the Lord has made; Let us rejoice
and be glad in it!)**

SPECIAL MUSIC

WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

At this time, all children are invited to come forward for the children's offering, and children's time. An offering is not required for participation. All are welcome, especially first time visitors.

CHILDREN'S OFFERING and PRAYER OF DEDICATION

In our hearts these gifts we bring; for you give us everything. Teach us how to follow you; in all we say and all we do. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.

Children are excused as we sing: **“Go now in peace. Go now in peace. May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.”**

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WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 4:1-34

The Story of the Scattered Seed

4 1-2 He went back to teaching by the sea. A crowd built up to such a great size that he had to get into an offshore boat, using the boat as a pulpit as the people pushed to the water's edge. He taught by using stories, many stories.

3-8 “Listen. What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn’t put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled among the weeds and nothing came of it. Some fell on good earth and came up with a flourish, producing a harvest exceeding his wildest dreams.

9 “Are you listening to this? Really listening?”

10-12 When they were off by themselves, those who were close to him, along with the Twelve, asked about the stories. He told them, “You’ve been given insight into God’s kingdom—you know how it works. But to those who can’t see it yet, everything comes in stories, creating readiness, nudging them toward receptive insight. These are people—
Whose eyes are open but don’t see a thing,
Whose ears are open but don’t understand a word,
Who avoid making an about-face and getting forgiven.”

13 He continued, “Do you see how this story works? All my stories work this way.

14-15 “The farmer plants the Word. Some people are like the seed that falls on the hardened soil of the road. No sooner do they hear the Word than Satan snatches away what has been planted in them.

16-17 “And some are like the seed that lands in the gravel. When they first hear the Word, they respond with great enthusiasm. But there is such shallow soil of character that when the emotions wear off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it.

18-19 “The seed cast in the weeds represents the ones who hear the kingdom news but are overwhelmed with worries about all the things they have to do and all the things they want to get. The stress strangles what they heard, and nothing comes of it.

20 “But the seed planted in the good earth represents those who hear the Word, embrace it, and produce a harvest beyond their wildest dreams.”

Giving, Not Getting

21-22 Jesus went on: “Does anyone bring a lamp home and put it under a washtub or beneath the bed? Don’t you put it up on a table or on the mantel? We’re not keeping secrets, we’re telling them; we’re not hiding things, we’re bringing them out into the open.

23 “Are you listening to this? Really listening?”

24-25 “Listen carefully to what I am saying—and be wary of the shrewd advice that tells you how to get ahead in the world on your own. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity. Stinginess impoverishes.”

Never Without a Story

26-29 Then Jesus said, “God’s kingdom is like seed thrown on a field by a man who then goes to bed and forgets about it. The seed sprouts and grows—he has no idea how it happens. The earth does it all without his help: first a green stem of grass, then a bud, then the ripened grain. When the grain is fully formed, he reaps—harvest time!

30-32 “How can we picture God’s kingdom? What kind of story can we use? It’s like a pine nut. When it lands on the ground it is quite small as seeds go, yet once it is planted it grows into a huge pine tree with thick branches. Eagles nest in it.”

33-34 With many stories like these, he presented his message to them, fitting the stories to their experience and maturity. He was never without a story when he spoke. When he was alone with his disciples, he went over everything, sorting out the tangles, untying the knots.

SERMON: Jesus, the Storyteller

HYMN #503 O Savior, Let Me Walk With You

GOD’S MISSION AMONG US

A word about Family Promise

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

When our riches increase, we are tempted to put our trust and confidence in them. But riches are not meant to satisfy us. They are placed in our hands that we might accomplish some good purpose. Giving through the church grants us that opportunity. The morning offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC:

*DOXOLOGY: Siyahamba #526

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of steadfast love, we pray that you will love the world through the moneys we dedicate today. We pray that your work of transformation will be carried forward by our gifts. As a church, we seek to follow where Jesus leads. As individuals, we heed the call to discipleship. Bless our efforts to fish for people-for their sakes, not our own. Amen.

**WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE A LOVING,
SERVING GOD**

*HYMN #401 O God in Whom All Life Begins

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH - Members of the Congregation

DEACON - Rachel Cobban

LAY READER - Jack Martin

USHERS - Stanley & Holly Gorgol, Tom Cooper, Michael Bryan

GREETER - Jean Brodeur

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER - The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST- Joan Virga

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR -Christine Lehoullier

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT- Michelle Guerrin

General Announcements January 19, 2020

Budget Update-after Worship Service today - The current draft has a \$30,000 deficit. This isn't a viable budget and solutions won't be easy. We need your help to find the solutions. Please attend.

Today at 11:45- Are you a new member within the last year (2019) or are you thinking about becoming a member in 2020? We invite you to a conversation with some of the leaders of our church so that we can get to know you and you can learn more about us. Please get some refreshments and join us in AB.

Monday January 20th at 7:00pm Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Celebration - Please join Pastor Deborah for a Community Interfaith Service tomorrow at the Atkinson Congregational Church.

Ken Gould- Our dear friend Ken met our Creator on November 23, 2019. Ken touched the lives of so many people. We are putting together a tribute to him to be shared with his family. Do you have a story or words of appreciation that you would be willing to share? If you have a photo, a favorite memory, a story or simply "one word to describe Ken" please send it to pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org by Monday February 17th. Thank you in advance, Pastor Deborah

January Adult Faith Formation goes from the 14th – February 18th! We meet Tuesday evening from 6:30-8pm. We are excited to announce that we will be reading the 1st volume of Anne Robertson's new series, "Exploring Justice: The Ten Commandments." The books have arrived, please see Christine.

ANNUAL MEETING: JANUARY 26, 2020 AT 11:30 AM: the official 'call' is posted throughout the building. Please let Christine know if you will need childcare during this meeting. The report will be available on Sunday.

Calling all soup and salad makers for lunch the day of the Annual meeting: Sunday-January 26, 2020

Please let Linda Webber know if you can bring a soup or salad for us all to share or if you can help with set up and/or clean up. She can be reached at rsamelin@comcast.net or by phone @ 603-560-3526

2020 trip to Aghadowey, Northern Ireland: planning efforts are underway. Would YOU like to go? Please let Pastor Deborah (pastordeboraah@fpc-ucc.org) or Randy Brown (sueandrandybrown@gmail.com) know that you would be interested in going. We will go when it is most convenient for the Irish folks who are hosting us. We will stay in homes and we will go where they take us. We will be gone 8-10 days. Some variations may be considered. If you have thoughts, talk to us soon.

Every year Horton Center recruits hands on workers to open up camp for the season. It will be 5/15 - 5/17/20. Help if you can. Here is the

link: <https://hortoncenter.org/camps/opening-work-days/>

Prepared to Serve: It's that time again! February 22, 2020: Join us in a day of education, fellowship and fun as NH Conference plans a full schedule for the day that includes time for breakfast, worship, workshops, exhibits, and lunch with fellow UCC'ers from all over New Hampshire. With over 50 different workshops offered on a variety of topics, we pray that this day will be meaningful and productive. You may look at this year's schedule and sign up on <http://www.nhcucc.org/caring-for-congregations/prepared-to-serve> Sign up on church office door for car-pooling.

Younger Youth (ages 9-13) will meet on January 31st 5:00-7:30 to help with Spaghetti supper, eat together and share ideas.

Used Clothing Drop-Off Shed is ready for donations! Items accepted; Clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, curtains and stuffed animals. Please take a flyer in the lobby.

Mark your calendars!

Sunday January 26th ~ 11: 30 Annual Meeting

Tuesday January 28th ~ Please send your newsletter articles to Michelle; Adult Faith at 6:30 in AB

Wednesday January 29th ~ Deacons meet in Cook at 6:30

Friday January 31st ~ 5:00-6:30 Spaghetti Supper / 5:00-7:30

Younger Youth (ages 9-13) Group gather

Saturday March 7th ~ 10:00 ~ Ken Gould's Celebration of Life at Pilgrim UCC in Brentwood.

First Parish Congregational Church IN OUR PRAYERS – January 19, 2020

PRAYERS OF JOY

20 folks at Adult Faith Formation – we are looking at Priorities!

Planning a trip to Aghadowey in July!

Productive, informative and cooperative Council meeting

KIT: listening to the narrow escape of Pastor Deborah's father during WWII was awe-inspiring

Wonder Wednesday – we enjoyed an authentic, safe space to express our deepest feelings to God

Time spent with families

Another successful year of community fellowship with spaghetti supper! Thank you Spaghetti Angels!
Christmas Eve Services ~ Pageant, Carols, Lessons and Candlelight!

K.I.T. enjoyed listening to Marge Palmer telling Christmas stories. It was wonderful!

Santa Breakfast was a huge success. Thank you everyone!
Advent Workshop – what a joy! Sugar Plum Fair – a community comes together on a beloved project!

Thank you, Bill Smallwood of W.J. Smallwood Landscaping!
Bricks look great!

Gratitude to people who are catching up with their pledges!
Kindness Rocks – with gratitude to Christine Lehoullier, our kindness ambassador

PRAYERS OF HEALTH and HEALING

Malysa Deranian – fell skiing on January 8

A member of the Nutfield Coop school family: Grace Theroux, 2, and her family for complete healing of the leukemia and strength and comfort for the family during this difficult time.

Martha, close friend of Pat and Dick Plouff, being treated for recurring leukemia.

Marge Palmer's granddaughter, Rebecca, for her surgery.

Rev. Renee Rouse on the death of her son, Tre.

Selma Gould and Ken's children who are grieving the death of Ken on November 23.

Jorge Alpizar, fiancé of Liz's daughter Rebekah is undergoing treatment for prostate and bladder cancers.

Cole Ferry, Cindy Pingree's nephew, was in a car accident

The family of Bill VenderWoude, who passed away after a long struggle with cancer
Prayers for Paula Robinson and family
Alyssa Mulhern and her family, she is a friend of Diane Breeden, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and surgery is planned in a month.
Jo Worthen's sister Barb continues to struggle with cancer.

SPECIAL ONGOING PRAYERS

Active Military

Andrea Cooper health & strength

Aghadowey Rural Kinship

Southern NH Family Promise

Avis Hanson, Marjorie Palmer's cousin's wife, battling, and in treatment for, cancer

Dangamvura – UCCZ – Zimbabwe African Church

Tim Beers – Health & strength

Bob Dinan, father of Karen & Bob Wilson's friend Kristen Wilson, ongoing struggle with cancer

Brian Krantz and ALL of the Wildland Firefighters this fire season

Victims of floods and fires and violence; Refugees and their families

People of color and members of the LGBTQ+ community

Friends of the Meetinghouse Board of Directors

Our Covenant Partner: Pastoral Counseling Services, Inc.

Purchase or reload your  gift cards after church. A percentage of the dollars that you **already** spend at Hannafords can help the church. Checks can also be dropped off during office hours. Thank you!

2020 Budget Overview

- **2019 Budget Results**

- Ended the year with \$5,601.15 surplus.

- **2020 Income Highlights**

- Pledge = \$200,000 (Reduced from 2019 level of \$204,000)
 - Actual Pledges = \$198,213 from 67 pledges as of 1/12/20. (82 pledges received in 2019.)
- Building Rehab Mortgage Payment Gift = \$5,000
- Plate = \$24,000 (\$4,000 reduction from 2019 budget based on actual plate received in 2019).
- Nutfield Rent – increased \$38/month = \$456 increase for the year.
- Fundraiser Income – Reduced from \$11,500 to \$9,700 based on 2019 actuals.
- Cash Carried Forward = \$5,601.15

- **2020 Expense Highlights**

	Need/Request	Proposed
Staff Compensation	3% for Senior Pastor, Admin. Assistant, CE Director & Maint.	No increases. Staff compensation remains at 2019

	Person. Total Increase = \$4,357.	levels.
Medical & Dental Insurance	\$9,904 This is a \$2,100 decrease from 2019 due to Pastor Deborah becoming Medicare eligible in May 2020.	\$9,904 This is a \$2,100 decrease from 2019 due to Pastor Deborah becoming Medicare eligible in May 2020.
Building Insurance	\$8,844: Reflects \$1,678 increase due to 24% increase.	\$8,844: Reflects \$1,678 increase due to 24% increase.
Building Rehab Mortgage Payments	\$28,545.48 – Covers full year of payments at \$2,378.79/month.	Building Rehab covers balance of mortgage payments: \$23,545.
Misc. Reductions		Total \$825 reduction from Supply Preaching, Diaconate, Council & Community Life line items.
Surplus/(Shortfall)	(\$30,770)	(\$1,993)