

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

**November 24, 2019**

**Josiah's Reform**



**Thanksgiving Sunday  
Financial Stewardship Sunday**

**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

LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*HYMN # 422 Come, O Thankful People, Come

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand in body or Spirit)

One: We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing,

**Many: to live in community, seeking God's will.**

One: We come now, as sister and brother,  
confessing

**Many: the sins that divide and the wrong in us still.**

One: Beside us, forgiving enabling, sustaining,

**Many: you call us, O Savior, to life that is new.**

One: You draw us away from self-centered  
complaining.

**Many: You lead us and guide us in ways that are  
true.**

\*INVOCATION (unison)

**Awesome God, who has given us life and kept  
our feet from slipping, we thank you now for  
bringing us to this place of worship and learning.  
Inspire us to speak truthfully and listen  
attentively. Keep us from wrangling over words in  
ways that divide. May we prove to be faithful  
workers, devoted to healing and reconciliation in  
Jesus' name. Amen.**

**\*SONG OF PRAISE:** Praise Our God Together Singing  
Alleluia

SPECIAL MUSIC – We Give You Thanks by David Haas

## **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**

OLD TESTAMENT: 2 Kings 22: selected verses; 23:1-3 (The Message)

22<sup>1-2</sup> Josiah was eight years old when he became king. He ruled for thirty-one years in Jerusalem.... He lived the way God wanted. He kept straight on the path blazed by his ancestor David, not one step to either left or right.

<sup>3-7</sup> One day in the eighteenth year of his kingship, King Josiah sent the royal secretary Shaphan to The Temple of God with instructions: “Go to Hilkiyah the high priest and have him count the money that has been brought to The Temple of God that the doormen have collected from the people. Have them turn it over to the foremen who are managing the work on The Temple of God so they can pay the workers who are repairing God’s Temple, all the carpenters, construction workers, and masons. Also, authorize them to buy the lumber and dressed stone for The Temple repairs. You don’t need to get a receipt for the money you give them—they’re all honest men.”

<sup>8</sup> The high priest Hilkiyah reported to Shaphan the royal secretary, “I’ve just found the Book of God’s Revelation, instructing us in God’s ways. I found it in The Temple!” He gave it to Shaphan and Shaphan read it.

<sup>9</sup> Then Shaphan the royal secretary came back to the king and gave him an account of what had gone on: “Your servants have bagged up the money that has been collected for The Temple; they have given it to the foremen to pay The Temple workers.”

<sup>10</sup> Then Shaphan the royal secretary told the king, “Hilkiah the priest gave me a book.” Shaphan proceeded to read it to the king.

<sup>11-13</sup> When the king heard what was written in the book, God’s Revelation, he ripped his robes in dismay. And then he called for Hilkiah the priest, (Shaphan the royal secretary, Asaiah the king’s personal aide, as well as a couple other close associates). He ordered them all: “Go and pray to God for me and for this people—for all Judah! Find out what we must do in response to what is written in this book that has just been found! God’s anger must be burning furiously against us—our ancestors haven’t obeyed a thing written in this book, followed none of the instructions directed to us.”

<sup>14-17</sup> (These advisors all) went straight to Huldah the prophetess (and) consulted with her. In response to them she said, (“This is God’s word, Your people have deserted me and taken up with other gods. But you, Josiah,) took seriously the doom of judgment I spoke against this place and people, and because you responded in humble repentance, tearing your robe in dismay and weeping before me, I’m taking you seriously. ... I’ll take care of you...

<sup>23</sup> <sup>1-3</sup> The king acted immediately, assembling all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. Then the king proceeded to The Temple of God, bringing everyone in his train—priests and prophets and people ranging from the famous to the unknown. Then he read out publicly everything written in the

Book of the Covenant that was found in The Temple of God. The king stood by the pillar and before God solemnly committed them all to the covenant: to follow God believingly and obediently; to follow his instructions, heart and soul, on what to believe and do; to put into practice the entire covenant, all that was written in the book. The people stood in affirmation; their commitment was unanimous.

**SERMON:** “Gratefulness, Gratitude, Grateful – let me count the ways”

## **WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

## **WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Bring gifts of gratitude to honor God. Give thanks for God's awesome deeds. Praise God for salvation in Jesus Christ. May our offerings express the full measure of our thankfulness.

OFFERTORY MUSIC: “Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart”

\*DOXOLOGY Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We bring back to You a portion of the bounty You have entrusted to us, O God. Accept our gifts as a**

**symbol of our renewed commitment. We give thanks for the wholeness You offer us amid a fragmented world. We are grateful for meaningful tasks in the midst of chaos and meaningless suffering. We dedicate ourselves and our offering to Your faithful service. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN #425 For The Fruit of All Creation

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

*\*Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH-Members of the Congregation

DEACON- Sue Lindemann

LAY READER- Rachel Cobban

USHERS -Brian Williams, Pat Cefaly, Margie Ives, Michael Bryan

GREETER- Diane Dunn

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 November 24, 2019**

The Stewardship Commitment celebrates this Sunday with a Stewardship blessing. To date we have received 36 pledges. We have Pledge Cards available for you. Help us celebrate our church.

**Advent Workshop sign-up sheets** are in Currier- please see the Advent Board for this year's crafts!

**Christmas Pageant sign-up sheets** are in the Rainbow Room/ John. Children of all ages for the Pageant 4pm on Christmas Eve.

**Worship Flowers and Coffee Hour Sign-up sheets** ~ A wonderful opportunity to acknowledge special people and events in our life- sheets are available in the lobby.

**Angel Tree** ~ Each year at Christmas time, Missions sponsors the Angel Tree program which assists families in need in providing a little more Christmas joy for their children. Please return completed request forms to the office by November 27<sup>th</sup>.

**December Newsletter** ~ Please send articles by early morning tomorrow, Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, so it can be sent before the Thanksgiving Holiday. Thank you!

**Poinsettias~ Order your Christmas Poinsettia!** They are \$8 each, please order by December 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Spaghetti Supper** is the day after Thanksgiving and help is needed that day from 1-2pm. Please contact Kevin Gordon or Bill Mann if you are able to volunteer.

**We are looking for ushers!** If you are interested in this important ministry, please contact Diane Dunn or Michelle in the office.

**January's Adult Faith** Formation selection is out and we are excited to announce that we will be reading Anne Robertson's 1st volume of her new series, "Exploring Justice: The Ten Commandments." Signup for class and get more information in Currier.

Ken Gould is in Mass General, cards can be sent to his home address: 7 Riverwoods Dr. Apt P202  
Exeter, NH 03833

**Used Clothing Drop-Off Shed** is Ready for donations! Items accepted; Clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, curtains and stuffed animals. Reduce waste in landfills, the items are used worldwide and we receive funding based on the weight These donations can also be used by us when we have a specific need as identified by R.E.A.C.H. or Missions. Please take a flyer.

**Brunching for Dollars** - November & December– **Sunday**, 10am-3pm! East Derry Tavern will donate 10% back to First Parish Church. Please take a flyer and head over for Brunch!

### **Mark your calendars!**

November 26<sup>th</sup> ~6:30 Deacon Meeting/ 7:00 Facility Meeting

November 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Happy Thanksgiving!

November 29<sup>th</sup> ~ 5:00-6:30 Spaghetti Supper

December 1<sup>st</sup> ~ 11:15-2:00 Advent Workshop

Purchase or reload your  gift cards after church.  
**You can help the church budget by when you shop at  
Hannafords.**

A percentage of the dollars that you **already** spend at  
Hannafords can help the church.  
Checks can also be dropped off at the church during office  
hours. Thank you!

Holiday Shopping is around the corner! Amazon shopping:  
Do your Amazon shopping by going FIRST to the church  
website: [www.fpc-ucc.org](http://www.fpc-ucc.org) This program is different from  
Amazon Smile. We receive a much larger percentage of  
profit by going through our website.

## **First Parish Congregational Church IN OUR PRAYERS – November 24, 2019**

### **PRAYERS OF JOY**

Sugar Plum Fair – What a joy when a community comes  
together on a beloved project!

Visit from the Aghadowey Rural Kinship

Brittany (Pastor Deborah's daughter) & Jeremy welcomed  
Harlan Nathaniel, at 6:54pm on Oct. 21!

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

Thank you, Paper Angels! We are good for now!

Harvest Supper- Wonderful seeing families and friends!

Thank you to all volunteers!

Wonder Wednesday Worship is such a breath of fresh air!  
An oasis in these troubled times.

Gratitude to people who are catching up with their pledges! SoulCollage\* and Labyrinth presentations were very well received at the NH UCC women's retreat!

Thanks to Liz and Pastor Deborah and the 12 women from First Parish who attended!

Kindness Rocks – with gratitude to Christine Lehoullier, our kindness ambassador

## **PRAYERS OF HEALTH and HEALING**

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 and is in an induced coma.

The family of Bill VenderWoude, who passed away after a long struggle with cancer

Prayers for Paula Robinson and family

Ken Gould has been moved to Mass General awaiting tests.

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.

Marge Palmer's sister Ruth in Wisconsin is in need of our prayers.

Jo Worthen's sister Barb continues to struggle with cancer.

Marge Palmer's Brother in law, Steve, passed away. Prayers for Nancy and the family.

Jo Worthen's co-worker Cindy lost her sister to cancer, leaving her husband and a 9 year son

Family and friends of Alice Coller who passed away on October 8<sup>th</sup> in West Lafayette, Indiana.

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

Lynn Dinan, continued prayers for health and healing  
Connie Cox's sister, Suzie: her husband Kent passed away  
after a long illness.

Randy Lariviere and his wife Dee - Medical Concerns  
(Randy)

Jessie Brooks, friend of Tim Beers, for strength

Tommie Pitts – medical concerns

## **SPECIAL ONGOING PRAYERS**

Andrea Cooper health & strength

Aghadowey Rural Kinship – their safe travels and enriching  
visit in the US!

Karen and Bob Wilson on their exciting year long voyage!

Southern NH Family Promise

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

Dangamvura – UCCZ – Zimbabwe African Church

Jay Bingel – Health & strength

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.