

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

March 2nd

Dining for \$-Fody's Tavern~5

March 3rd

Adult Faith Formation ~ 6:30

March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

Lenten Services

6pm Food/7pm Service

March 7th at 10am

Ken Gould's Memorial

March 8th

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Christian Ed ~ 11:30

Fundraising ~ 11:30

March 9th

Mission ~ 6:00

Finance ~ 7:00

March 11th

K.I.T. ~ 12:30

March 13th

Family Fun Night! ~ 5:30

March 16th

Council ~ 7:00

March 20th

Contra ~ 7:30

March 24th

Facilities ~ 7:00

March 27th

Spaghetti Supper ~ 5:00

March 31st

Deacons ~ 5:00

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Child of God,

Do you remember Godspell? "Pre-ee-ee-pare Ye the way of the Lord!" John the Baptist tells God's people to 'prepare' themselves! The Messiah is coming! This message and this preparation took place *before* and just as Jesus was *beginning* his ministry. In real time, pre-Ash Wednesday, some of us are preparing ourselves yet again – and differently. We know who Jesus truly was and we know that he became the Christ – to millions. Our preparation looks different because we have had the blessing of his teachings. And so now, we prepare in such a way as to grow even deeper in faith.

On Ash Wednesday, the season of Lent began. Lent is a time of preparation. As modern Christians who make meaning out of ancient texts, we have set aside a 40-day time period as we prepare ourselves emotionally and spiritually for the single-most defining weekend in a Christian's life: the crucifixion and the resurrection.

How do we prepare? Our tradition suggests that we pray more, give away more of our personal wealth and pay more attention to how we eat. Doesn't this sound like spirit, mind and body preparedness? Is our spirit aligning with the will of God? Do we think too much about what we want and less about what we want to give away? Do we eat in a manner that is honoring God's gift of our body? Do we think about our priorities – in all we say and all we do?

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

The Adult Faith Formation class is reading a book entitled "Priorities" by Rev. Anne Robertson. I urge you: get a copy of this book and read it. One of the leading Biblical scholars of our age has said: "This series promises to be a state-of-the art offer, the best resource we have on the commandments and their contemporary pertinence for a life of faith." Isn't that what we are yearn for: **a contemporary pertinence for a life of faith**? What does it all mean? How do we discern our path in the midst of tweets and fake news?

We live in an incredibly chaotic time. Our sacred creation story in Genesis speaks of chaos covering the earth - and God emerged and made order. There are days when reading the current events in today's world, we could become convinced that chaos reigns yet again. Fear not! Hold fast to your faith! Never give up on hope! Trust in God! Believe that the life of Jesus transformed the way the world can be and the way that we can be in the world. Thanks be to God!

Yours in faith,
Pastor Deborah

Passion Play

South Church Drama Ministry presents their 2020 Passion Play:
"Encountering Love" by Carlos Jauhola-Straight.

This intergenerational Passion play is a weaving together of the narrative of encounters of Jesus, his final days. Our story is blended with mix of tunes from a variety of genres.

This year's production will be offered as a fundraiser to support the ministries of South Church on Palm Sunday, April 5th at 3:00 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door.

<https://www.southchurchconcord.org/events/encountering-love>



Christian Education/Adult Faith Formation



Christian Education Board Meeting Reminder: Sunday, March 8th, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Younger Youth Group March Meeting: Friday, March 20, 5:30 pm-7:00 pm (includes dinner)

Sunday School Volunteer/Teacher Training: Saturday, March 21st 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Rocky Railway Vacation Church Camp Information Meeting: Sunday March 22nd, 11:30, A/B Conference Room

2020 LENT Facebook/Collage PHOTO DEVOTIONAL CHALLENGE

Need a creative way to add some spiritual reflection to your day-to-day this Lent?

Join us on Facebook by posting a picture or make your own collage at home however you'd like throughout the Season of Lent (until Easter). **Lent** is a time to reflect and draw closer to God, so we hope to do just that with the creative ideas for photo-sharing we'll provide each day. Get ready and get creative! Your Facebook feed is about to look a whole lot like Lent.

How do you participate?

- Logon to the First Parish Congregational Church Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/fpcucc/>
- Look at the Lenten Photo Challenge of the Day. Take a photo or find a photo that makes you think of the day's word and upload it to the Facebook page. You can explain it or not, that's up to you. You can participate every day, or just when a particular word speaks to you.
- There are no words on Sundays during Lent.
- If you're not a Facebook fan, this list can also serve as a personal daily devotional list if you like, or perhaps make a collage to share with the congregation.

We can't wait to see your photos and/or artwork! May your journey through Lent be an enriching experience.



Christian Education/Adult Faith Formation (continued)



Sunday School Volunteer/Teacher Training Saturday, March 21st 9:00 am – 10:00 am



Consider joining our wonderful staff of hard-working volunteers and have fun with our fantastic students and their families by helping volunteer for Sunday school on a regular rotational schedule. It's not only important to the safety of the kids to have the appropriate amount of volunteers, but also important for the adults who do volunteer to be able to sit in service with their families or otherwise. As a regular rotating helper or teacher, your impact on students won't just impact them right now, but could be life-altering. Not only that, but it's FUN, too!

"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

– Deuteronomy 11:18-19

Join us Saturday morning, March 21st and we will go over everything from lessons, safety protocols, student behavior solutions and age level characteristics. All volunteers are required to fill out a NH State Criminal Background Check Authorization Form (provided at the training).

Mark Your Calendars for Vacation Church Camp! July 13th – 16th, 2020

We are now accepting volunteers to help with decoration assembly and planning. Sign ups can be found during coffee hour or contact Christine Lehoullier @ cedirector@fpc-ucc.org or 603-264-9261. You do not have to be present the week of Vacation Church Camp to help us out. Sign up and climb aboard for mountains of fun to be a part of First Parish Church's Rocky Railway Crew! Thank you for your consideration!



Younger Youth Group Meeting

Friday, March 20, 5:30 -7:00pm

Time to get to work youth group! We've planned our Youth Room, now it's time to get going on some construction task items! First, we'll need to eat, so we'll have pizza and refreshments, then get down to business. Your Youth leaders look forward to seeing you all very soon!



Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

Liberty House helps homeless and struggling Veterans by connecting them to available resources and providing a safe, substance-free transitional house.

First Parish Church supports this mission by collecting items needed for the veterans. There is a bin in the entry way and the donated items are taken to Liberty House once a month.

Liberty House is a small house ministry of vets helping vets that is efficiently run by a small staff. They accept no federal or state funds. They have a zero tolerance policy for drugs & alcohol.

On Sunday, March 15th, the Executive Director of Liberty House, Jeff Nelson, will be at FPC to do a Mission Moment during our service. He will stay for coffee hour to talk more with anyone interested.

If you like helping local and worldwide ministries and have an extra couple of hours each month the Mission committee would love for you to join us in deciding how to donate the gifts given to FPC to help other ministries as they help those in need. We meet the 3rd Monday night at 6:00

Liberty House Needs

Food

Canned Meats (tuna, chicken)
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Canned Pastas
Soup

Clothing

Cold Weather:
Pants
Long Sleeve Shirts
Underwear
Winter Boots
Winter Coats
Sweatpants

Camping Gear

Tents
Sleeping bags
Tarps
Backpacks

Gift Cards

Walmart
Gas Cards
Hannaford
Market Basket
Man. Transit Authority Bus Passes

Beth Hunter, Kathy Holland, Melanie Pawl, Bart Wetherbee & Karen Wilson

Board of Deacons

Greetings everyone! Ash Wednesday has passed and the following Lenten services will have a bit of a change. We will be having an old-fashioned potluck! No sign-ups, no planning, just show up and bring your best dish! Let's see what kind of gustatory ensemble we can create together! The dinner will begin at 6pm. If you are bringing food, please arrive 10-30 minutes prior. The service or program will then commence at 7pm.

The Deacons work with the Senior Pastor and Teacher to bring 6 weeks of services for Lent. We will have celebrated a traditional Ash Wednesday service on February 26. We thank Carolyn Ferguson-Wilson, a good friend of Marge Palmer, for sharing her knowledge about Harriet Tubman on Wednesday, March 4. Carolyn will teach us, sing with us and show us how the enslaved people used quilts with embedded clues for escape.

The remaining Wednesday's of Lent we will hear from Nancy Heywood about our church's less well-known stories. We will have music programs on other Wednesday's - modern music, Taizé music and an old-fashioned hymn sing! Watch for details in the weekly e-mail.

Our Deacon board is short 2 Deacons in order to have the ideal minimum. If you are looking for a way to show your appreciation for the church running smoothly and can dedicate time to be an usher or greeter or lay reader, please see one of us! Your help would be greatly appreciated.

This month will also have a fifth Sunday. Fifth Sunday means FUN, FAITH and Fellowship! We will enjoy Café Church. More information will be provided at a later time.

Submitted By Jack Martin

On behalf of:

Rachel Cobban, Brian Williams, Sue Lindemann, Diane Breeden, Sue Brown, and Pastor Deborah

Dining For Dollars- Fody's Tavern

**Dining for Dollars for
First Parish Church!**

Monday March 2nd 5:00-9:00



Enjoy dinner at Fody's Tavern in Derry and 10% of your bill will be donated back to the Church.

Located at 187 Rockingham Rd (Rt 28)

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



Monday March 2nd 5:00-9:00

Enjoy dinner at Fody's Tavern in Derry and 10% of your bill will be donated back to the Church.

Located at 187 Rockingham Rd (Rt 28)

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

available in the lobby or [http://fpc-](http://fpc-ucc.org/Wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/fodys-dinner-flyer-3.2.2020-v2.pdf)

[ucc.org/Wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/fodys-dinner-flyer-3.2.2020-v2.pdf](http://fpc-ucc.org/Wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/fodys-dinner-flyer-3.2.2020-v2.pdf)

Nominating Committee

Do you have a couple of hours a month that you can give to FPC?

Does it make you feel good to be involved and help others?

There are still several boards & committees that need your help.

The following boards and committees are full:

- The Board of Christian Education shares their faith through education. They meet the 2nd Sunday morning at 11:30.
- The Music Committee members appreciate the contribution of music in our worship. They meet 3-4 times a year and as needed.
- The Finance Committee members love those numbers! They meet once a month prior to Council.

Here is a list of places where you can serve at FPC on a Board or Committee:

- Do you like to give away needed resources to ministries near and far? Mission Board meets the 3rd Mon night of the month at 6:00. There are 3 available positions
- Do you enjoy fixing things around the house - or in our case, the church? Board of Facilities meets the 4th Tues night at 7:00. There are 3 positions available.
- Would you like to contribute to the worship event? Board of Deacons meets the last Wed night of the month at 6:00. There are 3 positions available.
- It's like computer dating! Match the needs we have as a church with the gifts individuals have to offer. Nominating Committee has 3 available positions available. Meeting time to be decided.
- Do you have an eye for the care of safety of our building and events? Safe Church committee has 1 available position. Meets every other month. Time to be decided.

Most of these positions are for a 2-year term. We know you will have questions so, please ask us. We will be very happy to spend time with you answering your questions and concerns.

Beth Hunter, Karen Wilson, Margie Ives & Pastor Deborah

K.I.T. Wednesday March 11th
~Featuring Nancy Heywood~

Memorial Garden

Just a heads-up that we will continue to build onto our Memorial Garden that was installed around the flagpole. If you haven't had the opportunity, please take a look at what has been done – and now that the snow is melting. We have memorial bricks and granite benches that have been engraved in support of our loving family members. All proceeds have gone to rehabilitation efforts.

We will soon be working on expanding this area. Do you have a special event or a loved one's memorial that you would like to remember for years to come? Add a brick in their honor!

In the fall of 2019 we were able to have the existing bricks permanently installed by the WL Smallwood Company. We now have a footprint for the continued growth of this wonderful vision that was brought to First Parish Church by Nancy Murdock.

Phase one is complete – but it's not too late. Brick order forms will be available soon. If you have any questions, please see me and I will get you the information that you need.

Thank you so much,
Cathy Pottle

FREE VENDOR BINGO

Come join a lively & beneficial
night of bingo, shopping,
eating and fundraising!

**RAFFLES • VENDOR BOOTHS
FOOD & BEVERAGE**

**Friday April 3rd
5:30-8:30**

**First Parish Church
47 East Derry Rd
603-434-0628
www.fpc-ucc.org/ Facebook @fpcucc**

Lenten Schedule

Date	Food: We eat at 6pm	Program will begin at 7pm
February 26	Board of Deacons will provide soups and breads.	Ash Wednesday: Communion and Imposition of Ashes Choir will sing.
March 4	Traditional Pot Luck Bring something to share with others. Arrive early to help set up! You may need to move a chair or set up a table! Thank you in advance!	Guest Carolyn Ferguson-Wilson will bring Harriet Tubman* to life with story, song and quilts.
March 11		Nancy Heywood will bring us some of the lesser known stories of our church.
March 18		Our member and MID, Shellie Aseltine will bring a service of praise music.
March 25		A traditional Taizé service : quiet, reflective, candles, and silence
April 1		An old-fashioned hymn sing led by our own Joan Virga.

**Try to see the movie "Harriet" before this event in order to reap the full benefit of Carolyn's program on March 4*

Holy Week

April 5 is Palm/Passion Sunday: we begin with "Hosanna" and end with "Crucify Him!"

April 9 is Maundy Thursday: Tenebrae service at 7:00

Good Friday: Derry Ecumenical Service begins at 1 at First Parish; we then go to Church of the Transfiguration; then to St Luke's; then to St Thomas for the Stations of the Cross, after which Pastor Deborah will preach.

April 12 is Easter! Sunrise Service at 6:00 Broadview Farms and traditional Easter Service at 10:00. He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Easter Flower Order Form



Easter flowers are available for \$7.00
per 4.5 inch pot of: Tulips and Hyacinths. Daffodils are
available in a 6.5 inch pot for \$9.00.

Please write in the number of each type of flower that you would like, the color if preferred, and drop
off this order form with your payment
during Fellowship Hour or at the church office
no later than March 15th, 2020.

Tulips- pink, red, yellow or red with white edges _____

Hyacinths- blue, pink _____

Daffodils- _____

(Please indicate how many of each in the blank and circle the color)

Your Name _____

How would you like it to appear in the Easter bulletin: for example:

"in celebration of _____" "in memory of _____", other _____

Total # of flowers ordered _____ at \$7.00/\$9.00 each.

Total amount paid \$ _____ Cash or Check

Please make all checks payable to: Rachel Cobban

Please take your flowers home after the Easter Service.

Thank you!

Scripture Readings

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

March 1st - Communion Sunday

First Last and Last First

Mark 10: 17-31

Psalm 19: 7-10

March 8th

Bartimaeus Healed

Mark 10: 32-52

Psalm 34: 11-14

March 15th

Parable of the Tenants

Mark 12:1-12 [13-17]

Psalm 86: 8-13

March 22nd

Great Commandment

Mark 12: 28-44

Psalm 89: 1-4

March 29th – Fifth Sunday

Mark 13: 1-8, 24-37

Psalm 102: 12-17

Worship Schedule

Ushers & Greeters

March 1st

Deacons: Rachel Cobban, Sue Lindemann,
Michael Bryan

Ushers: Deacons

Greeter: Tom “Woody” Woods

Lay Reader: Ryan Lehoullier

March 8th

Deacon: Rachel Cobban

Ushers: Jack Martin, Michael Bryan

Greeter: Shirley Dickason

Lay Reader: Dee Deranian

March 15th

Deacon: Sue Lindemann

Ushers: Joe Weaver, Margie Ives, Michael Bryan

Greeter: Carol Guerrin

Lay Reader: Joanne Worthen

March 22nd

Ushers: Dee Deranian, Nancy Berry,

Michael Bryan

Greeter: Liz Greenberg

Lay Reader: Bill Armstrong

March 29th

Ushers: Stanley Gorgol, Holly Gorgol

Tom Cooper, Michael Bryan

Greeter: Jean Brodeur

Lay Reader: Julie Turner

One Great Hour of Sharing- Invest in Futures

March 22nd & 29th

**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,
Michelle Guerrin:**

officemgr@fpc-ucc.org
603-434-0628

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

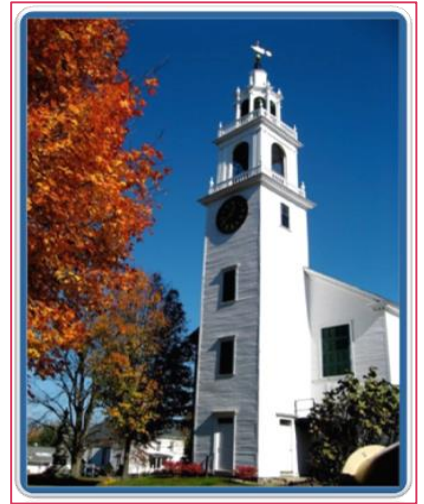
First Parish Congregational Church, UCC

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