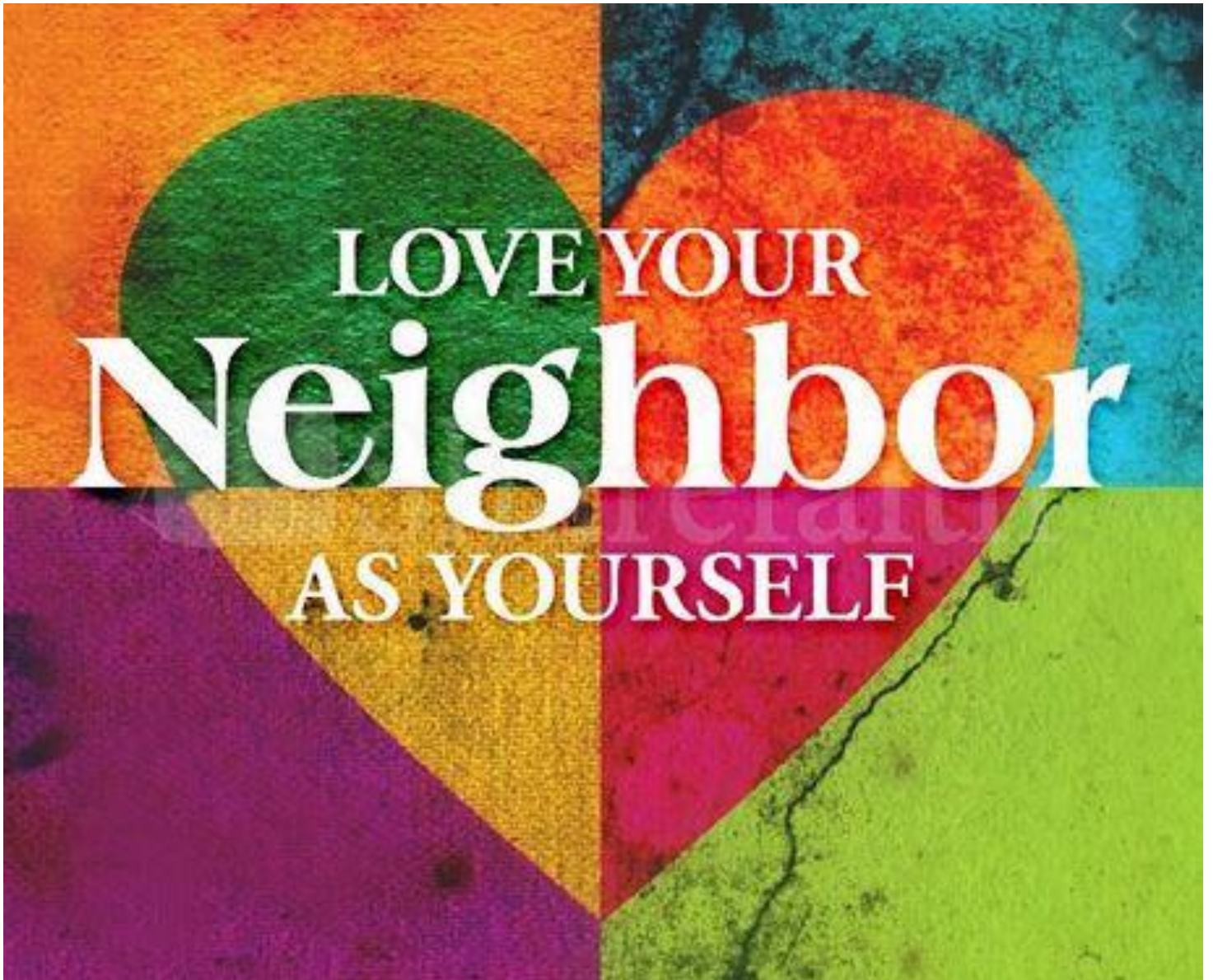


First Parish Congregational Church
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041/ 47 East Derry Road
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

March 22, 2020



Great Commandment

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

CENTERING MUSIC and LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN # 400 Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever, and her confidence alone.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand in body or Spirit)

One: Welcome, all who are anxious or burdened.

Many: This is a time we can meet God.

One: In our time of worship, let us discover life.

Many: God can shape of our lives and reframe our burdens.

INVOCATION (unison)

In the security of your love, mighty God, it is well with us. Our work is fulfilling, our relationships reflect your faithfulness, and our ability to trust is strengthened. We are here, seeking an extra measure of reassurance, the restoration of our best selves and the clarification of our responsibilities. Be known to us now as we eagerly await your Presence. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE # Gloria Patri

WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

Jesus said, "Let the little ones come unto me." Let's sing "Jesus loves me"

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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 12:28-44

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?"

²⁹ Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;

³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

³² Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; ³³ and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

³⁴ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

³⁵ While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, "How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David? ³⁶ David himself, by the Holy Spirit, declared,

'The Lord said to my Lord,

"Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet.'"

³⁷ David himself calls him Lord; so how can he be his son?" And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

³⁸ As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹ and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰ They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

⁴¹ He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two

small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³ Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴ For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

SERMON: The Greatest Commandment

HYMN #190 Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Beneath the cross of Jesus I find a place to stand,
And wonder at such mercy That calls me as I am;
For hands that should discard me Hold wounds which tell me, "Come."
Beneath the cross of Jesus My unworthy soul is won.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We are privileged to contribute out of our abundance that the Christian message might be proclaimed among us and to our children. We are challenged to give all that we have - our time, our talents, our work, and our leisure as witness to the love of God. The extent to which we invest ourselves is a measure of our commitment.

OFFERTORY MUSIC "Precious Lord, take my hand"

Precious Lord, take my hand Lead me on, let me stand
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn Through the storm, through the night
Lead me on through the light Take my hand, precious Lord And lead me home

DOXOLOGY Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give in the spirit of Jesus, whose whole life was committed to proclaiming your love, gracious God. May our lives give evidence that we understand the care and compassion you have for all people, near and far, attractive and offensive, rich and poor. Our offerings today are a token of all the gifts we now invest in the work of your realm that is forever, with beginnings among us now. Amen.

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

HYMN Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Go now in peace. Go now in peace. May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.”

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MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH - Members of the Congregation
SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER - The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
CHOIR DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST - Joan Virga
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - Michelle Guerrin
TECHNICAL WIZARD – Katie Cobban

IN OUR PRAYERS - March 22, 2020

PRAYERS OF JOY

Thanks to everyone for your patience and for helping one another at this difficult time.
Family Fun Night- gratitude to everyone who helped and who attended.
Wednesday presentations by Nancy Heywood, who presented on the Boston Massacre and the Meetinghouse stained glass windows. Both presentations were great!

Update: Alyssa Mulhern (friend of Diane Breeden) – She is doing great- Thank you for your prayers!

A wonderful celebration of life of Ken Gould at Pilgrim UCC!

Nico Immanuel Peters was born 2/16 and he is already attending church!

Wednesday program with Carolyn Ferguson-Wilson who brought Harriet Tubman to life for us!

Adult Faith Formation concluded its series reading Priorities. Such a profound experience for all!

Fody's Dining for Dollars – thank you Fody's!

Last weekend we had successful Kindness Rocks gathering on Saturday and History Party Sunday!

O'Shea's Dining for Dollars – thank you Carmel!

Ash Wednesday was moving and lovely. An important milestone on our journey through Lent.

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Joan Virga and her family who are grieving the death of her mother, Vima LeJeune. Sheryl Hall (sister of Wayne Hall) has died. Pray for her wife Chris, Wayne and Lisa and their family

CANCERS: Jo Worthen's friend **Cindy** & her family continue to struggle with cancer, as well as the loss of her (Cindy's) sister and Cindy's father's recent diagnosis; from Nutfield Coop: Grace Theroux; Martha, close friend of Pat and Dick Plouff, recurring leukemia; Joan (friend of Wendy Williams) liver cancer; Janice Paradzick; Alyssa Mulhern (friend of Diane Breeden), breast cancer.

Jo Worthen's friend Diane & family as they deal with a fatal disease of her daughter, Terri.

Diane Breeden and her family as they grieve the loss of Aunt Barbara McKeen, who was married to Diane's uncle Donald Wyman McKeen.

Nancy Murdock's friend Erin Hutchinson has some serious medical issues

Bonnie Hillsgosdage, friend of Tim Beers

SPECIAL ONGOING PRAYERS

Active Military; Aghadowey Rural Kinship; Southern NH Family Promise;

Andrea Cooper health & strength

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.