

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

March 1, 2020



First Last and Last First

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.”

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

CENTERING MUSIC AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

Gather Us In by Marty Haugen (Verse 1) Here in this place, new light is streaming; Now is the darkness vanished away; See in this space our fears and our dreamings; Brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in the lost and forsaken; Gather us in the blind and the lame; Call to us now and we shall awaken; We shall arise at the sound of our name

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #195 On a Hill Far Away

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, all who look for God with unseeing eyes.

Many: We want to hear and understand God's Word.

One: Leave everything to follow Jesus in this hour.

Many: This is the time to embrace new ways.

*INVOCATION (unison)

Holy God, Help us in this hour to embrace your will for our lives. We approach you in love and yet daring to question and make requests, knowing that your grace and mercy exceed our wildest

imagining, and your guidance is ever available to those who ask. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Word of God is living and active, sharper than a two-edged sword, able to judge the thoughts and intentions of our hearts. Come, then, to confess the sin and doubts that cause you to stumble.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, Sometimes we cry out and hear no answers; we suffer and find no relief. We are tempted to blame you - even though we are the ones who cut off communication. We complain in the midst of plenty and groan over imagined slights. Have mercy on us, and help us to understand your hopes for us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVNESS

God calls each of us by name. The One who knows our hearts is eager to forgive the truly penitent and to empower those who have grown weary. Your strength is being renewed in these moments. You will mount up with wings like eagles. You will run and not be weary. You will walk and not faint. Praise God!

***SONG OF PRAISE #188 Give Me a Clean Heart: Give me a clean heart so I may serve you. God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you. For I'm not worthy of all these blessings. Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you.**

***Gather Us In** by Marty Haugen (Verse 2)

We are the young our lives are a mystery; We are the old who yearn for your face; We have been sung throughout all of history; Called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in the rich and the haughty; Gather us in the proud and the strong; Give us a heart so meek and so lowly; Give us the courage to enter the song.

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 SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN: **Gather Us In** by Marty Haugen
(Verse 3)

Here we all take the wine and the water; Here we will take the bread of new birth; Here you shall call your sons and your daughters; Call us anew to be salt for the earth; Refrain: Give us to drink the wine of compassion;

Give us to eat the bread that is you: Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion:
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

OUR SACRED STORY

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (Please extend a hug or a handshake and say “Peace be with you” to those around you.)

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION and 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.

SHARING the MEAL

As we celebrate Communion today, you will remain seated. The elements will be brought to you - the ushers will serve each half-row. You will first be invited to take the bread – which you will HOLD so that we can ALL take the bread together. This symbolizes that we are ONE BODY and that we are all one in the Spirit of Christ.
(Please let us know if you need gluten-free bread.)

You will then be invited to take a cup of grape juice which symbolizes the cup of wine that Jesus shared with his friends, saying “This is my blood shed for

you.” You are invited to prayerfully drink the cup in your own time. This demonstrates that we are each individuals in God’s Presence - each one doing the best that they can to be the hands and feet of Christ on this earth.

PEACE HYMN: Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth - and let it begin with me
Let There Be Peace on Earth The peace that was
meant to be
With God, our Creator - family all are we
Let me walk with my neighbor in perfect harmony.

(Children are excused after the first verse.)

Let peace begin with me Let this be the moment
now.

With ev'ry step I take Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment and live each moment in
peace eternally

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: Mark 10: 17-31

¹⁷ As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

¹⁸ Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall

not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.”

²⁰ He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.”

²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”

²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!”

²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another “Then who can be saved?”

²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

²⁸ Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.”

²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.

³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

SERMON: Paying Attention

CHORAL ANTHEM: Come and Journey

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

As long as our reliance is on the things we have accumulated, our Christian discipleship is threatened. We give out of gratitude to God and concern for our neighbors. The morning offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Thank you, God, for the wealth you have entrusted to us. As we share a portion of that wealth, we pray that it may never become the object of our affection. May our focus be on people and relationships, rather than on the possessions we can accumulate. We dedicate our time, money, and ourselves to the Your Presence among us, praying that all whom our gifts may reach may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Amen.

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

*HYMN #204 "Take Up Your Cross," the Savior Said

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH Members of the Congregation

DEACONS- Jack Martin, Diane Breeden

LAY READER - Ryan Lehoullier

USHERS -Diaconate

GREETER -Tom "Woody" Woods

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 March 1, 2020

**Tomorrow is Dining for Dollars Fody's Tavern in Derry!
Monday, March 2nd ~ 5:00-9:00pm.** A flyer is available in the office and on the church website.

Lenten Services - We continue the six weeks of Lent. There will be food fellowship at 6:00, followed by a service or program at 7:00. Starting this Wednesday, March 4th, we will observe a "traditional pot luck". No sign-ups. Everyone pitches in. Please come early to help set up so that we may eat at 6:00. Bring something to be shared.

This week we will experience an evening with Carolyn Ferguson-Wilson, who will present a program on Harriet Tubman. Carolyn tells the story, she teaches us some songs and she shows us an example of a quilt with symbols that the enslaved peoples used to escape to the north. In preparation for the presentation of Harriet Tubman on March 4th, please watch the movie "Harriet"

March Newsletter is available in the lobby and online

Adult faith formation: our LAST class will be Tuesday March 3rd. (We canceled last week due to inclement weather.)

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/>

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!

Tuesday March 3rd ~ 6:30 Adult Faith Formation

Wednesday March 4th ~ 6:00 Potluck/ 7:00 Lenten Service

Sunday March 8th ~ 11:30 Fundraising Meeting (Luke) /
Christian Ed Meeting (AB)


Monday March 9th ~ 6:00 Mission Meeting/ 7:00 Finance Meeting

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

Family Fun Night March 13th ~ Take a break at the end of your busy week! Enjoy time with family & friends and make new friends while we provide dinner. Learn something that you didn't know about someone and finally learn that person's name you've been sitting across from in service. Fun for all ages and one of many Family Fun events this year! Please join us from 5:30 pm - 7:30.

Easter Flowers forms are available in the lobby and online. The deadline to order is **March 15th**.

Vendor Bingo is returning~ mark your calendar for Friday **April 3rd** 5:30-8:30. Come join a fun night of free bingo and win a prize from a vendor. We will be playing 10 rounds of bingo at no cost to you and the winner of each round will receive a prize generously donated by our Vendors. * Raffle Baskets! * Vendors will be set up for shopping in between rounds!* Food and beverages will be available for purchase! Flyers are available in the lobby and please share the event on Facebook with family & friends!

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!

First Parish Congregational Church

IN OUR PRAYERS – March 1, 2020

PRAYERS OF JOY

O'Shea's Dining for Dollars

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

Prepared to Serve: 16 members of First Parish attended.

Jo Worthen's sister Barb is cancer free!

Mark Pingree and Jo Worthen both had successful procedures for heart issues this week.

Wednesday evening worship service was filled with joy and gratitude.

Welcome back Michael Bryan! Continued prayers of healing.

Worship on February 9 with Peggo Horstmann Hodes was such a blessing!

Andy Mack Sr. – who made a generous financial gift to rehab project!

Spaghetti Supper & Youth assistance!

Thank you to our Paper Angels!!

Annual Meeting was a wonderful success!

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

PRAYERS OF HEALTH and HEALING

Sheryl Hall (sister of Wayne Hall) and her wife Chris; Sheryl just diagnosed with a horrific and debilitating brain disease called CJD, from which there is no recovery.

UPDATE: Vintage Grace has closed.

UPDATE: 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. Discharged from Children's Hospital last Friday and started home therapy on Tuesday!

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

Bonnie Hillsgosdage, friend of Tim Beers

For the family of Constance (Connie) Dick, who passed away in September.

Jo Worthen's friend Cindy continues to struggle with cancer.

Alyssa Mulhern (friend of Diane Breeden) and her family, diagnosis and treatment for breast cancer

Melanie Pawl's healing after foot surgery

Michael Bryan recovering at home. Cards can be sent to 16 Holton Street, Woburn, MA 01801

Joan (friend of Wendy Williams) diagnosis and treatment for liver cancer

Janice Paradzick - reoccurrence of cancer

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

Marge Palmer's granddaughter, Rebecca, after her recent surgery.

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

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.