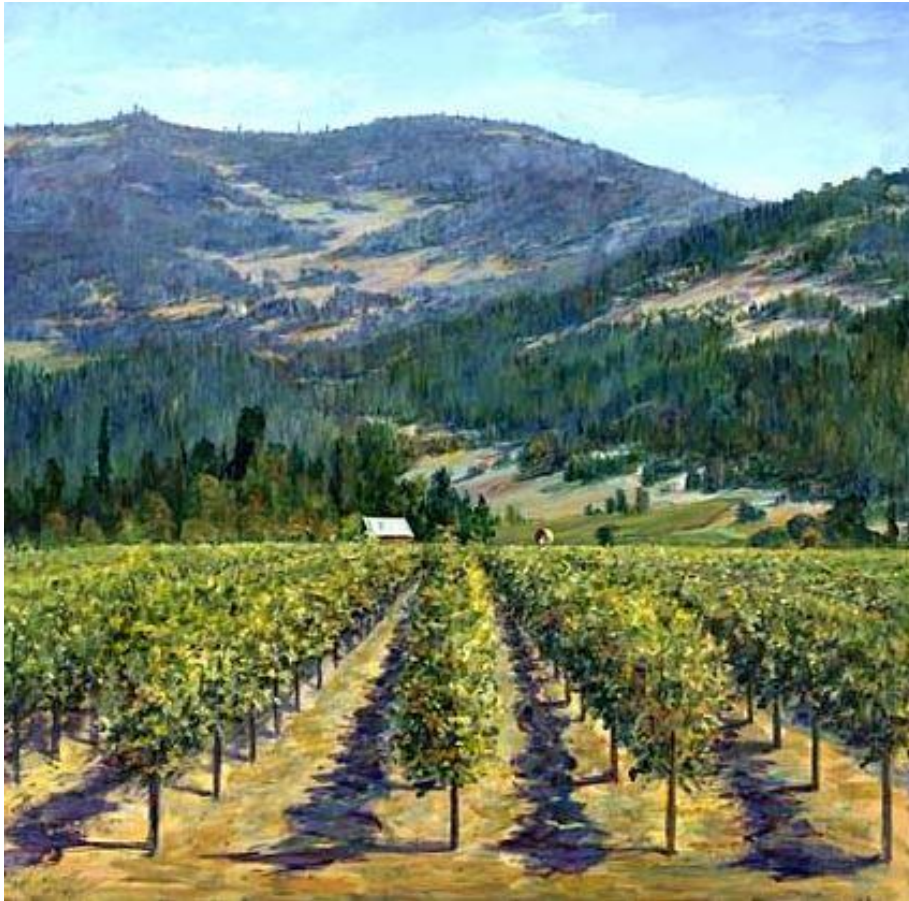


First Parish Congregational Church  
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041/ 47 East Derry  
Road  
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

**March 15, 2020**



PARABLE OF THE TENANTS  
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 #198 Lift High the Cross

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

One: God is gathering us from many different places.

**Many: God cares for us amid our pain and losses.**

One: We are delivered from our fears and saved from trouble.

**Many: Our lips pour forth laughter and joyous singing.**

One: Trust in the One who awakens joy in place of tears.

**Many: Let us bless our God in all times and places.**

\*INVOCATION (unison)

**All-powerful God, we invoke your presence among us, for we need the knowledge and energy you alone can provide. When our strength is spent, our vision clouded, and our hope gone, you reach out to us in ways we often fail to discern. We want to be a part of your faithful remnant in a world that too often loses sight of the holy. Help us, we pray. Amen.**

\***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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC: "How Can It Be?"

## **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."**

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US**

NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 12:1-17

<sup>1</sup> Then he began to speak to them in parables.

“A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watchtower; then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.

<sup>2</sup> When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard.

<sup>3</sup> But they seized him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed.

<sup>4</sup> And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted.

<sup>5</sup> Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed.

<sup>6</sup> He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’

<sup>7</sup> But those tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ <sup>8</sup> So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.

<sup>9</sup> What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. <sup>10</sup> Have you not read this scripture:

‘The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;

<sup>11</sup> this was the Lord’s doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

<sup>12</sup> When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd. So they left him and went away.

<sup>13</sup> Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. <sup>14</sup> And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? <sup>15</sup> Should we pay them, or should we not?”

But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it.” <sup>16</sup> And they brought one. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.”

<sup>17</sup> Jesus said to them, “Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were utterly amazed at him.

SERMON: “Utterly Amazed”

HYMN #290 Spirit of God Descend Upon My Soul

## **GOD’S MISSION AMONG US**

Liberty House in Manchester

## **WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

## PASTORAL PRAYERS

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

#### OFFERTORY INVITATION

Our offerings are to magnify God's name and to express our deep sense of thanksgiving. They are also an expression of empathy and concern for sisters and brothers who struggle to find life. Giving reorients our lives to what is of lasting value and importance. Let us give what we can with joy! The morning offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC: Spirit of the Living God

**\*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

**Hear our prayer for all who may be helped by what we give. We offer more than money; we offer ourselves. Keep us strong, that this church may give radiant witness to love, constructive opposition to fear, and merciful redemption to those caught up in the conflictedness of our times. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN #448 Take My Life God Let It Be

## 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 Joanne Worthen

USHERS Joe Weaver, Margie Ives, Michael Bryan

GREETER Carol Guerrin

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 15, 2020**

The Road to the Sanctuary ~ Please join us after Worship Service today to discuss the timeline and fundraising goals that will get us back into the sanctuary!

Jeff Nelson from **Liberty House in Manchester**, a nonprofit that helps homeless veterans, is presenting our Mission Moment. Liberty House and items needed:

<https://libertyhousenh.org/how-to-get-involved/>

Updated Address/phone numbers: We understand that many members/associate members have changed their addresses/ phone numbers/emails. Please call 434-0628 or email [officemgr@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:officemgr@fpc-ucc.org) to request an updated Member/

Associate Member list. They can be printed or emailed. If you have stopped receiving weekly eblasts, let us know. To update any information please send an email or complete the form located in the office. Thank you!

Links to videos about Ulster-Scots and settlement of Nutfield: Nancy Heywood mentioned at the history party three different videos produced by the Ulster-Scots Agency about the migration of Ulster-Scots to North America in 1718 and the settlement of Nutfield (early name for Derry). Please see a blog post (from the Nutfield History website) that contains information about the production of the videos and links too:

<https://www.nutfieldhistory.org/blog/ulster-scots-videos>

**Vendor Bingo** ~ Friday **April 3<sup>rd</sup>** 5:30-8:30. 10 rounds of bingo at no cost & the winner of each round receives a prize donated by our Vendors. \* Raffle Baskets! \* Shop in between rounds!\* Food & beverages! Flyers are in the lobby and please share the event on Facebook with family & friends!

**To Donate a Raffle Basket, please bring to the office after March 22<sup>nd</sup> Thank you!**

**301<sup>st</sup> Anniversary First Parish Meetinghouse Coloring Contest!** March 5<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>, 2020! Please pick up and drop off anytime until the deadline of noon on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Open to ages four and up! A winner will be selected from each age group and will be awarded a commemorative prize and the opportunity to ring the Meetinghouse bell on April 18th at



noon. Download the picture and the rules at [www.fpc-ucc.org](http://www.fpc-ucc.org)

**Lent is a great time to shed unused items of clothing or other soft goods!** Take advantage of our Used Clothing Drop-Off Shed! Items accepted: Clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, curtains and stuffed animals.

### **Mark your calendars!**

Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup> ~ 11:30 Gathering of the membership about a financial direction

Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> ~ 7:00 Council Meeting - Cook

Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> ~ 6:00 Potluck/ 7:00 A Lenten Wonder Wednesday service with Shellie Asetine.


Friday March 20<sup>th</sup> ~ CANCELLED- CONTRA Dance

Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup> ~ 9:00 Sunday School Volunteer Meeting- AB

Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ 11:30 Vacation Church Camp Volunteer Informational Meeting -AB

Pastor Deborah will be on vacation from March 17 – 24. If there is a pastoral emergency please contact a Deacon: Rachel Cobban (490-8635). Rev. Kathy Youzwak from Hampstead UCC is covering for me.

Please note that we will no longer have a fax machine in the church office- This will save the church almost \$450 this year! Please remove fax 603-437-3001 from your information. Thank you!

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 15, 2020**

### **PRAYERS OF JOY**

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.

Prepared to Serve: 16 members of First Parish attended.

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

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

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

## **PRAYERS OF HEALTH and HEALING**

Sheryl Hall (sister of Wayne Hall) has died. Pray for her wife Chris, Wayne and Lisa and their family

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.

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.

Joan Virga and her family who are grieving the death of her mother Vima LeJeune.

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

UPDATE: A member of the Nutfield Coop school family: Grace Theroux, 2, and her family for complete healing of the leukemia & strength & comfort for the family. She was released and doing home therapy

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

Bonnie Hillsgosdge, friend of Tim Beers

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

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.

## **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.

**Volunteers are needed for some basic tasks based on a church walk through on 3/8/2020. If you can do one of these please sign up! You may contact Michelle 434-0628 or email [officemgr@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:officemgr@fpc-ucc.org) Thank you!**

1. Under stage doors - fix hinges, wood glue and toothpicks
2. Adjust choir light
3. Replace 2 bulbs in Currier Hall
4. Wash windows in Currier Hall
5. Check lights in kitchen
6. Find thermometers for refrigerators.
7. Paint Currier hall door trim
8. ~~Hang new sign(s) in hall.~~ Michelle
9. Replace weather-strip on Currier hall door. Buy WS.
10. Replace missing bulb in women's and men's bathroom.
11. Check women's BR center stall toilet running.
12. Replace bulbs with LEDs.2. Buy 8'.
13. Replace bulbs, 2 8' in Deuteronomy.
14. Replace bulb in A/B. 8'
15. Add hook to hold front door open.
16. Paint step risers at playground exit.
17. The inside left Currier door crash bar needs work.
18. John room needs ceiling tiles replaced. 16-24
19. John room replace 2 4' bulbs
20. John Window Well covers -3
  
21. John TV- secure or remove.
22. Repair deacons' bench in John
23. Paint around John exit to crawl space.

24. ~~Replace Fire alarm box plaques in downstairs~~  
~~— hall -2. - Michelle~~
25. Replace 2 lights in the nursery.
26. ~~Placard for nursery, Luke, John -2 and Cook Evac~~  
~~— plan. - Michelle~~
27. Several safety issues in nursery.
28. Need Incandescent bulb in girl scout closet.
29. Consolidate shelf in downstairs men's BR into maintenance closet.
30. Spring clean Maintenance closet.
31. Replace downstairs women's bathroom with 4 4' LEDs.
32. Replace ceiling tiles - 24 tiles in women's BR downstairs.
33. Donate mirror for downstairs women's bathroom.
34. Replace downstairs hall lights 2 4'.
35. Wash downstairs hall and touch up hall.
36. Patch hole in staircase under railing.
37. Find cover for air vent in downstairs hall.
38. General Spring cleaning of all conference rooms, closets and front narthex.

Outside Clean-up will be on Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup>!