

## Thank you for joining us!

The members and friends of First Parish Church are so grateful to God for the historic jewel we steward in the 1769 Meetinghouse. Much attention and work has been faithfully accomplished. We have so much more to do. We take this opportunity to walk prayerfully, encircling the Meetinghouse with our prayers of thanksgiving. We walk, we pray, we give thanks. Learn about our history and walk alongside us into God's future.

### Station #1: Sanctuary Rehabilitation

*Exodus 15:17:* “You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own possession, the place, O Lord, that you made your abode, the **sanctuary**, O Lord, that your hands have established.”

O Lord, Many generations have gathered in the beautiful sanctuary inside our Meetinghouse. They have prayed and worshipped; we have baptized Your children, married folks in love and said goodbye to loved ones from this physical place. You have been present from one-story to two, from plain windows to stained glass, from decoratively painted ceilings to white tin. We feel at peace and in Your present when we enter in. Thank You, Lord, for the day when we will worship You again from inside this holy space. Amen.

### Station #2: Accessibility Connector

*Mark 10:9:* “Therefore what God has **joined together**, let no one separate.”

Gracious God, you were with the saints who built the Meetinghouse in 1769. You were with the saints who built the Noyes education building in 1973. Thank you for being with us in 2020 as we faithfully steward the connection between these two physical buildings – one for worship and connections, and one for education and connections. We honor you by making these buildings accessible to all of Your children on all levels. You connect us, God, to Yourself and to one another. We thank You for connections of all kinds. Amen.

### Station #7: Foundation & Timber Frame

*Ezra 3:11:* “and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.” And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the **foundation** of the house of the Lord was laid.”

Gracious God, in these times of anguish and distress, we thank You for the great power of Your compassionate love. We thank You as well for entrusting us with a share in the work of Your Spirit to bind us together as a community of faith, to build us into Christ's body, a parish family, a caring people. Empower us to be good stewards of our time, talent and treasure so that we may build the City of God, the only secure dwelling in our world.

We walk now, circling this sacred place, in profound gratitude that You ordained the raising of this building and the building of the solid structural foundation. Amen.



### First Parish Congregational Church, UCC

[www.fpc-ucc.org](http://www.fpc-ucc.org) • Facebook: [fpcucc](https://www.facebook.com/fpcucc)

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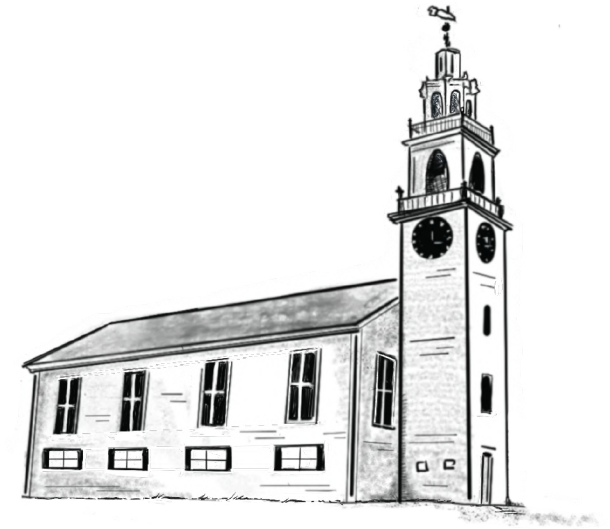
Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 9am–3pm

Sunday Services 10am via Zoom & Facebook Live

Many thanks to WJ Smallwood Landscaping for making the walking path safe through the woods.  
(603) 235-4851 • [www.wjsmallwood.com](http://www.wjsmallwood.com)

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LANDSCAPING

# Meetinghouse Prayer Circles



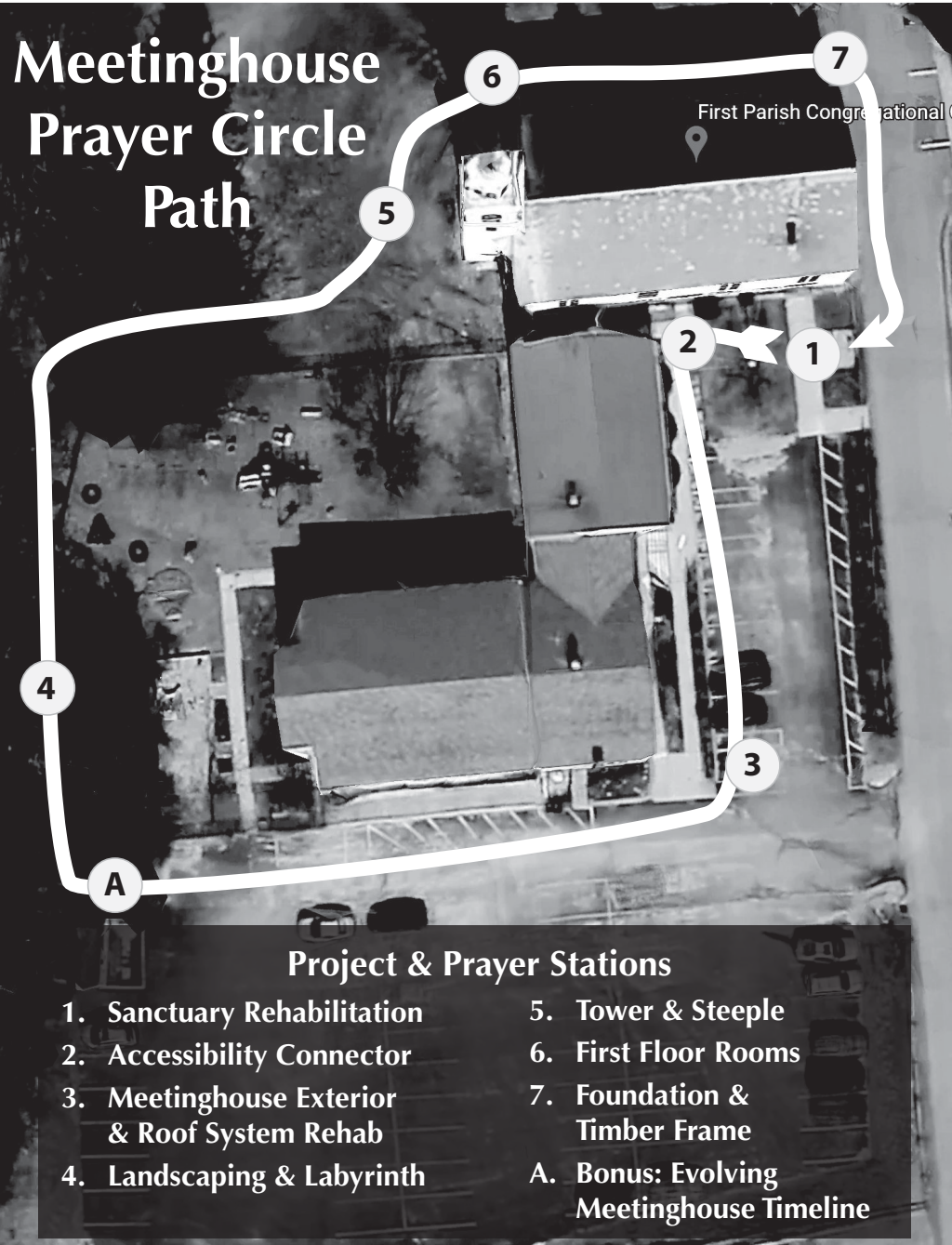
*Praying Circles of Gratitude Around the  
Meetinghouse at First Parish Church  
over Seven Weeks*

**Inaugural Walk Prayer Service**  
Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020 • 9:00am

**Closing Prayer Service**  
Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020 • afternoon

Feel free to walk and meditate—alone or in small groups with Covid precautions—any time between the opening and closing (except during Nutfield Cooperative Preschool hours, 9am–5pm, Mon., Tues. & Thurs.)

# Meetinghouse Prayer Circle Path



## Project & Prayer Stations

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| 1. Sanctuary Rehabilitation                  | 5. Tower & Steeple                       |
| 2. Accessibility Connector                   | 6. First Floor Rooms                     |
| 3. Meetinghouse Exterior & Roof System Rehab | 7. Foundation & Timber Frame             |
| 4. Landscaping & Labyrinth                   | A. Bonus: Evolving Meetinghouse Timeline |

### Station #3: Exterior & Roof

*Acts 9:31:* “Meanwhile the **church** throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was **built up**. Living in the (awe and knowledge) of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.”

Holy Spirit, Lord of all that is good, we thank You that we have had the opportunity to steward this physical place of worship and meeting. We have provided space for worship and a place for community groups to meet. We thank You that we can honor the craftsmen who fashioned these wooden boards and this slate roof. We continue to live in awe and knowledge of You, O Lord, as we give You thanks for providing the means to continue good stewardship of this treasure on East Derry hill. Amen.

### Meditation Bonus

#### Evolving Meetinghouse Timeline

Lord God of all Creation, You lead disciples of every generation. This building connects us to the pilgrims from Northern Ireland, McGregor’s people; it connects us to Parker’s people of the 1800’s; it connects us to those pilgrims of the 1900’s who added not one new building but a second one, as well. Thank You God for the examples of our faithful forebears as we continue to walk and work in Your world, guided by Your light and Your love. Amen.

### Station #4:

#### Exterior Landscaping & Labyrinth

*John 8:12:* “Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never **walk** in darkness but will have the light of life.”

Jesus, our Savior and our beloved brother, we walk with You in our minds’ eye and we walk with Your light in our hearts. We walk in thanksgiving that Your light is the light we can share. We walk the path of faith, the path of righteousness, the path of generosity and good stewardship. We walk with you, Jesus, and we give thanks to God your Father and our Father, your Creator and our Creator, for the magnificence of creation itself. We work to care for the flowers and trees that surround our Meetinghouse. Amen.

### Station #5: Tower and Steeple

*Proverbs 18:10:* “The name of the Lord is a **strong tower**; the righteous run into it and are safe.”

Lord, our God, Your name is our strong tower and this tower and steeple are mere symbols of your magnificence. We live in the shadow of the light that You shine. For centuries, the righteous have come to this place to know You better and to come into the fullness of Your Presence in our area. You are our safety, our safe harbor, our strength. Thank you for Your guidance and Your light. Amen.



### Station #6: First Floor Rooms

*Hebrews 10:24-25:* “And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to **meet together**, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Holy God, gracious Lord, we consider the many rooms that will be called upon to serve as meeting spaces, music rooms, education opportunities and nourishment. The first floor of this sacred building will see so many people of diverse backgrounds who will come to be fed in some way or another. Thank You, God, for the vision of elegant space planning and for the completion of that vision. Amen.