

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.

“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

Dear Child of God,

Welcome to the season of Advent! Advent is that time when Christians of nearly every description make their minds up to wait. Advent is two-thirds “adventure” and one-third “intention”. We make up our minds and we talk about waiting in terms of hope and peace and joy and love. These are not just pretty words for the faithful. These are ways of being in a world that worries, that is tainted by discord, that is discontent and that looks more at what is missing than at what is already present.

Every year, many of us spend more time in intentional prayer and meditation than the other 11 months. We spend time with Advent devotionals. We light the Advent wreath on Sunday morning. This “waiting” business never gets easier. Waiting in our culture is not anything that we might aspire to, for sure. AND Advent waiting is a holy and sacred time, a prayerful time.

Advent waiting is not *only* a time of hope, peace, joy, and love. It is a time of intention, a time of expectation, and a time of noticing all that we *can* be grateful for. Especially this year when Thanksgiving for many of us was extremely different from years past. And amid a holiday season that is so different, I am sure that your family – like mine – was still able to count blessings and make lists of things to be grateful for.

The Adult Faith Formation group is reading a book intitled “Unbinding the Gospel.” The chapter for this week’s class is about prayer, which is a language of intention. The author writes: “Prayer isn’t a sweet, nice, safe, naïve little activity to do in your flowery hat. It is crash helmet action for people who flip kayaks in raging spring rivers.” Whoa! When I read that, I wondered about my own personal prayer life -which I thought was pretty good - and I wondered if I was underestimating God! Perhaps my expectations of what God can do were too small. And I ponder these things in my heart.

WWII survivor of the death camps where she and her family were sent because they helped Jewish people escape from the Nazis, Corrie Ten Boom, said this: “The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something and enter God’s realm where everything is possible. God specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for God’s almighty power. Nothing is too small for God’s love.”

Martha Grace Reese, author of “Unbinding the Gospel”, suggests that all too often people will pray as a last resort. When the situation is dire, someone asks the question, “Is there nothing else we can do?” All too often the response is, “The only thing we can do now - is pray.” Think about that worldview. Praying as a last resort does not necessitate a crash helmet! But how often do we do just that? How often do we forget that in God’s realm everything is possible? I wonder.

As a consultant for church vitality, Reese meets with churches and listens to their hopes and dreams, their projects and their plans. They ask, “Where shall we get started?” Reese then suggests that the church leadership continue to meet per usual for the next three months but that their time would be spent totally in prayer. No agenda, no decisions – just prayer. Every meeting for the duration of the meeting; for three months. Just prayer. Reese does not report in her book the number of churches who say to her at the point, “Thank you but your services are no longer needed.” Although, I can imagine that it happens. She does go on to report the kinds of amazing and truly miraculous things that DO happen in several churches where their business meetings were converted to prayer meetings.

“Miraculous” describes these results. One participant writes this: “Prayer is subtle and so hidden... You have to let go of the idea that numbers matter or that it’s visible results that count. That’s very difficult for Americans to understand... But if we can leave the results of our prayer to God, if we can just praise God and listen to God rather than giving him a list of what we want, things do happen.”

Here at First Parish, our Mission statement says that we stand on a firm foundation of “worship, prayer, and education.” But do we pray enough? This Advent I am challenging myself to pray more. I would also like to challenge each one of you to pray more. I challenge you to praise more and to listen more but to ask less. If anyone wants a prayer partner, email me and I’ll match you with another person who would like a prayer partner. Or you may feel you don’t need me, and you call a friend and invite them to pray with you over the phone a few times a week. Or those of you that are couples, perhaps you can agree to pray together on a regular basis. If anyone wants to pray with me, email me and we will set up a time to pray together. One more quote from our book: Reese writes: “Prayer is a way to stay in love with

God. Prayer is the way individuals, small groups and congregations grow and become vivid. It is a habit, a discipline, but not discipline with a clenched jaw. Prayer is more about receiving from God than it is about asking God for things or working hard at intercession... Prayer involves effort, habit, and focus; but it results in lightness and energy and excitement.”

Let's enter into lightness and energy and excitement this Advent by growing our habit of prayer. As individuals, as small groups and as congregations, let us pray!

Hope, peace, joy and love! That is my prayer for each of you this Advent 2020.

Pastor Deborah

From the closet of Liturgical Arts!

What are liturgical arts? Broadly defined, **liturgical art** is any work of **art** that pertains in some way to the rite of Christian worship. This may include the altar, furnishings, vestments, candles, banners, and other ritual objects, and the architecture. **Liturgical Art** may also include visuals like pots, baskets and music, dance and drama.

I was looking through my photo album from years past of celebrations we have shared in the sanctuary and was surprised that I have been sharing this ministry with you since 2001! WOW!

It does not seem like work or 19 years (soon to be 20) at all. But it sure explains why and how I have collected so many items to add to our worship settings. I do want to share with you that it is no longer I, but we, who are sharing in the set up of worship visuals. Beth Hunter and Julie Turner have stepped into help when I have been away or unable to do the set up.

How do I approach the set up each Sunday? My first inspiration comes from the church season (Advent, Pentecost, Lent, Easter and Ordinary time). Then the scripture that the Pastor has selected to preach on any Sunday and sometimes it is brainstorming with the staff, Pastor, Christian ed director and Music minister. I would challenge you to sit down and read the scripture (or bulletin) sometime and see what you picture in your heart as you read the words. This is where I start and then, as I lay out the pieces of choice, I often stop to pray that my hands may do this work to His Glory.

At times I realize that my closet is a crazy mess, working in a small confined space is hard but when I walk into the curtained area (thank you Paul Lindemann) I begin to see the items that are in my heart and on my mind. Sometimes my plans change when I get to the church on Sunday morning and other times it flows together like it was meant to be. Facilities has purchased a rolling cart for my use in transporting items from my closet to Currier Hall, thank you again Facilities!! It will be put to great use when we return to in person worship.

I will write again as we move through this season of challenge. Prayers that all of you are well and staying safe. Peace, Diane Breeden

Christian Education and Faith Formation

Make Handmade Christmas Cards for Nursing Home Residents



~ Send an extra card this year

Anyone interested in sharing a little Christmas cheer, please join us in this endeavor to bring some holiday delight to the elderly community. It does not matter whether you choose a homemade creation or greeting card, just that you spread a little joy this holiday season. All cards and letters can be dropped off at the church in the box labeled "Christmas Card Dropoff." **The last day for drop-off will be December 20th.**

Winter Curriculum

Our Sunday School Winter Curriculum bags have been sent home to students, but don't worry if you still need printouts for the weekly lesson activities because we always post a downloadable form of our activities so that nobody misses out on the fun.

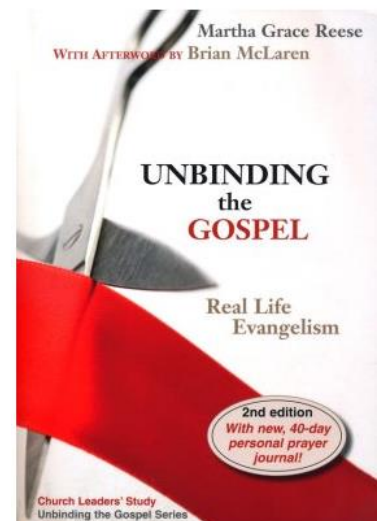
Advent Printouts



This month kids can enjoy a special Advent wreath craft, as well as a "waiting for baby Jesus" Advent chain craft. The November 29th lesson explains the meaning of Advent and each week we will light the consecutive Advent candle and add to our Advent chain before starting the lesson together.

Adult Faith Formation ~ Unbinding The Gospel

There are still books available in the front office for our latest book study. If you're looking for an inspiring look at ways to share your faith and connecting to a deeper and more meaningful prayer life, join us **Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm on ZOOM, always with the option of calling in.** Please email Christine Lehoullier to be sent the Zoom invite: cedirector@fpc-ucc.org.



December Friday Night Storytime



It's December, a magical time of anticipation and soooo many stories to tell! Miss Katie and storytelling during Christmastime go together like gingerbread houses and royal icing. **Join us Friday Nights, with the exception of Christmas Day, at 6:30 pm for Storytime on Zoom.** If you have not been receiving the Zoom invites, please let me know @ cedirector@fpc-ucc.org.



IT

CAME

TO PASS

IN THOSE

DAYS THAT

THERE WENT

OUT A DECREE

FROM CAESAR AU-

GUSTAS THAT ALL

THE WORLD SHOULD

BE TAXED: AND THIS

TAXING WAS FIRST MADE

WHEN CYRENIUS WAS GOV-

ERNOR OF SYRIA, AND ALL

WENT TO BE TAXED EVERYONE

INTO HIS OWN CITY. AND JOSEPH

ALSO WENT UP FROM GALILEE, OUT

OF THE CITY OF NAZARETH, INTO JU-

DEA, UNTO THE CITY OF DAVID WHICH

IS CALLED BETHLEHEM, BECAUSE HE WAS

OF THE HOUSE AND LINEAGE OF DAVID, TO

BE TAXED WITH MARY HIS ESPOUSED WIFE,

BEING GREAT WITH CHILD. AND SO, IT WAS

THAT WHILE THEY WERE THERE, THE DAYS WERE

ACCOMPLISHED THAT SHE SHOULD BE DELIVERED,

AND SHE BROUGHT FORTH HER FIRST-BORN SON,

AND WRAPPED HIM IN SWADDLING CLOTHES, AND

LAIHIM IN A MANGER BECAUSE THERE WAS

NO ROOM FOR THEM IN

THE INN.

LUKE 2:1-7

News from the Board of Deacons

Worship Services in December

After prayer and counsel from the UCC Conference, the Deacons feel services for Advent and Christmas Eve must remain socially distanced. We are extremely disappointed that we are unable to share this holy time with each of you in person, but we want everyone to move through the pandemic safely. It's important that our virtual hugs can one day soon become actual hugs.

Christmas Eve Services

4:00 pm Drive-in Service – Drive to the church where folks will help you park your car facing the kitchen door. You will be able to tune into a designated FM channel on your car radio to listen to Pastor Deborah and Joan, who will be doing the service live in the parking lot.

7:00 pm Prerecorded service - Available on Zoom and Facebook, it will be similar to the regular Sunday service. Pastor Deborah will be live on Zoom/Facebook to welcome you and share a benediction.

YouTube The prerecorded service will be placed on YouTube for viewing. You can choose the time to gather your family to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Poinsettias

It has become a cherished tradition to dedicate Poinsettias for display during the Advent season. The Deacons wish to continue this tradition in a virtual manner. Simply email Michelle and tell her in whose memory or honor you are giving your virtual poinsettia.

Your Deacons:

Diane Breeden, Sue Brown, Rachel Cobban, Sue Lindemann, Jack Martin, Brian Williams

Spiritual Care Network at Parkland Hospital

First Parish Church participates with other local churches in a program of providing spiritual care to patients at Parkland Hospital. We have provided presence when needed. Early in the pandemic many of the members at First Parish wrote cards of support to both patients and staff. We received many thanks and much gratitude for these simple acts of kindness.

So many of us feel so overwhelmed right now with things being so “different” this year. We look for ways to connect and we yearn to make a difference. As we approach Christmas, now, more than ever, a Spiritual Care Network is a way for us to support the people who are ill and in the hospital for the holidays, and also the hard working staff at Parkland. Sending a card is a small gesture with a huge impact. It would mean so much to the recipients.

If you would like to participate in this 2020 Christmas Card campaign, you can send the cards or leave the cards at the church. We will be happy to take them over to Parkland. Or you may send them directly to the following address: Staff at Parkland or Patient at Parkland; c/o Rosemary Crawford George; Parkland Medical Center; 1 Parkland Dr; Derry, NH 03038. Please use “First Parish” as your return address. May God multiply the blessings that we put out into the world.

Meetinghouse Preservation Update

Connector & Elevator Progress

As of the end of November:

- The **Connector Exterior** project is almost finished. Doors, windows, siding, and trim have been installed and painted, Two exceptions being the custom main front door and siding around it, and a set of heat-sensing louvers to be installed at the top of the elevator shaft. Both are expected to arrive and get finished in the first week of December.
- The Elevator has arrived and is in Stanley elevator's warehouse. Their team will soon visit to inspect the prep work and schedule the elevator installation (which will probably run through February).
- The necessary Elevator Support work is underway.
 - Morin Contracting Services has closed up the top of the elevator shaft and is working on framing the car doorway openings and other carpentry tasks. They'll also be installing the special elevator shaft Sump pump and it's exterior drainage system.
 - Liberty Electric is installing the electrical and fire alarm systems and will work with both Morin and Stanley throughout the elevator installation. We consulted with the Derry Fire Department and will follow their recommendations on the fire and heat sensing and alarm systems.
- The BAC is installing a temporary heater for the Connector and also have constructed a warm Break Room in the Meetinghouse to facilitate the winter work.

Including the Elevator Installation which actually runs into 2021, we're expecting the costs for this year's projects to total between \$225K and \$250K. Thanks to the successful Back to the Sanctuary Campaign,



significant memorial donations, and other contributions, we have over \$300K available for rehab, yielding a good starting fund for next year's work.

2021 Projects

The Connector work has kept us quite busy. After the holidays, we'll focus on resuming planning and getting quotes for the main projects targeted for 2021:

1. **Meetinghouse Exterior Painting:** ^[L]_[SEP]Current rough estimate = ~\$180K
Includes various repairs and lead paint remediation. We applied for but did not win an LCHIP grant to help with the prerequisite East Portico. Rehab.
2. **Connector Interior:** ^[L]_[SEP]current rough estimate = ~\$110K
Includes designing and finishing all the interior and breaking through to Noyes' upper and lower levels. This gives us elevator use for Noyes (incl. Nutfield Preschool).
3. **Sanctuary & Narthex Rehab:** ^[L]_[SEP]rough estimate = ~\$400K
This is a large and complex project and ambitious goal, but we will pursue completing as much of the Sanctuary work as funding and resources enable.

Watch for more information on 2021 plans and projects at the Annual Meeting.

Your Building Advisory Committee,
Larry Krantz, Paul Lindemann, Bill Mann, Bob Wilson

Follow facebook.com/nuthist for project updates and photos.



Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

Jesus said "Whatever you do the least of these you do to me"

Because of your generosity we were able to give \$50 grocery gift cards to 15 families this year for Thanksgiving. Due to covid we were unable to do our usual Thanksgiving Baskets. I am continually amazed at how giving and loving this congregation is. THANK YOU!!

We are doing Angel Tree this year. It will be different. The Angel Tree gift tags have been put on the Mission Bulletin Board. Michelle will have the door unlocked between the hours of 11:00-noon and 1:30-2:30. You may come in and get a tag/s at those times. If you need to come at a different time please call the office to schedule a time. You will need wear a mask and follow safety protocol including social distancing and sanitizing hands.

We started out with 20 children and 60 gift tags and have 30 gift tags left. The tree is on the Mission Bulletin board and ready for you to make your selections!

Please call before coming! We will unlock the front door daily at approximately 11-12 & 1:30-2:30. You may contact the office if you would like to schedule a different time to come in. You must wear a mask and observe all other safety protocols, to include hand sanitizing and physical distance. Please call Michelle 603-434-0628 or Beth to arrange an alternate option.

Please, make sure you fill in the signup sheet that is on the clip board. Wrapped gifts need to be returned by Thurs. Dec. 17.

If you have any questions you may call Beth Hunter 603-505-0702

Your Mission Board,

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

Hope for the Holidays ~ Community Caregivers

Community Caregivers will again provide the elderly and disabled with some holiday cheer this season with your help! They have asked the clients to pick from one of five predetermined gift cards in the case that they have to be mailed instead of hand-delivered this year due to climbing positive Covid cases in Southern NH. We ask that you choose a gift card of your choice & return to 6 West Broadway, Unit 6, Derry in an unsealed holiday greeting card with the prepared tag by Dec.11th.

Some of these folks have either outlived their family or are isolated and alone.

Many have family staying away for their safety and health.

Help bring some joy to someone this holiday season!

Community Caregivers of Greater Derry & The Loaner's Closet for Durable Medical Equipment
6 West Broadway, Unit 6 Derry, NH 03038 (603) 432-0877

www.comcaregivers.org Visit our website to sign up for email updates from Community Caregivers or like us on Facebook.

Back to the Sanctuary

As we close out this year the Back to the Sanctuary group wishes to thank everyone who has contributed in any way to our fundraising efforts. In the midst of a pandemic we were able to fund the exterior connector work and the elevator installation. The group was pessimistic in March when we set out but, hallelujah, your response was great!

Obviously our work is not done and we will soon set forward to achieving our 2021 goals, hopefully moving us ever closer to returning to the sanctuary. It is not easy raising money. It is not easy asking for money either. But we have an old church and there are so many structural needs.

As we discussed in our November newsletter-if you have not completed your 2020 pledge, please try to do so if you are able. If you feel you could make an end of year gift (it helps with taxes!) please do so.

Together we will get there and what a day it will be when we walk back into our beautiful sanctuary with its cushioned seats, age old balcony, pipe organ and a pulpit that has given us so much inspiration with our minister preaching there. Personally, it is a dream that I know we can make come true with prayer and hard work.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season. God bless you.

Sue Lindemann, Margie Ives, Anne Marie Merrill and Cyndi Gray

Church Service Videos

Church Service Videos

Enjoy these pieces we've used at recent Sunday services (click an image to play in YouTube or go to *FPC-UCC Digital* on YouTube to see them all).

Joan Offertory Music
(Nov. 8, 2020)



Hand Chimes Choir
(Nov. 22, 2020)

Joan: Jesu, Joy of
Man's Desiring
(Nov. 29, 2020)



The Allen Family:
Expressions of
Gratitude
(Nov. 22, 2020)

Family Promise Annual Fundraiser

Like many events, the annual Homeward Bound fundraiser for Family Promise will be held virtually this year instead of in person. The good news is that you don't need to get dressed up or purchase a ticket. The challenge is that we need your support more than ever. This is an incredibly important time in the organization's history--the renovations to create our new facility will be completed in Dec this year and we will be open for up to 12 families on Jan 1! The fundraiser--our largest--is critical to our continued success.



A silent auction will be held online, and you can bid on the items offered any time between Friday Nov 27 at 9am until the close of the auction during the event on Thursday, Dec 3, 7-8 pm. You can register to see and bid on these items and to "attend" the event by going to <https://familypromisesnh.home.qtego.net>. Pre-register now at this link to save time. A credit/debit card is needed to register for the auction but your card is not charged unless you win the item. Then, on Thur Dec 3 at 7pm, you can livestream the festivities from the comfort of your home. Homeward Bound will be live-streamed on Youtube and Facebook and the link will be sent directly to everyone that has registered. The night of the event you can enjoy an hour of fun hosted by radio's Jadd Naamani and Homeward Bound auctioneer Rich Terrio.

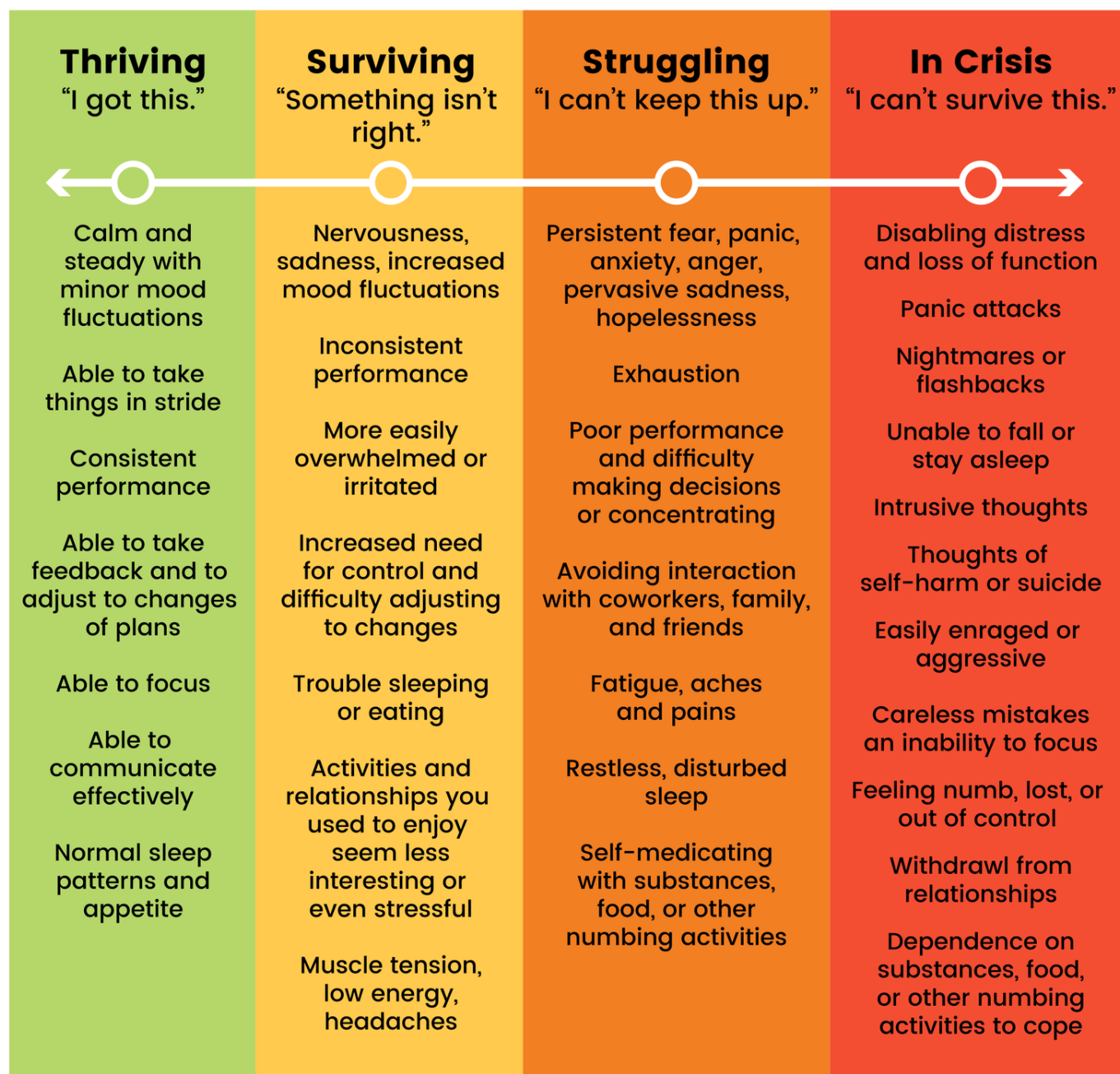
The musical guest will be the very talented Broadway performer Michael Spaziani. Michael is a Nashua native acclaimed for both his musical and dramatic Broadway performances (West Side Story, The Great Gatsby, Spamalot, Legally Blonde, Into the Woods, etc.). He is currently based out of New York City and will be performing specifically for the guests of Homeward Bound!

At the event, you can also continue bidding on New England vacation getaways, high-end wine and spirits, gift baskets, gift cards, priceless art, and many other items that will make perfect holiday gifts. You can also purchase a Raffle Ticket (in advance and at the event) for the highly coveted Homeward Bound Scratch Ticket Christmas Tree. Buy one (1) raffle ticket for \$25 or ten (10) chances to win for \$200. The winner will be announced live at Homeward Bound.

Randy Brown

Family Promise of Southern NH

Healthy Strategies and Helpful Hints



Adapted from: Watson, P., Gist, R., Taylor, V., Evlander, E., Leto, F., Martin, R., Vaught, D., Nash, W.P., Westphal, R., & Litz, B. (2013). Stress First Aid for Firefighters and Emergency Services Personnel. National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

Healthy Strategies and Helpful Hints continued..

In this issue of the newsletter, we want to provide you with some helpful hints as we continue to navigate this pandemic.

Cultivate a positive attitude by reframing negative thoughts, using positive visualization and scheduling a positive activity. Negative thoughts are normal at a time like this. Reframing can become a habit. When a thought comes, such as: “I can’t keep up with this volume of work and stress.” Turn it into: “This is hard. I am doing the best I can. I can take breaks, regroup, and try again”. Positive visualization is as simple as starting your day by imagining -first thing in the morning - your day going well. At the end of the day, replay any positive events that happened. Finally, don’t be afraid to actual schedule a positive activity for yourself. Write it in your calendar or put it into your phone. It doesn’t have to be complicated. When that alarm goes off, put on your favorite song, or take a walk, or sit and gaze out a favorite window.

Engage in mindfulness practices: Pastor Deborah has shared that doing regular labyrinth exercises has helped her mental health these last nine months. We are in a state of heightened neurobiological responses (i.e. stress, loss, grief). Our brain only needs 20 seconds of experiencing a pleasant sensation to turn the smoke detector that is blaring in our brains. The labyrinth is perfect. So is any form of creativity, as well as yoga or meditation. Deep breathing exercises work wonders.

Mindfulness and curiosity are two superpowers that can help us cope. Think about “observing” things rather than “judging”. Remember to laugh at your mistakes.

Be assertive instead of aggressive. Let’s face it: stress makes us feel irritable and causes us to react in ways that create conflict—and that creates more stress. Be aware before you get angry, defensive, or passive-aggressive.

Remember: Your body can fight stress better when it is fit & fed. Even a 15-minute walk has been shown to have a big impact on reducing stress. Eating healthy, well-balanced meals is also important when we’re under increased stress.

Reflect on what brings meaning and joy to your life. This pandemic may have you feeling disoriented and even grief-stricken. Do your best to nurture a sense of normalcy, meaning and hope. Make a gratitude list. Try journaling. Walk in nature as often as you can. Surround yourself with inspirational quotes and artwork – especially ones that bring you joy. Watch a good movie. Play a game. Listen to a good song. Play your musical instrument. Read a good book. Clean another drawer. Create something.

Set boundaries. Don’t be afraid to say no. Navigating this unknown territory is exhausting. Take a nap!

Maybe you have found other things that are helping you deal with the difficulties of 2020. Send Pastor Deborah an email and tell her what works for you.

Remember the words of Julian of Norwich:

“All shall be well. All shall be well. All manner of things shall be well.”

December Worship Services and Events

Worship Services are Sunday mornings at 10:00am. These are currently virtual-only. Participate with Zoom (see the pre-service church eBlast for meeting details) or live on our Facebook page (facebook.com/fpcucc).

Worship Services using the Narrative Lectionary 2020-2021 (Readings for Year 3 ~ Luke)

December 6 – Advent 2, Communion Sunday

Joel: God's Promises a New Covenant: Joel 2:12-13, 28-29

Turn to a merciful God, promise of the Spirit.

Greeters: Jack Martin and Sue Brown

December 13 – Advent 3

Spirit of the Lord upon Me: Isaiah 61:1-11

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to bring good news, liberty, and to make an everlasting covenant.

Greeters: Rachel Cobban and Katie Cobban

December 20 – Advent 4

Jesus' Birth Announced: Luke 1:26-45

Announcement of Jesus' birth to Mary; he will receive the throne of David.

Greeters: Anne-Marie Merrill and Sue Lindemann

December 24 – Christmas Eve (see page 6 for details)

4:00 pm Drive In Service

7:00 pm Prerecorded Service – Zoom & Facebook

December 27

First Sunday of Christmas Luke 2:21-38

Simeon and Anna, Lord now you let your servant depart in peace.

Greeters: Katie Cobban and Jack Martin



TUESDAY in DECEMBER:



December 1, 8, 15, 22 Labyrinth Finger Walks

Tuesday at 6:00pm

Zoom-only group meditation; email the office to receive an invitation.

There are downloadable versions of three different labyrinths on our website. Try this mindfulness practice and de-stress your life!

December 1, 8, 15 Adult Faith Formation Book Group: We are reading

Unbinding the Gospel

Tuesday at 6:45pm.

Together we are learning the true meaning of evangelism and the profound value of prayer.

**First Parish
Congregational Church, UCC**

(603) 434-0628

Mailing Address:
PO Box 114
E Derry, NH 03041

Location:
47 East Derry Road

Office Hours

Temporarily closed to the public;
please call to make an appointment.

Monday – Friday
9:00am – 3:00pm

Online

www.fpc-ucc.org
facebook.com/fpcucc

Administrative Assistant

Michelle Guerrin:
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603-434-0628

Senior Pastor and Teacher

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org



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

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East Derry, NH 03041-0114

Address Service Requested