

# 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.

## Upcoming Events

November 1

Deacons Meeting ~ 6:30

November 2

Stewardship Meeting ~ 7:00

November 5

CE Meeting ~ 11:00

November 8

K.I.T ~ 12:30

November 15

Council Meeting ~ 7:00

November 18

Sugar Plum Fair

November 19

Mission Meeting ~ 11:30

November 20

Structure Meeting ~ 7:00

November 24

Spaghetti Supper ~ 5:00

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Child of God,

The Adult Faith Formation program invites you to participate in reading a book by Nadia Bolz-Weber, entitled Pastrix, a term used by some Christians who refuse to recognize women clergy. Like many oppressed persons who reclaim a word that has been used to demean or degrade them, Bolz-Weber embraces this otherwise insult and steps boldly and decidedly into the realm of a loving and compassionate God. When marketing her book Amazon calls this book a "messy, beautiful, prayer-and-profanity laden narrative about an unconventional life of faith."

We begin as a group on November 7 and we will meet four Tuesday's, from 6:30-8:00pm. I have encouraged members of Council to read this book. I have encouraged folks in worship to read this book. And now, dear reader, I am encouraging you to read this book. Come, join our discussions if you can. We will read 5 chapters at a time. Have the first five chapters read by the first class.

Why?

Because reading brings people together.

Because reading Nadia's faith journey will encourage participants to share **their** faith journey.

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> Century Church in Hampshire, England



## *From the Pastor's Desk Continued*

Because sharing stories of our faith journeys with one another will bring us together as God's people.

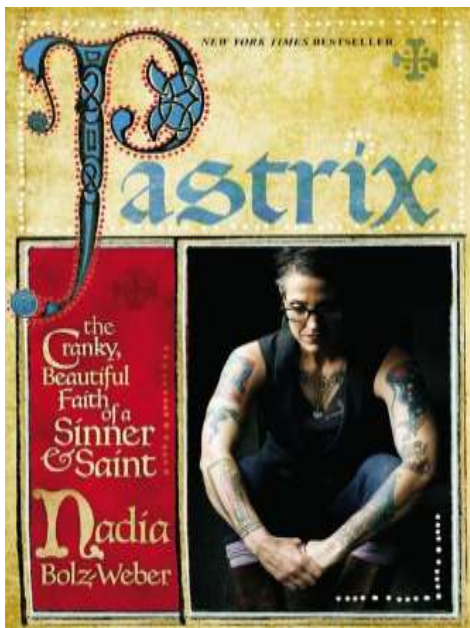
Because we are all God's children and we all see God and seek God and want to hear more and learn more.

Because God created us to be in relationship with the divine and with one another and because being in relationship means that we can learn so much from one another when we share our faith stories, our God-sightings, our God-incidents, our blessings and our trials.

Nadia talks about our God of amazing abundance. She refers to Matthew's Gospel and the feeding of the multitudes. She writes: "I was reminded again of the loaves and fishes. 'What do we have?' they asked. 'We have nothing. Nothing but a few loaves and a couple of fish.' And they said this as though it were a bad thing. The disciples' mistake was also my mistake: They forgot that they have a God who created the universe out of 'nothing,' that can put flesh on dry bones 'nothing,' that can put life in a dusty womb 'nothing.' I mean, let's face it, 'nothing' is God's favorite material to work with." (Page 104)

Join us in reading this journey of faith - whether you attend the class or not - and may God's abundant blessing be upon us!

Peace and all good,  
Pastor Deborah



## Meetinghouse Preservation Updates

Work on the Tower Base project continues, with an array of new timber beams being delivered 10/27/17. These include the two 60' long posts Arron Sturgis and the Preservation Timber Framing crew will drop in from the top, probably in mid-November, after carefully preparing their joinery down on the ground. See a time-lapse video of the timbers being delivered – and more project updates – here on the public Nutfield History Facebook page: [/bit.ly/timbers-timelapse](https://bit.ly/timbers-timelapse).



Among other events, the Friends will host an info and fundraising table at the Sugar Plum Fair White Elephant Sale. Yes, the White Elephant is back, and in the Meetinghouse! This is thanks to a combo of the Facilities, Building Advisory, and Historic Preservation Committees and the Friends working together to clean and heat the Narthex (lower level vestibule) and the former Music Room and Parker Library space to enable the Sale. Be sure to stop by to find some treasures, inside of our own real treasure of an historic landmark.

Paul Lindemann, for the BAC and Friends of the Meetinghouse

## Board of Christian Education

### Christian Education/ Faith Formation /Youth Ministry Updates



- Are you in 13 or older?
- Are you feeling like you're ready to explore what your faith means to you?
- Have questions that you think aren't ok to ask in church?

*Then perhaps confirmation is for you!*

We'd like to offer a confirmation class in 2017-2018. If you're interested in being confirmed, contact Pastor Deborah or Christine Lehoullier ASAP ([cedirector@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:cedirector@fpc-ucc.org))! Christian development is a life-long process with lots of periods of faith and doubt. Confirmation is a way to take that next step toward maturity in faith. We hope you'll join us! More information will be available on our website soon...



**CityReach** is an overnight urban outreach program for youth (ages 14+ with accompanying adults), young adults, and college students from churches of any denomination. The program gives these young people the opportunity to learn first-hand about homelessness from people who have experienced it. If you are interested in participating with us Friday, March 9 to Saturday, March 10, 2018, [please contact Christine Lehoullier, Chris Cox or Paula Robinson ASAP.](#) The earlier we send in registration, the better! Find out more @ <http://commoncathedral.org/cityreach/>

# Board of Christian Education

(Continued)

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION BOOK DISCUSSION

November 7, 14, 21, and 28, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

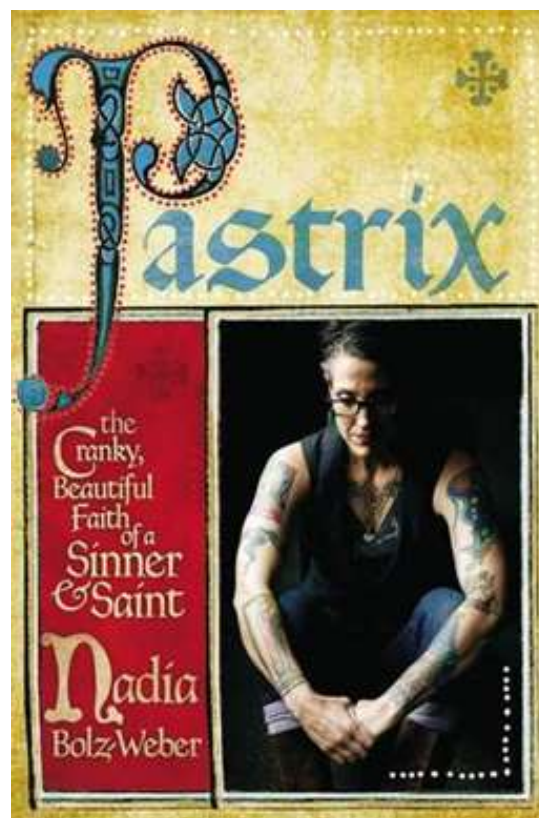
(we will discuss 5 chapters per class)

### **FEATURING:**

Foul-mouthed and heavily tattooed, former standup comic-turned-Lutheran pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber weaves hilarious rants and stunning theological insight into her personal narrative of a flawed, beautiful, and unlikely life of faith. Bizarre, rich, and remarkable, PASTRIX turns spiritual memoir on its ear in a sardonically irreverent and beautifully honest page-turner that readers will never forget.

Contact: Christine Lehoullier or The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof @ #603-434-0628 or Sign up on the FPC website: <http://fpc-ucc.org/christian-education/adult-faith-formation-interest-survey/>

Come Join Us!



## Prepared to Serve 2018

*God's various gifts are handed out everywhere;  
but they all originate in God's Spirit.  
God's various ministries are carried out everywhere;  
but they all originate in God's Spirit.  
1 Corinthians 12:4-5 (MSG)*

Save the Date:

**February 24, 2018**

**Pembroke Academy**

**109 Academy Road**

**Pembroke, NH**

## *Adult Faith Formation Creations*

### A PSALM OF LAMENT

*To be sung to the tune of FINLANDIA*

*10.10.10.10.10.10.*

Let us sing songs of heartfelt lamentation;  
 Ask God, "Oh why must we hear news so dark?  
 Must we bear on when those around us suffer?  
 Each child so poor, and mother weep in fear."  
 No help is giv'n, but God is ever with us.  
 The promises of God will set us free.

*Debbie Gline-Allen*

The Slow Down Psalm  
 By: Christine Lehoullier

I was drowning, being pulled by the undertow,  
 Caught up in my own chaos, spinning like a tornado,  
 In the daily race, my heart pounds and breath quickens,  
 Muscles tense and temper hastens.

One's soul is sickened by devouring the life, in one fell swoop, that you've  
 bestowed upon us.  
 To appreciate the life you've blessed us with is to savor each morsel, each  
 moment, each minute.

Lord Almighty, you lift my heart,  
 You give me wings to ascend the flames that may consume me.  
 Glorious Father, you lighten my burdens,  
 And free me from the chains I have fashioned for myself.

Allow me to grow steady and slow with your grace,  
 So that I will not be moved like a towering tree rooted with your love and honor.  
 Widen my vision to see the forest for the trees,  
 And remind me that life is measured not by it's speed.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thank you for sending life's little stop signs.  
 Thank you for the autonomous happiness that springs forth watching the  
 freedom in a dog's eyes when riding in a car with their head out of the window,  
 Thank you for the freedom a smile on a child's face brings to my soul,  
 And for the calming warmth of a healing hug. Amen.

## *Board of Christian Outreach and Missions*

**Thanksgiving Baskets:** For many this is the hardest time of the year to get through and the time in which many of us need a helping hand. Each year the Board of Christian Outreach and Missions receives a list of names of people who need some extra help managing the holidays. Recipients are recommended to us through a number of organizations such as the Derry Community Caregivers, The Upper Room, and by word of mouth. If you know of anyone or any family that is in need of help this holiday season, please talk to Pastor Deborah so that we may add them to our list.

Missions will have a table setup in Currier hall on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be providing grocery bags for collecting the Thanksgiving food along with any special instructions. Written on each bag will be one or more item(s) which we will need in order to complete a basket.

Food will be collected up to and including Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be collection baskets at the side entrance to the Church outside of Currier Hall. The baskets will be distributed to individuals/families on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**Missions Giving:** The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions is thankful to each of you for sharing so generously with those in our community who are struggling. We can do nothing without your kindness. Below is our list of charities who received your support last month:

Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) - \$350.00  
Sonshine Soup Kitchen - \$100.00  
First Baptist Food Pantry - \$100.00  
Community Caregivers - \$100.00  
Derry Friendship Center - \$100.00  
Pastoral Counseling - \$100.00  
Upper Room - \$100.00  
Pastor Discretionary Fund - \$200.00

Please note that the amount of funds available for Missions work is what you designate on your Pledge card. You may also designate money towards special offerings throughout the year by writing Missions in the memo field of your check followed by where you want the donation to go. For example: *Missions: Hurricane Harvey Relief*. The Missions board will send the donation to its destination in the most efficient way.

# Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

(Continued)

**Liberty House:** Liberty House is having its annual Liberty House drive and will be collecting on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to donate, please bring your items to the Church by November 12<sup>th</sup>. The Liberty House in Manchester, NH has been providing a safe, supportive, substance-free housing community for more than a decade for American veterans transitioning out of homelessness. Since opening their doors in 2004, a dedicated team of staff and volunteers has helped more than 200 homeless veterans rejoin their communities and regain fulfilling, independent lives.

## LIBERTY HOUSE WISH LIST

*Donations can be dropped off at 75 W. Baker St, Manchester NH during daylight hours.*

### FOOD

- ☆ Pasta & Pasta Sauce
- ☆ Canned Soup
- ☆ Mac & Cheese
- Canned Tuna
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Chicken
- Fruit Cups & Canned fruit
- Granola bars
- Spam
- Canned potatoes
- Beans
- Canned ravioli
- Canned veggies
- Ramen noodles

### CLOTHING

- ☆ Men's shorts waist sizes (30-34)
- ☆ Men's workboots, sizes (10-10.5 preferred)
- ☆ Men's sneakers all sizes
- Men's jeans waist sizes (30-34)
- Men's and women's hooded sweatshirts
- Men's boxers small, medium and large
- Flannel Shirts
- Thermal Underwear
- Socks
- Women's Clothing

### HOUSEHOLD

- ☆ Paper towels
- ☆ Toilet paper
- 35 gallon trash bags
- Air freshener

### MISC

- ☆ Bicycles
- Shaving razors (disposable)
- Shaving cream
- Deodorant
- Conditioner full size
- Shampoo full size

### HOMELESS ASSISTANCE

- ☆ Sleeping bags
- ☆ Backpacks
- ☆ Tents
- Can Openers
- Tarps
- Blankets

Respectfully Submitted,

**The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions (BOCOM):** Joe Weaver, Sue Brown, Beth Hunter, Karen Wilson, Kathy Holland, Bart Wetherbee, Melanie VanSteenburg



## *Board of Stewardship*

### **Pledge Cards**

Please return your financial pledges, along with your pledges of time and talent, anytime between now and by November 12.

You may certainly bring them to church and put them in the offering plates. You may mail them. You may bring them into the office in person. We will ask God's blessing upon all gifts received at the November 12<sup>th</sup> service.

## *Financial Update*

### **How are we doing?**

Financial Report as of 9/30/2017	Received	Budgeted
Pledges to date	\$137,669	\$144,000
Plate offerings to date	\$16,508.17	\$20,625

## *Nominating Committee*

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed Citizens can change the World. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead.

Our Nominating Committee is working diligently to find a few passionate parishioners who want to make a positive difference for our church.

Do you have ideas for Membership, Stewardship, Diaconate? Another board or committee? New people change the dynamics! Join us. We will be recruiting for the coming year. God Bless Us All!

Nominating Committee

## *Membership Committee*

The Outdoor Ministry has received a lot of positive feedback as we see the number of participants increase. We have been primarily hiking the local town forests and conservation areas, although we have gone on bike rides, walked the rail trails, and kayaked. We look forward to other outdoor activities as the season changes. Won't you join us, too? Send me, Brian Williams an e-mail at [willibi1910@gmail.com](mailto:willibi1910@gmail.com) to be added to the mailing list.

Being in the outdoors is an avocation of mine. How about you? What do you enjoy doing with your "free" time? Do you have a hobby, activity, or have an interest in something that you would like to share? Please send me an email and let me know, or talk to one of our committee members.

Submitted by,  
Brian Williams on behalf of the Membership Committee and Lianne Deranian, Hilary Gorgol, and Paula Robinson

## *Church Structure Committee*

A committee has been formed to study the current structure of our church and possible other models which might be more effective. There is an opinion that maybe there are too many boards and committees in the current structure resulting in an inability to fill all of the open positions.

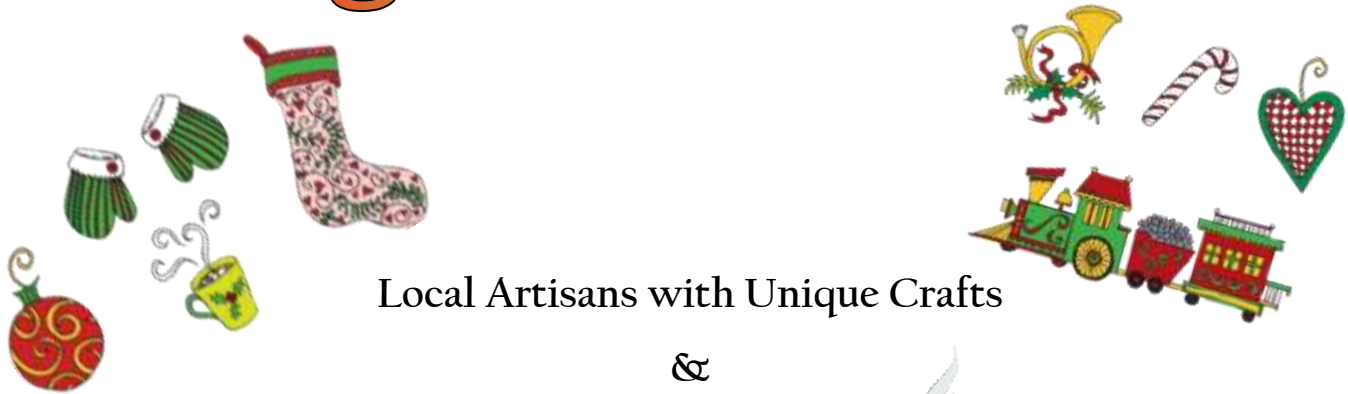
The committee members are: John Bartel, Becky Fleury, Cyndi Gray, Anne LaDuke, Fred Merrill, Melanie VanSteensburg, and Pastor Deborah.

The committee has met three times so far. Fred has produced documentation of several other models currently in use by other churches in the New Hampshire Conference. The committee will now be looking at those in more detail. One of the meetings was a chance to meet two people from the Deerfield church. They gave an excellent presentation of how their church is currently structured but at this time the committee does not feel that their structure would be a good fit for First Parish.

The committee will meet again in November, so stay tuned for the latest news on church structure.

Submitted by John Bartel on behalf of the Church Structure Committee.

# 73rd Annual Sugar Plum Fair



Local Artisans with Unique Crafts

&

Special Holiday Gifts!



200 Dozen Cookies in the  
Famous FPC Cookie Walk

White Elephant Sale in the Meetinghouse!

Yummy Hot Soups, Delicious Sandwiches

&

Satisfying Treats and Refreshments



**SATURDAY, Nov. 18, 2017**

**9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

First Parish Congregational Church

47 East Derry Road

East Derry, NH 03041

## Scripture Readings

*Readings are from the Revised Common Lectionary for  
Sundays and Festivals – Year A*

### November 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Josh 3:7-17 • Ps 107:1-7, 33-37 OR  
Mic 3:5-12 • Ps 43  
1 Thess 2:9-13  
Matt 23:1-12

### November 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Josh 24:1-3a, 14-25 • Ps 78:1-7 OR  
Wisd of Sol 6:12-16 or Amos 5:18-24  
Wisd of Sol 6:17-20 or Ps 70  
1 Thess 4:13-18  
Matt 25:1-13

### November 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Judg 4:1-7 • Ps 123 OR  
Zeph 1:7,12-18 • Ps 90:1-8 (9-11), 12  
1 Thess 5:1-11  
Matt 25:14-30

### November 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezek 34:11-16,20-24 • Ps 100 OR  
Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24 • Ps 95:1-7a  
Eph 1:15-23  
Matt 25:31-46

## Worship Schedule

### Deacons of the Month:

Cindy Pingree and Reni Harnden

### Ushers & Greeters

**Weekly Usher** – Michael Bryan

#### November 5<sup>th</sup>:

Ushers: Diaconate

Greeter(s): Verna Elwell & Shirley Dickason

#### November 12<sup>th</sup>:

Ushers: Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell,  
Nancy Berry, and Pat Cefaly

Greeter(s): Betsy McCall

#### November 19<sup>th</sup>:

Ushers: John Bartel, Brian Williams,  
Pat Cefaly and Joan Crimlisk

Greeter(s): Liz Greenberg

#### November 26<sup>th</sup>:

Ushers: Ken Gould, Dee Deranian,  
Shirley Dickason and Reni Harnden

Greeter(s): Beth Hunter

# First Parish Congregational Church, UCC

## First Parish Congregational Church

PO Box 114, 47 East Derry  
Road, E Derry, NH 03041

### Office Hours

Monday: Closed  
Tuesday: 8:00-2:00  
Wednesday: 9:00-4:00  
Thursday: 9:00-4:00  
Friday: 8:00-2:00

### Check us out on the web

[www.fpc-ucc.org](http://www.fpc-ucc.org)

Administrative Assistant,  
Hannah Collier:

[officemgr@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:officemgr@fpc-ucc.org)  
603-434-0628

Senior Pastor and Teacher  
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof:  
[pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org)

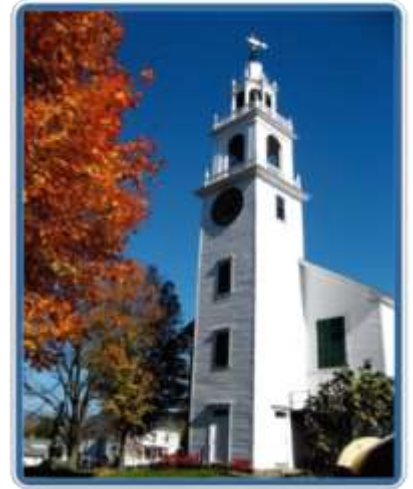
You are most warmly invited:

10:00 am Sunday Worship & Church School  
11:00 am Coffee Hour

## First Parish Congregational Church History

**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 Church** became an independent community church in the Congregational tradition about 1810 as new settlers came to the area. Through the years the church has always had a strong instinct for both survival and faithfulness. In 1973 and again in 1985, we made major commitments to educational and community ministry through the additions of Noyes Hall and Currier Hall. We joined the United Church of Christ in 1995.



First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
47 East Derry Road  
PO Box 114  
East Derry, NH 03041-0114  
**Address Service Requested**