

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.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Child of God,

Happy July! Happy summer! Happy adventuring!

At our Wonder Wednesday worship service this month (June 27) we pondered together the Almighty power and Presence of our loving God. We explored Psalm 149 together and we sang songs like "How Great thou Art." Our musician friends from Compassionate Care Hospice led us in song with guitar and violin in the most inspiring ways. As we sing and pray together we are often in awe of God's creation and God's restorative love. One person concluded: "We are all just walking each other home." Maybe it was the setting; maybe it was the context but this sentiment was profoundly moving for all of us.

You weren't with us but try to imagine. We heard the Psalmist's words: "O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely." How comforting are these words! And then we sang: "Light of the world You stepped down into darkness - Opened my eyes let me see Beauty that made this heart adore You." And we prayed, giving thanks to God for the relationship that we enjoy.

Upcoming Events

- July 5th
Stewardship Meeting ~ 7:00
- July 7th
VCS Training ~ 9:30
- July 8th
Outdoor Worship Service
- July 9th
Finance Meeting ~ 7:00
- July 10, 17, 24, 31
Adult Faith ~ 6:20
- July 11th
KIT ~ 12:30
- Deacon Meeting ~ 6:30
- July 15th
Moment for Mission~11:30
- July 18th
Council ~ 7:00
- July 20th
Project Linus ~ 10:00
- July 23-27
Vacation Church School~8:00
- July 24th
Facilities~7:00
- July 25th
Wonder Wednesday~7:00
- July 27th
Spaghetti Supper ~ 5:00

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



From the Pastor's Desk

(Continued)

The Psalmist goes on to say: "If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you." And we sang: "Up from the ashes Your love has brought us Out of the darkness into the light - Lifting our sorrows, Bearing our burdens, Healing our hearts."

Together we considered the chaos and confusion in the world right now. We cited the current cultural tendency to vilify differences and to mistrust the stranger. We acknowledged that our faith tradition, as expressed in our Old and New Testament – as well as our Savior, Jesus Christ, himself – said to "welcome the stranger" and to care for the beloved Other.

We concluded our time together with this thought: "Let us together dream of a world with no more violence - A world of justice and of hope, where everyone gives a hand to a neighbor - a symbol of peace and community." It was a sacred time of Spirit-led prayer, praise and pondering. And then someone said, "We are all just walking each other home."

And so I leave you with that very message: 'We are all just walking each other home.' Let's be kind to one another and May God's Presence be palpable to you.

Know that you are blessed,
Pastor Deborah

PS Watch for the next Wonder Wednesday and consider joining us!

Worshipful Prayer and Praise

Prayer Circle

Sunday from 9:20-9:45 - IN the Meetinghouse FOR the Meetinghouse

The power of prayer is the greatest of all powers. Jesus said; "Whenever two or more are gathered..." Please join us to pray for the successful completion of the rehabilitation of the Meetinghouse. Starting the **first Sunday in June** and continuing every Sunday throughout the summer - from 9:20-9:45; Meetinghouse, first floor. Friends, this is not an Open House. It is not a tour. All "Prayer Angels" welcome. Come pray with us!

Wonder Wednesday July 25th

We will experience another wonderful and wonder-filled evening of prayer, praise, singing and wondering at 7pm on July 25th. Please come to our interactive, music-filled evening and bring a friend.

Council

Some Notes from Council

Something very important happened at this month's council meeting. It wasn't Pastor Deborah's report or Becky's financial report, although they are always interesting and important. It wasn't the church restructure report or Paul Lindemann's report on church rehabilitation or Fred's exhaustive analysis of the numbers Paul presented. That was fascinating though. And it wasn't anything brought up at roundtable.

The something I am referring to was one of the young adults in our congregation stepping forward and taking the initiative to form a committee to review and revise our safe church policy. In the current atmosphere of violence all around the United States, it is more important than ever to make sure our church is safe on Sunday mornings and at all times. Small steps have been taken already. For example, every Sunday morning before we begin our worship service, Pastor Deborah takes a minute to make sure everyone knows where all the exits are in case of an emergency.

An up to date safe church policy is important. And equally important in my mind is the action taken by Katie Cobban to make this happen. It is very encouraging to see someone from a younger generation stepping up to take on some of the responsibility of managing the affairs of the church. And I remind you that Katie is going to need help with this project, so please prayerfully consider what you can do to help if she approaches you over the coming weeks. The goal is to get something done on this in the next three or four months. Thanks, Katie! Blessed Be.

Submitted by John Bartel on behalf of the Church Council.

Outdoor Worship Service

Summer Worship Service Hours will stay at 10:00 am all summer.

On July 8th there will be an outdoor worship service. Bring your own chair if you'd like.

Board of Christian Education & Faith Formation Update

Vacation Church School:

Our theme is: "Shipwrecked"!

Our dates are July 23rd – 27th!

VCS Training is July 7th 9:30-11:30

Please sign up your kids ages 4-12 for this highlight event of the summer at www.fpc-ucc.org

Adult Faith Formation:

Tuesday evenings July 10th – 31st

We gather at 6:20.

We have opening prayer at 6:30. The movie begins at 6:40. We'll watch a short film together and discuss.

NO HOMEWORK!! Please consider joining us for this enriching experience of exploring our faith together.

Please be advised: No race track fundraiser this year.

Sonshíne Soup Kitchen

A volunteer to help prepare and serve meals for the Sonshine Soup Kitchen in Derry. This is a mission First Parish has been involved in for more than 25 years. Our evening is the 4th Monday of the even months 6 x a year from 3pm to approximately 6 pm. It is a way to give back to the community and is also a very rewarding experience. If you are interested please call Suzanne Hunt at 603-432-4575 or Margie Ives at 603-434-6539 or speak with either of us after the church service.

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

Mission Moment (Family Promise):

On Sunday, June 24, Scott Wellman, a member of the Board for Family Promise of Nashua, gave a brief Missions Moment. Scott remained in coffee hour with the program's executive Director, Pam Small, and the Volunteer Coordinator, Matt Hodgkiss, to talk with interested members of our Congregation about how the program operates at their location. Families served by the Nashua program remain housed at the same location (Ann Marie house, in Hudson) rather than rotating from week to week among a set of member churches, as they did in the Rockingham county program that First Parish participated in during Family Promise's first 5 years in the area.

The program offers the families the opportunity to attend onsite classes on parenting, financial management, housing and real estate opportunities, and career searching. The program serves up to 7 families at a time, including those living in the Derry-Salem area, and needs volunteer help to assist the few permanent staff in providing food and support for them. The program is one of the missions supported by our church. You can read more about their program at www.annmariehouse.org. Stay tuned for future newsletter items about how you can be part of a First Parish group effort to help these families, as our congregation has done in the past. Please contact Randy Brown (randybrown1119@gmail.com) for more information.

Mission Moment (Health Access Sumbawa):

On Sunday June 3rd Jack Kennedy (Karen Wilson's brother) gave the Mission Moment about the work he is doing in the remote islands of Indonesia. Jack lives in Bali part of the year and several years ago when visiting one of these islands contracted and almost died of Malaria. Jack presented his story:

Small is Beautiful- The Health Access Sumbawa Story

"The biggest health agencies on the planet have spent billions of dollars on the fight to defeat malaria. Much of the effort over the decades has been unsuccessful.

This is a story about the power of individual compassion. Three friends with no medical training and limited means set out to eliminate malaria from an isolated coastline on tropical Sumbawa, an island in Eastern Indonesia. Despite all odds, they are succeeding. Ordinary individuals can accomplish extraordinary things when they focus their energy on solvable local problems that others have ignored."

Horton Center Scholarships

The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions will help defray the costs of sending our children to summer camp at Horton Center on top of beautiful Pine Mountain this year as was done last year. We will be coordinating with the Board of Christian Education to assure that every child who desires to go to Horton Center will be able to without regard to financial status. Last year the children who received scholarships contributed by performing community service within the Church.

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

(Continued)

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 that 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 |
| Pinkerton Homeless Program - \$100.00 | Upper Room - \$100.00 |
| Pastor Discretionary Fund - \$200.00 | Family Promise of Nashua - \$100.00 |

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 needs 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 Irma Relief*. The Missions board will send the donation to its destination in the most efficient way.

The Liberty House:

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.

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 VanSteensburg, Sharon Hartmann

Board of Stewardship

In the month of June, the stewardship board once again presented the congregation with an opportunity called "Try a Tithe". Tithing is a faith based practice which can seem too much of a stretch for many, so the idea is to offer folks a chance to try it out for one week to see how it feels. In other words try contributing ten percent, the tithe, of one weeks income just once, over and above your annual pledge. Our motto continues to be *not* "Give until it hurts" but **"Give until it feels good"**.

This year "Try a Tithe" was given a bit of a low key presentation. Thanks go to Joyce Pope for writing a newsletter article in June, to Pastor Deborah for making an announcement on the first Sunday of June, to Anne-Marie Merrill for presenting a stewardship moment on June 17, and to Margie Ives for standing up more than once on Sunday mornings to encourage folks to participate.

Participation this year was low. Just two checks, for a total of \$353. Should we be disappointed? Or should we hear the message this congregation might be sending? That they are weary of continual requests for money. Not just from the church, but from many solicitors, e.g. NPR, political groups, charitable fundraisers, etc. Aside from the meetinghouse rehabilitation project, the church is in good financial condition. The bills are being paid and the budget is pretty much on target. Our mission activities and christian education are better than ever. So we have no reason to be discouraged.

Some people who know me would say I watch too much television and pay too much attention to politics. But recently, mostly because it was fifty years ago this month that he was assassinated, I have been hearing a lot about Bobby Kennedy. I'm old enough to remember 1968 very well, and Bobby has always been one of my heroes. He was truly a visionary. A favorite quote of his is "Some men see things as they are and ask why. I see things as they could be and ask why not?"

And on Tuesday, June 26, a young Latina woman won a primary election in a New York congressional district against a twenty year veteran congressman. A word I heard used in reference to her platform was aspirational. Sounds kind of like visionary to me. She painted a picture for voters that included improved wages, affordable childcare, accessible college education, and more. I'm not sure she has all the answers of how to get there, but she knows where she wants to take us. She can see it clearly and wants to help us see it too.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you can see that one of our young adults has stepped up to take the initiative to improve our safe church policy. This feels to me like a step in the right direction. One person has a vision of what a safe church looks like and wants to show that vision to the rest of us. And there is a committee working on the structure of the church boards and committees because it's another area where there is a feeling of weariness or burnout among many congregation members. That vision has not quite crystallized yet, but the committee is working hard and would like to hear input from anyone who has a thought or idea about how that picture of the church structure could look.

So take heart. Listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit. Look for the good things happening inside the church and out. And if you feel called to help, step up and be heard. Thank you, and Blessed Be.

Submitted by John Bartel on behalf of the Stewardship Board.

PotatoFest 2018 Haiku (Partial list 5/20)

On Saturday, May 19, 2018, the Historical Preservation Committee, along with Friends of the Meetinghouse, hosted a community event, PotatoFest. This event celebrated Nutfield (the early name of our community, established by Scots-Irish immigrants in 1719) and the fact that the white potato was first successfully grown in this geographic area.

One activity during PotatoFest was inviting attendees to write a poem about potatoes or Nutfield history. People were encouraged to create haiku poems (a traditional form of poetry comprised of three lines, with the first line having 5 syllables, the second line having 7 syllables, and the third line having 5 syllables).

We are surrounded by clever and creative people! Please enjoy these verses! Thanks to all who participated, and thanks for allowing us to share them and in many cases also share your names.

Haiku:

Barefeet feel the dirt
The plow digs up earth's bounty
Pick up potatoes
-Eileen Cox

Potatoes are best
When they've been seasoned and dressed
Then snarfed by your guest
-Randy

I like potatoes
I like to eat them often
They are best when plain
-Amanda G.

I love potatoes
Enjoyed at every meal
Potatoes are fun
-Anonymous

1719
First White Potato Grew Here
T'was a yummy year!
-Carol Guerrin

PotatoFest 2018 Haiku

(Continued)

I love potatoes
They make me feel so happy
Potatoes love me.
-Pastor Deborah

Life is beautiful
For everyone who sees it
Look around and love.

Settlers crossed oceans
Braving dangerous perils
Landing on safe shores

For many cultures,
A dietary staple.
The Great Potato!
-Katie Cobban

They brought them with them
A food that would reproduce
Seed to start anew
-Eileen Coxa

Out in the sunshine
In the garden of my youth
I pick potatoes
-Eileen Cox

Are you a 'tater
Posed the tot to his mater
I yam 'sponds the spud

Baked potatoes and
French fries and home fries and mashed
So many choices!

We welcomed all types of verses and weren't concerned if they had different numbers of lines or syllables than haiku poems!

Additional short poems:

I'm here for potatoes
And First Parish, of course
I love this old building
I'm happy to endorse.

Potatofest is cool
They are all different colors
They grew in the ground or in a planter

I like potatoes
They grow deep in the ground
They are good for you
-Hannah H.

I love potatoes
I like them cooked in salt water
I eat them for tea!

Look for a slightly different version of this article soon on the Nutfield History blog!

Submitted by Nancy Heywood for the Historic Preservation Committee

Scripture Readings

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

July 1st

Old Testament: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
Psalm 130
Gospel: Mark 5:21-43
New Testament: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

July 8th

Old Testament: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
Psalm 123
Gospel: Mark 6:1-13
New Testament: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

July 15th

Old Testament: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
Psalm 24
Gospel: Mark 6:14-29
New Testament: Ephesians 1:3-14

July 22nd

Old Testament: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Psalm 89:20-37
Gospel: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
New Testament: Ephesians 2:11-22

July 29th

Old Testament: 2 Samuel 11:1-15
Psalm 14
Gospel: John 6: 1- 21
New Testament: Ephesians 3:14-21

Worship Schedule

Deacons of the Month: Diane Breeden, Harry Handy, Carol Bates, Joanne Worthen

Ushers & Greeters

July 1st:

Ushers: Diaconate
Greeter: Joyce Pope
Lay reader: Pat Plouff
Children's Message: Christine Lehoullier
Acolyte: Emily Raymond

July 8th:

Ushers: Ken Gould, Dee Deranian, Joan Crimlisk, Michael Bryan
Greeter: Liz Greenberg
Lay reader: Anne LaDuke
Children's Message:
Acolyte: Laila Barcomb

July 15th:

Ushers: Holly and Stan Gorgol, Tom and Andrea Cooper
Greeter: Beth Hunter
Lay reader: Cyndi Gray
Children's Message: Christine Lehoullier
Acolyte: Katelyn Raymond

July 22nd:

Ushers: Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell, Nancy Berry, Michael Bryan
Greeter: Carol Guerrin
Lay reader: Cindy Pingree
Children's Message: Katheryn Cobban
Acolyte: Heather Richardson

July 29th:

Ushers: Brain Williams, Pat Cefaly, Margie Ives
Greeter: Betsy McCall
Lay reader: Diane Dunn
Children's Message: Ken Williams
Acolyte: Mikayla Henrick

**First Parish
Congregational Church**

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

Office Hours

Monday: Closed
Tuesday- Friday:
Hours vary, please call
before visiting

Check us out on the web

www.fpc-ucc.org

Administrative Assistant:

officemgr@fpc-ucc.org
603-434-0628

Senior Pastor and Teacher

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

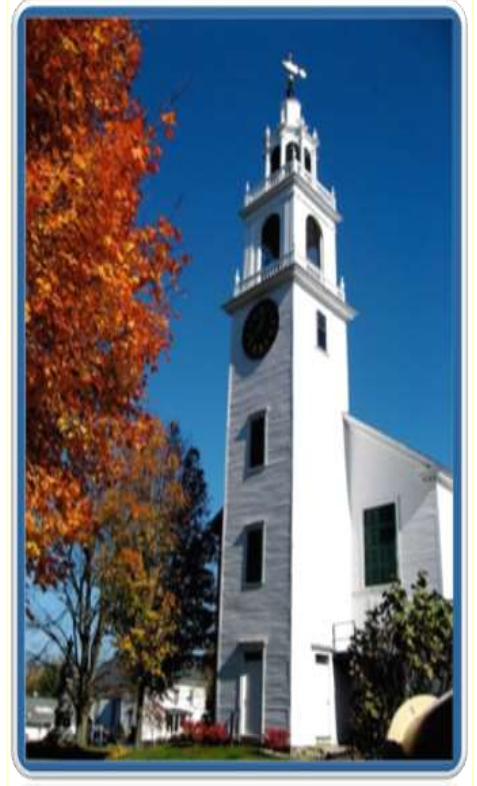
First Parish Congregational Church, UCC

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 Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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