

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

January 12, 2020



Jesus Heals and Teaches

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)

Dear Child of God,

Welcome to our worship service this morning! Our order of worship at First Parish follows a pattern that is common in many Protestant churches. We call it “liturgy”.

First, we “gather” by singing and calling to worship and praying in an inclusive, interactive way.

Secondly, we invite our children forward and speak directly to them about the scripture focus for the day. They are then excused to go to their age-appropriate classes.

Thirdly, we listen to sacred scripture and hear the proclaimed Word, usually in the form of a sermon.

Next, we then **respond** to God’s Word in two ways: prayer and financial giving. We are reminded that it is time to go out into the world – having been lifted up ourselves and having our faith reenergized so that we might take the Good News of forgiveness and redemption into the world where we live and work and play.

We pray that you will find God’s Presence and Peace among us. If you have any questions for any of us, please don’t hesitate to ask.

God’s grace and peace,
Pastor Deborah

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

CENTERING MUSIC and LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #18 Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 139) (Please stand in body or Spirit)

One: God calls you by name - for a purpose.

Many: God has searched us and knows us.

One: Try not to confuse the values of this world for God's values.

Many: God knows when we sit and when we stand.

One: God cares so much for each one of us.

Many: Such knowledge is too wonderful for us.

*INVOCATION (unison)

We come together now, listening God, because you have spoken your word of summons and all-inclusive welcome. We are drawn to the promise of your presence. Speak to us in ways we can hear, in the language we can understand. We want to hear the message you intend for us. Come loving God, come. Walk with us this day. Amen.

***SONG OF PRAISE:** This is the Day
(This is the day that the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it!)

SPECIAL MUSIC

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."**

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WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

**NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 2:1-22: Jesus Heals a Paralytic;
Jesus Calls Levi; and The Question about Fasting**

I. Jesus Heals a Paralytic

Narrator: When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic,

Jesus: "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Narrator: Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts,

Scribes: "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Narrator: At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them,

Jesus: “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” (to the paralytic) “I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.”

Narrator: And (the man) stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying,

People: “We have never seen anything like this!”

II. Jesus Calls Levi

Narrator: Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him,

Jesus: “Follow me.”

Narrator: And he got up and followed him. And as (Jesus) sat at dinner in Levi’s house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. When the scribes of the Pharisees

saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples,

Scribes: “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

Jesus: “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

III. The Question about Fasting

Narrator: Now John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him,

People: “Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?”

Jesus: “The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.

“No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.”

SERMON: The Gift of Questioning

HYMN #547 Amazing Grace

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

God has made a costly investment in humanity. For love's sake, God sent Christ among us. For love's sake, we make the offering of ourselves and our resources during this time of worship. The morning offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY: Siyahamba #526

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We have heard you calling us, loving God, in the cries of your children - cries for bread, for justice, or for relief. We have seen you beckoning to us amid the corporate greed and social distortions of our day. We want to serve and we believe your church can be Christ's healing presence in the world. Show us the way to do just that with gentleness and kindness. May our offerings be used for the purposes of transformation of

**church and society, individuals and groups.
Amen.**

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

*HYMN #55 Rejoice You Pure in Heart

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH- Members of the Congregation

DEACON - Ryan Lehoullier

LAY READER -Brian Williams

USHERS - Dee Deranian, Nancy Berry, Michael Bryan

GREETER - Liz Greenberg

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER - The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST- Joan Virga

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR -Christine Lehoullier

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT- Michelle Guerrin

~ After Worship Service today ~

**We invite you to participate in a brainstorming activity
for Pastor's Sabbatical in 2021**

Pastor Deborah has delayed her sabbatical until 2021 in order to work with members of the congregation on crafting a proposal that will benefit both the pastor and the

congregation. We will be writing a Lilly Foundation grant proposal for a significant amount of money (up to \$50k; \$15k for the church and \$35k for the pastor's expenses). "What will make your heart sing?" is the lead question of the grant.

What kind of programs or speakers might the church participate in during Pastor Deborah's absence that would renew and rejuvenate our church? Schedule: brainstorm in January; compile and distill our ideas in February and write in March. The grant must be handed in by April 4.

General Announcements January 12, 2020

January Adult Faith Formation goes from the 14th – February 18th! We meet Tuesday evening from 6:30-8pm. We are excited to announce that we will be reading the 1st volume of Anne Robertson's new series, "Exploring Justice: The Ten Commandments." The books have arrived, please see Christine or stop by the office.

2020 trip to Aghadowey, Northern Ireland: planning efforts are underway. Would YOU like to go? Please let Pastor Deborah (pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org) or Randy Brown (sueandrandybrown@gmail.com) know that you would be interested in going. We will go when it is most convenient for the Irish folks who are hosting us. We will stay in homes and we will go where they take us. We will be gone 8-10 days. Some variations may be considered. If you have thoughts, talk to us soon.

Every year Horton Center recruits hands on workers to open up camp for the season. It will be 5/15 - 5/17/20. Help if

you can. Here is the

link: <https://hortoncenter.org/camps/opening-work-days/>

Prepared to Serve: It's that time again! February 22, 2020: Join us in a day of education, fellowship and fun as NH Conference plans a full schedule for the day that includes time for breakfast, worship, workshops, exhibits, and lunch with fellow UCC'ers from all over New Hampshire. With over 50 different workshops offered on a variety of topics, we pray that this day will be meaningful and productive. You may look at this year's schedule and sign up on <http://www.nhcucc.org/caring-for-congregations/prepared-to-serve> Sign up on church office door for car-pooling.

Budget Updates - The current draft has a \$45,000 deficit. This isn't a viable budget. The solutions won't be easy. We need your help to find the solutions that are best for our congregation. The next information session will be after worship on January 19th. We hope you will join us to better understand the issues we're dealing with, hear the ideas we're contemplating, and offer your ideas.

ANNUAL MEETING: JANUARY 26, 2020 AT 11:30 AM: the official 'call' is posted throughout the building. Please let Christine know if you will need childcare during this meeting.

Younger Youth (ages 9-13) will meet on January 31st to help with Spaghetti supper, eat together and share ideas.

Used Clothing Drop-Off Shed is ready for donations! Items accepted; Clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, curtains and stuffed animals. Please take a flyer in the lobby.

Mark your calendars!

Monday January 13th ~ 7:00 Finance Meeting

Tuesday January 14th ~ 6:20 Adult Faith , "Exploring Justice: The Ten Commandments."

Wednesday January 15th ~ Council Meeting

Sunday January 12th ~ 11: 30 Pastoral Sabbatical

Brainstorming 11:45 Christian Ed Meeting


Sunday January 19th ~ 11: 30 Budget information session

11:45 New Member Gathering ~ AB

Sunday January 26th ~ 11: 30 Annual Meeting

Friday January 31st ~ 5:00 – 7:30 Younger Youth (ages 9-13)
Group gather

Saturday March 7th ~ Ken Gould's Celebration of Life at Pilgrim UCC in Brentwood. Reception in Exeter.

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 – January 12, 2020

PRAYERS OF JOY

KIT: listening to the narrow escape of Pastor Deborah's father during WWII was awe-inspiring

Wonder Wednesday – we enjoyed an authentic, safe space to express our deepest feelings to God

Time spent with families

Another successful year of community fellowship with spaghetti supper! Thank you Spaghetti Angels!

Christmas Eve Services ~ Pageant, Carols, Lessons and Candlelight!

K.I.T. enjoyed listening to Marge Palmer telling Christmas stories. It was wonderful!

Santa Breakfast was a huge success. Thank you everyone!

The Derry Fire Department for their diligence in visiting our Church numerous times to update their maps and records and Facilities for continued efforts to keep our Church safe.

Advent Talk 'n Walk on the Labyrinth – so peaceful.

Advent Workshop – what a joy! Sugar Plum Fair – a community comes together on a beloved project!

Visit from the Aghadowey Rural Kinship

Thank you, Bill Smallwood of W.J. Smallwood Landscaping!
Bricks look great!

Thank you, Paper Angels! We are good for now!

Gratitude to people who are catching up with their pledges!

Kindness Rocks – with gratitude to Christine Lehoullier, our kindness ambassador

PRAYERS OF HEALTH and HEALING

Malyssa Deranian – fell skiing on January 8

A member of the Nutfield Coop school family: Grace Theroux, 2, and her family for complete healing of the leukemia and strength and comfort for the family during this difficult time.

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

Marge Palmer's granddaughter, Rebecca, for her surgery.

Rev. Renee Rouse on the death of her son, Tre.

Selma Gould and Ken's children who are grieving the death of Ken on November 23.

Pauline Gorgol, Stan Gorgol's mother, for her healing after a car accident

Jorge Alpizar, fiancé of Liz's daughter Rebekah is undergoing treatment for prostate and bladder cancers.

Cole Ferry, Cindy Pingree's nephew, was in a car accident

The family of Bill VenderWoude, who passed away after a long struggle with cancer

Prayers for Paula Robinson and family

Alyssa Mulhern and her family, she is a friend of Diane

Breeden, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and surgery is planned in a month.

Jo Worthen's sister Barb continues to struggle with cancer.

SPECIAL ONGOING PRAYERS

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.