

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

"When you pass through the waters, I'll be with you, and through the rivers, they will not sweep over you."
Isaiah 43: 2

Dear Friends and members of FP,

I am enjoying serving as sabbatical coverage pastor for First Parish. Everyone has been so welcoming and helpful in coming on board, thank you!

You already know that you have a great staff—and they truly are. Each one—Joan, Michelle, Christine, Diane, not to mention Paul, Brian and others have been invaluable as I came on board. Extra thanks to them. It means everything.

The month of May marks so many events. We will celebrate Pentecost on May 23rd and honor Memorial Day on the 30th. Though we're still advised to be cautious, this year there may be first-in-a-long-time family gatherings of graduations, wedding celebrations, and holiday cookouts. Numbers aren't great everywhere (think Michigan and India) but here we're seeing light at the end of the pandemic tunnel. Such relief.

Still there have been changes, haven't there? Many grieve significant losses, job-searches continue, and we're aware 'long-termers' are still experiencing effects of even mild cases of COVID. FP is considering when we might return to Currier Hall for in-person worship. (A few special outdoor services however are definitely in our spring and summer future.) Together with the Council I have been

thinking about how ministry might look post-pandemic. Those who write about such things tell us our presence as a faith community, with our ability to create deep caring bonds and to help each other make meaning will be more valued than ever before. Congregations as “anchor institutions” of towns and neighborhoods have a unique gift to hold and expand human experience. And perhaps more than any other group we prize diversity in all its forms, an uncommon strength.

Easter reminded us that Christ is alive among us. It is Christ that animates and directs us in everything we do and say. Pentecost will remind us of the story of the first disciples (so few!) who were given extraordinary power, creativity, and capacity to go forth. In many different ways, they grew and they continued the life-changing work of the earthly Jesus. In the midst of our questions of how we might ‘be’ post-pandemic, I think this year’s celebration of Pentecost (and what it means) will come to the Church with special significance.

Meeting with you and getting to know you has been such a blessing. I hope you won’t hesitate to be in touch anytime to say hi, or to set up a time to get together. I’m eager to hear your thoughts.

Every blessing,

Pastor Linda

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH: Please join us on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd, as we learn more about how Strengthen the Church donations support local church outreach, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life of our youth and young adults. The United Church of Christ will continue as a Spirit-inspired and world-changing Christian movement and continue to benefit from best practices, insights, and innovations across the life of the church.

MISSION GIVING: The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions is thankful to each of you who earmarks money for Missions on your pledge card. These generous funds support those who are struggling in our community and beyond. We could not donate to the following charities without your help and that of the Fund- Raising Committee, which gives 10% to Missions.

MISSIONS MONTHLY DONATIONS: Thank you for your monthly donations.

Community Caregivers \$100
 Family Promise \$100
 Our Church’s Wider Mission \$350
 Pinkerton Homeless Program \$100
 Upper Room \$100

Derry Friendship Center \$100
 First Baptist Food Pantry \$100
 Pastoral Counseling \$100
 Sonshine Soup Kitchen \$100

Hebrews 13:16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Respectfully submitted by BOCOM members: Nancy Murdock-Chair, Karen Wilson, Melanie Pawl, Heather Paradzick, Bart Wetherbee, Carol Guerrin, Sue Brown-Treasurer

Christian Education and Faith Formation

FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH MEETING ~ MAY 14th 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM, Ages 9- 15

****FRIENDS, PIZZA, DESSERT AND MEMORIAL DAY SIGN PAINTING****

The date & time has been updated from a previous announcement. Pick-up between 7:45pm -8pm



After eating, and everyone getting a chance to socialize, youth will break up into appropriate age groups 9-11/12-14 and begin making Memorial Day Yard Signs that will be placed along the road to the cemetery in honor of those who have served and given their lives.



Join us for a chance to get out, have some fun with friends and honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

MOTHER'S DAY BOUQUET

On May 9th let's celebrate Mother's Day together! We celebrate motherhood in ALL it's many beautiful forms! The Christian Education Board would like everyone to help us build a bouquet of flowers, each petal representing *how a mother figure in your life has helped you to grow*. Did she help teach you to tie your shoes? Say please and thank you? Put family first? Teach you the stories of the bible? Helped you learn how to ride your bike for the first time? Build your confidence? Taught you the value of discipline?

"Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children..." – Deuteronomy 4:9

Let's hold dearly in our hearts the treasures the mother figures in each of our lives have taught us and pass those things along to future generations in honor and appreciation of all the sacrifices they have made.

We always openly pray for those who struggle during this day or who may have been hurt by a relationship and wish you healing and peace within our church community and beyond. Amen

Please send your statements of *"how your mother figure in your life has helped you to grow,"* to cedirector@fpc-ucc.org or call the front office @ 434-0628. Please help us make a BOUQUET of flowers!

VACATION CHURCH CAMP UPDATE! NOW FEATURING LAVA LAVA LUAU!



Keep cool when things get hot!

Emotions are like a force of nature, but with God's help, we can learn to take control of and understand our emotions before a storm hits! During our fun few weeks at Vacation Church Camp's Lava Lava Luau we'll see what God's Word says about anger, sadness, jealousy, and frustration and learn how we can respond to others who may be feeling these emotions as well.

Virtual games and lessons available throughout July 5-9, 12-16, & 19-23 with an IN-PERSON LAVA LAVA LUAU SEND-OFF PARTY! Registration begins in May

GRADUATES



We would love to celebrate your graduates! Please contact Christine Lehoullier @ cedirector@fpc-ucc.org or Michelle at the front office and let us know so that we may bless your graduates with a prayer shawl and blessing for their next stage of their journey!

The purpose of this ministry is to provide the comfort of God's Love through knit and crocheted shawls. While the maker is working on the garment, they are in prayer for the intended or unknown recipient. Members feel that the activity in the knitting and crocheting is a form of prayer. The shawls are created to bring love, comfort and warmth to those who need to feel God's love wrapped around them at any point in their lives.

Derry Community Meals- Month of May/ Spaghetti Supper

The Derry Community Meals will provide free bag meals to go. Please share with your family, friends and neighbors.

5/1/21- **St. Thomas Parish**- Breakfast 10 AM to 10:30 AM

5/9/21- **Church of the Transfiguration (DECOFT)/Elijah's Table (EHS)**- Lunch 2:00 PM to 2:30 PM

5/15/21- **St. Thomas Parish**- Breakfast 10 AM to 10:30 AM

5/15/21- **St. Luke's Church**- Lunch 12:00 PM to 12:30 PM drive around to back door

5/28/21- **First Parish Church**- 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM drive up to side door

5/30/21- **St. Jude's Parish**- Lunch- 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM

Sonshine Soup Kitchen – Serving drive by, to-go meals from 4:30-5:30 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

First Parish Family 5k or 5mile- Raised \$678.29!

Thank you to all of the runners & walkers! Thank you, Dave Breeden, for introducing the virtual race, volunteering your time and donating your fee.

"I haven't walked/ jogged 5 miles all at once in a very long time. I also discovered a new (to me) part of the rail trail. This was a great way to kick off the spring!" Michelle Guerrin

Please share your feedback!

Back to the Sanctuary

The Back to the Sanctuary group is very happy to give you the update for this years' campaign up to April 26. Thus far, fifteen families have pledged \$85,150 and over half have already fulfilled that pledge by sending in their monies. This means the gap needed to finish the 2021 goal is down to \$65,000 which certainly seems attainable given how much we raised last year.

We hope if you are so inclined that you will consider your own pledge. Any amount will help and you can choose any of the three dates to complete that obligation. May, July or September.

If you have lost the original green pledge card simply write out your own note and mail it to the church office addressed to Pat Crowell. As always, this can be anonymously given if you so desire.

We hope you will consider this endeavor to moving us ever closer to returning to the Sanctuary.

Submitted by Cyndi Gray

After this COVID YEAR... What are your thoughts, your hopes, your dreams, your prayers?

Opportunities to meet together in small groups to listen and talk with one another.

Dates, times, and venues have been set up for the congregation to meet in small conversation groups with Pastor Snyder (working with the Council.) She is eager to have as many as possible attend at least one gathering.

Gatherings have been set to work around varying schedules. (If we discover there is interest, but these dates or the venue don't work, some additional gathering/s will be added. Just let us know.)

You are invited to sign up for one of the following by calling the church office 603-434-0628 or emailing Michelle (officemgr@fpc-ucc.org)

- Monday, May 10th, 6:30- 8 PM ~ **ZOOM**
- Thursday, May 13th, 4- 6:00 ~ **Currier Hall**
- Wednesday, May 26th, 3:30- 5:00 ~ **Outside at Karen & Bob Wilson's**

We are hoping to set at least one other special interest group (i.e. with CE families.)

When these have finished up Pastor Linda will create a report for the Church Council to review together.

Thanks. Hope to see you.

Charleston Wrap - Fundraiser

If you're looking for that special gift to celebrate spring, Mother's Day, Graduation, Father's Day check out Charleston Wrap [on line](#). Catalogs available at the church.



ATTENTION! Please REGISTER NOW for First Parish Church Spring Fundraiser's fundraiser!

It's super easy! Please help support our fundraiser by following the steps below to register online today. When you register, we'll know you're committed to supporting our fundraiser and helping us reach our goals. To help our organization even more, send 10 email invitations to friends & family and spread the word about our need for help. With over 2,500 gift ideas, supporters can shop and accomplish all of their gift giving needs, all while supporting our important cause.

Will you follow the instructions below and register today? It's easy, it's simple, and it's important!

Here's how to register today and help us spread the word!

Invite friends and family (even if they're out of town), online orders ship directly to the purchaser!

Organization ID:

21682



Step 1: REGISTER at www.charlestonwrapstore.com
(use organization ID to the left)



Step 2: Use our Email-Invite Generator to invite out-of-town friends & family to shop and support! Plus, share your unique invite links via text and social media.



Participant Registration



Charleston Wrap
BETTER PRODUCTS. BETTER FUNDRAISING.

Meetinghouse Preservation Update

The Elevator Installation is still underway. Liberty Electric needs a couple of weeks to connect and fully wire it, then Stanley Elevator will return to finish. We will also soon be excavating outside the Connector to feed the Elevator's sump pump and new Connector gutters into the underground drainage system already there.

We've meanwhile refined plans and received contractor quotes for the two projects targeted for later this year: the Meetinghouse Exterior Painting and the Connector Interior Finishing.

The **Exterior Painting** will be done by Keeley Painting Company, Inc. (Pittsfield), following lead paint removal by their partner Alpine Environmental, Inc. (Chelmsford MA). The cost of this plus various carpentry repairs will be \$145K. Council approved this expenditure, and we're moving forward with scheduling and planning the execution details. One note: all the green shutters will come down to be prepped, painted, and reinstalled at a later date, so for a while the building may be all white in its freshly painted beauty. We decided this tradeoff is worthwhile to put more Rehab Funds into the Connector Interior project.

Finishing the **Connector Interior** is essential for using the new Elevator with the two levels of the Noyes building, including Nutfield Cooperative School. (We won't connect to the Meetinghouse until the Sanctuary Rehab is done.) This project includes all the wiring, lighting, walls, floors, staircases, ceilings, heating, and remaining insulation, and will cost about \$170K.

Thanks to the successful Back to the Sanctuary Campaign and other sources, we should have about \$100K in cash and pledges remaining in the Rehab Fund after paying for the Elevator and the Exterior Painting. Council wisely authorized us to move forward with the Connector Interior work as possible with these available funds (up to \$42K for Liberty Electric and \$50K for Morin Contracting Services).

This will enable Liberty to install the electrical, lighting, and fire alarm systems. It will also allow Morin to do the framing and other support work Liberty requires, plus a few other interior projects. The Facilities Board agreed to cover the costs of heaters and new gutters for the Connector, which helps us get more of the interior completed.

Fully finishing the Connector Interior will cost another \$70K, which must still be raised.

Everyone is hoping we can achieve this and open the Connector to support the church and community when more normal building use resumes this fall or winter. The church and the Friends of the Meetinghouse will soon launch focused fundraising efforts for this purpose (but don't wait if you're inclined and able to give more now!).

Meanwhile, the Friends won a grant from the Methuen Festival of Trees program for Tower Clock Functions Restoration. This \$10K project will refurbish the 1877 clockworks and get the three clock faces and the hourly ringing capability working again. The grant covers half this cost, and the Friends expect an upcoming community campaign to raise the matching amount. Stay tuned!

Please direct any concerns or questions to your Building Advisory Committee:

Paul Lindemann (paul@nutfieldhistory.org), Larry Krantz, Bill Mann, and Bob Wilson



Board of Deacons

The Back to the Sanctuary group is very happy to give you the update for this years' The Deacons are thrilled to have the guidance of Rev. Linda Snyder, while Pastor Deborah is on sabbatical. We hope that you will take the opportunity to participate in small discussion groups with her over the next few weeks. She is committed to hearing our thoughts, prayers, concerns, and dreams.

On May 30th, our church will be honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Please let Pastor Linda know in advance of anyone we should be remembering during our church service.

Stay tuned for details of our next outdoor service which is scheduled for June 6th.

The Board recently had a discussion with regards to in-person worship services, and is following closely the guidance offered by the NH Conference United Church of Christ (NHCUCC). As of this writing, they recommend that the suspension of indoor, in-person worship continue through the month of May.

Finally, let us know if you'd like to be on the Board of Deacons, or would like to be a Zoom or Facebook Host, or be a Lay Reader. We are always looking for help.

Your Deacons:

Sue Brown, Rachel Cobban, Reni Harnden, Sue Lindemann, Jack Martin, and Brian Williams

May 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 Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) Year B

May 2

Luke 22: 14-23; Acts 1: 15-26

Greeters: Rachel Cobban and Katie Cobban

Lay Reader: Jack Martin

May 9

Galatians 1:13-24

Greeters: Anne-Marie Merrill and Sue Brown

May 16

Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29

Greeters: Rachel Cobban, Sue Lindemann

Lay Reader: Sue Brown

May 23 – PENTECOST!

Acts 2:1-4

Greeters: Jack Martin and Katie Cobban

May 30

To Be Announced

Greeters: Anne-Marie Merrill and Sue Brown



Charleston Wrap Fundraiser –
Tuesday, April 7-June 7

Adult Faith Formation –
Tuesdays May 4, 11, 18, 25 at
6:30pm Sermon on the Mount

Friday Night Youth Meeting –
May 21 6:30-8:00pm

Newsletter Deadline – Tues,
May 25. (Church Office will be
closed on Wed. morning.)

Spaghetti Supper- To-Go
Friday May 28 at 5:00-6:00pm

Looking ahead: Outdoor
Worship Service June 6th
10:00am – This will be available
online as well. Details to follow.

**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:
officemgr@fpc-ucc.org
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.

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United Church of Christ
47 East Derry Road
PO Box 114
East Derry, NH 03041-0114

Address Service Requested