

First Parish Congregational Church

United Church of Christ • East Derry, New Hampshire July/ August 2021 Newsletter



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 Friends and Members of FP,

As sabbatical time comes to an end I am glad for this official chance to say goodbye and thank you.

From the first day, I have been so grateful for your openness to my leadership – especially for such a short time. Your hospitality made it an honor and a pleasure to serve you for these brief 13 weeks. Thanks for the welcome into your homes, out for lunch, to meetings, the study group, and for one-on-ones-- both planned and around the edges.

I am especially grateful for the extraordinary staff: Michelle, Christine, Joan, Diane, Paul, Brian, Mike—what a strong team. Each so very competent and helpful. Each one took extra time to show me the ropes and to gently keep me on track. Special thanks to them.

In the course of this in-between-time, this “liminal” or threshold time we considered together “how it’s been” and “what might be next.” I believe your reception to such conversation, your honesty, creativity-- sharing your sorrows as well as your hopes-- helped to make these genuine occasions of discernment. You told stories, thought about the congregation’s strengths and gaps-- offered ideas of what God might be up to next for FP. In being in touch in this way—and, critically in touch with the Holy Spirit-- the small groups

yielded good fruit. I can only imagine the creativity that has been nurtured in Pastor Deborah on her sabbatical! I will to be interested in what unfolds for you all. (I'm grateful for monthly newsletters.)

Pastor Deborah's first Sunday back will be July 11th. This service is planned at 10 am for out-of-doors and will also be shared via FB & Zoom. I know you will want to express a great welcome back with your presence, smiles, good wishes, and questions.

I will continue to pray every blessing for each of you, and all of you as God's beloved in this place.
In the peace and joy of Christ,

Pastor Linda

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same. Luke 3:11

MISSIONS MONTHLY DONATIONS:

Thank you for continuing to support our monthly donations.

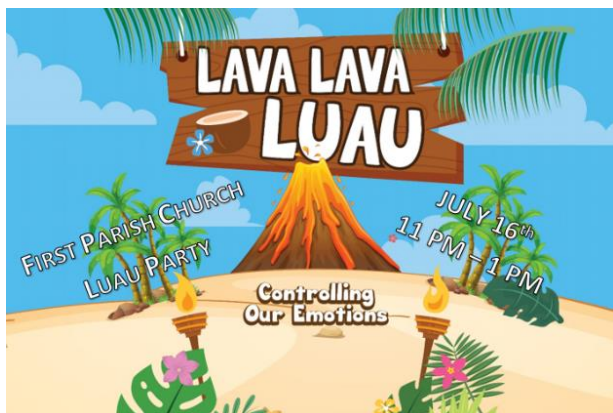
Community Caregivers \$100
Family Promise \$100
Our Church's Wider Mission \$350
Pinkerton Homeless Program \$100
Upper Room \$100

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

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



Vacation Church Camp 2.0

LUAU PARTY JULY 16TH 11AM – 1PM

While the dates of the virtual curriculum launching might be changing, the Lava Lava Luau Party is still on July 16th!

Invite your friends and everyone can still use the VCC registration form to sign up for our Luau on the 16th where we will enjoy games, food, crafts, and everyone will help with a service project! All participants and their families will be notified of the new Lava Lava Luau dates ASAP.



Preschool Puppet Show and a Craft! July 28th 10:30 am

Get ready to watch and enjoy one of the best ways to experience children's ministry, with puppets! After the show, preschoolers, parents and caregivers will enjoy an entertaining craft together that will give children a wonderful opportunity to act out their own bible stories!



Summertime Sunday Story Hour & MORE!

July 11th will mark the start of the Summertime Sunday Story Hour in replacement of our regular Sunday School Lessons. Children can relax and enjoy a story each week that relates to the weekly scripture. Don't forget, children

can still enjoy the Children's Activity Bulletins, as well, each week for Ages 3+ and Ages 7+ complete with secret codes to free online games every week!

Coming in August....

**Dinner & Game Night
Movie Night**

A graphic for a 'Children's Activity Bulletin'. It features a cartoon sheep and a speech bubble that says 'What happened once God separated the light from the darkness?'. Below this is a word search puzzle with the letters 'SLDFARYONMIVGEHT'. To the right of the word search is a list of clues: 1 = The letter before F, 2 = The fifth letter, 3 = Two letters after A, 4 = The letter before M, 5 = The letter after M, 6 = The fourth letter from the end, 7 = The letter before T, 8 = The last letter, 9 = The third letter from the end, 10 = The letter after L, 11 = The letter before I, 12 = The eighth letter, 13 = The letter after A, 14 = Two letters after L, 15 = The first letter. Below the clues is a section titled 'God called the light' with a grid of numbers 1 through 15. To the right of the grid is a section titled 'and the darkness He called' with a grid of numbers 1 through 15. Below the grids is a section titled 'And there was' with a grid of numbers 1 through 15. Below that is a section titled 'and there was' with a grid of numbers 1 through 15. Below that is a section titled 'the' with a grid of numbers 1 through 15.

A graphic for a 'Children's Worship Bulletin'. It features a sun and the text 'Children's Worship Bulletin'. Below this is a section titled 'The First Day of Creation' with the text 'God created everything. How did He start?'. Below this is a word search puzzle with the letters 'SLDFARYONMIVGEHT'. To the right of the word search is a list of clues: 1 = The letter before F, 2 = The fifth letter, 3 = Two letters after A, 4 = The letter before M, 5 = The letter after M, 6 = The fourth letter from the end, 7 = The letter before T, 8 = The last letter, 9 = The third letter from the end, 10 = The letter after L, 11 = The letter before I, 12 = The eighth letter, 13 = The letter after A, 14 = Two letters after L, 15 = The first letter. Below the clues is a section titled 'God called the light' with a grid of numbers 1 through 15. To the right of the grid is a section titled 'and the darkness He called' with a grid of numbers 1 through 15. Below the grids is a section titled 'And there was' with a grid of numbers 1 through 15. Below that is a section titled 'and there was' with a grid of numbers 1 through 15. Below that is a section titled 'the' with a grid of numbers 1 through 15.

Summer Outdoor Worship

The Deacons' plan for the summer is to hold at least one in-person service each month at 10:00 AM outside.

Our first service, the June 6th the parking lot drive-in, was successful and we loved seeing everyone who came. It was a little too hot on the blacktop so we are moving to greener spaces in July.

Our second outdoor service will be July 11th on the lawn under the trees across the street from the parking lot. We will be hosting the service on Zoom and Facebook at the same time. The tech team is already working on how to have the in-person attendees engage with our Zoom participants.

This will be Pastor Deborah's first Sunday after her sabbatical – we all look forward to seeing her and you.

Please bring your own chairs and park in the church parking lot.

Also please remember to bring a mask with you in case you need to enter the church to use the restroom.

Submitted by The Deacons

Back to the Sanctuary

We are excited to tell you that the gap is closing for the pledges promised for this year's goal. In the past two years, three families have given lump sums of over \$20,000. We are truly blessed and we expect two more deadlines, July and September, to come in. The steeple fund is transferring over \$6,000 so the rough estimated gap will be approximately \$25,000 and we are confident we can complete our goals. Thank you to all who have given or still plan to pledge or will be submitting your pledge. It is getting very exciting.

Thanks to the various committees for assisting with this effort.

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

Derry Community Meals- Month of July / Spaghetti Supper

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

7/11/21- **Church of the Transfiguration (DECOFT)/Elijah's Table (EHS)**- Lunch 2:00 PM to 2:30 PM

7/17/21- **St. Thomas Parish**- Breakfast 10 AM to 10:30 AM

7/17/21- **St. Luke's Church**- Lunch 12:00 PM to 12:30 PM drive around to back door

7/25/21- **St. Jude's Parish**- Lunch- 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM

7/30/21- **First Parish Church**- 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM drive up to side door

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

Planning for the Transition to Worshipping in Currier

The Deacons were asked by Council to develop a plan to transition once again worship together in Currier. In late May, we invited Christian Education (CE) representatives to our Board meeting to make sure we included the needs of our members of all ages. We decided we should work together and formed a small group to develop the plan. The team will be working with Facilities and the tech team to ensure a safe transition while keeping some of our new traditions of including those who worship from a distance with us.

The team is made up of the following representatives:

- Deacons
 - Sue Brown
 - Rachel Cobban
 - Jack Martin
- CE
 - Chris Cox
 - Holly Gorgol
 - Christine Lehoulier
 - Paula Robinson
- Others
 - Lianne Deranian, Facilities, and Paul Lindemann, tech team, are supporting the task force as needed.

The Deacons are teaming with CE to make sure we include the needs of our adults, youth, and children. Although we have opened up Currier to usage by our Boards, Committees, and external groups, CE uses several rooms in other parts of the church facility. These rooms support several age groups from newborns to teens. The rooms CE has used in the past have been empty for a year and a half, and in some cases repurposed for other uses such as the streaming worship studio. The team will be working with facilities to ready spaces for CE programs.

The team will be reaching out to you, the congregation, to include your insights and concerns in the planning. We want everyone to feel safe and welcomed. When you hear from the team please engage with them so we can make a welcoming transition.

Please feel free to contact anyone on the team or the Board of Deacons about the transition planning.

Submitted by Sue Lindemann for the Board of Deacons (Sue Brown, Rachel Cobban, Jack Martin, & Brian Williams)

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*“And you will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.” (Is. 55)*

## Meetinghouse Preservation Update

During June we completed:

- Sheetrock installation, taping, and sanding;
- Removal of the lower-level storm windows (by BAC);
- Selection of final finishes;
- Installation of new gutters on the Connector and covers on the west and north sides of Noyes and Currier; and
- Cutting and preparation for window and door trim installation.

As June closes, Connector Interior painting is beginning, and exterior excavation for drainage should start in a couple of weeks. The BAC also took on developing complete and accurate CAD drawings of the whole facility to enable current and future planning.

July should see:

- Installation of the Elevator Sump Pump, work on sealing small water leaks in the elevator shaft floor, and connection of the sump to new exterior drainage;
- Installation of the window and door trim;
- Completion or near completion of the Connector Interior painting;
- Resumption of the electrical, fire alarm, and lighting work; and
- On the Meetinghouse exterior: Lead paint abatement—hand scraping and legal disposal—then needed carpentry repairs in preparation for painting.

The doors for the entrances f into the Noyes building are now expected to arrive late July, with installation to follow.

Costs for Morin Contracting Services “not to exceed” projects have come in under budget, for a small savings. This includes removing the fire escape, reconstructing the shutter panel, and installing historic clapboards on the west end, and removing the high shutters and storm window all around

Generous donations to Rehab have continued—thanks!—but we remain somewhat short of the funds required for our current projects. We’ll do and share the financial analysis after the closing of the church’s June bookkeeping.

We still hope to have the Connector finished and the Elevator in service as the everyday busy life of the facility resumes this fall. BAC members are working with the Deacons and CE task force as well as the Facilities Board to help ensure a smooth and safe return to full use of the facility.

*Please direct any concerns or questions to your Building Advisory Committee:*  
Paul Lindemann (paul@nutfieldhistory.org), Larry Krantz, Bill Mann, and Bob Wilson



## Facilities

Happy Summer from the Facilities Board! We have several updates for you...

### **Keeping FPC COVID-19 Free**

Air Filtration - A UV filter that kills up to 97% viruses with UVC light was installed on the air circulation unit for Currier. This is currently operating in Currier. A portable air filtration system was donated and is currently in use in Corinthians (formerly A/B).

Cleaning and disinfecting procedures were created, and stations have been set up in both Currier and Corinthians rooms so groups will be responsible at the end of each meeting.

Guidelines for Group Meetings were created and implemented to safely allow for groups to use the church. The guidelines detail group responsibilities and church responsibilities and reflects NH COVID-19 safety guidelines. If you would like the latest copy, please email [djderanian@myfairpoint.net](mailto:djderanian@myfairpoint.net).

MASKS - A mask mandate for all entering the church has been in place. Based on recent CDC and NH COVID-19 announcements, masks are recommended for anyone age 2+ who has not been vaccinated. This is the recommendation going forth from Facilities

### **Physical Improvements and Repairs**

- New signs designating rooms and offices In Currier and Noyes have been posted
- A/B Conference Room name was retired and is now named Corinthians
- The vestibule has a new shelf for pickup of items without entering the church
- Window wells outside the John room were cleaned out and new covers installed
- New water faucet and hose hanger was added to the exterior front corner of Noyes
- Dishwasher in the kitchen was repaired and tuned up
- Air conditioner for Currier was repaired
- Photocell was added to exterior lights for automatic dusk to dawn activation
- Outside trash receptacles now have locks: email [officemgr@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:officemgr@fpc-ucc.org) for combination
- Facilities Maintenance Room was organized, and many obsolete items disposed of
- Both exterior sheds were cleaned out and damaged or obsolete items went to disposal

Thanks to *Bob Wilson* for his continued updates throughout the church when a repair needs to be performed, which are too many to list, *Jo Worthen* for taking many obsolete items to be repurposed, *Alan Pawl* for managing our lawn service that did our Spring Cleanup this year and continues to do our summer mowing, *Bill Armstrong* for keeping us on track

financially, *Michelle Guerrin* for communicating and assisting resolving problems and *Dee and Lianne Deranian* for overall guidance and assistance on all projects.

**Special Request: Please check with Facilities before you donate any furniture, electronics, or large items to the church. We realize what good intentions our church family has in donating items, but we have limited space and want to make sure whatever we accept has a place and a purpose. Thank you 😊!**

Facilities Board – Dee, Bob, Jo, Alan, Bill, and Lianne

## Horton Center Camp & Retreat Center

Horton Center Camp and Retreat Center, a ministry of the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ, is located in the heart of the White Mountains, where spectacular beauty abounds.

Experience God's creation in this "thin" place between heaven and earth. Make new friends, explore your faith, take risks, have the time of your life. Come be part of the Horton Center family!

*Virtual Open House via Zoom on June 19 starting at 10am.* Hop on your favorite computer, phone, tablet or crystal ball and explore Horton Center from your home! Meet the Summer Staff! Through the miracle of technology, take a tour around camp, meet some other campers, play a few games, and ask Tivvi and Tim any questions about camp! And save gas at the same time!

Come to our Open House remotely, and then start packing for camp!! All ages welcome.  
thughes@nhcucc.org 603-545-9660

**Camps are for all ages and include:**

**Week 1 July 4 – July 10:** MADD for Grades 3, 4, 5/ Adventure Camp Jr for Grades 6, 7 & 8/ CALLED for Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

**Week 2 July 11 – July 17:** New Things for Grades 3, 4 & 5/ Archery 1 & 2 for Grades 6 – 12, separated by age

**Week 3 July 18 – July 24:** Climate Buddies for Grades 3, 4 & 5/ VT Takes a Hike to the Mtn for Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8 / Senior High for Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

**Week 4 July 25 – July 31:** Hogwarts on the Mtn for Grades 4, 5 & 6/ Middler for Grades 7, 8 & 9/ Adventure Camp Sr. for Grades 10, 11 & 12

**Week 5 August 1 – August 7:** Arts and Adventure for Grades 3, 4 & 5/ Arts on the Mountain 1 & 2 for Grades 6-12, separated by age

**Post Camp Weekends:** Aug 12-15 Peace, Faith, and Rejuvenation for Adult Women / Sept 3-6 Family & Friends Weekend for All Ages/ Oct 1-3 Fall Confirmation Retreat for Confirmands Grades 7, 8 & 9/ Oct 8-10 Fall Work Days for Ages 16+

*Help Horton Center with their wish list!* [www.hortoncenter.org/wish-list/](http://www.hortoncenter.org/wish-list/) shows the wish list items. You can donate online or send a check.

*Check out the Horton Center Store:* Are you "geared" up for camp? Check out the video of Camp Staff modeling HC gear!

## July 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](https://facebook.com/fpcucc)).

**Worship Services** using the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) Year B



### July 4 - Communion

Greeters: Jack Martin, Sue Lindemann

Lay Reader: Diana Sweeney

### July 11 – Outdoor Worship Service

Pastor Deborah Returns

Greeters: Rachel Cobban, Sue Lindemann

Lay Reader: Shellie Anne Brook

### July 18

Greeters: Anne-Marie Merrill

Lay Reader: Debbie Gline Allen

### July 25

Greeters: Jack Martin, Sue Brown

Lay Reader: Beth Hunter

**Outdoor Worship Service** July 11th 10:00am on the lawn. This will be available online as well. Please bring your own chair.

**Lava Lave Luau** – Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> 11:00am-1:00pm

**Spaghetti Supper- To-Go**  
Friday July 30th at 5:00-6:00pm

Marilyn Ham remains at Hanover Hills and welcomes cards and notes. They may be sent to her home address at Birch Heights where her daughter will collect them and bring them to Marilyn every couple of days.



**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](http://www.fpc-ucc.org)  
[facebook.com/fpcucc](https://facebook.com/fpcucc)

**Senior Pastor and Teacher**

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

**Office Manager**

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



**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  
PO Box 114  
East Derry, NH 03041-0114

***Address Service Requested***