

First Parish Congregational Church

United Church of Christ • East Derry, New Hampshire 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 Child of God,

My Sabbatical was absolutely amazing and so very filled with wonder and joy! I thank God that I was able to embark on a journey that was so very different from much of my training. You see, I have spent much of my life steeped in logic and facts, memorizing and analyzing. I feel secure using charts and graphs. As a kid, I loved diagramming sentences! As an adult, I have achieved three post graduate degrees: two Master's and one Doctorate! This is my comfort zone.

As I pondered a theme for my Sabbatical many months ago, I was led (thank you, Liz Greenberg!) to a book entitled: “The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity”. For a very long time, I didn't want to even touch a book with “artist” in the title. God has a way of being persistent when there is something for us to gain from the experience! And when I did stop and read some of the beginning pages of the book, I went back and noticed the subtitle and thought “that's it!” That is what I want to do! So, the theme of my Sabbatical became “A Creative Path to a Deeper Spirituality.”

I am all about deepening my faith. I crave those spiritual experiences that can be shared later as “God-winks”. I am passionate about teaching pathways to deeper faith

experiences. Up until recently, that “teaching” often encompassed scripture and theory. Recently, however, I have been drawn into experiences with the labyrinth, a much more hands-on, kinesthetic approach to spirituality. As a result of the corona virus, I became more active in SoulCollage*, one of my wife Liz’s passions. And from there I learned about Zentangle. The world of creativity was opening up.

I followed the Spirit’s lead, calling them “breadcrumbs” and was introduced to some amazing authors and beautiful concepts. I read a book by Glennon Doyle entitled “Untamed”. She writes: “We are all bilingual. We speak the language of indoctrination, but our native tongue is the language of imagination. When we use the language of indoctrination – with its should and shouldn’t, right and wrong, good and bad – we are activating our minds. That’s not what we’re going for here. Because our minds are polluted by our training. In order to get beyond our training, we need to activate our imaginations. Our minds are excuse makers; our imaginations are storytellers. So instead of asking ourselves what’s right or wrong, we must ask ourselves: “What is true and beautiful?” Then our imagination rises inside us, thanks us for finally consulting it after all these years, and tells us a story.”

So, after all these years, I am activating my imagination in a whole new way! Lo and behold, it parallels beautifully with my training as a Biblical scholar. I have been led by the Spirit in recent years to shift from the “Revised Common Lectionary” to the “Narrative Lectionary” in Sunday morning worship. The Narrative Lectionary is our story. After all, the Biblical writers were storytellers. “I love to tell the story” the hymn proclaims!

What about you? Can you ignite your imagination to finally speak your native tongue? In the weeks and months ahead, I pray that we will have the opportunity to wonder more about the world of creativity and about finding our *creative path to deeper spirituality* together! In September, I hope to schedule a time when we can meet in Currier and where I can share more with you about what I’ve imagined and created while away from you. I pray that this can become a dialog where you tell me about your imaginings and your own artist’s way.

Hold on! The Spirit blows among us!

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Deborah

Letter from Jean Brodeur

Clergy, Members and Friends of First Parish Church,

I wish to convey my heartfelt gratitude for the Clergy, and the many members and friends of First Parish Church who reached out to me with cards, notes, visits and prayers during my recent prolonged illness. Your thoughts, prayers, cards and visits were instrumental in contributing to my recovery. Bless you all and thank you all so much.

With Christian love and gratitude,

Jean Brodeur

Christian Education and Faith Formation



ALOHA..... Join us for our FREE virtual Vacation Church Camp: Lava Lava Luau!!!

Learn how to keep cool when things get hot.... Express and understand your emotions.

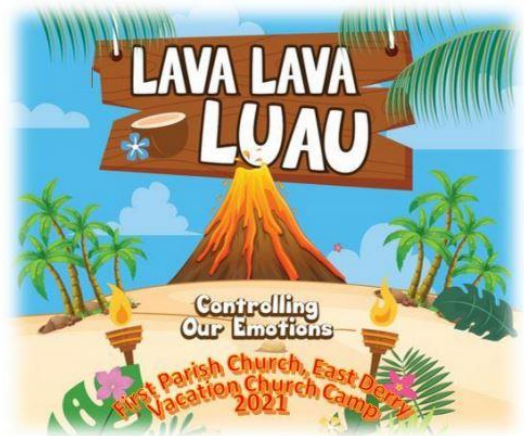
There will be videos, skits, crafts, stem activities, object lessons, & games.

SIGN UP today:

<https://vbsmate.com/events/FPCEastDerryNH/20270>

FPC VCC will begin August 2nd

CRAFTS, STEM ACTIVITIES, STORIES, OBJECT LESSONS
SNACKS, SKITS, GAMES, DANCING



Coming Soon to a Church Near You...

A Movie for all ages (family friendly)
with prepackaged snacks and social distancing.

Watch for more information in the Aug. Weekly E-Blast



Back to School Blessing

Sunday, September 12th

Yes!! Its ***Rally Sunday***....

Sept. 12th

And what happens on Rally Sunday you ask?

All our students and educators may bring their backpacks, school bags, and totes to First Parish so our church family can offer blessings for a safe and successful school year. Please spread the word and remember to label your items. Everyone will receive a blessing tag to attach to their bag!



Meetinghouse Preservation Update

Work on our current projects is progressing well. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, we will have enough funds to complete everything planned for this year.

Inside the Connector, the electrical, lighting, and fire alarm work is almost finished. All the trim has been installed, and the walls have been primed and first-coat painted. The second coat of paint and painting all the trim plus installing the flooring and custom staircase railings await.

The new doors to Noyes are hung and their hardware will go on soon. The sump pump is installed, and its drain connected to the underground pipes outside, as have been the downspouts from the new gutter system. We will soon invite Stanley Elevator back to complete the elevator's installation. Then we'll need the elevator certified by the state, and to get the Connector inspected to receive the Certificate of Occupancy we need to start using it.

For the Meetinghouse, the weathered exterior has been scraped and prepped for painting, with the lead paint fragments properly handled and disposed of. Carpentry repairs are underway now; these don't seem as extensive as we anticipated. Painting will then follow.

We're still aiming for completion this September or so, but this will be dependent on our contractors' schedules (which are all very full).

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

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



Back to the Sanctuary

The Collaboration Group working to get YOU back to the Sanctuary is very happy to announce that we not only reached our 2021 goal of raising \$150,000 but went over it! The generosity of some of our families is overwhelming and we are so very grateful for each and every one.

The breakdown is this:

- Year to date in Hand: \$139,099
- Rehab fund donations: \$20,000 (there were additional funds of approximately \$5,000 that was earmarked for the mortgage payments)
- Perceived steeple transfer: \$6,000
- Still to come in by years end of outstanding pledges: \$13,750

This gives us an approximate, but we believe, realistic total in the area of \$184, 100

Thank you all for your support and your prayers which aided us to surpass our goal. Paul Lindemann and BAC have been working hard to get the actual work done and we owe them much gratitude. We look forward to seeing what we can accomplish in 2022 moving us every closer to the return to the Sanctuary.

Committee: Anne Marie Merrill, Sue Lindemann, Margie Ives, Cynthia Gray

Worship Services in August

In addition to 10:00 Zoom/Facebook every week, Pastor Deborah will offer IN PERSON Outdoor modified services at 8:30am (like last year) on the following dates: August 1 (bring your own communion elements) and August 8. (We will let you know if there is one on August 22.)

If you can join us for these services, please note the following:

This service will not be available on Zoom or Facebook. In order to comply with safety recommendations, this service will be modified.

- Any person displaying Covid-19 symptoms is encouraged to stay home.
- Bring your own chair or a blanket to sit on. Please allow distance between families.
- Refrain from shaking hands or hugging.
- If you need to use the restroom, only 2 people will be permitted to go into the building at any one time (or 1 family unit).
- There will be alcohol-based hand sanitizer available to use.
- Children will remain with their families throughout the service.
- Everyone is asked to remain seated for the duration of the service.
- Masks are suggested.

Resuming In Person Worship Services

Beginning Rally Sunday September 12, 2021

Excited doesn't begin to explain how we feel about coming back to in person Worship in Currier Hall. Here are the necessary guidelines needed for our reopening:

- Masks for all.
- Greeters/Ushers hand out masks at the door for those without.
- Alternating rows with chairs spread out in different "bubbles".
- Once ushered to your desired area please remain there during the service
- No playground at this time.
- Church School will be available.
- Fellowship gathering outside
- Extra help will be needed to clean after the services following facilities' sanitation plan.
- These are subject to change as the conditions may change.

Please understand that the reason we want people to wear masks is because we want to protect our children and members with a weak immune system. First Parish Church is a family, and we need to work together and take care of each other. Thank you and God Bless.

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

MISSIONS JULY 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

Alice Collier- A Eulogy For Grammy

The following eulogy was written and shared with permission by Margarite, Alice Collier's granddaughter.

Hi and thank you all for being here today. It really means the world to my family and me.

Growing up I spent a lot of time with my Grandma Alice. My earliest memories of Grammy include sitting with her in her room at our house in Arlington Heights watching cooking shows like Rachel Ray or completing 400 piece puzzles. As you probably know, Grammy worked in a library and loved to read. She shared her love of books with me by reading to me all the time and taking me to the bookmobile. One of my favorite authors, Lemony Snicket said, "It is a curious thing, the death of a loved one. We all know that our time in this world is limited. And yet it is always a surprise when it happens to someone we know. It is like walking up the stairs to your bedroom in the dark, and thinking there is one more stair than there is. Your foot falls down, through the air, and there is a sickly moment of dark surprise as you try to readjust the way you thought of things."

Despite having lived a long life, and having almost two years to process her absence, her passing away is still surreal. She loved visiting here: going to church, visiting her friends Penny, Ruth, and Mr. and Mrs. Pillsbury, and taking photos of us kids. Last summer was the first time I visited the lake since she passed, and there was an empty feeling in the house. She passed down her fondness for Derry and Beaver Lake to all the people who visited, including me. The last few years of her life she wasn't able to stay at the lake. It was difficult not having her there but knowing she was in Indiana with my Uncle Don and his family, my aunt Ann, and cousins Chris and Cathy, made it easier. I've been able to visit Derry twice since she has passed and with time, I've begun to feel her with me here. I feel her when I sit in the lawn chairs and look out on the lake in the morning. I feel her when I see a Heron land on the raft. I feel her when it's dinner time and I'm counting how many plates to set at the table.

I spent a lot of time after she passed questioning everything I thought I knew, I went as far as wondering what the point to everything was. I don't believe there is simply one answer to that but I do believe something so vital to life is how we touch the lives around us. One thing I do know for sure is that the chances of being alive are so slim. There is something out there, whether you believe it is God, the universe, or just pure fate, something has allowed my life and all of yours to align just right to be in the same lifetime as my Grammy.

I mean, look at where we are right now. Everyone's life here has been influenced by my Grammy. It is such a beautiful thing that we take for granted far too often. And regardless of what you put your faith in, you don't have to believe in the immortal soul to believe that people live on with us. We may have lost my sweet Grandma Alice but we have not lost the things she gave us: compassion, fairness, and love: love for books, life, spending time with those we love. Those don't just go away when we lose someone, so let her remind us to hold on to each other, for our precious time goes by too fast.

I want us all to remember her as the woman who raised three incredible men, a woman who made the best-deviled eggs, and the one person who would always correct my posture when she would notice me slouching at the dinner table. I hated it then, but I sure miss it now. If there is anything I want you to take away from this, it is that life is such a precious thing. We spend our Mondays waiting for Friday. Winters waiting for summer. I want you to live in this moment because we will never get it back again. We may not have forever but I know that my grandma lives on in the way I read my books or love Boston cream pie. She is always with me and I hope you recognize that she is with you, too, wherever you are, wherever you go.

July Fun!

Outdoor
Worship
Service
July 11th



Lava Lava
Luau!
July 16th!



August Worship Services and Events

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 Narrative Lectionary

Worship Services in August:
(Weather permitting and subject to change)
For all outdoor services,
please bring your own chair.



- August 1: Communion at both services: please prepare your own elements.
8:30 in person; informal modified worship (singing a cappella and shorter service) in the driveway near the brick garden/ flagpole
10:00 zoom/Facebook (Greeters: Anne-Marie Merrill, Sue Brown)
- August 8: 8:30 in person; informal modified worship (singing a cappella and shorter service) in the driveway near the brick garden/flagpole
10:00 zoom/Facebook (Greeters: Jack Martin, Sue Brown)
- August 15: 10:00 OUTDOOR In Person Worship with Baptisms
(Greeters: Rachel Cobban, Sue Brown)
- August 22: Subject to change: 8:30 in person; informal modified worship (singing a cappella and shorter service) in the driveway near the brick garden/flagpole
10:00 zoom/Facebook (Greeters: Rachel Cobban, Sue Lindemann)
- August 29: 10:00 OUTDOOR In Person Worship
(Greeters: Anne-Marie Merrill, Sue Brown)

Lava Lava Vacation Church Camp August 2-6 – Virtual, Pre-Recorded

Labyrinth Field Trip August 7th – Contact Pastor Deborah if you are interested

Labyrinth Walks August 10 and 31 via Zoom - Contact the Pastor Deborah if you are interested

Spaghetti Supper- To-Go Friday August 27 at 5:00-6:00pm

Office Hours August- During the month of August Pastor Deborah, Christine & Michelle have vacations planned. Office hours will vary, so please speak with someone before stopping by the church.

August 6-17: the officemgr@fpc-ucc.org email will be checked daily, but there may be a delay in response, please reach out to Pastor Deborah or Christine directly during these dates.

**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

Senior Pastor and Teacher

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

Office Manager

Michelle Guerrin:
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