First Parish Congregational Church

United Church of Christ • East Derry, New Hampshire October 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,

I pray that your life is as full of God-winks as it is pandemic induced disappointments. Covid-19 and the Delta variant are pushing our boundaries, as well as our patience! We all want our most beloved activities to resume! In the case of worship services, we haven't missed a Sunday since this whole thing began to provide some manner of worship hour – although seeing one another in person is the most desirable. That is why I offered so many outdoor opportunities. It was a joy to see many of you on those occasions and to welcome new faces among us. The good news is this: Resuming in-person worship in our Currier sanctuary is scheduled to take place this month – all the while continuing to live stream for our distant friends! Thanks be to God!

Will it be "like it was?" Unfortunately, no, it will not. In order to provide the safest worship experience possible there will be changes to the way we used to do things. Masks will be worn at all times in the building Sunday morning. When you enter the building, you will be welcomed but you will pick up your bulletin and drop off your offering in the foyer/narthex. The Currier sanctuary will appear differently with chairs in groups rather than rows, allowing us to maintain distance from one another. The worship team (i.e. pastor, musician and lay reader) will be on the stage. The worship service itself will be shorter and children

will remain with their parents for the service. We won't stand and sit numerous times during the service but remain seated throughout.

Are all of these changes necessary? We believe that they are or we wouldn't resume in person services. We believe that your desire to come together again will motivate you to join with us in loving our neighbor by protecting them. My daughter, who has a doctorate in nursing practice, reminded me that even vaccinated people with no symptoms can carry and transmit this disease. We want to assure everyone's safety.

So, if you are comfortable with the safety precautions that we are making, we hope to see you soon. And if you believe that it is safer to stay at home, please join us online as we will continue to use zoom and Facebook to reach you.



If I could also invite you to participate in the <u>creative activities</u> that I have been talking about since my Sabbatical on **October 16 and 30, 9-12.** These are Saturday mornings. Please come and join me in the activity of creating glass garden totems, otherwise known as sculptures. PLEASE NOTE: a friend of mine pointed out that when I use the word "pieces", she thought that I meant broken glass. On the contrary, these are items of glassware like teacups or teapots, platters or vases, pickle bowls or jelly jars. Anything that is pretty, colorful or intriguing – <u>and unwanted</u>. We will be gluing these items of glassware to each other building a "totem" or statue that is unique, colorful and fun!! We have approval from the Sugar Plum committee to sell these at the Sugar Plum Fair! I've seen these priced anywhere from \$24 each to \$54 each. COME, be creative and have fun with us on those Saturdays in October! It's not too late to donate items for this. Bring them by the church and leave in the foyer if no one is working at that time.

What does any of this have to do with God, you may be asking yourself. I learned while on Sabbatical that God is most present when we are grateful and creative. Don't forget Genesis 1! God created and it was good! Our God is a creating and fun-loving God. Our God smiles when we work together and when we play together.

God-winks are all around us! Look for them! Acknowledge them! Enjoy them!

See you in worship! Be safe and stay well. In God's grip,
Pastor Deborah



Christian Education and Faith Formation

Children's Christian Education Program

Children's Christian Education Program (CCEPE)



Who: Children in pre-K through 12th grade (*Pre-k - Kindergarten, Elementary School, Middle School, Youth, & Confirmation Program* (7th grade – 12th grade))

What: Children's Christian Education Program; formerly "Church School" or; formerly "Sunday School"

When: Sunday 11:00 am – 12:00 pm; REMINDER: CHILDREN WILL BE SITTING WITH THEIR FAMILIES DURING THE 10:00 AM SUNDAY SERVICES. SERVICES WILL BE SHORTER AND ACTIVITY BAGS WILL BE AVAILBLE ACCOMPANIED BY AGEAPPROPRIATE ACTIVITY BULLETINS.

and Cook Conference Rooms Room upstairs. **Where:** Classes will 1 hour long; children in grades pre-k - 8 will meet in John, Luke downstairs; Confirmation (grades 7-12) will meet in Corinthians Conference

Why: While schools are in session, we can be in session. Return the focus to equipping parents with the tools to nurture their children's faith. Age-specific classes are important, so children are able to learn at their pace and on their level without denying them the growth opportunity as they learn about, serve, and worship God with their parents and Church family.

Safety Measures will include:

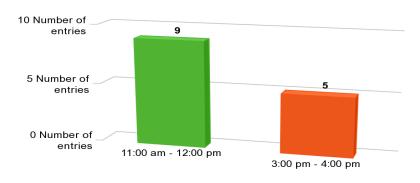
- Masks worn by everyone.
- Sunday School rooms are equipped with air filtration systems.
- All supplies and surfaces will be disinfected after all classes.
- Students will have their own supplies and practice good hand washing/sanitization.
- Appropriate distancing will be maintained.

If you'd like to send an email to Christine Lehoullier, <u>cedirector@fpc-ucc.org</u> or Pastor Deborah, <u>pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org</u> or Pastor Deborah, <u>pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org</u> or Pastor Deborah, <u>pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org</u>

<u>ucc.org</u>, please don't hesitate to reach out.
Thank you!

Almost two weeks ago, a survey was sent out to families regarding what times might be most suitable on a Sunday for children to attend a Christian Education program outside of church service hours. The results were as follows

CCEP Meeting Times Sign Up Genius Survey



IMPORTANT ACTIONS TO BE NOTED:

The Sunday morning worship service will be significantly shorter than in the past. This will allow families to worship together and our teachers to worship with their families.

The CCEP will be at a separate time. Parents who bring their children may stay and enjoy an hour of adult theological Q & A, or they may simply want to get to know one another better while their child is in class. Some parents may choose to go do their shopping.

This program is evolving just as the needs of our families are evolving, because of cultural trends, due to this pandemic.

We ask for your understanding and your ideas. Please speak directly to Pastor Deborah or Christine with your ideas and questions. pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org or cedirector@fpc-ucc.org or <a href="mailto:cedi

Register for In-Person Classes Starting October 10th!

In-person classes will be starting October 10th! The Christian Education Elves have been very busy at working getting the classrooms organized and cleaned and re-decorated for our new launch date! The Jotform Link to fill out the student registration form online can be found on the new Padlet Platform, on the website under Christiian Education & Faith Formation or simply follow this link https://form.jotform.com/212716882021148.

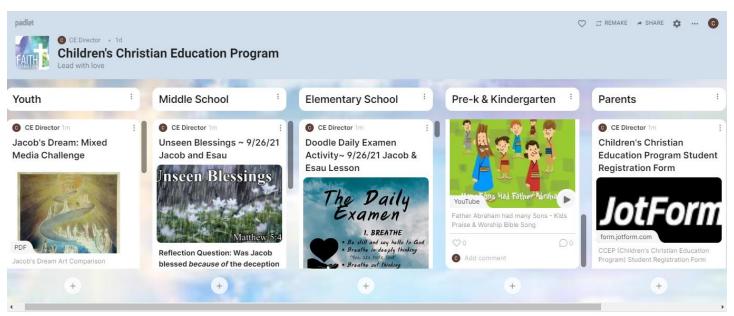


Check out The Christian Education's Newest and Easiest Online Tool!

What is Padlet?

The picture below displays the new platform we will be using to post all online interactive content to accompany and supplement our in-person lessons for our Children's Christian Education Program, links to forms and sign-ups, and possibly more! We keep all your children's interactive responses to the activities private by only inviting and allowing students of First Parish Church to view and add their responses to any and all activities. Please e-mail Christine Lehoullier, cedirector@fpc-ucc.org or text/call @ 603-264-9261 if you are not invited by the end of the weekend, October 3, 2021.

Once invited via e-mail, you will need to follow a few simple prompts, explained to you in your email, to become a part of our little Padlet community! The potential is great for relationship, communication, growth, and accessibility no matter where you are or what type of technology you have.



Padlet is a software platform many schools, businesses and people use to make and share content with others .

- Easy and Intuitive This is a very simple way to publish original content on the internet, period.
- Inclusive People of all ages, skill levels, and abilities can use Padlet.
- Collaborative We can work on shared projects, assignments, and activities together.
- ★ Portable iOS, Android, and Kindle apps available. Take it with you anywhere!
- Private and secure Content is viewable only to those who are invited to the group and content is filtered automatically for inappropriate content.



Fall Church Family Fun | With Pumpkin Painting Art Projects for All Ages!

Date: 10/23/2021 (Sat.)

Time: 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Join everyone Saturday, *October 23rd from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm* for some pumpkin decorating fun farm fresh from the patch! Fall is in the air and there is so much to be thankful for! Let's gather, safely, and enjoy the blessing of each

other's laughter and company after we jump in some leave piles and perhaps before we start up those evening bonfires with some warm apple cider!

Sign up HERE: Families 1: Fall Church Family Fun | With Pumpkin Painting Art Projects for All Ages! (signupgenius.com)

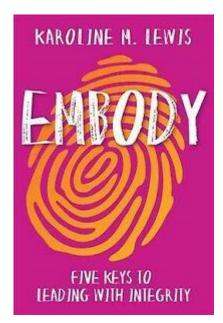
[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d49adad2da5f58-fall] and please let us know how many people with be attending in your party. We can't wait to see you all!

Fall Blessings, Your Christian Education Stewards

Adult Faith Formation - Embody

Remember when we said that "everything is subject to change"?

Well, we changed the schedule! The curriculum project is no longer an element of the discussion of this book. We will concentrate on discussing and digesting Dr. Lewis' five attributes of Christian leadership.



Fall 2021 Adult Faith Formation Embody by Karoline Lewis

Some favorite quotes from our students so far are:

"Prayer happens when you are *not* in control. There is no other thing to do, no other place to go, except to turn to God." Pg. 14



"Before there is church as a building or church as a community, church is who we are and what we say." Pg. 17-18

Our new class schedule is:

Chapter 2 – Attentiveness October 12

Chapter 3 – Authenticity October 19
Chapter 4 – Abundance November 2
Chapter 5 – Advocacy November 9

Please join us when you are able! In person or via zoom. (Let us know you need the link.)

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:13

MISSIONS SEPTEMBER 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 Sonshine Soup Kitchen \$100 Derry Friendship Center \$100 First Baptist Food Pantry \$100 Pastoral Counseling Services \$100 Pastor's Discretionary Fund \$200 Upper Room \$100

DIAPER DRIVE FOR AMOSKEAG HEALTH

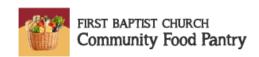
Amoskeag Health serves around 100 families every month. On the first and third Saturdays it provides these families with diapers and baby wipes. Thanks to the recommendation of Kate Peters, the FPC Mission Board has voted to hold a diaper drive to help support this program. From October 1-10, we are collecting non cloth diapers of all sizes (especially sizes 4,5,6) and baby wipes. Please bring your donation to the church during office hours or leave between the doors outside of office hours.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Each year the Missions Board receives a list of families who need some extra help managing the holidays. Recipients are recommended to us through Community Caregivers, the Upper Room and you. If you know of someone who needs a helping hand, please talk with Pastor Deborah so we can add them to our list. Again this fall, we are suspending our food collection and giving grocery gift cards. If you would like to donate to the cost of these cards, please designate Thanksgiving on your check/envelope.

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













Derry Community Meals- October/ Spaghetti Supper

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

10/10/21- Church of the Transfiguration (DECOFT)/Elijah's Table (EHS)- Dinner 2:00 PM to 2:30 PM

10/16/21- St. Luke's Church- Lunch 12:00 PM to 12:30 PM drive around to back door

10/29/21- First Parish Church- 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM drive up to side door

10/31/21- 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

Volunteer Opportunities at the Sonshine Soup Kitchen- Monday-Thursday 3-6pm, food preparers to cook & cleanup. Meals are served 4:30-5:00 via Drive By. Please contact Margie Ives or Michelle in the office for details.

Letter from Council

Return to in-person Services:

At the Council meeting on September 15th there was an extended conversation in regard to returning to "In Person" worship. 17 participants were present to voice their concerns both pro and against and two opinions of absent interested individuals were entered into the record. This was a cordial and courteous discussion. At the conclusion the council voted unanimously to return to in person worship on October 10th, all things being as they are now. In other words, one of the caveats is that if one of the two following things occur, we will be forced to discontinue in person worship and resort to zoom again. Those two things are: if the Derry School system closes all schools or if the Governor imposes a lockdown again. We discussed whether to require proof of vaccination and voted not to. We will require masks at all times. There will be no wiggle room on this. Children programs, under the direction of CE, will have a separate time for education. Streaming will continue for a stay-at-home option.

As you can imagine, this was a difficult decision on both sides. We want all our congregants to stay safe, but we all seem to miss being in person and the majority saw it that way. We must encourage no hugging or physical contact and there will be no fellowship after the service. The room will be set up to promote spacing. Communion will be different, in order to maintain safety. Please help the leaders to make this as safe as possible so that we can continue to be together.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Submitted by Cyndi Gray on behalf of Council

FUND RAISING

Sugar Plum Fair

Many of you have questions about the Sugar Plum Fair- we hear you and are working diligently to create a safe and successful plan. Please watch the weekly E-blasts for details!

Sneak Peek! We are thrilled to announce a new fundraiser Butter Braid® Pastry and Joyful Traditions Cake Rolls

Fundraising Dates: November 13 - December 4 with delivery on December 17th @ 3:30 PM ORDER DETAILS WILL BE SHARED ASAP

Butter Braid® Pastries are light and flaky, containing mouthwatering fillings like cinnamon, blueberry cream cheese and various fruit flavors. Unlike a dense bread, Butter Braid® Pastries are hand-braided with a sweet dough base containing over 25 layers of light, airy dough and 100% real butter. This gives the one-and-only Butter Braid® pastry its unique and incredible flavor! Thaw, Rise & Bake. Icing packet included. Great for breakfast, dessert or any special occasion. Very profitable AND exclusive to fundraising!

The Joyful Traditions Cake Rolls are made from scratch and are great for the Holidays and special occasions. The Cake Rolls are frozen so you can use them when it's convenient for you. Just thaw the Cake Rolls and they are ready to serve!

Ongoing Fundraising

We'd like you to remember the various ways that you can help the church with little to no effort or out-of-pocket expense.

- 1) When you make purchases through Amazon use the **Amazon Smile** and designate First Parish as a charity organization to receive donations based upon the purchases that you make. Visit https://smile.amazon.com/ and search "First Parish Congregational Church". The church only receives funds when going through the https://smile.amazon.com/ website. Please visit https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ to learn more details.
- 2) As you get ready to head back to school, the **Saint Pauly shed** in our church parking lot is waiting for your donations. This is an excellent way for First Parish to receive funds without much effort. So, as you replace clothes or shoes that have mysteriously "shrunk" over the summer, remember that they can be retired to the shed and will be used for others less fortunate.
- 3) Do you or someone you know shop at **Hannaford**? Purchase a gift card from the office. This can be so easy. Call and talk to Michelle in the office. Send in a check and your gift card will be sent to you. (Pastor Deborah is offering to deliver your card to you if you live within 50 miles of the church! From then on recharges are easy-peasy.)

Thank you, Cathy Zylinski, Stephanie Cm-berg, Carol Guerrin, Beth Hunter, Kayla Pingree-McCarthy, Cathy Pottle

Board of Deacons

Mark your calendars. We will be resuming live church on Sunday October 10th. It's exciting. But we still need to be careful of the health of our church family.

Although many of us are healthy and vaccinated. We still need to take care to minimize transmission of COVID-19 and other diseases. Some of our church family are too young to be vaccinated or have significant health issues even if vaccinated.

The services will continue to be streamed on Zoom and Facebook. If you choose to attend in person please plan to wear a mask if you are 2 or older. If you are not well please stay home and join us remotely.

Things will be a little different when we come together. If you forget your mask one will be provided as you enter the building. On your way to Currier Hall please pick up your own bulletin and any other hand outs. On Communion Sunday you will also pick up an individual communion cup.

Seating has been set up to help us maintain physical distance. Children will sit with their families and all are asked to remain seated for the duration of the service. The service will be a little shorter. When it is over please take your bulletin with you.

For the time being there will be no coffee time after the service. Please take time to talk with each other outside the building.

Submitted by Sue Lindemann on behalf of the Deacons

Meetinghouse Presentation Update

The initial lead paint scraping and surface preparation on the Meetinghouse proved inadequate, so the company returned in mid-September to do two more weeks of work. Painting of the exterior should begin in early October.

The Connector Interior is mostly done. There is a bit more interior painting for Keeley to do, Morin needs to install door hardware and such, and Liberty Electric must complete the fire alarm system yet. But we are mainly waiting for Stanley Elevator to return and complete the elevator installation. The state will then need to inspect and certify the elevator for use, so it's unclear just now when we might be able to have a "grand opening" of the Connector. Hopefully early November.

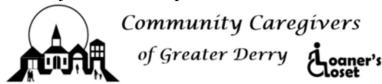
Busy contractor schedules have slowed these projects, but we are nearing the end for 2021. It looks like we'll finish the year with about \$20K remaining in the Rehab Fund.

Your BAC team has been fully occupied managing the current projects. We will soon return to developing detailed project plans and a budget for the next significant challenge: rehabbing the Sanctuary and re-opening it for use.

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

Community Caregivers

Cindee Tanuma joined us on September 19th for our Mission Moment



6 West Broadway, Unit 6, Derry 432-0877 https://comcaregivers.org office@comcaregivers.org

Mission: Enriching lives and supporting individuals to remain independent through a compassionate volunteer community.

Vision: Improving the quality of life for everyone we serve.

Community Caregivers of Greater Derry is committed to the following values: COMPASSION, RESPECT, DEDICATION, EXCELLENCE, RELIABILTY

Towns served by Caregivers: Danville, Derry, Londonderry, Chester, Hampstead, Sandown & Windham

Financial Support: The services that the Caregivers' volunteers provide are at no charge to our clients. Our services are made possible through individual and group donations, foundation support, fundraising endeavors and the towns served by Caregivers.

We can help those who have difficulty maintaining independence and quality of life

because they are homebound, elderly, temporarily or permanently disabled, lonely, recuperating from illness or dealing with chronic illness.

With great support from our 458 volunteers, Caregivers provides to over 341 individuals:

<u>Transportation</u> for shopping, errands & medical appointments.

Visiting friendly visiting, companionship, social outings.

Errands & chores light housekeeping, minor repairs or shopping.

Respite Care provide a break for family and friends who are providing continual care.

Loaner's Closet Used medical equipment for loan, at no charge. Donations are appreciated. We are in great need of bath seats, rollators, wheelchairs and all bariatric equipment.

Last year we loaned out 2770 pieces of equipment and gave away approx. 1500 cases of adult diapers.

Statistics for 2020

41,577— the number of hours spent by our volunteers serving individuals
\$1,186,608— the value of what their service is worth
16,443— the total number of times individuals were served
144,585— the total miles driven with an individual or to an individual's home to complete a service

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO GROW. CALL OR EMAIL FOR MORE INFO.

Mission: This month is "Neighbors In Need"

First Parish is faithful about serving God through our focus on Mission and we do it in so many ways. The United Church of Christ promotes and participates actively in five denomination-wide programs. They are: Our Church's Wider Mission and the Special Mission Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen The Church, Neighbors In Need and The Christmas Fund. Each one has a focus, and you can read more about them on the UCC website and our own newsletter as we participate in them. By participating in all five we become a "5 for 5" church.

In addition to supporting all five of the UCC missions, we support many local non-for-profits, as well as sending financial support to Jack Kennedy's mission in Southeast Asia and United Theological School in Zimbabwe. In addition to financial gifts, we provide spaghetti dinners once a month and we are now taking dinners to Family Promise in Nashua.

October's UCC mission is "Neighbor's in Need". The theme of "Unfailing Love" focuses on supporting organizations and projects that are serving the homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministries. Two-thirds is used by the United Church of Christ's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service through grants awarded to UCC churches and community organizations. Collection will be received during October. Please write NIN Offering on the memo line of your check or on your envelope.

Thank you for participating.

Resuming In Person Worship Services

Beginning October 10th

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 will be worn at all times. Masks are available for those who don't have one.
- Chairs will be spread out in different "bubbles".
- Everyone will remain seated for the entire service, which will run approx. 40 minutes.
- Children will sit with their families for the worship service.
- Extra help is needed to clean after worship following facilities' sanitation plan.
- These are subject to change as the conditions may change.

LAY READERS

We are also welcoming volunteers for upcoming Worship Services. Please reach out to Pastor Deborah if you would like to join the list of lay readers.

October 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 October:



October 3rd: 10:00 Zoom/Facebook (Greeters: Jack Martin, Sue Lindemann) Communion: please hare your elements ready.

October 10th: 10:00 In Person Worship in Currier Sanctuary and Zoom/ Facebook (Greeters: Rachel Cobban, Katie Cobban)

October 17th: 10:00 In Person Worship and Zoom/ Facebook (Greeters: Jack Martin, Sue Brown)

October 26th: 10:00 In Person Worship and Zoom/ Facebook (Greeters: Jack Martin, Sue Lindemann)

October 31st: 10:00 In Person Worship and Zoom/ Facebook (Greeters: Rachel Cobban, Katie Cobban)

Diaper Drive: October 1st- 10th donation to the church during office hours or leave between the doors outside of office hours.

Labyrinth Walks: October 5 & 19 at 6pm via Zoom - Contact the office if you are interested **Adult Faith Formation:** Tuesday evenings; meet from 6:45 to 8:00. To read and develop a curriculum for "Embody" - Contact the office if you are interested.

Spaghetti Supper: To-Go Friday October 29 at 5:00-6:00pm

The UCCNH Rockingham Association: Fall Meeting November 14th- via Zoom social time starting at 1:30pm followed by the business meeting starting at 2:00pm.

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