

## First Parish Congregational Church

### United Church of Christ • East Derry, New Hampshire January 2022 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 12<sup>th</sup> Century Church in Hampshire, England



## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Child of God,

Happy New Year! 2022 is going to be an amazing year! Can't you feel it? We have endured the unimaginable – and we have done it faithfully with grace and kindness. I am so excited that this is the year when we will read the Gospel of John from beginning: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." to the very last verse (21:23): "But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." The abundance of God's goodness is so palpable in this Gospel.

This is our truth, as well. When I asked a group to think about the gifts of 2021, at first, they groaned but then they thought and prayed. After a few minutes, they were amazed that, in fact, there were so many gifts! When we pay attention, God's goodness is abundant!

Our Mission giving is at an all-time high. Our faithful Board of Outreach and Missions extends locally, regionally and internationally. We are delighted to once again be in touch with our sister church in Dangamvura, Zimbabwe and we continue to support Jack Kennedy's remarkable work with Health Access in Indonesia. God's goodness is abundant!

We look to 2022 prayerfully, trusting that God's abundance will again be palpable! We are off to a good start with a generous amount in pledged income – acknowledging that there is much work to be done, as we begin to pay back that line of credit that allowed us to do so much work on the Meetinghouse. Let us continue to pay attention – because God's goodness is abundant!

Bountiful Blessings to you and yours! With affection, Pastor Deborah

## Christian Education and Faith Formation

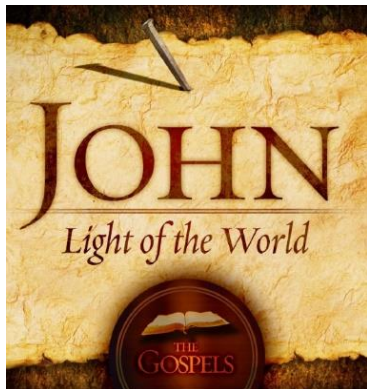
### HAPPY NEW YEAR AND BLESSINGS FOR A JOYOUS, PEACEFUL AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Christian Education Board would like to send out a sincere thank you to parents, volunteers, employees, and all church members who helped make, and continue to make, this year's transition to in-person learning within the new constructs of the Children's Christian Education Program a success.

There are still many things to learn, and we should always be looking to evolve to benefit the spiritual growth of everyone in the church and beyond as we are all students of God's Word. Our future together as we traverse whatever comes our way looks exciting! God bless everyone's immense hard work that has gone into the building and technology that strives to keeps us all connected to one another. It is love and a caring for one another that is our greatest call.

A special thank you to our outgoing board members: Ed Sullivan! For your wonderful sense of humor, gracious acts of kindness and continued discipline at our board meetings, we thank you and we love you!

#### Adult Faith Formation – The Gospel of John Bible Study Begins Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> 6:45pm



If the Bible were a mountain, the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament lead up to the top, where the cross of Jesus stands as described by the four gospels, and the remaining twenty-three books of the New Testament lead down from the top while looking back at His cross. And even among the four gospels, the Gospel of John sheds perhaps the brightest spotlight on Jesus and His cross. Come, join us in studying the good news brought to you by a man whose reference to himself as someone Jesus loved made his name - "John," of Hebrew origin, the meaning of John is "God is gracious."

#### CCEP Emergency Class Cancellations

##### Attention Parents, Caregivers, and Volunteers:

Should there be a need to cancel class due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances unrelated to weather, the Christian Education Board has agreed to send emergency text notifications, in addition to, email notifications, to best reach everyone in the timeliest and least intrusive way possible. In the event of inclement weather, please refer to WMUR's weather cancellation listings.

We sincerely apologize if there were any inconveniences to anyone's personal schedules or otherwise during the latest cancellation due to illness. We thank you for your cooperation and patience.

If there is a preferred way in which you'd like to be contacted that does not include text or email, please let us **ASAP** by either calling the front office at 603-434-0628 or emailing Christine Lehoullier @ [cedirector@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:cedirector@fpc-ucc.org) and we will update our system accordingly.



## Youth Group String Art and Table Talk



**Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm-7:00p**

Hey kids, save this date and bring a friend! All are welcome and please wear a mask.

Join us for some string art where we'll help you put together this popular craft in your own style! We'll start out with refreshments and jump right into the crafting while relaxing and chit chatting. We can't wait to see you all there!

If you'd like to join, but prefer a Zoom option, please contact Christine Lehoullier ahead of time for craft supplies.

## Nominating Committee

### You Can Make a Difference

Do you have 3 or 4 hours a month to help FPC and others? Do you have special talents or abilities that you would be willing to share? As the apostle Peter wrote to several churches "God has given each of us special abilities, be sure to use them to help each other, passing onto others God's many kinds of blessings".

Maybe you already volunteer for a local ministry or maybe you would be willing to join a board or committee here at FPC. The church needs people willing to give of their time and talents to help our church run smoother and to share the work load. Volunteering should be a joy. It should be some thing that makes your heart happy.

Below is a list of positions on boards and committees that are available. Please contact Pastor Deborah or me if you have any questions.

Beth Hunter

603-505-0702 or [beth.hunter2@comcast.net](mailto:beth.hunter2@comcast.net)

**Christian Education** 3 openings, meet as needed

**Deacons** 3 openings, meet last Thurs @6:30

**Facilities** 2 openings, meets 4<sup>th</sup> Tues @ 7:00

**Personnel** 1 opening, meets as needed

**Nominating** 5 openings, meets as needed

**Finance Committee** 1 opening, meets as needed

**Historical Preservation Committee** 1 opening, meets as needed

## Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity... 2 Corinthians 9:11

**MISSIONS DECEMBER DONATIONS:** Thank you for continuing to support our monthly donations.

Community Caregivers \$100	Derry Friendship Center \$100
Family Promise \$100	First Baptist Food Pantry \$100
Our Church's Wider Mission \$350	Pastoral Counseling Services \$100
Pinkerton Homeless Program \$100	Pastor's Discretionary Fund \$200
Sonshine Soup Kitchen \$100	Upper Room \$100
Zimbabwe-Dangamvura Partner Church \$25	

Additional December giving:

**Health Access Sumbawa**, Indonesia, \$2000 to help furnish and set up a second health clinic opening in January and for treated mosquito control/ malaria prevention bed nets.

**New Hampshire UCC Conference**, \$2000 to be sent to Kentucky for tornado relief

**Family Promise**, \$1000 anonymous gift channeled through the Missions Board

### ANGEL TREE



In late November, Caregivers gave us 30 gift tags for some of their clients and Nancy delivered the collected gifts on December 13<sup>th</sup>. In early December, the Upper Room requested gifts for 7 young children and warm sweatshirts and food gift cards for the 33 teens who regularly meet there. There also were First Parish gift requests for 3 families. There is great joy in seeing all of your generous donations filling half of Pastor Deborah's office and then on the faces of the people working for the receiving agencies. Your contributions brought Christmas happiness to many here and in the surrounding communities.

### FUNDING for the BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH AND MISSION

Many thanks to everyone who earmarks a donation to Missions on your Pledge Card. These generous donations provide our monthly funding to support community and worldwide organizations.

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

## Board of Deacons

What a different but wonderful Advent season we've just experienced! As Pastor Deborah wrote last month, we hope that it has been "transforming" for you and that the "light" within you may be the "light that saves others". Our appreciation goes out to all that have been sharing their "light", and especially those that have contributed in some way to the spiritual life of the church this past Advent season. (Did you get to watch the online Nativity play!? Wow!)

Did you know that the word deacon comes from the Greek word "diakonos" which means servant? The Board of Deacons would like to thank our outgoing fellow Deacon and Chair, Sue Lindemann for her servant leadership and contributions over the past 4 years. She has enjoyed her time so much on the Board that she has even offered to assist us in an unofficial capacity. We are thrilled to hear that of course, but we are also looking forward to having additional members join our small group. One Deacon recently exclaimed that "It's such a pleasure to be a greeter on Sunday mornings--whether in person or on Zoom/Facebook. I've gotten to know people and have a chance to speak with them, even for a few brief moments. With no fellowship time after church, this has been a great way to stay in touch with my church family." Another Deacon said that "My favorite part about being a Deacon is greeting new members on Sunday mornings. Even through the pandemic, seeing people on Zoom and Facebook has been fun. Now that we are back live, I enjoy greeting and seating people in person. I also enjoy helping during the worship. I like being a liturgist and helping in any way I can." Won't you prayerfully consider joining our Board?

Your Deacons:

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

## In Person Worship Services Reminders

We enjoy seeing everyone, and we want everyone to stay safe! Please be patient and kind and remember that we are all doing the best we know how!

- Masks will be worn **correctly** at all times in the building.
- UPON ARRIVAL, IN THE FOYER/NARTHEX:
  - Pick up your bulletin and the children's bulletin (if needed)
  - **NEW Collection Box**- Please leave your financial donations and pledge cards. The box will be collected by Deacons
  - Write down all prayers that you wish to share
  - On Communion Sundays: you will pick up your Communion elements
- Chairs will be spread out in different "bubbles" around the room. Please select the number of seats that you need for your family.
- Please remain seated for the worship service.
- Children will sit with their families for the worship service.
- These are subject to change as the conditions may change.
- Volunteers will be needed to help this time of transition.



## Meetinghouse Preservation Update

With fantastic financial support mainly from the congregation, we were able to execute the two projects targeted for 2021:

- We completed the Accessibility Connector building shell that we constructed in 2016. This brilliant accessibility solution is essential for our getting back into the Sanctuary, as it provides an additional fire escape and new, easy access for every person (and coffins). Our excellent contractors applied materials and finishes inside and out and installed the elevator. We now wait for town and state inspections and certifications and hope to have a Connector Grand Opening ceremony late January.
- We had the Meetinghouse exterior repaired, scraped, caulked, and painted. Last painted quickly a decade ago, it was critical to preserving the building that we got it protected before this winter. We worked with a professional lead paint abatement firm and an experienced painting contractor who applied an oil-based primer and two coats of premium latex paint. (The south and east walls still need a second coat of color, which the contractor will apply in the spring.)

Good stewardship is essential for preserving the considerable historic preservation work we've already completed. Supporting this, in December we completed a thorough Annual Inspection Report with written and photographic documentation of all aspects of the Meetinghouse. While needed to meet our LCHIP grant obligations, this is also a good practice in helping the church acknowledge and plan for regular maintenance and repair requirements.

With 2021's efforts behind us, the BAC will resume detailed planning of the Sanctuary Rehab effort this month. Specific projects will include:

- Pew removal, storage, refurbishment, and later re-installation;
- Ceiling lead paint abatement, repairs, and painting;
- Asbestos floor tiles encapsulation and new hard flooring and carpeting installation;
- Historic plaster walls repair and all walls and appropriate trim prepped and painted;
- Electrical, lighting, and fire alarm systems updates;
- Provisions for multimedia systems to enable broader use of the building;
- Cushions and furnishings cleaned and prepared for use; and
- Organ pipes, basement air turbine, chimes, and keyboard console refurbished as necessary and all reinstalled to ready the 1959 pipe organ for Sunday services.

This work is a significant challenge to plan and execute, and the costs are likely to be \$500K - \$800K. Still, we take confidence in already having completed many preservation projects that were similarly challenging. And in the continued support of our passionate congregation.

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



## A Big Thank You to our Staff and Volunteers

While the congregation is always appreciative of the hard work our staff do on our behalf, now seems like a good time to acknowledge explicitly how much we value their efforts. Our 3 main employees--Pastor Deborah, Michelle, and Christine--are constantly seeking ways to enhance our lives, even at times when they aren't officially "working". Their creativity and devotion to our church is truly inspiring.

We also get many hours of essential but under-appreciated work on church finances from our treasurer, Mike Rounds, and our financial secretary, Pat Crowell. Since July, our services most Sundays have benefited from terrific singing and playing from Jonathan Cotes. Finally, we all owe and feel an enormous debt of gratitude to Paul Lindemann and the tech team (Brian Williams and Mike Schroeder, Alec Cobban), who are not even employees of the church but spend countless hours enabling those who cannot get to the church building to participate in the services via Zoom and Facebook. On top of leading that technical work, Paul oversees the renovations of our beloved church building--a task that few people would take on even if they were being paid. Thanks to Diane Breeden for her visual ministry, her liturgical displays are beautiful. Finally, thanks to the many volunteers who help in so many ways with our essential church committees and activities. Be sure to thank each of these dedicated servants whenever you see them.

## Tales From Across The Pond!



The Derry Central Library (Northern Ireland)

and

The Derry Public Library (USA)

PRESENTS

### TALES FROM ACROSS THE POND

Join us around the virtual fireplace for stories about Derry/Londonderry/Nutfield and more. Local experts from both sides of the pond will share a taste of history, mystery, legend and lore for this special afternoon/evening of entertainment.

**Date:**

January 27th, 2022

**Time:**

1:30pm in Derry, New Hampshire

6:30pm in Derry/Londonderry, NI

(Be Mindful of Your Time Zone)

**Register:**

<https://bit.ly/3pHcvCr>



## January Worship Services and Events

Participate In-Person or 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 Narrative Lectionary

Upcoming Worship Services:  
(subject to change)



Photo Credit: Paul Lindemann

Jan 9<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 In Person Worship and Zoom/ Facebook

Jan 16<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 In Person Worship and Zoom/ Facebook

Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>: 10:00 In Person Worship and Zoom/ Facebook

Jan 30<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 In Person Worship and Zoom/ Facebook

January Greeters will be Sue Brown (In-Person) and Sue Lindemann (Zoom & Facebook)

**Adult Faith Formation:** The Gospel of John starting Tuesday January 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:45 to 8. ZOOM only in January. Contact the office for the link. Please read chapters 1 & 2.

**Spaghetti Supper: To-Go Friday** January 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00-6:00pm

**Annual Meeting:** Sunday January 30<sup>th</sup> – following Worship Service

**Office Hours:** COVID has caused many changes, with working remotely, online meetings and hours shifting to accommodate new schedules. Though someone is typically here daily during the week, we ask that you continue to make an appointment if you are coming to the office. We don't want to miss seeing you!



## Start 2022 with Happiness!

# January 2022 Happiness Calendar

This month, find your motivation and purpose.

Keep up with the latest on the science of connection, compassion, and happiness by [subscribing to our newsletters](#).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <b>Greater Good Science Center</b> <small>ggsc.berkeley.edu greatergood.berkeley.edu</small>						<b>1</b> Slow down to <b>savor happy moments</b> with loved ones.
<b>2</b> Give yourself <b>warmth and understanding</b> when you're struggling.	<b>3</b> Reflect on <b>something you're grateful for</b> today.	<b>4</b> <b>Take photos</b> of things that are meaningful to you.	<b>5</b> <b>Start a good book</b> , like one of our favorite science books of 2021!	<b>6</b> Skip the small talk and <b>connect more deeply with strangers</b> .	<b>7</b> Find ways to <b>support the young people in your life</b> as they grow.	<b>8</b> <b>How forgiving are you?</b> Take our quiz to find out.
<b>9</b> Consider what <b>lessons you've learned during the pandemic</b> .	<b>10</b> To <b>find your purpose</b> , think about what your strengths and passions are.	<b>11</b> <b>Perform a random act of kindness</b> .	<b>12</b> Get the Greater Good Toolkit with <b>30 practices for well-being</b> this year.	<b>13</b> Cultivate a craft or hobby that gives you <b>a sense of flow</b> .	<b>14</b> <b>Identify a larger goal you want to pursue</b> as part of a group or community this year.	<b>15</b> <b>Help your child get motivated</b> by tapping into their inner superhero.
<b>16</b> <b>Share the positivity:</b> Post online about something that went well for you today.	<b>17</b> Think about ways you could <b>diversify your social network</b> .	<b>18</b> Try our one-month <b>Pathway to Happiness program</b> .	<b>19</b> <b>Reflect on the values</b> that are important to you.	<b>20</b> Pay more attention to <b>how you communicate with others</b> .	<b>21</b> <b>Struggling as a parent?</b> Get some expert advice.	<b>22</b> <b>Watch a play, musical, or inspiring movie</b> .
<b>23</b> <b>Enjoy some nature</b> with your family.	<b>24</b> Make sure to <b>get up and move your body</b> today.	<b>25</b> Try to <b>limit multitasking</b> to feel less exhausted.	<b>26</b> Be open to <b>learning from friends who are different from you</b> .	<b>27</b> <b>Recommit to your New Year's resolutions</b> .	<b>28</b> <b>Don't believe everything you read online</b> .	<b>29</b> <b>Take a nap!</b>
<b>30</b> <b>Cultivate a spiritual practice</b> (whatever that means to you).	<b>31</b> Take our Science of Happiness at Work courses to <b>be happier on the job</b> .					

**First Parish  
Congregational Church, UCC**

(603) 434-0628

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 114  
E Derry, NH 03041

Location:  
47 East Derry Road

**Office Hours:**

Please call to make an appointment  
as office hours may vary daily.

**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***