

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road East Derry, NH 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

April 24, 2022 2nd Sunday of Eastertide

*"Blessed are those
who have not seen
and yet
have come to believe."*

ALL ARE WELCOME

No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey!!!

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

CENTERING MUSIC and LIGHTING THE CANDLES

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (led by lay reader, Beth Hunter)

One: The great "I AM" calls us to persevere in prayer and in worship.

Many: Despite any fears we have we come here to worship God.

One: We are a people of the new covenant that Jesus calls us to -

Many: Let us face our fears and walk into the light of Christ.

HYMN: #73 ***Enter, Rejoice and Come in***

INVOCATION (led by lay reader)

During these difficult times, we come to you, O God, wondering how to find your will amid conflict and violence. We resonant sometimes with the questions that Thomas asks. Help us, God, to garner the strength we need for the path you have laid out before us. We come to you now with open hearts and open ears. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: #1 ***Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise***

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: John 20: 19-31

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the (Jewish Leaders), Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON: "Coming to Believe"

HYMN: #288 ***Let It Breathe On Me*** (vs. 1, 3)

WE RESPOND WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY INVITATION (lay reader)

God's love knows no limits in its giving. Insistence on the way of love for all of God's children sent Jesus to the cross. God's servant son poured out his life that we may live and prosper. We now bring our gifts out of the prosperity that we enjoy.

If you are joining us virtually, please share your joys and concerns in the chat. Our services are recorded. Please use first names. God knows who you mean.

SPECIAL OFFERING – First Baptist Church Food Pantry

DOXOLOGY: #652 ***Take My Gifts***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Led by lay reader, please join in.)

Holy God, we bring forward our time, talent and treasure and ask your blessing upon all gifts. As forgiven and forgiving people, let us proclaim your compassion and grace, expressing true gratefulness along the way. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE AND PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER,
followed by THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE A LOVING, SERVING GOD

ANY FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN: #252 ***Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*** (vs. 1 & 3)

BENEDICTION

Please visit our Facebook page or our website for recent videos of services and moments of Christian Faith Formation and inspiration.

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH - Members of the Congregation

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER - The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

LAY READER – Beth Hunter

GREETERS – Reni Harnden, Jo Worthen, Sue Lindemann (Remote)

GUEST MUSICIAN – Deanna Butler

SONG LEADER – Katie Cobban

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier

OFFICE MANAGER - Michelle Guerrin

AV/ TECHNICAL – Paul Lindemann with Mike Schroeder

IN OUR PRAYERS - April 24, 2022

PRAYERS OF JOY

Music on Easter Sunday was amazing! Thanks to Laurel, our guest musician, and to Katie! Thanks to Diane Breeden for the Easter visuals and thanks to Miss Christine, for the lovely Easter display in the foyer!

Palm Sunday Parade through the Connector!!

Martha (Nancy M's sister-in-law) is doing much better!

Mission giving – we are blessed with generous hearts.

Our sister church in Zimbabwe – Dangamvura UCC – has invited us to write to them!

Music Committee is working hard to provide a program of music for worship services!

Gratitude for members and friends in Indiana, Georgia, Zimbabwe, and N. Ireland.

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION

Christine Lehoullier and her family on the death of her cousin AmyLee

Tom Cooper on the death of his brother.

Paul Lindemann and his family on the death of Paul's mom 3.22.22

For the families of those who have died in the US due to COVID.

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Seminarians at the United Theological College in Zimbabwe due to food insecurity

Dave Beauchesne, father of two small children, had emergency brain surgery.

Gary (friend of the Guerrin Family) with stage 3 lung cancer;

Sue (Jo W's sister) still recovering but family can see her;

Carol (Carol G.'s sister-in-law) facing multiple operations;

Lincoln, Karen W's nephew, struggling with Autism and other mental health concerns.

Jenny, friends of Jeff S;

David, Jo's friend;

Benjamin Plouff, Dick's brother, suffering from cardiac issues, breathing now difficult;

Jim, Jeff S.'s father, for prayers of confidence and healing

For those with cancer: Sue Weaver (her operation isn't until 4.27.22)

Caroline M's enduring radiation;

BB Dinan (friend of the Bob and Karen) – approaching the end of his life;

Bruce with stage 4 colon cancer;

Janice P continues to fight her cancer;

Priscilla with colon cancer;

Tracey with aggressive cancer who has 3 children/ only 46 years old;

Liza D's husband's Uncle Walt has Stage 4 cancer;

Martha, close friend of Pat and Dick P, recurring leukemia

SPECIAL ONGOING PRAYERS

Teachers – who continue to give their heart and soul with diminishing resources.

Ukraine – its people, its President.

Russia – its people, its Leaders.

Poland – who has received millions of refugees from Ukraine

Other NATO countries who are offering aid in Ukraine's time of crisis.

Law Enforcement, fire fighters; first responders, active military

Prayers for peaceful resolution to conflict situations around the world

Parkland Hospital personnel, Elliot Hospital personnel, staff at Dartmouth Hitchcock

and all nurses and doctors, Hospice workers and Southern NH Family Promise;

Sonshine Soup Kitchen; Marion Gerrish; Upper Room; Tim B – Health & strength and

Bonnie H, friend of Tim B

IN HONOR OF HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

Actual Announcements from Church Bulletins

- Coming Up—Theological Open House. We discuss thought-provoking topics. Your opinions are hardly welcome.
- All singles are invited to join us Friday at 7 p.m. for the annual Christmas Sing-alone."
- Thursday night – potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and the community.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belzer.
- This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.

Final Announcements:

May Newsletter Deadline – Tuesday April 26th- Please submit your article to officemgr@fpc-ucc.org.

“Path to the Sanctuary Initiative 2022-23” pledge cards are due into the office.

Cards of Caring: WE HAVE EXTENDED THE DEADLINE! The deadline for the cards for CMC is extended until May 1! Let’s flood them with care!

WE HAVE MADE A CHANGE IN SCHEDULE! THE MAY Adult Faith Formation; Tuesday from 6:45pm – 8:00. IN May, we will consider the Book of Acts from the Bible. We will begin the Book Study “Faith After Doubt” by Brian McLaren in June. We are ordering books now. Email Christine for a book. You’ll have an opportunity to start reading.

Upcoming Events:

- **Today- Worship Planning Workshop**– after Worship Service; all are welcome!
- **1st Spring Fling** ~ Saturday May 21st: 8-1 Yard Sale, cookie walk, basket raffle, vendors, food and more. Volunteer Forms in the lobby.
- **UCC Rockingham Association- Spring 2022 Meeting** Sun May 22nd 1:45pm – Zoom only
- **Fundraising Footrace sponsored by Friends of the Meetinghouse** ~ June 25th: with Dave Breeden’s [New England Timing](#) company are running a competitive race and fun run to raise money and awareness for Meetinghouse preservation.
- **Vacation Church Camp:** Rocky Railway July 25th – 28; 9 to 12:00 pm is for ages 4 to 12.