

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

May 22, 2022



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, Liz Greenberg)

One: God seeks relationship with us in our here and now

Many: just as Jesus sought relationship and connection with disciples of old.

One: People of faith, open your hearts with gladness and thanksgiving!

Many: Let us call upon our loving Creator in this time centering on Love.

HYMN: #84 ***This Is the Day***

INVOCATION (led by lay reader)

Come, Holy God, come into our Presence so that we may give You thanks and praise the wonder of Your love. Our baskets are full of the bounty You have bestowed upon us. We see you wherever there is compassion and forgiveness. We feel Your presence when times are difficult. Continue the good work that You have begun within us, we pray. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: #433 *In The Bulb There Is a Flower* (vs.1)

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 1:1-18a

¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:
² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

¹² I want you to know, beloved, that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ; ¹⁴ and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear.

¹⁵ Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. ¹⁶ These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of the gospel; ¹⁷ the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. ¹⁸ What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true; and in that I rejoice.

SERMON: "Unexpected Help"

HYMN: #495 ***Called as Partners to Christ's Service*** (vs. 1,2)

TEACHER RECOGNITION

WE RESPOND WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY INVITATION (lay reader)

The Bible speaks of first fruits offered before the altar of God. How would our lives change if our first thoughts on receiving a paycheck were of how we could honor and thank our Creator? What if we always linked our material concerns with the spiritual? Would our gratitude then begin to reflect God's abundant generosity?

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.

GETTING TO KNOW A WONDER OF GOD'S CREATION: STAR ISLAND

DOXOLOGY: #433 ***In The Bulb There Is a Flower*** (vs.3)

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

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

We rejoice in this opportunity to thank You, gracious God, with a portion of the bounty you provide for our use. We reach out for meaning and purpose in our lives. As we share our gifts, may Your spirit magnify the good that they can provide to Your children near and far. 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: #314 *Community of Christ* (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 – Liz Greenberg
GREETERS – Reni Harnden, Jo Worthen, Rachel Cobban (Remote)
GUEST MUSICIANS – Laurel Devino
SONG LEADER – Katie Cobban
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier
OFFICE MANAGER - Michelle Guerrin
AV/ TECHNICAL – Paul Lindemann, Brian Williams and Mike Schroeder

IN OUR PRAYERS - May 22, 2022

PRAYERS OF JOY

Spring Fling – wonderful first time!!

Pastor Deborah's ordination party! 17 years! She had a great Birthday. More than 17!!

Thank you to everyone for their kind attention and generosity!

Many thanks to our musician Laurel Devino.

Dozens (nearly 200!) of "cards of caring" were delivered to CMC! Thank you, All!

Caroline M completed all of her cancer radiation treatment and rang the bell!

Having the piano in Currier! It is a lovely addition to the worship service!

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

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

For the families of the one million souls who have died in the US due to COVID.

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

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Bob – Nancy L's dad – had a serious operation on 5.17.22

Joe Weaver- tested positive for COVID 5/11/22

Safety for Jen's friend Heather and her family in Prescott< AZ – so near the fires

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

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 is recovering from her operation.

Lisa (friend of Liz G and Pastor Deborah) operation

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 and 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

Final Announcements:

“Path to the Sanctuary Initiative 2022-23” – amazing matching gift! Your gift will be doubled! Please pledge what you can. Pink pledge cards are available.

For every dollar you donate, two dollars will be received.

The May Adult Faith Formation; **WE HAVE MADE A CHANGE IN SCHEDULE!**

Tuesday from 6:45pm – 8:00 will read the Book of Acts from the Bible. Join us.

JUNE Adult Faith Formation is the book by Brian McLaren, “Faith After Doubt”. Copies are now available in the office.

Upcoming Events:

- **UCC Rockingham Association- Spring 2022 Meeting** Sun May 22nd 1:45pm
- Tuesday May 24 - Adult Faith Formation at 6:45 Hybrid
- Thursday May 26 – Deacons Meeting
- **The Meetinghouse Five Fundraising Footrace** — June 25th, 2022 — The Friends of the Meetinghouse are staging a competitive 5-Mile Race and a fun 2.5-Mile Walk to support Meetinghouse preservation, with professional help from New England Timing's Dave Breeden. Visit to sign up or learn about opportunities to Sponsor or Volunteer: [Meetinghouse Five web page](https://fotmh.org/race) <https://fotmh.org/race>
- **Vacation Church Camp:** Rocky Railway July 25th – 28; 9 to 12:00 pm is for ages 4 to 12.