

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 29, 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, Margie Ives)

One: We gather this morning to worship our creating, loving, and forgiving God.

Many: Let us remember how Jesus lived, how he died and how Christ rose.

One: Life in Christ calls us to a life of putting selfish priorities aside.

Many: We are called to put our God and our neighbor's good ahead of our own.

One: Life in Christ calls us to acknowledge and express gratitude always.

Many: Life in Christ calls us to acknowledge and express gratitude in all ways.

HYMN: #490 *I Want Jesus to Go with Me* (vs. 1, 2)

INVOCATION (led by lay reader)

We call upon Your holy name and Your holy Presence, O God. Be with us during this sacred gathering. Remind us of the joy of living life in Your light. Open our eyes and ears to see You and to hear You in our midst. Open our hearts to take action for Your good and the good of Your children – both near and far. 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 2:1-13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

SERMON: "Emptying Ourselves – What Would That Look Like?"

HYMN: #575 **O, For a World** (vs. 1, 2, 3)

WE RESPOND WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY INVITATION (lay reader)

Love knows no limits in its giving. Insistence on the way of love for all of God's children sent Jesus to the cross. There God's servant poured out 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.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION – Miss Christine and Pastor Deborah

GRATITUDE GIVING – Freedom

HYMN: #591 **This Is My Song**

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

Gracious giving God, Your creative energy has filled all heaven and earth with Wonder – and You have filled us with the joy of creativity and generous giving. May the work that we do and the programs that we support bring Your children greater joy in the knowledge of You. Amen.

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.

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: #478 *I've Got Peace Like a River* (vs. 1, 2, 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 – Margie Ives
GREETERS – Reni Harnden, Jo Worthen
GUEST MUSICIANS – 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 – May 29, 2022

PRAYERS OF JOY

Many thanks to Deanna Butler for music this morning.

Spring Fling – wonderful first time!! Thank you to everyone who helped us!

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

Pastor Deborah is grateful to everyone for their kind attention and generosity!

Many thanks to musician Laurel Devino for music last week.

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 those killed by an assault rifle in a Texas Elementary School

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

For the family of Naomi Judd and all those who take their own lives because their despair is so profound.

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

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:

Marcia (dear friend of Karen and Bob) with advanced ovarian cancer;

Rod Hunt, recovering from his operation;

Sue Weaver is recovering from her operation.

Lisa (friend of Liz G and Pastor Deborah) is recovering from her 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.

Last May Adult Faith Formation - Tuesday from 6:45pm – 8:00: the Book of Acts

JUNE Adult Faith Formation – No Class on June 7th or 28th. On June 14th and 21st we will read “Faith After Doubt” by Brian McLaren. Read on your own and we will discuss together. Copies are now available in the office.

Upcoming Events:

- Tuesday May 31st - Adult Faith Formation at 6:45 Hybrid
- Saturday June 18th – Celebration of Jane Krantz’s life; here at FPC
- **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 – 28th; 9 to 12:00 pm is for ages 4 to 12.
- Pastor Deborah will be on vacation next week as her 4th grandchild is arriving around June 3. Prayers for safe travel for both her and her grandson!! Next Sunday the Deacons will lead worship. There will be a clergy person on call. If you have a need, please call a Deacon first. (Rachel Cobban, Sue Brown, Joanne Worthen, Reni Harnden)