

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 8, 2022

Sunrise on Rye Beach

ALL ARE WELCOME

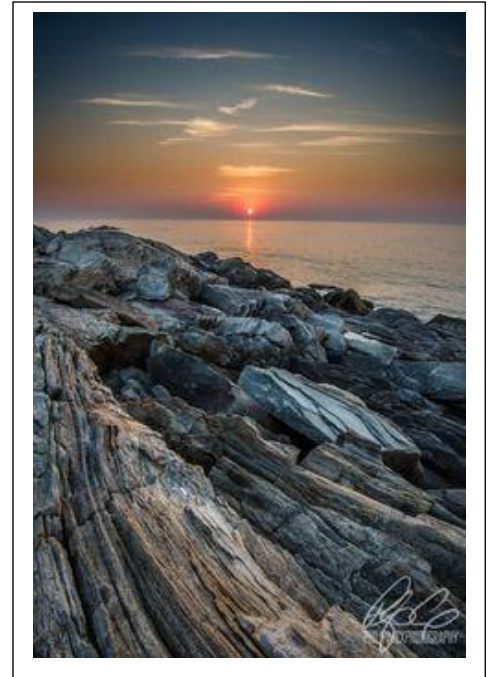
*No matter who you are, no matter where you are on
life's journey!!!*

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

CENTERING MUSIC AND LIGHTING THE CANDLES

WELCOME – GRATITUDE FOR MOTHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP (led by lay reader, Randy
Brown)



One: The grace promised in John's Gospel is with us here today.

Many: Let us rejoice in God and give thanks for divine Presence in our lives.

One: God is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. And in between -

Many: we are guided by God's Holy Spirit and the stories of our faith ancestors.

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

INVOCATION (led by lay reader)

We seek the power of God's Presence in community. We come with all of our wounds and ask for healing. We come with our sadness and ask for consolation. We come with shadows casted over our beliefs and ask for clarity among the chaos. Our God will sustain us when we but ask. 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: Acts 16:16-34

¹⁶ One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling.

¹⁷ While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." ¹⁸ She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities.

²⁰ When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews ²¹ and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." ²² The crowd joined in attacking them and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³ After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely.

²⁴ Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.

²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped.

²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here."

²⁹ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

³¹ They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

³³ At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴ He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

SERMON: When Faith and Revenue Clash

HYMN: #403 *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* (vs. 1, 2)

WE RESPOND WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY INVITATION (lay reader)

As we pool the resources God has entrusted to us, we become purveyors of justice. Sometimes we bring peace to turmoil. Sometimes we disturb the peace in our work to champion justice. Our offerings proclaim our faith. Let us give faithfully.

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.

CELEBRATING TEACHERS

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

With joy and gladness, we dedicate our gifts to the service of spreading the message of the risen Christ to this world. May the abused find justice and may the abusers be led to sensitivity and change. To this end and more, we dedicate all of our gifts this day. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE AND PRAYER

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.

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: #436 *God of Grace and God of Glory* (vs. 1, 3, 5)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated.)

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 – Randy Brown
GREETERS – Reni Harnden, Jo Worthen, Sue Lindemann (Remote)
GUEST MUSICIANS – Kaitlyn Leahy
SONG LEADER – Katie Cobban
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier
OFFICE MANAGER - Michelle Guerrin
AV/ TECHNICAL – Paul Lindemann with Mike Schroeder

IN OUR PRAYERS - May 8, 2022

PRAYERS OF JOY

Many thanks to our musician Kaitlyn Leahy this morning. And thank you to Trina for playing last week and Terrance for leading us in song!
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!
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

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

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

Final Announcements:

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

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

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

Upcoming Events:

- **1st Spring Fling** ~ Saturday May 21st: 8-1 Yard Sale, cookie walk, basket raffle, vendors, food, children's activities and local music. Volunteer Forms in the lobby.
- **UCC Rockingham Association- Spring 2022 Meeting** Sun May 22nd 1:45pm
- **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.