

# First Parish Congregational Church

## United Church of Christ • East Derry, New Hampshire June 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,

When the angel of the Lord appeared to Mary with some really big news, Mary "pondered these things in her heart." I have tried to do more and more "pondering in my heart". In both Mary and my case, **prayer** is also part of this process of "pondering". Let's call it "prayerful pondering".

Recently, I have been prayerfully pondering a lot about "community". What do we mean when we say "community"? What does "community" mean? So, of course, I went to the dictionary, which gives these two definitions:

1. a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.
2. a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.

You can classify every type of community by the purpose that brings them together:

1. Interest. Communities of people who share the same interest or passion.
2. Action. Communities of people trying to bring about change.
3. Place. Communities of people brought together by geographic boundaries.
4. Practice. Communities of people in the same profession or undertake the same activities.
5. Circumstance. Communities of people brought together by external events/situations.

We have our "community of faith" here at First Parish Church, where we know that "all are welcome, no matter where they are on life's journey". Does the "community" in which we live know that we are here? A recent guest to our worship shared with me that they have been looking all year for a church. As a

“community of faith”, how well do we participate in the community in which we are located so that those who are looking for a church like us, can indeed find us? I know that we are not the kind of Christian who knocks on doors and says, “Do you love Jesus?” So, what kind of Christian are we?

Prayerful pondering.

How often do we support other communities of faith? We certainly support St Thomas’ fish fry during Lent. I stick out but do the Knights of Columbus recognize that you are from First Parish? And Miss Christine is proposing that a group of us go together to the Hampstead UCC Strawberry Festival. (Watch for announcements on this.)

Prayerful pondering.

Has there been an opportunity where our community of faith can work cooperatively with other communities in our area? I prayerfully ponder.

Some folks have approached me and have expressed interest in turning our wooded area into a “community pocket park”. Many of you are saying “what wooded area?” because First Parish has never accepted the Stewardship of this gift from God that is right here. Many people don’t know that First Parish owns that land. (I checked with the town. We do.) Within our church structure who has the authority to grant this type of project? Do we – as a community – have the energy to take on a project like this?

Prayerful pondering.

What does “community pocket park” mean? What would that look like? What if the Boy Scouts were invited to participate? And the Girl Scouts? And the Recovery group that meet in our building? And Boys and Girls Club? Taylor Library? And the “Kids Coop Theatre Studios” across the street? Or Upper Room teens? Pinkerton groups? Derry Garden Club? Imagine how beautiful the area would be with some sweat equity and attention. Imagine how beautiful it would be to work cooperatively with other “communities” to create something together. If you still don’t know what I’m talking about, go to google maps, using the satellite function and look at how large that wooded area is. You will be as astounded as I was.

This is just one example. What can you imagine that would bring our community together with other communities? Jesus believed in building community through relationship. How might we do that?

I recently read an article that Albert Einstein understood that almost all highly creative and successful people do: they imagine! The imaginal realm is where the most potent ideas—the ones that can change your life or change the world—are held. And the more you can nurture your imagination by diving into that imaginal realm, the more often that dive will inspire a stream of creativity when you resurface. As Christians, we add prayer and then watch what God will do!

I invite you to spend some time in prayerful pondering.

Yours – in community,  
Pastor Deborah

"This is the Star Island Chapel at sunset."



## Christian Education and Faith Formation

### Celebrating Graduates

We'd love to lift up the graduates in your lives by letting them know we care with a card and a mention on Graduate Sunday, June 19th, 2022. Let us know who in your family is celebrating, their milestone/where they graduated from and where we can send a congratulatory card to. Please click on the link [HERE](#) to fill out the short form.

### Families Celebrate Summer



Families Celebrate Summer is a colorful deck of 56 cards full of faith-based activities, rituals, reflections, and other ideas for families to try at home and on the go. These are great for families on the go all summer long!

Each card is color coded to show activity type: red for specific days, orange for at-home fun, yellow for ideas during travel, green for rituals to try, and blue for acts of service.

**RED** for specific/dated days  
**ORANGE** for at-home fun  
**YELLOW** for ideas during travel  
**GREEN** for rituals to try  
**BLUE** for acts of service

Here are a few tips and tricks to help you make the most of your time together:

- ☺ Have older children help read through the cards and take ownership of leading the time together.
- ☺ Mark a calendar with all the red, dated cards.
- ☺ After you have read through the cards, hang them up on your fridge or pin them on a cork board.
- ☺ Create specific times to use the cards throughout the week. Plan ahead for cards that involve a family outing.
- ☺ Don't worry if you don't use a card or two. This resource is flexible and you can read through multiple cards in a day or skip some if needed.

These are just a few ideas! We can't wait to hear about the experience you have with your family! When you come to church talk to others about these cards, share stories and ideas.

**We hope that these cards enhance your summer! Families can receive their cards during the month of June on Sundays at church or make other arrangements with Christine Lehoullier: [cedirector@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:cedirector@fpc-ucc.org).**

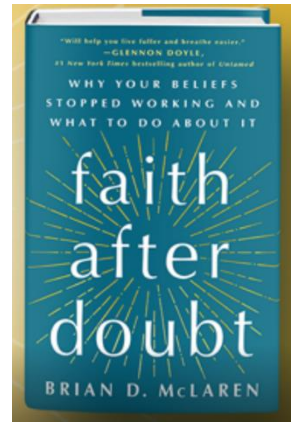
### “Art In the Park: Intergenerational Outdoor Creativity” Summer Program ~ For All Ages;



Now that our Children's Christian Education Program will end for the summer starting June 19<sup>th</sup>, we will continue to offer an “Art in The Park” Summer Program for all ages based on the summer scriptures. We'll explore various fun forms of expression and self-exploration as we journey through exciting scripture gems including the books of Esther and Ruth!

**Adult Faith Formation; Begins June 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:45 pm – Faith After Doubt, by: Brian D. McLaren**

*Faith After Doubt* is a bold, progressive, and spiritually rich vision of the two life experiences of those on the journeys and various phases of both faith and doubt and those who support them. Brian McLaren covers a lot of territory with a values-oriented assessment of what he labels as the Four Stages of Faith: simplicity, complexity, perplexity, and harmony.



**An excerpt from chapter 10:**

*“Faith before doubt: it’s about correct beliefs. Faith after doubt: it’s about revolutionary love. In other words, the journey of faith through Simplicity and Complexity involves learning and perfecting beliefs. The journey of doubt through Perplexity involves questioning not only specific beliefs but the whole belief system approach to faith. Then, the journey into Harmony is a journey beyond beliefs into revolutionary love.”*

Curious to read and hear more about this UCC recommended book? Check these out

Interview: <https://religionnews.com/2021/01/05/when-your-beliefs-stop-working/>

Podcast: [Faith’s Dance With Doubt — A Conversation with Brian McLaren](#)

Article: <https://spiritualityadventures.com/blog/the-role-of-doubt-on-the-journey-of-faith>



**ADULT FAITH FORMATION SHOW AND TELL  
Sunday - August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

It is important that our offerings be driven by the interests and needs of the congregation. We welcome your ideas and participation!

What book in the Bible interests you?

What book do you think others would benefit from?

 **Your challenge, faith formation secret agents, should you choose to accept it.... find a great book to add to our Adult Faith Formation Library!**

You have all summer to hunt them down, read them, soak them in and bring back your treasures in August to share with everyone. We will vote on which book to start with first! Some places to start may be:

<https://www.prcli.org/webinars-res/adult-ministry-2/>

or

<https://www.sneucc.org/disciples>

## Board of Personnel

Personnel continues to work with the Music Committee and to work on filling the Office Manager position. We recently decided to check into temp agencies, post the ad in several local newspapers and perhaps contact local colleges. If you know someone who is looking for a parttime job and would be a good fit for First Parish Church please let either Pastor Deborah, Beth Hunter, Karen Wilson or Margie Ives know.

We just finished Performance Reviews. Very few reviews were filled out and returned. This is curious – and perhaps disappointing. Feedback is very important to the health of our church. These replies help our staff discern what they are doing right and where they need to make improvements. It is so important for us to hear from those of you who interact with our staff. They want to know how you feel about their job performance and where changes would benefit everyone. Next year when you are asked will you please consider helping us with this process?

Submitted by: Beth Hunter, Margie Ives, Karen Wilson

## Board of Deacons

We are so grateful to Michelle, our out-going Office Manager for all that she has done for the church over the past 4+ years. We have been fortunate that she always went above and beyond the Office Manager job description. She was simply amazing! We hope that you'll be able to join us at church on Sunday, June 12th as we celebrate her time with us and wish her well in her new position at Family Promise.

As mentioned last month, we would like to resume a time of fellowship after the worship service and are seeking your input on how we as a church can come together to accomplish this task. Please pray about this and let us know.

The Deacons along with Pastor Deborah have had discussions about summer worship and would like to share the following:

- The scripture readings during worship in June will be from “Acts of the Apostles”, written by the same author as the Gospel of Luke.
  - The Deacons will be leading the worship service on June 5th, while Pastor Deborah is away. Nancy Murdock will be sharing a Reflection.
  - Communion Sunday in June will be moved to the 12th.
  - The scripture readings in July will be from the Book of Esther.
  - Communion Sunday in July will be moved to the 10th.
  - The scripture readings in August will be from the Book of Ruth.
  - We are hoping to conduct two outside services this summer with the dates TBD.
  - Pastor Deborah is considering holding a few early (8:30 AM) Sunday morning services this summer, in addition to the 10:00 worship. Please let her know if you might be interested in attending.
- Your Board of Deacons: Sue Brown, Rachel Cobban, Reni Harnden, Jack Grand (Martin), Brian Williams, and Joanne Worthen



## Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give Glory to your Father in Heaven. Matthew 5:16

**MISSIONS MAY 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	Upper Room \$100
Pastoral Counseling Services \$100	Pinkerton Homeless Program \$100	
Pastor's Discretionary Fund \$100	Sonshine Soup Kitchen \$100	
Zimbabwe-Dangamvura Partner Church		

### FAMILY PROMISE OF SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Family Promise has transformed the former Infant Jesus School in Nashua into a new transitional housing facility for 24 homeless families. Its mission is to guide these families as they rise from crisis to sustainable independence. First Parish Church donates funds and provides monthly meals. During May we welcomed Matt Hodgkiss and Pam and Scott Wellman to provide our Mission Moment. We've included the Family Promise Wish List. More information about Family Promise is also shared in this newsletter as well.

### STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of local UCC congregations. The goal is to create a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

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

#### Wish List for Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire

##### Medicine/First Aid

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Infant Tylenol/Ibuprofen/Pain and Fever Relief</li> <li>❖ Children's Tylenol/Ibuprofen/Pain and Fever Relief</li> <li>❖ Adult Aspirin/Ibuprofen</li> <li>❖ Antihistamines</li> <li>❖ Adult and Children's Pepto-Bismol</li> <li>❖ Child Allergy Medicine</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Child Cough Medicine</li> <li>❖ Teething Pain Relievers</li> <li>❖ Alcohol &amp; Peroxide</li> <li>❖ Triple Antibiotic Ointment</li> <li>❖ Ace Wraps + gauze + paper tape + ice packs</li> <li>❖ Saline Solution/ Wound Wash</li> <li>❖ Eye Wash</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

##### Pantry Items

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Sugar</li> <li>❖ Flour</li> <li>❖ Ground Coffee</li> <li>❖ Condiments</li> <li>❖ Juice bottles</li> <li>❖ Canned Fruit and Vegetables</li> <li>❖ Kid's Snacks</li> <li>❖ Canned/Boxed Soups</li> <li>❖ Spaghetti</li> <li>❖ Spaghetti Sauce</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Creamer</li> <li>❖ Olive Oil</li> <li>❖ Vinegar</li> <li>❖ Salad Dressing</li> <li>❖ Sides: Rice, Stuffing, Noodles, Ramen, Pasta Sides</li> <li>❖ Hamburger/Tuna/Chicken Helper</li> <li>❖ Napkins</li> <li>❖ 40 Gallon Trash Bags</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

Diapers (sizes 5 and 6), gently used baby and/or children's items, along with clothing for all (men, women, children, infants) are always appreciated. For larger items, please call our Director of Volunteerism at 603-883-7338 x3 to arrange donation acceptance.

## Path to the Sanctuary Update

There are many exciting things happening as we seek to finish our Sanctuary project, an arduous task for sure. First, we would like to thank Paul Lindemann for everything he does but especially, of late, updating the church website on our overall progress. This helps to keep the community informed and hopefully interested. Secondly, we want to thank the Fundraising Committee for offering to help us in our endeavor with ideas and labor. And certainly, but not at all last, to all who have been pledging to move us every closer to the final goal.

As of May 24, we have 16 pledges. If all come in as promised for 2022 we will have \$126,210 which will start the process of laying plywood over the floor. For next year we have \$50,980 pledged. We have received \$3,000 in honor and memory of Ruthlee Root. Finally, there is the generous offer of a matching pledge up to \$100,000 and we have received commitments of \$36,900 toward that amount so far and hope that more will come in.

These are huge strides, but we are obviously not done. We are planning some exciting upcoming community events to help raise funds for the Meetinghouse rehabilitation. We understand this has been a long road back to the sanctuary, but we have made great progress. We pray you can all continue to help this beloved church utilize the Meetinghouse once again.

For the Path to the Sanctuary committee, Cynthia Gray and Anne Marie Merrill

<b>First Parish Congregational Church, UCC</b> <b>Path to the Sanctuary Initiative 2022-23</b> In response to God's gifts and in faithfulness to both God and Christ's Church, I (we) plan to give:	
_____ by June 1, 2022	_____ by February 1, 2023
_____ by August 1, 2022	_____ by July 1, 2023
_____ by November 1, 2022	
Name _____	Signature _____
Email _____	Phone number _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Please check here if you wish to keep your contribution confidential.	



## Music Committee

The Music Committee was able to organize three volunteer musicians to provide music for the Spring Fling on Saturday, May 21 on the front lawn. First was Charlotte Dugan who sang for us, second was Deanna Butler who played keyboard and sang, and third was Dani Allen who played guitar and sang. We cannot forget the sound crew, Alec and Katie Cobban, who did a wonderful job with the sound and making sure the performers had what they needed for music needs. The music was well received and just beautiful from all accounts. There is some excitement and energy around hosting concerts on the lawn later during the summer. What do you think?

In other business, we continue to look for a Choir Director and an Accompanist on a permanent basis. This position could be combined depending upon a person's qualifications. In the meantime, we again ask if you know someone or someone from our congregation who would be interested in filling the above position(s), please contact Beth Hunter, Personnel.

Respectfully submitted, Melanie Pawl, Eileen Cox, Deanna Butler, Katie Cobban, Jean Brodeur, Brian Williams (Deacon's rep), Pastor Deborah and Beth Hunter (Personnel)





## Developing Relationships with Dangamvura, Zimbabwe

For many years here at First Parish, our worship bulletins have included a quote from a 12th Century Church in Hampshire, England: *“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.”* Relationship with God means relationship with other believers.

The pandemic has taught us to enlarge our definition of “church” and to understand that we are members of a global community. We rejoice in our on-going relationship with Dr. Kennedy Gondongwe, from the United Theological Seminary in Harare, Zimbabwe.

We also have a sister church in Dangamvura – a UCC church - who enthusiastically hopes to connect with our church. With “joy in our hearts and thanks on our lips”, perhaps we might nurture the gift of friendship with members of the Dangamvura congregation.

Our Mission Board and Pastor Deborah have corresponded with Pastor Joshua who was called upon to add Dangamvura to his schedule. We can do so much more! The Mission Board and Pastor Deborah are encouraging communication member to member.

We have just received several individuals in Dangamvura who wish to begin writing, share stories and sending photos.

Do you think you might enjoy doing this?

There is a free app that can be downloaded to your phone or device that is used extensively in other countries. It’s called “Whatsapp”. It’s free. Nearly everyone uses it. Here is the list of folks who wish to connect with us:

- A grandmother with 4 grandchildren and 2 sons. The grandchildren: 3 are boys 2, 5 and 6 and 1 granddaughter age 4.
- a young woman (age 22) who is a student at Mutare Polytechnic. She will graduate in November. Her studies are Tourism and Hospitality Management.
- A woman age 36 /married and home with her 2 children, boy age 6 and girl age 4. She has a master's degree in Agriculture.
- A woman age 30 / married with 2 children age 2 and 4. She is a teacher in a rural school.
- A man age 42 / married with a son age 2 ½

Please consider connecting with one of these folks. It could bring us closer together as we support their church.

Contact Nancy Murdock, chair of Mission or Pastor Deborah

## Invitation to Star Island

Star Island is part of the Isle of Shoals about an hour by boat off the coast of Portsmouth, NH and is home to the shared UU and UCC Conferences as a retreat center. Many of our church family have been making a pilgrimage of sorts to our Star Island home over Labor Day weekend for the Star Gathering Family Weekend Retreat for many years.

On island there is a wide range of accommodations including the grand old Oceanic Hotel which also houses the dining hall, main lobby with its main desk and communication hub, a gift shop, a bookstore, a snack bar, and a huge wraparound porch lined with rockers. You'll see people gathering in small groups with old and new friends, chatting, or reading, or doing a craft, or just soaking in the view and the fresh salt air off the ocean. Other accommodations include single, double, and triple rooms in cottages and motel units all connected to the main hotel building by wooden porches also lined with rockers.

The conference fee of \$50 per person covers expenses of the conference, while your room and board charge covers your room and three hearty meals each day served either family style or by servers at buffet tables, depending on Covid protocols at the time. Prices also include the boat ride out and back on the Thomas Leighton. Room and board prices range from \$391-\$933, depend on type of lodging you request, whether you come on Friday for three nights, or Saturday for 2 nights, and whether you choose a single or shared room. On Sunday night you can also order a lobster dinner for an additional charge. There is also a block of funds set aside to offer financial aid to make the Star Island experience more accessible to everyone, so don't let financial barriers get in the way.

Our theme this year is Nurturing Self: Body, Mind, and Spirit. Our theme speaker is Jen Messner, a nutritionist and healer who will be offering at least three different workshop sessions over the weekend. There are lots of activities planned that you can participate in including Jen's workshops, making sea glass windows, an ice cream social, doing a skit or sharing a special talent in the talent show, evening chapel by candlelight, kayaking in sheltered Gosport Harbor, a morning Polar Plunge or swimming later in the day, hiking around the island. Or you can spend time just relaxing, reading, journaling, rocking on the porch, napping, chatting with friends, or just lazing in the sun with a lime Rickey or an ice cream from the snack bar.

We hope you will join us this year as we gather on Star Island to create beloved community yet again! If you have any questions, any of us would be more than happy to talk with you.

(Submitted by Liz Greenberg; other "Shoalers" to consult: Diane Breeden, Joanne Worthen, Pat Plouff, Diana and Joe Sweeney)



### STAR ISLAND 2021

Here I sit in my rocking chair,  
 Looking out the window three stories high, in the salty sea air!  
 What do I see out my window you ask?  
 Swallows and Monarchs flying past.  
 Babies in strollers and golf carts roll by  
 I hear chatter and giggles from all ages below  
 Some walking in groups and some walking alone.  
 The water is calm, and the flags are still,  
 After yesterday's high winds gave us all a big chill.  
 Rain or sun, wind and sails add to our weekend out here at sea.  
 The chapel is lit by candlelight for worship and,  
 Brookfield comes to life for fellowship and community.  
 Others try a porch rocker to relax and unwind  
 In a circle to talk or in a line to watch the tide.  
 Masks in the building, not on the porch  
 Not a hard rule to follow if you are into the sport.  
 The fresh air is amazing, eating outside is fun,  
 Our picnic table needs to be bigger; it won't hold everyone.  
 Thomas Lughton, Challenger, and Utopia too, all stop by a time or two.  
 They bring a variety of items to us, friends old and new,  
 Water, luggage and supplies I am told.  
 Four days and three nights pass in a flash,  
 But I know one thing for sure, **STAR ISLAND**, I WILL COME BACK!!



## Spring Fling

This report is a result of the Spring Fling that occurred on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.

We had an amazing turnout for our 1<sup>st</sup> attempt at this event – Yard Sale, Crafters/Vendors, Music, Cookie Walk, Raffles, Children's activities, and food!!! And best of all – friendship and communication within our community.

Thank you to all that stepped up in every capacity – as a 1<sup>st</sup> time Annual event we had an awesome day resulting in \$2,152.85. 90% will go to our General Fund and 10% will go to the rehab effort.

We already scheduled Spring Fling II for early June 2023!!

Cathy Zylinski, Stephanie Berg, Julie Greenfield, Carol Guerrin, Beth Hunter, Pastor Deborah Roof, Cathy Pottle and Liz Greenberg







## Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire- Update

There's a lot to report on Family Promise these days. First, our church was represented at Family Promise's major donor event on Wed May 17 by 3 of our consistent contributors to the meal we provide to the 70+ Family Promise guests the first Thursday of every month—Carol Guerrin, Nancy Murdock, and Karen Wilson. The dinner, held at the LaBelle winery in Amherst, was focused solely on acknowledging and honoring the many people and companies that make sizeable contributions of money and time to support this very worthwhile program to serve homeless families. We are proud that our church is part of this incredible community of giving people and organizations. It was truly inspiring to hear about 3 current or former families who have been residents at Family Promise. One, Andy Cuthbertson, was a single Dad with sole custody of 2 boys. After 2 years in the program in 2015-2017, he now owns his own home and was selected as the volunteer of the year for the time he now gives back to the program. Despite nearly dying from Covid last year, he was able to keep up his mortgage payments. Another moving moment was when one of the mothers currently in the program could not contain her tears at the end of the evening ceremony as she came (unplanned) to the microphone to thank the people in the room for all they have done for her family. A truly humbling moment for everyone. And finally, a long-time volunteer and former board member told of having just received an invitation to the graduation ceremony at Dartmouth Medical College for a young man who 15 years or so earlier had been a Family Promise resident, with his homeless parents. These stories vividly illustrate why Family Promise is such a needed organization, and why our church and many individual members of our congregation support it with our time and money.

The second piece of news about Family Promise is that we are trying to create in Derry a facility similar to the one in Nashua. We are in the process of purchasing the Holy Cross church on East Derry Road, only a few miles from our own church, and converting it into 16 2-bedroom units. The purchase of the property, which has not been used as church for a few years, is essentially completed, but is contingent on getting a favorable ruling from the Derry Zoning Commission for this alternative use of the property. While many people spoke in support of it, 3 people living adjacent to the church property oppose it. We are trying to assure them that their fears, while valid for some types of supportive housing, will not be issues for this particular facility, given its small size and the hands-on way we will manage it.

Finally, we continue to cook, deliver, and serve a delicious meal for the families in residence, on the first Thursday of every month. If you would like to join our group of volunteers, please contact Randy Brown at [randybrown1119@gmail.com](mailto:randybrown1119@gmail.com) or call 603-612-0489. You can also keep up with the current news about the program by visiting their website: [www.familypromisesnh.org](http://www.familypromisesnh.org).

Submitted by Randy Brown



## The Meetinghouse Five

To help Sanctuary worship services and activities resume sooner, the Friends of the Meetinghouse is staging a fundraising footrace event.

**Saturday, June 25, 2022**

Rain or shine • Free water and snacks • Guided Tours of the Meetinghouse

### **5 Mile Competitive Running Race**

starts at 9:00am

\$30 registration

includes a custom Numbered Bib &  
a Race T-shirt (first 300 registrants)

### **2.5 Mile Fun Walk**

starts at 9:15am

\$10 registration

includes a custom  
Walkers Bib

***All proceeds and donations will go to Building Rehab***

The courses will start and finish at First Parish and wind past historic sites in East Derry. Dave Breeden and his [New England Timing](#) firm are donating professional race staging and timing. Awards will go to the leaders of the Race and Walk.

We need help now recruiting:

- **Sponsors** — Businesses and organizations with cash or in-kind donations from \$10 to over \$1,000 will receive many benefits. Please contact Beth Hunter.
- **Volunteers** — On race day, help with registration, course monitoring and runner assistance, food and drinks, etc. Please contact Nancy Heywood.

We also hope everyone reading participates!

Watch for announcements of Race and Walk registration opening up soon.

Contact Nancy, Beth, Paul Lindemann, or Bill Mann with questions and suggestions. Thank you.

*Remember the wonderful Family Five series run successfully a decade ago?*







## June 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:



Photo Credit: Paul Lindemann

- June 5<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 In Person Worship and Zoom/ Facebook
- June 12<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 In Person Worship and Zoom/ Facebook ~ Communion
- June 19<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 In Person Worship and Zoom/ Facebook
- June 26<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 In Person Worship and Zoom/ Facebook

#### **Adult Faith Formation Tuesday** evenings ~

June 21 - Labyrinth walk at 6:00-6:30pm. Please contact the office for the Zoom invite.

June 14, 21, 28; 6:45 – 8:00: Brian McLaren's book: [Faith Beyond Doubt](#)

**Spaghetti Supper: To-Go Friday** June 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00-6:00pm

**Fundraising Footrace:** June 25<sup>th</sup> – see pages 15 & 16 for details

**Star Gathering Weekend UCC Family Conference:** Sept. 2 or 3-5, 2022. Speak to Liz Greenberg, Diane Breeden, Joanne Worthen or Pastor Deborah for more information.

**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!

**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:  
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603-434-0628



Photo credit: Paul Lindemann

**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***