

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

June 12, 2022



ALL ARE WELCOME

*“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 12th Century Church in Hampshire, England)

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

CENTERING MUSIC // LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (Led by Mike Rounds)

One: Even though we don't always feel God, God is with us.

Many: **Be Still,** and Know I am God.

One: All around us is fear and hopelessness.

Many: Be Still, **and Know** I am God.

One: You bring to us hope and peace. We trust in Your abundant love.

Many: Be Still, and Know **I am God.**

One: We come freely, opening our hearts to God's healing words of hope.

Many: **Be Still, and Know I am God.**

HYMN: #497 ***Guide My Feet***

INVOCATION (Led by lay reader please join in.)

Come to us as a light from heaven, Holy One. Pierce any shadows that separate us from You. Awaken within us new energy, new hope, and new awareness of You. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION (lay leader)

Do we limit our God by our small visions and limited belief? Let us face our unbelieving and move further into believing and relationship with our abundant God.

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

Loving God, we admit to attitudes that reduce rather than expand Your work among us. We separate ourselves from difficulties rather than embrace them as Your tool to help us grow in faith. Show us how to do better we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (lay leader)

God's face shines upon all those whose word is impeccable and whose desire to be transformed is sincere. The One who knows our hearts is eager to forgive the truly penitent and to empower those who are growing weary. Praise God!

SONG OF PRAISE: #267 ***Come, Oh Spirit, Dwell Among Us*** (vs. 3)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

GOD'S INVITATION; OUR SACRED STORY; and A PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

COMMUNION HYMN: #332 ***As We Gather at Your Table***

SHARING the MEAL

At home, you may use elements of your choosing to represent the bread and the cup. If you are with your family, please serve one another.

Here in our Sanctuary, we will be using the individual cups that you picked up at the entrance. Lift one tab to retrieve the "bread". Carefully lift the second tab to drink the juice. You will be able to discard the empty cup as you leave the sanctuary.

The Bread of Life.... (we take together)

The Cup of Love... (we take prayerfully in our own time)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: Acts 8: 26-40

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹ He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.'

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip^[c] baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

SERMON: "How can I – unless Someone Guides Me?"

HYMN: #293 *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION (lay reader)

Who carries the hope of Christ into the world? Our gifts do just that. They empower those who serve all the while expressing the goodness and greatness of our God!

If you are joining us virtually, please use the next few moments to share joys and concerns in the chat. Please use first names as our services are recorded. God knows who you mean.

DOXOLOGY: #267 ***Come, Oh Spirit, Dwell Among Us*** (vs. 3)

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

We bring our offerings to feed your lambs and tend your sheep, gracious God. Allow them to provide help where it is most needed, as well as opportunities for growth within your gathered believers. 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: #18 ***Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer***

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 – Mike Rounds

GREETERS – Sue Brown, Jo Worthen and Sue Lindemann (Remote)

GUEST MUSICIAN – Kaitlyn Leahy

SONG LEADER – Katie Cobban

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier

OFFICE MANAGER - Michelle Guerrin

AV/STREAMING – Paul Lindemann, Mike Schroeder, Brian Williams & Reni Harden

IN OUR PRAYERS - June 12, 2022

PRAYERS OF JOY

Pastor Deborah's grandson arrived on June 1! Baby, big brother and parents – all fine!

We have a “paper Angel!” - We thank God for you! Thank you!

Many thanks to Maddie for music last week.

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!

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 – Danganvura 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

Bob – Nancy L’s dad – died. Prayers for his family.

Jeff Delangie’s grandmother died. Prayers for Jeff and all the family.

Trina’s sister Marian’s husband (Larry) lost his battle with cancer May 31

For the families of those killed by an assault rifle in a Texas Elementary School

For the families of those killed in the grocery store in Buffalo, NY.

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

Ginny Behan, suffering from permanent damage to her lung after an operation.

Andrea & Tom recovering from Covid.

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

Victims of domestic terrorism, hate crimes and other senseless acts of violence.
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.

JUNE Adult Faith Formation – Tuesday June 14th at 7pm, 21, 28 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:

- Saturday June 18th at 11:00am – Celebration of Jane Krantz's life; here at FPC
- **Postponed- The Meetinghouse Five Fundraising Footrace.** Our June 25th race date hasn't proven convenient for most racers or walkers, so we are unfortunately postponing this event until next year. Sorry for any inconvenience, and please stay tuned for the new date coming soon (this Facebook event will meanwhile read "Nov. 1st" as a placeholder). Thanks for your interest and support.
- **Vacation Church Camp:** Rocky Railway July 25th – 28th; 9 to 12:00 pm is for ages 4 to 12.