

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 26, 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, Ken Williams)

One: Come to this place of prayer – God is calling us.

Many: We have come to hear the Word of God – and be blessed.

One: Let voices of praise greet the One who calls us.

Many: Our hearts respond, and our voices join together in gratitude!

One: God fills the world with light – and we are invited into that light.

Many: May God's ways be known and may they transform us for good.

HYMN: #288 *Let it Breathe on Me*

INVOCATION (led by lay reader)

Creating God, creator of all life, meet us here in the joyous encounter of faith sharing and worship gathering. Meet us here, remind us of your love and then charge us to live into that love for the good of all your people. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: #759 *Gloria Patri*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: Acts 12:6-20

⁶ The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. ⁷ Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. ⁸ The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' ⁹ Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. ¹¹ Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

¹² As soon as he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many had gathered and were praying. ¹³ When he knocked at the outer gate, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. ¹⁴ On recognizing Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate. ¹⁵ They said to her, 'You are out of your mind!' But she insisted that it was so. They said, 'It is his angel.' ¹⁶ Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the gate, they saw him and were amazed. ¹⁷ He motioned to them with his hand to be silent, and described for them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he added, 'Tell this to James and to the believers.' Then he left and went to another place.

¹⁸ When morning came, there was no small commotion among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. ¹⁹ When Herod had searched for him and could not find him, he examined the guards and ordered them to be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.

SERMON: CRAZY CHRISTIANS

HYMN: #558 *O How Glorious, Full of Wonder* (vs. 1, 4)

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.

MISSION MOMENT – Strengthen the Church

DOXOLOGY: #780 *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

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

For the hospitality of your good earth, for the people You have given us to love, for the tasks you have called us to do, we give thanks, generous God. Our offerings are a measure of our faith and an evidence of our gratitude. We dedicate ourselves with our gifts, that your light may be magnified throughout our neighborhoods and our world. 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: #412 *God Moves in a Mysterious Way* (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 – Ken Williams
GREETERS – Reni Harnden, Jo Worthen, Sue Lindemann (Remote)
GUEST MUSICIAN – Laurel Devino
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 26, 2022

PRAYERS OF JOY

Welcome to Jill Taylor, our new Office Manager.

Paul's successful submission to LCHIP for a grant for the ceiling work.

We held a joyous "going home" service for Jane Krantz last week. What a gift!

How beautiful to have new siding along the Noyes Building along the ramp! Thank you to the Board of Facilities.

Gratitude to the Personnel Board for their search for a new Office Manager!

Thank you for such an amazing service and party last week. Your kind words and generosity was overwhelming. I am so grateful- Michelle

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!

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

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

Our sister church in Zimbabwe – Danganvura UCC – has invited us to write to them!

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

Liz – recovering from Covid out in Oregon. Ginnie Behan, suffering from permanent damage to her lung after an operation.

Andrea & Tom recovering from Covid.

Carol (Carol G.'s sister-in-law) advanced stages of Parkinsons
Lincoln, Karen W's nephew, struggling with Autism and other mental health concerns.
Jenny, friends of Jeff S
Davida, 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;
Gary (friend of the Guerrin Family) with stage 3 lung 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.

Upcoming Events:

- Adult Faith Formation – “Faith After Doubt” – Tuesday, 6:45-8; hybrid
- Vacation Church Camp: Rocky Railway July 25th – 28th; 9 to 12:00 pm is for
ages 4 to 12.