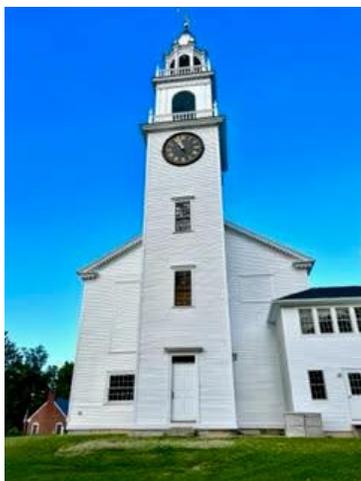


First Parish Congregational Church

United Church of Christ • East Derry, New Hampshire July 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 12th Century Church in Hampshire, England



From the Pastor’s Desk

Dear Child of God,

July 1 is here – which means that half of 2022 is behind us, and half is ahead of us. We have accomplished so much in these last six months, my friends! I pray that you will take advantage of this newsletter to “get the scoop” on all the comings and goings! We want to welcome Jill as our Office Manager as we bid a fond farewell to Michelle. How blessed we are! The pandemic has changed our lives forever and much good has emerged from this unwanted – not to mention deadly and divisive - disease. We enjoy the presence of our friends from afar on Sunday mornings! We have new people visiting – and staying! Let us rejoice and be glad!

The music committee has stepped up in a major way! Katie meets with me almost weekly to choose hymns and brainstorm service music, and she stepped forward as our song leader for worship. The group has met regularly to discern a path forward without a Director of Music. We are so grateful for the pianists who have stepped forward, taking turns playing the piano for worship each week. Several are taking the summer off so we will be enjoying pre-recorded music. They worked to find live music for the Spring Fling.

The Personnel Board has also been doing “double duty” – with two staff positions to fill! They had success with the Office Manager. Let’s pray that they have success finding us a musician by fall.

The Facilities Board has worked so very hard these last six months. Their to-do list is long, and they have been knocking off items steadily. Take a look around at all the work they have done! We are so grateful to all of you.

The Mission Board continues to be faithful steering your financial gifts to those in need both near and far! They recently added a pen pal program with our sister church in Dangamvura, Zimbabwe! We hope to hear more soon.

The newly launched CCEP (Children's Christian Education Program) is a wonderful program. There are so many advantages to teaching our children in this way. Miss Christine just launched a summer program - an intergenerational program right after worship. We had so much fun together coloring our flat Jesus, who will travel with us all summer long. I'm taking Jesus to Maine and to North Carolina! Where will you take yours?



We are an Open and Affirming church. The Council voted to write "Happy Pride" on the sign out front. It was noticed and appreciated by many. Liz and I took the church banner and set up a welcome table at the second annual Windham Pride event. What an amazing day! We so appreciated help from the Worthens and visits from the Cobbans and Woody during the event. Thank you! So many people stopped to tell us how happy they were to see a church at a Pride event. (There were actually three churches!) LGBTQ+ persons are treated so badly so often by "religious" people. They don't know if they can trust God. This is tragic. Therefore, we must show our support whenever and however we can. Perhaps next year more folks from First Parish will join us!

We enjoyed an amazing first Annual Spring Fling fundraising event in May. With that one event the fundraising team reached half its annual goal – giving away 10% to a worthy cause. (That's Biblical!) Speaking of financial celebrations, one of our families donated a "match pledge" of \$100,000. What an incredibly gift! The team working on the Path to the Sanctuary is so grateful with congregation's support. They also realize that it's time that the congregation become more active in community fundraising. There will be two community events later this year and there is hope that many members of the community will help our congregation meet the needs of the financing the next phase of the rehabilitation project.

Although we will host two outdoor worship services as per our tradition (see Deacons report), we are looking at a very diverse worship program this summer. I will take vacation time to visit my brand-new grandson, officiate my daughter's wedding, as well as take advantage of my Study Leave. My study projects this year include a Social Justice festival in NC and starting (once and for all) one of the books rattling around in my head! Who will lead worship on Sunday? A variety of gifted lay leaders have stepped up and stepped in. I'm sorry that I'll miss them – but so glad that services are taped for future viewing!

See what I mean? We are a God-centered, mission-focused, and blessedly active faith community in so very many ways! It is my joy to serve God here at First Parish with all of you.

Stay healthy and safe! Remember to use sunscreen. When the news weighs you down, remember who is really in control. Listen to the voice deep inside – or maybe in the sound of sheer silence – calling you to step up and step into who God is calling you to become.

May God bless you and keep you, Pastor Deborah

Christian Education and Faith Formation

Pondering “Faith After Doubt” by Brian McLaren

Schedule:

Dates and Times: Summer 2022 - beginning June 14: Tuesday night: 6:45PM-8:00PM; hybrid (Corinthians).

Please use a journal to write down your thoughts and feelings along our journey.

First Session: Part I - Your Descent into Doubt pgs. vi-55

Understanding the First Two Stages of Faith: Simplicity & Complexity; Doubt as Loss, Loneliness, Crisis, Doorway, Growth

Week 1: June 14; Week 2: June 21; Week 3: June 28

Break – July 5, 12, & 19 Take this time to reflect, re-read or read ahead.

Second Session: Part II - All in Doubt pgs. 58-128; Understanding the Third Stage of Faith:

Perplexity. AND Faith, Beliefs, & Love; Beliefs vs. Faith: The call to revolutionary love

Week 4: July 26; Week 5: August 2; Week 6: August 9

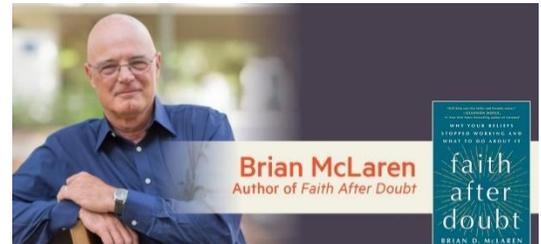
Break – August 16 & 23: Take this time to reflect, re-read or read ahead.

Third Session: Part III - Life After (And With) Doubt pgs. 131-231; Communities of

Harmony/Theologies of Harmony; Spiritualities of Harmony for the Rising

Generation; Harmony as a Survival Strategy; A Civilization of Doubt; You’re not Crazy and You’re Not Alone

Week 7: August 30; Week 8: September 6; Week 9: September 13



ROCKY RAILWAY NEEDS YOUR HELP WITH CHEW-CHEW SNACKS – COULD YOU HELP US FUEL UP?

- Simply take a post-it note (or more if you so choose) from the donation poster and drop off the goodies in the designated tote in the lobby or between the double doors (after hours) at First Parish Church.

VACATION CHURCH CAMP
CHEW CHEW SNACKS
DONATION WISH LIST
CHECK IT OUT IN OUR LOBBY TODAY!



Summer Christian Education Activities:

☀️ **Intergenerational Art in The Park (or Currier Hall)** – Join us after service at 11:00 am for crafts and activities related to the summer scriptures!

☀️ **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 [as featured in last month's newsletter](#). These are great for families on the go all summer long! Christine Lehoullier will be posting various cards from the deck for EVERYONE'S enjoyment on Facebook throughout the summer.

☀️ **Flat Jesus!** – Our first craft of the Summer Intergenerational Art Program was making a traveling Flat Jesus! There was a great turnout and don't worry if you'd still like one, because there are extra copies in the front office. Christine Lehoullier will be around the entire month of July to help you laminate your Flat Jesus for you to travel with. We will also be helping everyone post their pictures of their travels with their Flat Jesus by making a private FPC Families Facebook page. You can get the QR code to join the page when you make your Flat Jesus or print one yourself [HERE](#) with the code and link.

☀️ **Rocky Railway Vacation Church Camp – July 25th – July 29th**

Dates: July 25th – July 28th | Times: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Ages: 4 – 12
Campers Register [Here](#)
Volunteers Register [Here](#)



Upcoming Rocky Railway Volunteer meetings:

SATURDAY, July 9th: ALL VOLUNTEER TRAINING DAY – MANDATORY | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (drinks and snacks provided)

WEDNESDAY, July 17th: ALL VOLUNTEER DECORATING/PLANNING – ALL HANDS ON DECK (lunch provided) | 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Board of Personnel

After emailing and talking to several people, personnel narrowed it down to 2 women. We interviewed them in person on Thurs. June 26. They both were well qualified for the job. After much discussion we offered the job to Jill Taylor. We are excited to let you know she accepted the job. She has spent time with Michelle & Pastor Deborah getting acquainted with how we do things in at FPC. She will be on her own beginning Wednesday June 29. When you get a chance stop in and introduce yourself. She will be in the office 9-3 Mon-Fri.

She would like to attend our church services, so you may meet her on Sundays. Please remember that she is not working on Sundays. If you have a question or need something, feel free to email or call Jill during the week when she is in the office.

We do continue to work with the music committee to find a choir director/accompanist.

Your Personnel members,

Beth Hunter, Margie Ives & Karen Wilson

Board of Christian Outreach and Missions

Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. Proverbs 22:4

MISSIONS JUNE 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	\$200	

ZIMBABWE

One of our generous worshippers personally donated \$300 for Rev. Kennedy's food insecure seminary students. He and they are so thankful for this life saving donation.

Are you interested in having a pen pal who is a member of our Dangamvura partner church? If so, please contact Nancy Murdock.

FAMILY PROMISE OF SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Family Promise gave us a wish list of needed items to share with their resident families. In the lobby there are copies of the list and a box for your donations. **Let's fill the box to overflowing!!**

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

During Sunday's service we shared a video about the Strengthen the Church offering. 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.

Collection envelopes are available in the church office and lobby.

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

Board of Deacons

Exciting news from the Deacons:

This summer there are some exciting things happening during Sunday worship. Pastor Deborah did not use her Study Leave last year. Council approved her using this year. In recognition of all of the gifts in our congregation, we have a plan for a very diverse summer worship schedule. In July, the scripture focus will be Esther and in August, we will consider Ruth. We hope that the following list will provide clarity and understanding.

July 3 – Worship leader Diane Breeden working with Cathy Pottle and Beth Hunter.

July 10 - Outdoor service at 10 with Pastor Deborah (weather permitting) Bring your own chair.

July 17 - The music committee, led by Katie Cobban, will present Christmas in July.

July 24 - Diana Sweeney, one of our gifted Members in Discernment, will offer a reflection.

July 31 - Pastor Deborah will be back and there will be a baptism.

August 7 - Outdoor service with Pastor Deborah at 10 (weather permitting)

Bring your own chair.

August 14 - Vacation Church Camp, led by Christian Education Director, Miss Christine, will lead the service.

August 21 - Diana Sweeney will offer the reflection

August 28 - Pastor Deborah will conclude our consideration of Ruth.

September 7 - Rev. Linda Snyder will be our guest preacher

This is a reminder that while Pastor Deborah is on Study Leave there is always a clergy person on call. Please contact the office or one of the Deacons if you experience a pastoral care need.

The **AV Crew** needs more trainees. There is a great crew working with all the technical equipment and they are more than happy to teach you how to use the equipment.

The Deacons are also in need of more helpers. Please prayerfully consider lending a hand on Sunday morning.

We would like to be among the first to welcome Jill Taylor to the church as the new Office Manager. Michelle will be missed but we wish her luck in her next new adventure.

Your Board of Deacons: Sue Brown, Rachel Cobban, Reni Harnden, Jack Grand (Martin), Brian Williams, and Joanne Worthen

Path to the Sanctuary Update

Our efforts to return to our sanctuary are proving very fruitful thanks to the 23 pledges we have received thus far. All together \$90,850 has been deposited and we expect the other \$80,000 pledged over the next two years to move us even closer. Combining that with the matching fund, we feel we are looking at close to \$300,000 if we can get just \$30,000 more pledged making the matching potential of \$100,000. If you have not pledged, even a much smaller amount, please know that you can be a part of this wonderful endeavor. At some point we hope to publicly thank all the contributors.

We also need to thank those who have given gifts in the name of Ruthlee Root and Jane Krantz. It provides comfort to those families to have their memories live on.

Finally, there are various committees looking for ways in the community to bolster these efforts. Mark your calendars for Trivia Night October 13 and a wonderful concert at Stockbridge Theatre December 11 which will include a sing along of Christmas songs. More to come.

Cynthia Gray, Anne Marie Merrill, Sue Lindemann, Margie Ives

Fund-Fun Raising Committee

We want to give you an update on our fundraising efforts. The exact amount of money earned so far this year is still being determined – BUT we think we’ve made over \$5k! So exciting! We decided to donate 10% of those funds to the Path to the Sanctuary efforts. And we are working with that committee to help them help us to get there!

At our meeting on Friday, June 24th, we talked about the 2nd half of 2022. We decided to host a 2nd yard sale – hopefully bigger and better than last time - to be held on August 6th.

We will rent spaces for people to bring their own treasures (they can rent a table from us in they need one) AND we will accept donations for the church tables. Please bring us things that someone can use. We are going to use the classroom downstairs (John) for staging.

Future fundraising projects include the “Antiques Roadshow” in September, the Sugar Plum Fair in November 2022 and the Spring Fling II in July 2023.

If you have any other ideas for fund – fun-raising – please contact a member of the committee – they will bring to the team for review.

Cathy Zylinski, Stephanie Berg, Julie Greenfield, Beth Hunter, Cathy Pottle, Liz Greenberg, and Pastor Deborah.

Music Committee

The committee debriefed after the Spring Fling, and it was noted there was a lot of positive feedback. Katie and Alec Cobban ran the sound system for the music hours. They did an excellent job. Jean Brodeur lined up the musicians for the music hours. One improvement that was mentioned, was to extend the sound to other parts of the campus, i.e., inside Currier and the parking lot.

The committee talked about organizing a "fun" night without "fundraising" involved. Perhaps a concert on the lawn later this summer.

We had a nibble on the musician position for the summer. When the candidate realized that East Derry was a good hour from her home, she decided against it and took a position at another church. It was decided to put small ads in local stores to advertise the musician position.

The committee also voted to purchase two licenses. One license for recordable music from our own hymnal, The New Century Hymnal. The other license was reinstated for other recordable music.

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 received the names of 5 families in Dangamvura who wish to begin writing, share stories and sending photos. 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. We hope that this program will grow. Please consider connecting with one of the members of our sister church in Zimbabwe. It will bring us closer together as we support their church. Contact Nancy Murdock, chair of Mission or Pastor Deborah

Board of Mission and Outreach – Nancy Murdock, Carol Guerrin, Heather Paradzick, Melanie Pawl, Shirley and Kevin Foster (honorary member Karen Wilson)

Invitation to Star Island

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. 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.

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.

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.



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, which depend on which 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.

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)

Jane Krantz Celebration of Life- A Message of Thanks

The family wants to reach out and thank folks who helped make Jane's service as beautiful and memorable as it was. In advance of the service, many hands were at work preparing. Diane Breeden provided her advice and artistic efforts to ready the front of the hall. The results of her efforts offered a wonderful result. Paul Lindemann pre-recorded my granddaughter Heidi and me performing the service ending vocal. Paul also set up all monitors and recording devices required for the service and continued during the service by recording and offering Zoom service to those who could not attend. Joanne Worthen led volunteer efforts to set up the hall seating and other logistics required for the service. Donors and serving volunteers did a great job of preparing and serving the reception food and beverages following the service. A profound thanks to all for your kindness and support.

Pastor Deborah helped daughter Diana prepare service content. She followed by conducting a truly memorable service. The eulogy offered truly depicted Jane perfectly. A very special thanks to Pastor Deborah.

Marge Palmer offered a mixture of wit, humor, and found memories. We're so thankful for Marge's "musings".

Jeff DeLangie offered musical support by playing the piano perfectly. All music was presented exactly as requested. Mellissa Hughes provided a beautiful vocal rendition of "The Rose". This was a song that Jane wanted to be sung at her service. What a blessing it was to have Jeff and Mellissa take part in the service!

Jane and I were truly blessed, during our sixty years of marriage, with two children. Since Jane's passing, both Diana and Mark and their families have offered comfort and support. Diana was there for her mom during the service by taking part in the service. Mark's wife Michelle prepared the photo cards that were on display. I'm so very proud of our children and their families. Surely Jane was there with us during the service. I'm sure she was pleased.

Peace be with you,

Larry

July 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).

Worship Services

July – a look at Queen Esther – with a little Christmas Cheer on July 17th!

Upcoming Worship Services:

- July 3th: 10:00 In Person Worship and Zoom/ Facebook
- July 10th: 10:00 In Person Worship and Zoom/ Facebook ~ Communion Outdoors
- July 17th: 10:00 In Person Worship and Zoom/ Facebook
- July 24th: 10:00 In Person Worship and Zoom/ Facebook
- July 31st: 10:00 In Person Worship and Zoom/ Facebook

Adult Faith Formation Tuesday evenings ~
 July 26th – Second Session Begins- Adult Faith
 Labyrinth walks will resume in September

Spaghetti Supper: To-Go Friday July 29th at 5:00-6:00pm

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

facebook.com/fpcucc

Senior Pastor and Teacher

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org

Office Manager

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603-434-0628



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.

Photo credit: Paul Lindemann

First Parish Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

47 East Derry Road

PO Box 114

East Derry, NH 03041-0114

Address Service Requested