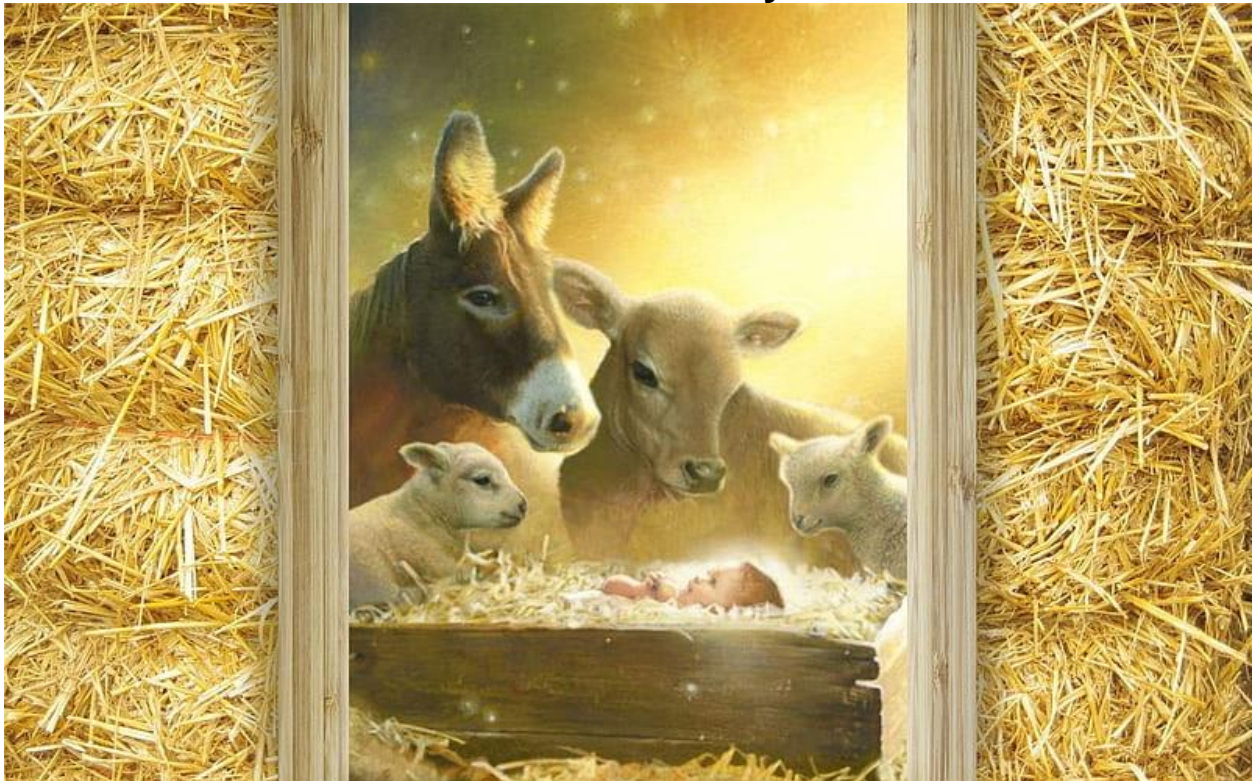


INALFirst Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road East Derry, New Hampshire
03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

July 17, 2022
Christmas in July!



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 by Katie Cobban

CALL TO WORSHIP THROUGH SONG

HYMN: # 107 ***“Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn”***

INVOCATION (Led by Lay Reader, please join in)

Lord, you gave us the greatest gift of all: Your Love made flesh in Jesus. Help us to remember Christmas today, not for the gifts and decorations, not for the chaos in stores, not for the food and family gatherings, but for Mary and Joseph and your gift of Love to the world, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE # 782 (Tune of #780 "Praise God")

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night,
to God the Spirit now we raise
our joyful songs of thankful praise.**

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION (Led by Lay Reader)

As we remember today, the gift that God gave us through Jesus, let us also remember the gifts that we have to give. May we use our gifts to better the world and continue the path that God set in motion before even the first Christmas.

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.

MISSION MOMENT - Jack Kennedy

DOXOLOGY #125 Angels We Have Heard on High (Chorus Only)

Gloria! In excelsis deo! (x2)

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

All good gifts around us come from you, O God. You have given us life, and new life in Christ. As you have given us gifts, so we offer our gifts that we may be gifts to one another, even as Jesus so taught and lived. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE followed by THE LORD'S PRAYER

Adaptation of "Prayers of the People on Christmas"

Copyright Carol Penner

www.leadinginworship.com

God be with us as we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us:
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 HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OUR SACRED STORY

If you have chosen to participate in our paper bag pageant, listen for the word on the outside of your paper bag. When you hear your cue word, open your bag and add your item to our nativity scene. Please join us in singing a verse of "The Friendly Beasts" after each of our speakers:

NARRATOR:

**Jesus our brother, strong and good
Was humbly born in a stable rude
And the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus our brother, strong and good.**

DONKEY

**"I, " said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
"I carried his mother up hill and down.
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town."
"I, " said the donkey, shaggy and brown.**

COW

**"I, " said the cow, all white and red,
"I gave him my manger for his bed.
I gave him my hay to pillow his head."
"I, " said the cow, all white and red.**

SHEEP

**"I, " said the sheep with curly horn,
"I gave him my wool for his blanket warm.
He wore my coat on Christmas morn."
"I, " said the sheep with curly horn.**

DOVE

**"I, " said the dove from the rafters high,
"I cooed him to sleep so he would not cry.
We cooed him to sleep, my mate and I."
"I, " said the dove from rafters high.**

CAMEL

**"I," said the camel, yellow and black,
"Over the desert, upon my back,
I brought Him a gift in the Wise Men's pack."
"I," said the camel, yellow and black.**

NARRATOR

**Thus every beast, by some good spell,
In the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
Of the gifts they gave Emmanuel.**

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE A LOVING, SERVING GOD

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN: #132 Joy to the World

BLESSING (Katie Cobbin)

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

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY – Katie Cobban and the Music Committee

PAGEANT LEADERS - Julie Greenfield, Fred Merrill, Everly Lombardi, Cae Grand, Jack Grand, Beth Hunter, and Christine Lehoullier
LAY READER – Rachel Cobbin
GREETERS – Reni Harnden, Jo Worthen, Sue Lindemann (Remote)
MUSICIANS – The Music Committee
SONG LEADER – The Music Committee
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier
OFFICE MANAGER – Jill Taylor
AV/STREAMING – Paul Lindemann, Mike Schroeder, Brian Williams & Reni Harden

IN OUR PRAYERS – July 17, 2022

Loving gratitude from the Rod and Suzanne Hunt: “Our thanks to Pastor Deborah and members of First Parish Church for ongoing prayers and cards that have been sent to Rod during his recent surgery and recovery. He is gaining but it is still a long process.”

PRAYERS OF JOY

Pastor Deborah’s Daughter Stephanie was married July 2 to Eileen!
2nd Annual Windham Pride Festival – First Parish welcomed many LGBTQ+ folks

Paul’s successful submission to LCHIP for a grant for the ceiling work.
We held a joyous “going home” service for Jane Krantz. What a gift!
How beautiful to have new siding along the Noyes Building along the ramp!
The shed in the parking lot is painted!! Thank you to the Board of Facilities.
Gratitude to the Personnel Board for their search for a new Office Manager!
Pastor Deborah’s grandson arrived on June 1! Baby, big brother and parents – all fine!

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

Gratitude for members and friends in Indiana, Georgia, Zimbabwe, and N. Ireland.

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION

Sue Weaver, death of her father 6.30.22. Cards of consolation may be mailed to 7 Beacon St; Derry. Prayers for Sue and the entire family.

Trina's sister Marian’s husband (Larry) lost his battle with cancer May 31
For the families of those killed and injured in the Highland Park, IL parade shooting

For the families of those killed and injured in the NYC boroughs shootings.
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.

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Caroline Morse childhood friend Renee whose cancer metastasized

Cindy Pingree continued prayers for health and healing

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

Jeff Slowick's mom recovering from appendix surgery with complications and for his dad who has grown weaker and has fallen down several times.

Andrea & Tom recovering from Covid.

Carol (Carol G.'s sister-in-law) advanced stages of Parkinson's.

Lincoln, Karen W's nephew, struggling with Autism and other mental health concerns. Jenny, friend 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:

Brenda, dear friend of Alec Cobban, stage 4 Pancreatic 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.

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

Rev. Kennedy Gondongwe, facing harassment from his government.

Zimbabwe – as the people try to speak truth to power.

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: Upcoming Events:

- Vacation Church Camp: Rocky Railway July 25th – 28th; 9 to 12:00 pm is for ages 4 to 12.