

First Parish United Church of Christ (Congregational)

P.O. Box 228, 176 West High Street,

Somersworth, NH 03878-0228

Church Office: (603) 692-2057

Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. Norma Brettell

An Open & Affirming Church

www.somersworthfirstparish.org

pastor@somersworthfirstparish.org



APRIL, 2019



EASTER FLOWERS

We have been blessed to have beautiful Easter flower arrangements for the last few years, thanks to Robin Martin and Kimberly Conley. They are not able to do the flowers this year unfortunately.

The Easter Altar Arrangement is something that our congregation looks forward to every year. I volunteered to be a part of the Flower Committee so we are able to keep this lovely tradition.

There will be an order form for flowers available in the Narthex starting on March 31st. The choices of flowers will include Easter Lilies, Mini Calla Lilies, Hydrangeas, Tulips, and Hyacinths. The Flower Committee asks that you return your completed forms with a check made out to First Parish Church UCC by April 14th.

If you have any questions please contact Kathy Latchaw at 603-427-8958 or klatchaw@comcast.net



The Women's Fellowship is sponsoring a Silent Auction on April 6th from 4:00-6:00PM. There will be Moe's subs, chips, drinks, and cookies available for \$5.00.

We have been collecting items, but we are in need of gift cards from local retailers, hand made items, anything you think might be special for the auction, and items to make gift baskets.

There will be a sign up sheet for volunteers passed around starting Sunday March 10th.

Please invite your friends, family, and neighbors to come. It is always a fun evening and people go home with some great deals! The Silent Auction is replacing our Spring Fling this year. We are hoping it will be a huge success so we can continue to help support the church financially.

If you have questions please contact Kathy Latchaw at 603-427-8958 or klatchaw@comcast.net

Many thanks in advance.

The Silent Auction Committee



We're a little more than halfway through our Lenten journey toward the central images of our faith: Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Cross, and then Easter. Although we know the end of the story, we bring to mind the events of the last days of Jesus, "who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross." But we don't remember and re-tell the story of Jesus' last days without continuing on to the rest of the story, the Easter joy of resurrection and new life!

As I write this column, the snowbanks where I live are still high and the rivers are still jammed with ice, and so looking toward spring seems itself an exercise in faith. Winter was cold and snowy this year, with snow upon snow upon snow. But underneath the snow and cold, the bulbs are getting ready to send shoots of new life up and out toward the light. We can't see them yet, but we know that they are there. Just yesterday, I heard a blue jay's flute-like spring song, saw turkey vultures soaring in the sky, and watched a number of crows conspire to take over a group of treetops. I believe that spring will come!

As we observe the last few weeks of Lent, remember that this is a time of year when many people who have come from a church with a liturgical tradition (for example, Episcopalians, Roman Catholics, and Lutherans) but who are no longer active tend to miss familiar traditions. Even when they don't have a regular "church family," they may still mark their own observances of Lent. What a wonderful opportunity to invite someone to church! The services in each church are different, but it is the same Resurrection that we proclaim and celebrate on Easter! Over 80% of people who join a church do so because they were invited by someone they know. Maybe you know someone who'd like to join us this Easter?

Holy Week Observances

Palm Sunday	April 14, 2019	10 AM,	Worship Service with distribution of palms
Maundy Thursday	April 18, 2019	7 PM,	Service of Tenebrae
Good Friday	April 19, 2019	7 PM,	Good Friday Service at First Parish Somersworth, held jointly with the Berwick United Methodist Church
Easter Sunday	April 21, 2019	5:45 AM, 10 AM,	Sunrise Service, American Legion Service of Easter Resurrection



MINISTRY OF PRAYER & CONCERN

Edith Bowen & Jinny Burgess *The Residence at Silver Square, 100 Sterling Way, Dover, NH 03820*

Gail Day, *Langdon Place of Dover, 60 Middle Rd, Dover, NH 03820*

Pat Hamel, *The Manor at Canyon Lakes, #210, 2802 West 35th Ave., Kennewick, WA 99337-2583*

Audrey Loika, *1 Huntington Common Dr., Apt. 208, Kennebunk, ME 04043*

Bob Philbrick, *Berwick Estates, 75 Portland St., So. Berwick, ME 03908*

--and all who are residents in long-term care and assisted living facilities in our area.

Please do send your cards and greetings.

Be the Church

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.

Forgive often. Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

God is still speaking

The **Purpose Statement**, the UCC reason for being, is drawn from a passage in Matthew's Gospel: *To love God with all our heart, mind soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.*

The **Mission Statement**: *United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.*

The **Vision**: *United in Christ's love, a just world for all.*

Remember, every church activity is an opportunity for **YOU** to invite, include and involve someone who you know into our shared life here at First Parish Church.



IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Wendy Alves (St. Jean) [health]

Nancy Anderson [health]

Craig Breden [health]

Eric Burgess [health] *Jinny Burgess's son*

Diane Chessman [healing]

Patty Cote [healing]

Ray Crouse [healing]

Gail Day [health]

Mark Dudley [healing] *son of Carroll & Barbara Dudley*

Betty Foley [health]

Kathe Johnson [health] *Geoff Day's sister*

Ruth Lucey [healing] *Loved one of Mike & Sharon Sirois*

Gloria Martel [health] *Linda Farrell's mother*

Nancy McDonough [health]

Marie Pelloni [health] *Allen Storm's sister-in-law*

Lindsey Richesin [health] *Linda Palmer's daughter*

Susan Sargent [healing]

Leann Schwartz [healing] *Gregg Fournier's sister and Barbara Dudley's daughter*

Luise Watman [healing]

Those who walk with mental health concerns, those who walk the pathway of treatment and recover from addiction.

AND ongoing prayer focus during these days:

- *For our Carroll-Strafford Association Churches.*
- *That God will bless and guide our new Interim Minister, Rev. Dr. Norma Brettell*
- *That God will bless and guide our Conference Minister, Rev. Gordan Rankin, and Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Richard Slater*
- *Faith formation ministries for all ages - for building strong faith foundations, at all ages and stages of life.*
- *Working together in community - to build community - and to implement strategies for prevention, while providing resources for treatment and recovery from substance misuse and its stigma.*
- ***Jesus said: Love God. Love Neighbor. Love Self.***
- *Those serving in the Armed Services and in support capacities around the world.*
- *Peace in our world; harmony in our relationships, hope in our active response for transformational change.*
- *The UKAMA Partnership between the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe and the NH Conference UCC.*
- *Continued invitational ministry and mission here at First Parish United Church of Christ: invite, include, involve in the good news way of Christ!*



The First Parish's Table of Plenty team needs volunteers. Would you like to be part this very easy and rewarding job that includes helping prepare the meal which begins at 3:30PM, serving the meal at 5PM and clean-up at 6PM?

The Table of Plenty serves every Wednesday at the Berwick Methodist Church. First Parish Church is one of several teams who take turns serving each week. The next times we serve will be on April 17th and June 26th.

Please speak with our team coordinator, Laurel Curtis if you are interested in helping. You can reach her at: dlc2069@gmail.com or 603-969-1815.

FAITH FORMATION

The information for **Horton Center** is on the Bulletin Board in the Sunday School hallway. There are extra pamphlets hanging if you would like to take one. There are many opportunities at Horton Center for adults of any age. If you have ever been to Horton Center you will remember the calmness and opportunities to reflect on God's world. If you have never been to "the mountain", now is the perfect time to find out what being on the mountain is all about!



*Sympathy is extended
to the families of*

Joan Hodsdon (Feb 17) *Dottie Douglas's sister-in-law*

Carl Philbrick (Feb. 21) *Bob Philbrick's brother*

Janet Giffin (March 11) *Gayle O'Connor's mother*

Luise Watman (March 13) *Her husband is Mike Watman*

Please remember these families in your prayers, as we ask the Lord to surround them with love and light.



APRIL LECTIONARY READINGS

Fifth Sunday in Lent - Purple

April 7, 2019

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

Palm Sunday - Purple

April 14, 2019

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 19:28-40, Luke 22:14-23:56

Maundy Thursday

April 18, 2019

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday

April 19, 2019

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

John 18:1-19:42

Easter Day - White

April 21, 2019

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

Second Sunday of Easter - White

April 28, 2019

Acts:5:27-32

Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31



MISSIONS

The Missions committee will be serving a **Chicken Dinner Luncheon on Sunday, April 7**, following Worship. We will serve chicken legs and thighs, rice, and green beans, with ice cream and cookies for dessert. We will be serving our luncheon family style. While we still do not have a destination for it, we have decided to put the money raised to use in our local community. We hope you can plan to stay after worship and join us.

The Mission Committee will be collecting items to go into hand-made Ditty Bags for Seafarer's Friend. The list of needed items is posted in the Narthex. Please sign up for the articles you will donate, and have these items back to the church by Sunday, May 5th. We will then put the items in the bags and deliver them to Seafarer's friend. Thank you



PRAYER GROUP MINISTRY

Do you know someone who needs prayers? Please contact one of the Prayer Group members listed below.

Prayer Group Members:

Carol Cummings, 6 Bennett St., Somersworth, NH 03878
(603) 692-2450 Email: johnandcarol55@comcast.net

Dottie Douglas, 20 Columbus Ave., #213, Rochester, NH 03867
(603) 332-6113 Email: dottiedouglas@metrocast.net

Fran Karlik, 15 Church Hill Road, Durham, NH 03824
(603) 397-5674 Email: kinross2@comcast.net



- Apr. 1 Rachel Fournier, Andy Allen,
Shawn Richer
- Apr. 3 Eden-Faith Trussell
- Apr. 4 Madeline Ashley,
Ed & Helene Courier
- Apr. 8 Lean Stucker
- Apr. 9 Clay Oelkuct
- Apr. 10 Marc Cote, Lauren O'Connor
- Apr. 14 Linda Burk
- Apr. 19 Christina Giles
Mike & Luise Watman
- Apr. 23 *Terry & Linda Burk*
- Apr. 24 Mark Rideout
Butch & Sue Boucher
- Apr. 26 Barbara Pay

A Gentle Reminder:

* Sunday Bulletin announcements/
information needs to be in writing to the
Church Office by TUESDAY, or you
may e-mail it directly to Debbie Hall at
kenanddebhall@comcast.net

* Monthly Newsletter items MUST be
submitted by the 1st Friday [OR as noted
in the monthly newsletter calendar].
Earlier is better! Email directly to
Debbie Hall at
kenanddebhall@comcast.net Written
items may be left in the pocket on the
copy room door as well (just let Deb
know!).

* Monthly calendar dates and times are
submitted directly to Debbie Hall at
kenanddebhall@comcast.net

* Updates on birthdays, anniversaries
may be sent to Luise Watman at
lcwatman@comcast.net

Note: If you serve on a committee,
please communicate directly with your
Committee Chair if you are unable to
attend a scheduled meeting or event.



The Women's Fellowship has been discussing plans for the upcoming Silent Auction on April 6th from 4:00-6:00PM. There are already some very interesting items that have been donated for it, but more are needed to make this auction a success. We also need people willing to give some of their time to volunteer. This is taking the place of the Spring Fling Fair this year. The Women's Fellowship has been able to give \$4,600 to help our church each year. We hope to be able to do this again this year and supporting the Silent Auction is one way to help us reach our goal.

We have also been relaxing and having time to knit, crochet, and chat which is such a nice way to catch up on each other's busy lives.

I want to share this prayer with you:

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the women reading this. I thank you for each of them. Fill them with your incredible peace. Wrap them with your love.

May they feel confident and worthy. May they face everything with courage. Help them with anything they are struggling with, surround them and encourage them with your precious wisdom.

May they experience joy today.

In Jesus name. Amen

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Thank you to everyone who helped make the February and March suppers a success. We are so very blessed to have wonderful, supportive people in our church family who are willing to help make our suppers a success.

We'd like to give a special thank you to Pat Whitten. Pat makes all of our delicious breads and many of our yummy desserts as well as helping in so many other ways.

We hope we'll see you at our next supper on April 27th from 4-6 PM. If you would like to become one of our volunteers, we'd love to have you. The sign-up sheet is passed around during worship service most Sundays, or contact one of the committee members: Tom Allen, Kathy Latchaw, Debbie Hall.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship & Sunday School- 10:00AM

Fellowship Time Follows Worship

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month.

Ministers: The People of the Church

Interim Pastor: Rev. Norma Brettell

Christian Education Coordinator:

Susan Vollkommer

Moderator: Richard Whitten

Co-Clerks: Patty Cote & Debbie Hall

Treasurer: Linda Farrell

Assistant Treasurer: Richard Shepherd

Organist/Choir Director: Bette Daley

Newsletter Team: Debbie Hall-Editor, Luise Watman-Birthdays/Anniversaries

CANCELLATION POLICY Yes, we've had to do this before! The weather can, and does change. When at all possible, worship WILL take place. But, should the decision be made to cancel worship and/or Sunday School, every effort will be made to have this information available by 8AM Sunday on **radio station WTSN 1270 AM, AND television station, WMUR, Channel 9.** Every effort will be made to leave a message on the voice mail at the church [692-2057]. Please understand that if the church loses power, while voice mail may work; it still may mean that the church does not have electrical power. These decisions will be made taking into consideration the present or anticipated weather, traveling conditions and whether or not Pastor Norma [and others] can get out of their driveways! Please—use common sense in your decision to drive on a snowy Sunday!

Our Monthly Newsletter

can be accessed entirely online! Check it out: www.somersworthfirstparish.org.

Paper copies are available in the Narthex.

If you prefer to have the newsletter sent to you in the mail, please send \$20 with

your name and address to: First Parish Church, P.O. Box 228, Somersworth, NH 03878, Attn: Newsletter Editor.

STAR ISLAND UCC CONFERENCES



Join friends, family and “Old Shoalers” at one of four UCC conferences on beautiful Star Island in the Isles of Shoals off Portsmouth, NH this summer! Four conferences are offered. Star Island UCC (SIUCC) proudly supports all four conferences as we delve into the overarching theme of “The Body” and explore it in four different ways this summer.

Join us for fun, relaxation, community, and fellowship for all ages and abilities as we get in touch with our bodies on our island paradise!

More information can be found on the Star Gathering website <http://stargathering.org> or check the bulletin board in the Sunday School hallway. If you have any questions, speak with Priscilla Chellis.

Star Gathering I Family Conference
“Bodies Are Beautiful”,
July 27 – August 3, 2019

Star Gathering I Youth Conference
“Bodies Are Beautiful” Youth Conference,
July 27–August 3, 2019

Star Gathering II Family Conference
“The Body – A Vehicle for Justice,
Advocacy and Peace”, August 3 –10, 2019

Star Gathering Weekend UCC Family Conference - “The Spiritual Connection: Body, Mind & Spirit”, August 30th or August 31st– September 2nd, 2019

DIACONATE

The Deacons continue to work on several initiatives. These are:

- *Lent* - Lent began in March and we are well into our preparations. Here is the high-level schedule of events.
 - * *Lent began on Ash Wednesday*, March 6th and we joined with the Berwick United Methodist Church.
 - * *Palm Sunday* - Sunday April 14th
 - * *Holy Week* - begins on Palm Sunday and ends on Easter Sunday. We hope you will make the choice to be present in worship with your family.
 - * *Maundy Thursday* - Thursday, April 18th, 7PM
 - * *Good Friday* - Friday, April 19th, 7PM. The Berwick United Methodist Church will join us.
 - * *Easter Sunrise Service*- Sunday, April 21st - The sunrise service will be held at 5:45AM at the American Legion Hall parking lot on the corner of Constitutional Way and Washington St. in Somersworth. A light breakfast will be served after the service in the legion hall. We are collaborating with the Tri-City Covenant Church.
 - * *Easter Service* - Sunday April 21st, 10AM
- Pastor Norma will lead two sessions of Unwrapping our Gifts workshops on Sundays, March 17th and 24th following worship service. The program will start at 11:30AM with a light lunch served. We hope you are able to attend.
- *Upper Room* - There are large print copies of the Upper Room publication in the Narthex. Please feel free to take a copy.
- *Somersworth T-Ball* - The Church will be sponsoring a Somersworth T-Ball team once again. Please keep this on your radar for next Spring!
- *Church Vitality* - Do you have ideas on how we can reach new people? We would love to hear them. Several ideas we are discussing. What do you think?
 - * Concert
 - * Sock Hop
 - * Motivational Speaker

If you have questions, comments or concerns for the Diaconate, please feel free to contact one of the Deacons and we will do our best to help.

Geoff Day, for the Diaconate