



First Parish United Church of Christ
(Congregational)
P.O. Box 228, 176 West High Street,
Somersworth, NH 03878-022
Church Office: (603) 692-2057
Rev. Thomas Gardner, Pastor
An Open & Affirming Church
www.somersworthfirstparish.org
pastor@somersworthfirstparish.org



April, 2025



Women's Fellowship

The women put together 36 Easter Baskets and are donating them to the food pantry. We want to thank everyone who gave items for the baskets. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. There is going to be some very happy children on Easter morning!

Please know all women are welcome to join us on Tuesday mornings from 9-11AM. Drop in and visit. Come as often as you can. Stay and chat or work on a project. There is always something going on.





MINISTRY OF PRAYER & CONCERN

Bob Behrman, *Kindred Transitional Care and Rehab, 307 Plaza Drive, Dover NH (formally Dover Rehab)*

Stephen Ferranti *Johnson Creek Village, 301 Durham Rd., Dover, NH 03820*

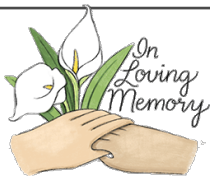
Gina Fortier *Wentworth Home, 795 Central Ave., Dover, NH 03820*

Richard Jackson *The Residence at Silver Square, 100 Sterling Way, Dover, NH 03820*

Ida Patterson, *Benchmark at Rye, 295 Lafayette Rd., Room 106, Rye, NH 03870*

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

Please do send your cards and greetings.



**Sympathy is extended
to the families of:**

Robert Philbrick (3/11/25) Siblings:
Steve, John, Kathleen

Douglas Spence (3/11/25) Gabrielle
Smith, wife

*May the blessing of hope and health
surround their families.*



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Norm Brown
Kevin Cazeault
John Chesley
Gina Fortier
Beverly Lyndes
Linda Palmer

Connie Ricker
Kristen Russell
Diane Shepherd
Kim Shurtleff
Don Whitten

AND ongoing prayer focus during these days:

- *For our Carroll-Strafford Association Churches.*
- *That God will bless and guide our Conference Minister, Rev. Gordan Rankin, and Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Sara Marean*
- *That God will bless and guide Rev. Tom Gardner.*
- *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.*
- *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!*
- *We pray for those who are living with life-threatening illnesses; those who are aging or living with cancer, have mental health concerns and those who are caregivers.*
- ***We long for peace in our world,*** *praying that our nation and world leaders will work together in this time of need, finding peace and harmony with all - the sick, poor, homeless, hungry, victims of violence and abuse, our LGBTQ+ community, refugees, immigration concerns, violence in the schools and violence in our streets.*
- ***We give thanks for all those who have been working non-stop*** *behind the scenes at First Parish so that the day-to-day needs move along seamlessly. For our committees that oversee our finances, our children, our prayer needs, worship and building concerns, plus our local outreach with The Community Food Pantry and the Table of Plenty.*
- ***We are hopeful*** *that God will bless our own church growth in reaching out to new people as we keep the face of First Parish UCC in our community. We share the good news of God's light and love in Jesus Christ, being faithful disciples while inviting and including all who are seeking hope and a spiritual home.*



APRIL LECTIONARY READINGS

Fifth Sunday in Lent, Purple

April 6, 2025

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalms 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

Liturgy of the Palms/Passion - Purple

April 13, 2025

Isaiah 50:4-9a

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

Philippians 2:5-11

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

Luke 23:1-49

Maundy Thursday - Purple

April 17, 2025

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

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday - No colors

April 18, 2025

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalms 22

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

John 18:1-19:42

Resurrection of the Lord - Easter - White

April 20, 2025

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

Psalms 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 27, 2025

Acts 5:27-32

Psalms 118:14-29 or Psalm 150

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31



April 1	Rachel Fournier, Andy Allen, Shawn Richer
April 9	Clay Oelkuct
April 10	Marc Cote
April 13	Kathy Erickson, Peter Erickson
April 14	Linda Burk, Hannah LeSiege
April 19	Christina Giles
April 23	<i>Terry & Linda Burk</i>
April 24	Mark Rideout

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sunday Worship Ministers:

The People of the Church

Pastor: Tom Gardner

Faith Formation Coordinator/

Mission Coordinator: Susan Vollkommer

Moderator: Nancie Cameron

Clerk: Debbie Hall

Contracted Treasurer: Linda Gauthier

Assistant Treasurer: Richard Shepherd

Pianist/Music Director: William Asher

Newsletter & Calendar Editor: Debbie Hall



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

Priscilla Chellis, (207) 698-5977,

Email: prchellis@comcast.net

Carol Cummings, (603) 842-5059,

Email: :

johnandcarol55@comcast.net

Fran Karlik, (603) 397-5674, Email:

kinross2@comcast.net



Rev. Tom Gardner's Contact Information

Email:

thomasedwardgardner@gmail.com Rev.

Tom's cell: 603-393-4934

TRUSTEES

We will be planning a clean up day on Saturday, May 17th for basic chores around the church. It will begin at 9am for approximately 2 hours tops! If you're able to participate, please help us get the church in tip top shape after the winter blahs!!!

Thank you in advance

Sherry Cazeault and Marilyn Sirois are helping prepare the Easter baskets for children who visit the Community Food Pantry.



	February, 2025	Year-to-Date, 2025
Total Income	\$ 3,514.24	\$14,183.53
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 9,947.41</u>	<u>\$24,107.15</u>
Net Income	<u>\$(6,433.17)</u>	<u>(\$9,923.62)</u>
Checking Account Balance as of February 28, 2025		\$ 20,211.81
Savings Account Balance		<u>\$ 5,003.89</u>
Total Checking and Savings		\$ 25,215.70
Unavailable Checkbook Funds		<u>(\$3,940.91)</u>
Total Checkbook Funds Available		<u>\$ 21,274.79</u>
Memorial Fund Checkbook Balance		\$13,414.84
Mortgage Balance at Service Credit Union at 2/28/25		\$12,393.99



HOLY WEEK begins on Palm Sunday and ends of Easter Sunday. Gather for worship around the events of our Savior Jesus' last week. Share in remembering the events that shape and give meaning to your faith—and what you do in God's name in service to others. In others words, come as you are, but do come!

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY [April 13th, 9:00AM at First Parish Church, Somersworth] Today is the gateway to Holy Week. The *Palm Sunday Gospel* for this year is found in **Matthew 11:1-11**. You are encouraged to read the ENTIRE Passion story found in **Matthew 26:14-27:66** to look at and reflect on Jesus' final week that leads to the Cross and Tomb.

MAUNDY THURSDAY [April 17th, 6:30 PM at First Parish Church, Somersworth, *joining with United Methodist Church of Berwick and First Reformed Church of New Hampshire*]

The Vigil of Maundy Thursday, The Sharing of the Upper Room [6:30PM, Sanctuary] One of the few times we worship in the evening, will begin with the celebration of the Lord's Supper. This was Jesus' last meal with his disciples. The reading of the Office of Tenebrae follows. This is drawn from the passion narratives in Matthew's Gospel. A moving, solemn time when the gathered church hears the scriptural witness of the shadows of separation from God.

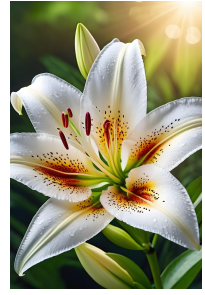
During the Vigil Service, you will be invited to come forward to the foot washing station to have your feet washed by Pastor Tom. In John 13 (the only Gospel to record this), Jesus washed the feet of the disciples while they were gathered to share the Passover meal. Tonight, we include this symbolic action in our Vigil Service as a sign of the humility of Jesus to those he loved. At the conclusion of tonight's service, we are asked to leave in silence.

GOOD FRIDAY [April 18th, 7PM] at *United Methodist Church of Berwick*

EASTER DAY [April 20th]

Sunrise Service 6:30AM at the Evergreen Cemetery, Cemetery Road, Berwick.
We will be worshipping with the Berwick Methodist Church

Morning Worship 9:00AM at **First Parish Church** Gather for worship on **Resurrection Day**, to celebrate God's renewing love in the Risen Christ.



EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to purchase flowers for Easter this year. Please fill out this form. You can make checks payable to First Parish UCC.

2025 Easter Flower pricing

Easter Lily 6"\$16.00_____

Tulip 6" pink, purple, white, red, yellow.....\$13.00_____

Circle the color tulip you want, please

Total payment_____

Please have these orders in by , April 13, 2025

You are also welcome to provide your own lilies, hyacinths, or tulips. They need to be delivered to our church on Saturday, April 19, 2025 by 10:00 so we can arrange them.

**Please let me know if you want your flower to be in memory, honor or celebration of someone.*

Your name_____

In memory/In honor of_____

Place order forms in the basket in the Narthex or mail it to the church:

First Parish Church, P.O. Box 228, Somersworth, NH 03878, Attn:

Kathy Latchaw

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