

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

December 2018

DEACONS' NEWSLETTER

NAME TAGS EVERYONE!

We are welcoming Rev. Dr. Norma Brettell as our Interim Minister! So please wear your name tag so she will learn our names. If you need a name tag, there is a sheet in the narthex that you can put your name on and one will be made for you. Thank you for doing this.

There have been some concerns with those needing to use the elevator. The Deacons are available to help with getting people on and off.

Thank you to those church members who offered to lead worship these last few months. All of the services were from the heart and well done. Your willingness to help is greatly appreciated by all.

B.J. Hickman's Magic Show on Saturday, November 17th was very entertaining for those that were able to come see him. I still don't understand how he can do those tricks.

Bill Voye will be leading Christmas Caroling following the Somersworth Christmas parade on December 1st. Come raise your voice in song with him!

In this season of Advent, may you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope, and the peace of God's love at Christmas and always.

Gratefully,

The Deacons

Laurel Curtis, Priscilla Chellis, Geoff Day, Debbie Hall, Kathy Latchaw, Bill Voye

TRUSTEES' NEWSLETTER

The trustees met on November 18th, 2018. We are pleased Michael Watman has agreed to join the trustees finance committee. We appreciate his willingness to help with the finances of the church.

Gerri Canon will step down as a Building and Grounds Trustee as of January 2019.

There are currently three trustee openings. Two are for Building and Grounds and one is for the Finance Committee. It is the hope of the trustees that people will seriously consider accepting one of these positions.

Pledge letters have been sent out and pledge cards are expected back by November 18, 2018.

Bruce Robbins reported the furnaces at the church and parsonage have been cleaned and all septic tanks have been pumped. Bruce and Richard Shephard did the fall clean up and painted the parking lanes. Bruce will arrange for a maintenance check for the church's sump pump and battery backup power supply.

Ken Latchaw provided an update on the parsonage work. Approximately fifty percent of the work has been completed.

Linda Farrell provided the treasurer's report for 2018. September's income \$9,136.00. Expenses were \$17,033.00 for a \$7,897.00 loss. Year to date total income \$167,358.00. Expenses \$131,211.00. For a net of \$36,147.00. The check book balance is \$14,458.05. Total checkbook funds available \$13,109.98. The mortgage balance is \$40,394.25. Year to date we have had to withdraw \$25,000 to meet expenses.

The committee discussed the need to hire a payroll service company.

The Trustees welcome Rev. Dr. Norma Brettell to our congregation! She will be starting as our interim pastor in December.

Blessing to you and yours this holiday season.

Respectfully,

Kenneth Latchaw, Gregg Fournier, Michael Watman, Bruce Robbins, Gerri Cannon

Letter:

I want to let everyone know that my 3-yr. term as a trustee will be over in January. I wish I could continue, but my many responsibilities to our communities and the State of NH are consuming my availability. Therefore, I will not be able to continue as a trustee.

However, I still would like to continue my involvement with spaghetti dinners and other events. I may also be able to help out with some church repairs.

I am also planning to continue my involvement with our Open and Affirming committee as well as with the NH Conference.

We are the church! You are my extended family and I will continue to help where I can.

Gerri

BUILDING AND GROUNDS REQUEST

We are in need of a leaf blower extension to help clean the gutters! Contact Bruce Robbins

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Thank you to all who helped set up, made items, cooked baked goods, worked at the fair, and then cleaned up after the fair. We couldn't do it without your time and support. It truly was a church community coming together to make the Holly Daze Fair a success! We made about \$4,100! This will be put towards our yearly church budget. The money we make at our fair and other events goes back to help with church expenses.

This is our proposed budget for 2019

Pledge.....	\$3,000
Church repairs.....	\$1,000
Fair Supplies.....	\$500
Miscellaneous Expenses.....	\$200
Phone Bill.....	\$100
Heat.....	\$500
Missions.....	\$50

Missions Projects.....\$50
Total.....\$5,400

This will be discussed and voted on at our annual meeting.

We are already thinking about our Silent Auction on April 6, 2019. We will need a committee to help organize it. If you could help with this, talk to Kathy Latchaw. Also, we need items or services to be auctioned off. There will be more information coming after the holidays.

There is a quote that starts with, "It takes a community..." and that applies to our church family. We are a community of caring people who are willing to help where ever it is needed.

In this Holiday Season, I wish you peace... joy....and love. Each and every one of you are a blessing.

Most gratefully, Katherine Latchaw

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.

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

DECEMBER LECTIONARIES

First Sunday of Advent – Purple

December 2, 2018

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-26

Second Sunday of Advent – Purple

December 9, 2018

Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

Third Sunday of Advent – Purple

December 16, 2018

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Purple

December 23, 2018

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a tangible expression of God's love and light in the world. For years, United Church of Christ members and congregations have reached out in kindness, compassion, and gratitude to those who have faithfully shepherded our Church in the past and now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs.

Last year, congregations and members generously contributed over \$1,500,000 to the Christmas Fund. This enabled the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards, to provide, on behalf of the whole Church, supplementation of the small annuities, retiree health premium supplementation, emergency grants, and Christmas "Thank you" gift checks to individuals in need.

The theme for this year's Christmas Fund Offering is "The Light is Surely Coming". The goal is to raise \$1,700,000 to help support these ministries of light and love. The recipients of these gifts are people who have faithfully served the Church for many years. You are invited and encouraged to join the thousands of UCC members and congregations who will support this year's appeal, and trust that the light is surely coming.

First Parish will be receiving the Christmas Fund Offering on Sunday, December 23.

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Dec 2 Ray Matthews, Teri Ann Cox, *Bill and Teri Ann Cox*

Dec 6 Cori Brown, Drew Allen, Michael Allen

Dec 8 Charles Drake, Ida Patterson, Carolyn Libby

Dec 15 Keith Dinger

Dec 18 Pat Whitten

Dec 20 Ellen Plaisted

Dec 22 Mike Sirois

If you would like to see your birthday or anniversary listed in the newsletter, and are new to church or just never got around to it, please email lcwatman@comcast.net

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Riverside Christmas Gift List for residents has been posted on an easel in the Narthex. Each of the 20 residents have included three wishes. You are asked to pick a resident, the names are anonymous, and purchase any or all of their wishes. Please put your name next to the resident whom you have selected to shop for. The gifts should be brought back to church, unwrapped and labeled with your residents' number, by December 9th. Thank you for helping make someone's wishes come true.

Faith Formation

Thank you to those who stayed for the Veteran's Day Taco Luncheon. We received \$60 in donations. That money will be used to purchase supplies for our Advent Craft Event.

Thank you to those who filled a box for the Christmas Child Shoebox Greetings. We had 16 boxes returned to the church.

On Sunday, December 2, from 2-4pm we are holding an Advent Craft Event in the church hall. This is a fun, family friendly event. We will have tables set up with a variety of different Christmas crafts for you to make. There will be crafts that will appeal to the youngest, as well as to the young-at-heart. This will be an opportunity to make any or all of the crafts, the choice is yours. Come, stay all afternoon and do all the crafts, or just do the

ones that appeal to you. This is an event we did last year, and those who attended had a great time! Please come and check us out, and as always, bring a friend.

The White Gifts will be celebrated on Sunday, December 9th, during worship. The gift tags from Somersworth Fire Department will be here soon. We will have them available as soon as we receive them. This is an opportunity to purchase a wish for a local child. Choose a tag, shop, wrap the gift in white tissue paper tied with a red bow, and then bring it to church. The gifts should be brought back to church on or before December 9th. The Sunday School children will bring the gifts up to the altar during worship.

THE COOKIE WALK IS COMING!!! On Sunday, December 9th, following worship, is THE COOKIE WALK! We ask that you bring in 4 dozen, or more, of your most favorite homemade Christmas cookies. For \$5.00, you may walk the Cookie Walk where you can purchase a plate of 24 cookies. The money raised will be used to help send children from our church to Horton Center or any UCC summer camp program. This is a church favorite!!

A Gentle Reminder:

*Sunday bulletin announcements/information needs to be in writing to the Church Office by TUESDAY, or sent directly to Debbie Hall at kenanddebhall@comcast.net.

*Monthly Newsletter items MUST be submitted by the 3rd Friday (OR as noted in the monthly newsletter calendar). Earlier is better! Email directly to Cecilia Rich at ceciliarich@hotmail.com. Written items may be left in the pocket on the copy room door as well (just let Cecilia know!).

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

December Prayer Ministry Group

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

Sue Boucher, P.O. Box 7193, Gonic, NH 03839

Dec-May: 7556 Moriah Ave., Brookridge Community, Brooksville, FL 34613

Cell: 603-617-6949, Email: sznnboucher@yahoo.com

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 Rd., Durham, NH 03824 (603) 397-5674, Email: kinross2@comcast.net

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.

MINISTRY OF PRAYER & CONCERN

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

Jinny Burgess *Dover Center for Health & Rehabilitation*,
307 Plaza Dr., 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

Janet Giffin *Wentworth Home*, 795 Central Ave., Dover, NH 03820

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

Please do send your cards and greetings.

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Nancy Anderson (hospice)

Craig Breden (health)

Eric Burgess (health) *Jinny Burgess' son*

Jinny Burgess (healing)

Patty Cote (healing)

Carol Cummings (healing)

Gail Day (health)

Mark Dudley (healing) *son of Carroll & Barbara Dudley*

Dan Gaudreault (healing) *Sue Boucher's nephew*

Kathe Johnson (health) *Geoff Day's sister*

Gloria Martel (health) *Linda Farrell's mother*

Marie Pelloni (health) *Alan Storm's sister-in-law*

Chris Perry (health) *Nancie Cameron's roommate's son*

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 Rev. Mark Rideout and 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 in 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 Church of Christ: invite, include, involve in the good news way of Christ!*

WITH SYMPATHY

Sympathy is extended to the families of:

Tom Harmon (11/4) *Patty Cote's brother*

Earl Cannon (11/18) *Gerri Cannon's father*

Pam Clark (11/20) *Debbie Hall's daughter-in-law's mother*

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

ALL ARE WELCOME!

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship & Sunday School: 10 AM

Fellowship time follows worship

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month

Ministers: The People of the Church

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. 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: Cecilia Rich-Editor, Debbie Hall-Calendar, Luise Watman-Birthdays/Anniversaries