

## 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](http://www.somersworthfirstparish.org)

[pastor@somersworthfirstparish.org](mailto:pastor@somersworthfirstparish.org)



## HORTON CENTER



On February 10, following worship, Faith Formation is hosting a soup luncheon. We would like you to join us for a warm bowl of soup and some pleasant conversation. If you would like, please bring a pot of soup to share. Hope to see you all there!

### VISITING WITH THE PASTOR

#### Visiting with the Pastor

Pastor Norma would love to meet members of the church for coffee or a bite to eat at a coffee shop, for tea in the church office, or at home for anyone for whom getting out and about is difficult. Please give a call (603) 692-2057 (if there's no answer, please leave a voicemail and Pastor Norma will be sure to get back to you) or email ([pastornorma@socialaw.com](mailto:pastornorma@socialaw.com) or [pastor@somersworthfirstparish.org](mailto:pastor@somersworthfirstparish.org)) to set a date and time!

- Horton Center has created the "Horton Center Fund".
- This is a new opportunity to support our *sacred space on Pine Mountain*. This fund will help give those who care about the ministry of summer camp the chance to make a tangible difference to its future.
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- To make a tax deductible donation to the Horton Center Fund, make a check payable to NHCUC, write HC Annual Fund on the memo line, and send it to: Horton Center Fund New Hampshire Conference, UCC 140 Sheep Davis Rd, Pembroke, NH 03275.
- Or you may use a credit or debit card online at: [www.hortoncenter.org](http://www.hortoncenter.org), and click on the donate button on the right.

100% of your donation will go to support Outdoor Ministry at Horton Center. Horton Center is our spiritual home away from home, help it to thrive for the next generation, and the next, and the next...

Horton Center is now taking applications for summer



Many times I read newsletter articles that are entitled "From The (insert person's title here) Desk." And I chuckle to myself and wonder if the desk talks. Or writes. And although my heart neither talks nor writes, I want to share with you in these columns what is on my heart for us as we live into this transition time together.

Epiphany is my favorite liturgical season. Our word "epiphany" comes from a Greek word meaning a "revealing," or a revelation of the divine. The liturgical season of Epiphany begins with the star shining brightly so that the Magi observe, follow, and see Immanuel, God-with-Us. As the season unfolds, we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, honoring his choice to show solidarity with all of humanity in receiving baptism. Our readings tell the story of Jesus' beginning to preach, and the calling of the first disciples, who *left everything and followed him*. We'll hear again the Sermon on the Plain (in Luke; in Matthew it's the Sermon on the Mount), and remember what and who the beatitudes call us to be, and what Jesus looks at as blessing. We'll be called again to love our enemies, to bless those who curse us, to turn the other cheek. When someone asks us to walk with them one mile, we're called to go with them two. The measure with which we measure is the measure that will be measured back to us. Then the season of Epiphany ends with Transfiguration Sunday (this year it falls on March 3<sup>rd</sup>), when the disciples really see Jesus in a new way and they hear this: "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"

It seems to me that the season of Epiphany can be seen as kind of a metaphor for the transition time in a church. We are called to remember who and whose we are. We delight to remember and celebrate again that God is indeed with us! The season of Epiphany draws us further in the journey, and each new revealing of who Jesus is helps us to see *who we are* – as individuals, as a community, as a church – and *who we are called to be*.

I'll remind you from time to time during this transition time that as we are preparing – growing, learning, changing – to get ready for a new settled pastor for First Parish, God is preparing the heart of someone to be your next settled pastor. And so just as God is working to transition and transform First Church into the church God has in mind (and heart) for you to be, God is even still working in the heart of your next pastor to transition them to be your next pastor. As God's time unfolds, both of these paths of the work of God in our lives will converge and be revealed! In the meantime, let us be willing to embrace work of the congregation during the transition!

God bless you with Epiphany light and revelations!  
Pastor Norma

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The women are getting ready to start working on the Silent Auction in April. They have started to gather items for it. Do you have an item that could be put into the auction? Maybe you know a business that would be willing to provide a donation of some kind. Would you be willing to serve on the committee to help with the organization of this? Contact Kathy Latchaw. The money we make on this will help the church expenses in the coming year.

January was a quiet month with the holidays and then the inclement weather. But we are looking forward to Tuesday mornings from 9-11. Please remember if there is a delay in the Somersworth schools or if school is cancelled, we will be cancelling the Women's Fellowship. And, please be safe.

### Our Monthly Newsletter

can be accessed entirely online! Check it out: [www.somersworthfirstparish.org](http://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.



## SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Our next Spaghetti Supper is February 23, 2019. We need help to make sure this is a success. Please sign up on the sheet passed around during worship, so we know where you are able to help. The money we make at the suppers goes into the church fund to help with the church expenses. We appreciate your willingness to help.

Make sure you tell your family and friends to come and have them bring their friends! The supper is served from 4PM to 6PM and the cost is only \$7.00 for Adults, \$3.50 for Children 3-12 and Children under 3 are free!

Thank you in advance for your help.

Kathy Latchaw (603-427-8958)  
Deb Hall (207-698-1158) ~ Tom Allen (603-866-0562)



## FEBRUARY LECTIONARIES

### Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany - Green

February 3, 2019

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

### Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany - Green

February 10, 2019

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)

Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

### Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany - Green

February 17, 2019

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

### Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany - Green

February 24, 2019

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Luke 6:27-38



*Sympathy is extended to the  
families of*

### Gertrude Spencer (Jan. 16)

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

## PASTOR NORMA'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Norma has decided to work in Somersworth on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and remotely on Mondays and Wednesdays. She'll come in later and stay later on Tuesdays when there are church meetings in the evening. On Thursdays, she'll generally be in Somersworth in the morning and afternoon, but she's flexible, and if you'd like to meet with her in the evening, she can be available for an evening meeting. If Thursday does not work with your schedule, she can from time to time change the days that she's in town so as to meet with you on a Monday or a Wednesday. Please know that due to monthly meetings, visits, and other events (including funerals and arrangements) she will not always be at the church on her scheduled days, so it's best to call ahead to plan a time to meet.

If you would like to talk with Pastor Norma, please call her at 603-692-2057 or email her at [pastor@somersworthfirstparish.org](mailto:pastor@somersworthfirstparish.org) to set up a time to meet. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please call a deacon and they will contact her.



Feb. 1 Geoff Day  
Feb. 2 Aiden Allen  
Feb. 7 Janice Wentworth  
Feb. 9 Nate Trussell  
Feb. 11 Julie Hurley  
Feb. 13 Bethany Fournier  
Feb. 21 Linda Oelkuct  
Feb. 22 Alex Vollkommer, Gina Fortier  
Feb. 23 Butch Boucher  
Feb. 26 Troy Brown, *Andy & Stacy Allen*  
Feb. 28 Stephen Lucey



To my First Parish Family,

Thank you all for my wonderful birthday party back in December.

It was great to see so many people having a great time.

Love, Ida Patterson

*Thank you to all who sent Christmas Greetings to  
First Parish. Cards were received from:*

Sue and Toddy Eastman  
Don & Pat Whitten  
Keith and Sherie Dinger  
Brenda Davidson  
Gerri Cannon  
Mike & Sharon Sirois and Family  
Ele Janetos and Family  
Priscilla Chellis and Family  
Mark and Kathy Rideout  
Joe & Jenny Fortier  
Purdy Funeral Home

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:kenanddebhall@comcast.net)

\* Updates on birthdays, anniversaries may be sent to Luise Watman at [lcwatman@comcast.net](mailto: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.

Our Friends in Nursing Homes



## 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*

**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.*

### 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.*



IN OUR THOUGHTS  
AND PRAYERS

Wendy Alves (St. Jean) [health]

Nancy Anderson [hospice]

Craig Breden [health]

Eric Burgess [health] *Jinny Burgess' son*

Patty Cote [healing]

Gail Day [health]

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

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

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

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

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!*

**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.



## DIACONATE

The Diaconate would like to welcome Diane Chessman and Dave and Robin Hamel, who have agreed to join the deacons for a three-year term. Geoff Day, who is just getting off a three-year term as a deacon, and his wife, Nancy, have offered to join us for two years.

A sincere thank you to Priscilla Chellis, Geoff Day and Bill Voyer for their dedication and hard work to make their terms a success.

Be on the look-out for our next Lenten Book Study. Pastor Norma will be leading a morning and an evening group, possibly with poetry. More information to come.

Pastor Norma will be attending a meeting of Seacoast Interfaith Coalition in Dover on February 24th.

The Opening & Affirming Committee is looking for topics for the next workshop series. They welcome any suggestions.

**Prepared to Serve, *a training event*** for all church members in the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ including exhibits, worship and a time for fellowship will be held 8AM-3:30PM on **February 23, 2019** at Pembroke Academy, Pembroke, NH. This year's theme is: *"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."* John 15:5 (NRSV). A Master Copy of the schedule, and workshops being offered and directions are available in the Narthex or online at <http://www.nhcucc.org/caring-for-congregations/prepared-to-serve>. Registration deadline is February 13<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$40/person which includes resources, breakfast, refreshments and lunch. All materials and registration process/payment will be on line through the NH Conference website: [www.nhcucc.org](http://www.nhcucc.org). If you do not have access to the internet, you may register by calling Cynthia Bradley at 603-225-6647, X1100 to register over the phone. Same day registration after 2/13 is \$55/person. NOTE: If you are serving on a committee here at First Parish Church, or have a particular interest in Christian Formation, Spirituality, Stewardship, Peace, Justice, Evangelism, Stewardship of Creation, Mission....there is probably a workshop/learning opportunity for you, as there are over 50 workshops, 30 exhibitors, and last year over 500 people attending. There will be people going from First Parish Church who will share a ride....but YOU need to register.

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!

### Mission Committee

The Mission Committee would like to remind you that The Community Food Pantry has a blue bin in the Narthex for donations. Please try and put a little something in the bin each Sunday. Thank you!

# TRUSTEES

The Trustees have been working hard behind the scenes to ensure that the church runs smoothly during this time of transition - here's a list of activities we've been working on.

- **Parsonage Update** - John LaBreck completed the parsonage work on 14 Jan 2019 and submitted a final bill totaling \$8,740 for a grand total of \$28,740. Carpets and vinyl will be installed by Bourque's Flooring company of Somersworth NH. The total renovations should be completed by 31 Jan 2019.
- **Furnace Vent** - A new furnace vent was installed by DF Richard in December.
- **Leola Pepler Trust Fund Update** - Based on requirements from lawyer, Sue Thibeau's office (susan@thibeaulaw.com), we provided her office with the 2018 4th quarter statement of the Leola Pepler Trust Fund. A petition will be sent to the York County Probate Court to seek terminating the trust held at Citizens Bank, Manchester NH.
- **ADP Payroll status** - Ken, Mike and Linda are finalizing all ADP payroll requirements. A big thanks to all for making this happen. Mike worked with all employees to complete the required I9 Forms.
- **Budget Review** - Mike spearheaded the budget review process, going line by line on each item to accurately present a budget for 2019 at the church budget meeting which was held on 13 Jan 2019. We are looking at approximately a \$37,000 deficit for 2019. Funds will have to be drawn from our investment accounts.
- **New Committee Member Nominations** - Rich Whitten and Mike Watman will be officially nominated at the Annual Church meeting on 27 Jan 2019. There are still 3 Building and Grounds positions open. If you're interested in joining, please speak with a Board of Trustees member.
- **Insurance Board Questionnaire** - The completed questionnaire was mailed to Skip Clark, a Senior Consultant at ACS Group, for our UCC Insurance on the church and parsonage.
- **Consolidated Investment Funds** - An account information form has been updated and signed by the church moderator, Rich Whitten, and was submitted to Atlantic Fund Services, LLC.
- **Comcast Business Install** - The Trustees agreed to move forward on changing from Consolidated Communications to Comcast, updating internet and telephone services. A site install survey was completed on 14 Jan with an install date in the process of being scheduled.
- **Elevator Inspection** - NH Elevator Inspection company completed the required annual inspection on 14 Jan 2019 - certificate will be forthcoming.
- **Electricity Rate's** - The Trustees are reviewing different suppliers to see if there's a possibility to save some money on our energy needs.

## *Finance Update as of 31 Dec 2018:*

<b>Income/Expense</b>	<b>Dec 2018</b>	<b>YTD 2018</b>	<b>CB Balance/Available</b>
Income	\$10,785	\$188,876	\$33,876 - \$16,570
Expenses	\$17,205	\$163,852	
Net	(\$6,440)	\$25,024	

**Note** - Income YTD for 2018 includes \$50,000 from Investment Funds and \$10,266 from Insurance payment.

The Trustees continue to manage all the different aspects of our shared journey together here at First Parish and if you ever have any questions please feel free to contact any of us.