



First Parish United Church of Christ (Congregational)
P.O. Box 228, 176 West High Street,
Somersworth, NH 03878-0228
Rev. Mark Rideout, Pastor
Church Office: (603) 692-2057
An Open & Affirming Church
www.somersworthfirstparish.org



2017



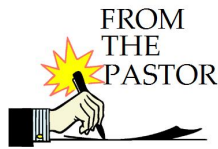
PENTECOST



**TRINITY SUNDAY
 &
 LANGUAGE ABOUT GOD**

Fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, on a day called Pentecost, the community of believers, followers, disciples of Jesus was gifted the Holy Spirit, the presence of the living God. Because Pentecost was a holiday celebrating the harvest (a bit like our Thanksgiving), the apostles and a large crowd had gathered to celebrate in Jerusalem. Many people had assembled near Peter and the other followers of Christ when "[F]rom heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind..." (Acts 2:2ff, NRSV). Then tongues of fire descended on everyone in the crowd. After the wind and fire descended, all sorts of languages, known and unknown, came out of the crowd. Each person spoke "about God's deeds of power" (verse 11). No wonder Luke wrote, "All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'" (verse 12). The whole affair was mind-boggling and life-changing. The Holy Spirit had come upon many people; they knew God was powerfully at work in their midst. On Pentecost many years ago, some 3,000 people came to belief in Christ. That's why today Christians remember this powerful event as the birthday of the Church. **Pentecost falls on June 4th this year.** *To celebrate Pentecost, you are invited to worship, wearing something red, orange, yellow—symbolic of the Holy Spirit, and tongues of fire. Come, Holy Spirit, come!*

- On Trinity Sunday (June 11th) the Sunday after Pentecost, we remember with solemnity and praise the foundation in which we live and worship throughout the year. We are invited to encounter God as Three in One.
- When we use the Triune formula [examples: *Father, Son, Spirit* or *Creator, Christ, Spirit*] we connect the church today with the historic church, born in the struggle of Christians throughout generations to express their beliefs about God in God's Very Being. The language ties together the churches of this generation in our ecumenical life, especially in the Sacrament of Baptism.
- The traditional language for the Trinity is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- For many, however, the traditional language is a hindrance to the intimacy of their relationship with God. They note in particular that the tradition incorporates only male language for God, and seeks to lift up and use other images which point to broader understandings of the substance and characteristics of God. "*Giver, Gift, and Holy Spirit*"; "*Maker, Lover, Keeper*"; "*Creator, Reconciler, Sustainer*" are some other Trinitarian images drawn from prayerful, scriptural reflection.
- Scripture reminds us to remain confident in God's love and to be confident that, for those who seek to live by the truth, we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. Certainly, as with the church of all ages, we express our faith in the Divine, recognizing this Mystery with the awareness that words are not sufficient.



Dear Ones:

Now that the glow and joy of Easter *Alleluia!* is shifting to the fire and love of Pentecost empowerment, it seems a good time to pause and look back, just a little, to the events of Holy Week.

We had a joyous and engaging time in worship on both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, using emojis—emoticons, the “small digital image that is used to express an idea or emotion.” Initially drawn from the digital cell phone, or i-pad, there is a whole range of emoji’s. One common emoji is the round, yellow, “smiley-face”, and I’ve learned that when you text and use a word that has an emoji—this will present itself for you to “tap” and use. The engaging of these pictures for words that linked with Holy Week events was a new take on our faith story that can seem anything but new or fresh. Yet, the meaning of these events continues to impact our lives today.

On Maundy Thursday we gathered for worship, Holy Communion, and for those who chose to stay following, footwashing. We remember that Jesus shared the meal of bread and cup in the Upper Room, and Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, as a sign of humility and service. Your Deacons and I talked much about why and how to include this optional aspect of this holy day, and opted to show a symbolic act of footwashing in the context of worship. We then felt, in order to make this an optional act, for those who wanted to stay, they could participate in footwashing after worship was over.

I want to offer my *personal testimony* here. I’ll admit I was a bit anxious about how this would all play out; and perhaps a bit apprehensive about letting someone else wash my feet. This is up-close and personal to say the least! But, this being said, removing my shoes and socks in the sanctuary, and having someone provide and become to me a sign of God’s overflowing love, hospitality, and blessing—I was overcome. I got caught by surprise. I wanted to do something—because hey, “doing” is easier than “being”. There was nothing to do, but to dwell in, soak up, and give thanks for grace, the awareness of God’s unconditional love.

When the Deacons talked this over at their May meeting, to a person, all who participated, were touched in some way they had not expected. We decided that we will do this again, and we hope others will stay because they, too, are willing to be surprised by God’s grace and Spirit.

Pentecost is approaching! The unfolding season of growth, health, vitality offered by the friends of Jesus in and through Christ’s body put discipleship into action. May the risen Christ live through us to God’s glory and praise. Alleluia

~Pastor Mark



First Parish Church sponsored a Baccalaureate Service honoring the 2017

graduating Senior Class of Somersworth High School. The service was held on Wednesday, May 31st at 7PM in the Somersworth High School Cafetorium, 9 Memorial Drive. *Baccalaureate* is a part of graduation festivities! This service is of Senior Class blessing and celebration. While an optional gathering, it is a way for family and friends to see the senior in their graduation gown, share in a time of reflection with an intentional religious and spiritual focus. Local religious leaders will facilitate the program, which includes a message, involvement of class officers and class advisors, as well as special music. After the service, Class Officers gathered to plant a tree on school grounds. As the sponsor, First Parish Church Deacons greeted and handed out programs; guided graduating seniors to a waiting area [where they put on their gowns]; set up the refreshment tables; and helped to clean up following the service and fellowship.



Christian Sympathy is

Eldon Stolpe [May 14] father of Dave & Chris, and wider family.

May the deep peace of God surround these families with light and hope.

CASA of NH trains concerned citizens to advocate for abused and neglected children in the courts. There are children waiting for someone to speak on their behalf. Your common sense, commitment to children, and a contribution of 10-15 hours a month will help ensure a child grows up in a safe, permanent home. To become a CASA/GAL volunteer and help the children in your community, please call 800/626-0622, or apply at www.casanh.org/onlineapplication Dover/Rochester/Greater Seacoast training scheduled for May/June.



MINISTRY OF PRAYER & CONCERN

Lucille Berry, *Studley Home*, 15 Eastern Ave.,
Rochester, NH 03867 335-1241

Bertha Carr, *Rockingham County
Nursing Home*

117 North Road, Brentwood, NH 03833

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

Dorothy Blaisdell, **Janet Giffin**,

Dorothy Storms, *Wentworth Home*,
795 Central Ave., Dover, NH 03820

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

DIACONATE

T- ball games in Somersworth have begun and First Parish is again sponsoring a team. The days for the games for our team for the rest of the season are on different days, so please pick up a copy of the schedule in the Narthex. The last game is June 7th, so if you can, consider going to a game to show support for our team, and introduce yourself to the other supporters.

The outside doors downstairs are now being locked on Sundays, after the Children's message. This is for safety and security, and there are signs posted on the doors. The front door will remain unlocked.

Children's Sunday was May 21st with a Taco Lunch following. Proceeds are going to fill some Operation Christmas Shoe Boxes.

We still need people to sign up for Fellowship, for each week in June, July and August. We also need Greeters and Scripture Readers, and flowers for the altar. Please consider how you can help and sign up! There is a Sign Up sheet in the Narthex.

Just a reminder that worship begins at 9:30am in July and August.



IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Nancy Anderson [health]
Craig Breden [health]
Eric Burgess [health] *Jinny Burgess's son*
Gerri Cannon [healing]
Dan Gaudreault [healing] *Sue Boucher's nephew*
Bea Gardner [healing]
Steve Gardner [healing]
Eleanor Gowans [healing] *Sue Vollkommer's mother*
Lewis Janetos [healing]
Elaine Mavrikis [healing]

AND ongoing prayer focus during these days:

- For our Carroll-Strafford Association Churches, and specifically in June we pray for the Lee Church, Congregational, Lee, NH and their pastor the Rev. Gail Kindberg.
- That God will bless and guide our Conference Minister, Rev. Gary Schulte, and Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Richard Slater
- For those who are living with cancer; those who are living with mental health concerns, and those who support them as they walk pathways of healing.
- Faith formation ministries for all ages - for building strong faith foundations
- Working together in community to address addiction to drugs, and anything that takes away from wholeness in life.
- As the season of Easter comes to a close, the season of Pentecost, with the days of growing in faith and witness, unfold. How do you, and how will you grow with God's love and Spirit?
- 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!
- 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.

You are the face of First Parish Church!



JUNE LECTIONARIES

Day of Pentecost - Red

June 4, 2017

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21

John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

First Sunday after Pentecost & Trinity Sunday - White

June 11, 2017

Genesis 1:1-2:4a & Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

Second Sunday after Pentecost - Green

June 18, 2017

Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7) & Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

Exodus 19:2-8a & Psalm 100

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

Third Sunday after Pentecost - Green

June 25, 2017

Genesis 21:8-21 & Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Jeremiah 20:7-13 & Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39



Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at First Parish UCC on 6/9/2017. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word circle to 797979**



June 1	Jenny Fortier
June 4	Jonathan & Lizzie Chellis
June 5	Martha Collins, Amanda Hurley
June 6	Gayle O'Connor
June 7	Dave & Robin Hamel
June 8	Don & Pat Whitten
June 9	John Pay
June 10	Bill & Pat Hamel
June 11	Richard & Diane Shepherd
June 14	Gregg & Rachel Fournier
June 16	Bill Libby
June 17	Heather Fournier
June 19	Sharon Sirois
	Jeffrey & Carolyn Libby
June 20	Sharon Brown, Nancy McDonough,
	Kotey McDonough
June 22	Eli & Patricia Kovalik
	Mike & Susan Nye
	Ken & Kathy Latchaw
June 24	Keith & Sherie Dinger
June 26	Jaylee Conley
June 29	Jim & Elaine Goodberry



Backpack Project

MISSIONS

The items for the Backpack Project will be collected over the summer. We are looking for backpacks, new or used in good condition, for children in elementary school. We will be collecting pencils, notebooks, folders, pink erasers, scissors, glue sticks, pencil cases, markers, and colored pencils to go into the backpacks. You may also "adopt a backpack". If you adopt a backpack you supply a backpack and the items that go in it. These backpacks are then distributed to elementary schools in Somersworth and Rollinsford, NH and in Berwick and Lebanon, Maine. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

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.





FAITH FORMATION

The Faith Formation Committee will be presenting Storytime at the Pines on four Monday evenings again this year. We will provide a story and a craft to children at the Pines playground in Somersworth. We will be looking for folks to read a story and lead a craft. There will be members from the committee there to assist you. Last year we had 6 or 8 children at each Storytime. The stories and crafts are already selected. The four Mondays we will be at the Pines are July 31, August 7, 14, and 21. Please speak with any member of the Faith Formation if you are interested.

There will be no summer Sunday School this year, but there will be a lesson left each week in classroom 3 for anyone's use. We do request that an adult is present with the child(ren). If you need to get into the classroom, a deacon would be happy to unlock the door for you.



FIRST PARISH YARD SALE

JUNE 17, 2017
8:30am -1:00pm

Reminder: Electrical devices or electronic items, *must be in good working order*. Please remember, no clothing, battery operated toys that don't work, mattresses, broken items, tires, car seats, TV's, large appliances or cribs. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS OFF AT THE GARAGE DOOR OR LEAVE UNATTENDED IN THE CHURCH HALL!** Kindly make arrangements with us and we will meet you there, or we'll be happy to transport your items to church for you.

Your help is needed in several areas, preparing for and the day of the yard sale:

Thursday June 15th 6-7:30pm: emptying the garage and classroom, bringing boxes into the hall

Friday June 16th 9am-5pm:- unpacking boxes and displaying on tables

Saturday June 17th 8am-1pm: assisting patrons with their purchases

Saturday June 17th 1pm till done (3pm?): clean up crew

Please consider how you might be able to help out and then watch for the Yard Sale sign-up sheet. This is a great fundraiser for the church and a wonderful opportunity for fellowship.

Marc & Patty Cote
Yard Sale Coordinators
Cell: 603-767-8069

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

We were so relieved the last Sunday before May's spaghetti supper. No one had signed up to serve drinks or to serve food. We were also without help cleaning dishes off the tables and replacing with clean place settings. After Patty's plea for help at the beginning of worship service, many people signed up to help. At the end of the service, volunteers signed up for all the jobs! We feel so blessed to have wonderful church friends who are willing to pitch in whenever they are needed.

Thank you again to all the terrific people who volunteered for the April supper, for all the bakers and everyone who came to enjoy a delicious meal. We were very happy to contribute \$708 to the church from the supper.

Just a reminder that after the May supper we will be taking a summer hiatus and will start again on September 23rd.

We hope you have a restful summer!

Patty Cote ~ Tom Allen ~ Debbie Hall

Adult Study Group Pastor Mark is working with the calendar in order to offer an Adult Study Group in June. Right now, it may take communicating via email, Sunday bulletin, Facebook as the dates are not lining up clearly. ***More to come!***

ALL ARE WELCOME!

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship - 10:00 AM

Sunday School - 10:00 AM

Fellowship Time Follows Worship

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

Ministers: The People of the Church

Pastor: Rev. Mark A. Rideout

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,
Priscilla Chellis-Calendar,
Luise Watman-Birthdays/Anniversaries



NEW ARRIVALS

Bodie Carson Pay [4/10/17] son of Kevin & Sarah (Galland) Pay; grandson of John & Barbara Pay

Connor Patrick Gillis [5/8/17] son of Patrick & Rachel (Fortier) Gillis; grandson of Joe & Jenny Fortier.

May the richest blessing of our God surround these families!



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Greetings all, our last meeting was on Saturday, May 20th in the Church Hall. We hosted our annual Women's Breakfast and had a very good turn-out. The entertainment this year was "The Great Scott Magic Show". We wanted to present something different this year and it was well received. The food was great and many thanks to everyone who donated their time to set-up, prepare food and clean-up afterwards.

On the Sports front, the Boston Celtics advanced to the Eastern Conference Finals against the Cleveland Cavaliers. Boston was considered an under-dog against the Chicago Bulls and then the Washington Wizards, and here they are. Good luck and maybe another parade for the city of Boston.

As I mentioned last month, we are working on different events and fund raisers, and we will keep you posted as the warmer weather approaches. Our next event will be the annual "Hack-Ma-Que" in July. This is a great way to spend the evening with a bar-be-que at the Church then head over for the show. More information in the coming weeks and months.

For now, our next meeting will be on Saturday, June 10th at 8:30am in the Church Hall, depending on the Church schedule. As always, if you have any ideas or suggestions, feel free to talk to any one of our members. Maybe you know someone who doesn't have a Church home to attend and join us for the best breakfast in town.

Submitted by Dave Hamel for "Da-Boys"

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship's Dinner is Tuesday June 6th at 5:30 at Newick's Restaurant. All women are welcome to come. There is a sign up that will be going around but if you miss it and would like to come, you can call Kathy Latchaw at 427-8958 and she will gladly put you on the list. Maybe this is a good time to bring someone with you. Just let us know.

A huge thank you to Dave Arseneault for doing the Tupperware demonstration for the Women's Fellowship and one in the fellowship hall. He donated 15% of the sales to Women's Fellowship. If you are interested in hosting a party, I am sure Dave would love to hear from you.

The Women's Fellowship had a Shopping Spree in Seabrook. There are so many new stores and restaurants. We had a wonderful time and recommend you to go and explore the different places!

The Women's Fellowship is planning their annual outing for the summer. It will be on August 1st at Kathy Latchaw's home. Please consider coming as all are welcome!

We are also in the planning stage of having a Silent Auction possibly on September 30th. There will be much more information about this coming soon!

The Wednesday night Women's Group are taking a hiatus for the summer and will resume in September.

Last, it is never too early to start thinking about the Holly Daze Fair on Saturday, November 4th. We are looking for new ideas and people willing to chair a table and those willing to help out... and don't forget the baskets. You could start collecting items for a basket this summer...

Take care and enjoy the summer months!

A Gentle Reminder:

- * Sunday Bulletin announcements/information needs to be in writing to the Church Office by MONDAY, or, you may e-mail it directly to Debbie Hall at kenanddebbhall@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 Debbie Hall at kenanddebbhall@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 Priscilla Chellis at prchellis@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.

Trustees: Finance and Stewardship

For your awareness, I'm happy to report our collections are approximately the same as this time last year and our expenses are \$7,000 less than this time last year! However, we did approve a negative budget and need to continue to find ways to meet our financial challenges. Thank you - to all who support the many fund raisers the church has from the spaghetti suppers to the yard sale - it really does make a difference!

If you happen to miss my financial update on May 14 at church - here it is:

- **Mortgage** - We finalized the loan modification with Service Credit Union - after paying down our mortgage by \$30,000 our payment is now \$458.55, saving approximately \$294 a month and saving over \$7,000 in interest during the life of the loan - keeping the same interest rate and term (**and we paid no fees**).

- **Maintenance Reserve Fund (NSF106)** - \$30,000 for planned and unplanned needs to the church's buildings and infrastructure have been placed in the Maintenance Reserve Fund held in the CTUCC - Consolidated Investment Fund (CIF).

- **Technology Fund (NSF110)** - \$15,000 has been placed in a new Technology Fund to look into purchasing new Sanctuary audio/video equipment and updating our web presence. We are in the early stages of researching ideas - if you would like to be part of this process or would be willing to be part of a committee please contact Pastor Mark or a Trustee.

- **Janetos Fund (NSF111)** - \$25,000 has been placed into a new Janetos Fund - for ministry outreach both local and our partnership with Zimbabwe and for other needs of the church as decided by the Trustees.

- The Trustees also reviewed the Activity Request Form and decided to increase rental costs for Weddings, Funerals and other functions to \$300. The Trustees are also looking into the possibility of hiring a function coordinator - more to follow.

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

The Stewardship and Finance Crew,

Gregg Fournier (603-205-2253), Robin Hamel (603-692-4298) and Ken Latchaw (603-427-8958)