

# First Parish UnitedChurch 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 firstparishsomersworth@myfairpoint.net



### June 2018



Our annual yard sale is coming up on June 16<sup>th</sup> and you AND your items are needed! Please bring us your clean and *in working order* treasures so we can fill up the tables! We **do not** accept car batteries, mattresses, tires, large appliances, cribs or car seats so please do not leave those items since disposal ends up being an expense for the church. Should you have items to donate, bring them to church on any of the Sunday's before June 16<sup>th</sup>. Should you be unable to drop them off on a Sunday, call Kathy Latchaw (603-427-8958) or Priscilla Chellis (207-698-5977). Most importantly, do not just drop off items outside by the garage door or inside without having one of us arrange a meeting time. It only takes a second to call us.

We are also looking for a lot of hands to help with set-up, selling and then the all-important clean-up. A sign-up sheet will be going around during worship or it can be found in the Narthex. We will need help on Thursday eve (6/14) hauling all items into the church hall (from the garage and SS rooms); getting all items on the tables throughout the day Friday (6/15); selling on Saturday (6/16) then packing and cleaning things up after the sale. The more hands the better.

Might you like to help with the popular Hot Dog Booth during the Yard Sale? We offer steamed dogs, chips, cookies and drinks. If a couple of people would like to help with that, please let us know.



Dear Ones:

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ!

Having served as your Pastor and Teacher for 33 years, I find myself at a crossroad in my life and ministry. After deep personal prayer and reflection, and in conversation with my family, I am resigning as the Pastor and Teacher of First Parish Church. I am not seeking another pastoral call and will retire from active ministry.

My ordination to the Christian ministry in First Parish Church has brought the building of many long, multigenerational relationships. Through these years we've shared many points of joy through the celebrations of weddings, baptisms, confirmations, new members, and yes, funerals. Weekly worship has gathered us for prayer, praise and proclamation. We've celebrated the sacraments from which we've drawn nurture and sustenance. Our relationship with Jesus Christ continues to unfold, as we heed the call to love God, love neighbor, and love self. The challenge to "be the church"—the face of God's love in the world is ever before us. God's embrace sends us out as ambassadors into the world, through many places of outreach and caring, as in The Community Food Pantry, Table of Plenty, world mission connections, as well as Faith Formation activities, ecumenical and interfaith work in our community.

Weaving in and through these many joy-filled pieces and parts is the reality of our fragility and brokenness. We are human; we have not always agreed. But, I do believe our larger health as a church has emerged when we've spoken with transparency. Putting into action kindness, forgiveness, compassion and humility with one another and in wider circles beyond the church have helped me in ministry and on this journey. I have a deep awareness that our shared ministry has experienced blessing when each of us as partners has claimed our humanity in order to then embrace more openly God's Spirit.

I affirm the strengths so evident in all of you—empowering relationships, deep faith expressed in diverse ways, personal conviction rooted in Christ's love, expanding community awareness and outreach, open and affirming of the worth of every person as a child of God. Together this church is facing the challenges of a changing church in a changing society, willing to invite, include, involve as you share the message of Christ and the Good News Way.

I can and do give thanks for each of you, your support, your doubts, your heart of faith that sparks us in this church and beyond. So many Saints now gone, so many Saints present, alive and moving forward, and so many Saints yet to be formed out of the shared voice and witness which continues. I give thanks to the living God for the privilege of the call to this church, of serving as your pastor, of our sharing of the gifts of the Spirit.

In conversation with the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, and other elected Officers, my last Sunday will be July 29, my last day of work August 3, followed by my four weeks of vacation, **after which I am no longer able to provide pastoral services.** 

Are there things yet to be done to God's glory? Of course! In the time before us some will be completed, some may be left undone and in God's time will be taken up. The change in pastoral leadership must now be left in the hands of this church's leaders. They will seek the guidance and support of the New Hampshire Conference UCC for this church during this time of transition. Further information regarding interim pastoral presence will be shared once defined.

In these unfolding days, be assured that I hold you in prayer. I believe God's grace will sustain us, each and every, for we want for each other all that is good, holy and healthy. The "Hymn of Promise" has a word which I believe we each can carry:

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

To God be the glory! Grace and peace, ~Pastor Mark



# MINISTRY OF PRAYER & CONCERN

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

**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

Rev. Bill & 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

Dorothy Blaisdell, 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.





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

- Tyler Curtis [5/6/18] 17 year old nephew of Deacon Laurel & Doug Curtis, who died in a car accident
- Bertha Carr [5/10/18] mother of Bea (Steve) Gardner, Gilbert Carr, Lorraine (John) Maloney, also grandmother of Fran (Rick) Nichols, and wider family.
- ~May the deep peace of our living Lord surround these families.



Nancy Anderson [health]

Craig Breden [health]
Eric Burgess [health] Jinny Burgess'son
Carol Cummings [healing]
Gail Day [health]
Mark Dudley [healing] son of Carroll & Barbara Dudley
Dan Gaudreault [healing] Sue Boucher's nephew
Debbie Hall [healing]
Kathe Johnson {health] Geoff Day's sister
Gloria Martel [health] Linda Farrell's mother
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, and specifically in June the Lee Church, Congregational, and their pastor the Rev. Gail Kindberg.
- That God will bless and guide our Transitional Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Charles Buck, 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!
- Following the wonder and excitement of Pentecost comes the growing days of new life. How to best give expression to the faith which brings us personal comfort—that each of us might embrace the ministry and mission of sharing the relationship we have with God, with others. Looking at your life, how do those who do not know a positive, healthy, holy relationship with God know that you have just this kind of relationship? Do you reflect the power of Christ-light and love? What do you need to change?



#### JUNE LECTIONARIES

#### **Second Sunday after Pentecost - Green**

June 3, 2018

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) & Psalm 139:1-6, 13-28
Deuteronomy 5:12-15 & Psalm 81:1-10
2 Corinthians 4:5-12
Mark 2:23-3:6

#### Third Sunday after Pentecost - Green

June 10, 2018
1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15)
& Psalm 138
Genesis 3:8-15 & Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
Mark 3:20-35

#### Fourth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

June 17, 2018
1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 & Psalm 20
Ezekiel 17:22-24 & Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-27
Mark 4:26-34

#### Fifth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

June 24, 2018

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49 & Psalm 9:9-20 or 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 18:10-16 & Psalm 133

Job 38:1-11 & Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41



**United in Marriage** on April 28 were *Martha Jacobson & Loren Schanck.* 

We pray God's richest blessing upon this newly married couple.



- 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, Jeff & Carolyn Libby
- June 20 Sharon Brown, Nancy McDonough,
  - Kotey McDonough
- June 22 Eli & Pat Kovalik, Mike & Sue Nye Ken & Kathy Latchaw
- June 24 Keith & Sherie Dinger
- June 26 Jaylee Conley
- June 29 Jim & Elaine Goodberry



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship's Annual dinner is May 29, 2018 at 5:30 at Newick's. There is a sign up sheet available. All women are welcome.

Please check out the information about the yard sale that is in the newsletter. I believe the saying goes, "many hands make light work."

The Women's Fellowship's Memorial Scholarship is available to a member of the church who will be attending a four year, two year or career technical school. If you are interested, please see the scholarship forms in the Narthex or chat with Kathy Latchaw, Carol Cummings, or Martha Collins.

Blessings,

Kathy Latchaw



Your Diaconate remains busy with 6 people on board. Are you interested in joining us? There are 3 slots open for the remainder of 2018.

A few people from First Parish participated in *Spirit Up Somersworth* on May 5<sup>th</sup> as they cleaned various areas around Somersworth. Our next community involvement will be on June 16<sup>th</sup> when we have a booth at the Somersworth Children's Festival. Might you be interested in helping there? Please speak with Laurel Curtis or Rich Whitten.

A reminder that the Deacons have decided that only gluten-free bread will be offered during the sharing of communion.

We will once again be present at Somersworth High School's Baccalaureate on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

First Parish's sponsored Little League T-ball Team has been going strong since April with games taking place on Millennium Field off Stackpole Road. They have 6 games in June so please go cheer them on. The schedule for the games is in the Narthex plus on the June calendar.

The sign-up sheet for Scripture Readers, Greeters and Punch Fellowship throughout the summer months can be found in the Narthex. Please take a Sunday or two and help where you can.

Pastor Mark will be on vacation August 5-September 1 and those filling in as worship leaders will be Women's Fellowship, Sharon Sirois and Geoff Day. And a reminder also that worship in July and August starts at 9:30am. More details will follow.

Your Deacons: Priscilla Chellis, Laurel Curtis, Geoff Day, Debbie Hall, Kathy Latchaw and Bill Voye

#### TRUSTEES

#### Financial Update:

Treasurers report, income for April 2018 was \$18,316, expenses for April 2018 was \$10,595, for net balance of \$7,721. Income for 2018 year to date is \$3,906 behind 2017, expenses for 2018 year to date is \$2,844 less than 2017. Mortgage, current balance is \$43,253. General fund balance is \$16,828.96, funds available are \$6,527.68, Memorial Fund balance is \$12,599.34.

The Horton family has donated \$5,000 - In memory of Roger and Toshiko Horton.

The Trustees discussed church safety issues and Mark provided a comprehensive report from the UCC workshop he and Robin Hamel recently attended regarding active shooter preparedness and response training - more to follow in the months to come.

The Pepler Trust is still in the process of being transferred or terminated - we are awaiting guidance from Maine lawyer Sue Thibodeau - we will keep posted.

#### **Building and Grounds planned maintenance items:**

- The folding door in the kitchen, and one exit light in the hall needs to be repaired.
- The Faucet in the deacons room needs to be replaced.
- Parsonage items needing to be repaired or replaced: the carpet, copper piping in the cellar, and the house trim needs to be painted.
- Church repairs that need to be completed: elevator shaft roof leak, paint the church sanctuary, and varnish the wood windows and trim, stripe the parking lot, and replace all incandescent lighting with LED lighting.

The 5th First Parish Church Sermon by Pastor Mark has been uploaded onto the web - there are 3 ways to view the sermon - 1) First Parish UCC Somersworth Facebook Page - 2) Somersworth First Parish UCC website or 3) Youtube (just search Somersworth First Parish). If you're interested in helping with the filming, speak with Bruce Robbins or Geoff Day who has been doing a lot of the filming and editing.

Bruce Robbins reported 658 views of Pastor Mark's sermons in one months time. Thanks to Bruce and Geoff Day for taking the lead in bringing us into the 21st Century.

Respectively submitted by Gregg Fournier



**THANK YOU** goes out to Sheryl and Mark Parmenter for making the lower gardens

so colorful and welcoming. It's a battle to constantly keep the leaves away, especially after fresh mulch is put down. The flowers are blooming, weeds are gone and everything looks so nice. We thank them for all their hard work. I'm sure if you'd like to help with the weeding, they wouldn't refuse your offer!

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.

#### 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 <a href="mailto:kenanddebhall@comcast.net">kenanddebhall@comcast.net</a>
- \* Monthly Newsletter items MUST be submitted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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.



#### **MISSIONS**

In June we will be putting up the sign up sheet for the school backpack project. We are collecting backpacks and the following items: glue sticks, washable markers, pencil cases, pencil sharpeners, blunt scissors, pencils, notebooks, rulers, colored pencils, folders, and pink erasers. We ask that the items be brought into church by Sunday, August 19th. The Mission Committee will put the items into the backpacks and deliver them to local elementary schools in Berwick and Lebanon, Maine, and in Somersworth and Rollinsford, New Hampshire. If you choose, you may "adopt a backpack". This means you donate a backpack that you have already filled with the needed items. We have donated filled backpacks to these schools for a number of years. The filled backpacks are given to students who would not otherwise have a backpack to start school with. They are always greatly appreciated by both the teachers and students.

We have sent 19 boxes of medicine bottles to Samaritan's Purse. Each box has 100, 200, or 300 bottles in it. These medicine bottles make it easier for people to get their medicine. We are looking for the brown medicine bottles with the lockable caps. No white bottles please. If you have any questions you may speak with Pat Whitten.



Life Line Screening, a leading provider of communitybased preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at First Parish UCC on 7/6/2018. 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



**Celebration!** We celebrate with Rich Whitten, who officially turned 60 on May 9th, and is now eligible for discounts in so many new and exciting places! God bless you, Rich!



# STAR ISLAND UCC RETREATS

It is not too late to sign up for a Star Island UCC summer conference, located in the beautiful Isles of Shoals off the coast of Portsmouth. Details are available on the downstairs bulletin board opposite the elevator. You can go for a week, a weekend or if you just want to get a feel for the island and what it has to offer, take a day trip out of Portsmouth or Rye. You can even tie into a specific conference and stay for a night which makes it a little cheaper than signing up on your own. There are several options!

Over the years, many First Parish members have attended conferences and all would be willing to share experiences if asked. Speak with Priscilla Chellis and she can get you started.





First Parish Church sponsors a Baccalaureate Service honoring the 2018 graduating Senior Class of Somersworth High School. The service will be held on Wednesday, June 6th 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 gather to plant a tree on school grounds. As the sponsor, First Parish Church Deacons greet and hand out programs; guide graduating seniors to a waiting area [where they put on their gowns]; set up the refreshment tables; and help to clean up following the service and fellowship. Somersworth High School graduation is set for Friday, June 15th.

#### **ALLARE 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

## OPEN & AFFIRMING

Greetings from the Open and Affirming Committee.

We continue to work on several events, believe there has been great progress and we are making a positive contribution to our community.

**Informational events:** Our Committee has been very engaged in activities internal and external to our church. It is our intent to learn from others and share what we learn as we continue on our Open and Affirming journey.

- Panel Discussion at First Parish Federated Church (FPFC) in South Berwick: Mark, Geoff and Nancy participated in an Open and Affirming exploratory panel discussion with several local ONA churches. It was very well attended and the FPFC members had a lot of questions, we had a great discussion and as usual it was a learning experience for us as well.
- Rejection by Church and Community: Why ONA is Important: Gerri presented this very enlightening topic to several other local churches. We all walked away with a new appreciation of the challenges faced by transgender individuals.
- Community Round Table with our community churches: The intent of the round table was to share what was working and the challenges we collectively face as Open and Affirming churches. It was a great discussion and we found a lot of commonality in our experiences.
- Panel Discussion at The Community Congregational Church in Greenland: Mark, Geoff and Nancy participated in an Open and Affirming exploratory panel discussion. Another well attended session with great questions and discussions.

Conversations at the High School: Our Committee approached the Principal and Guidance Deptartment at Somersworth High School, with regard to facilitating some type of community conversation with youth. Topic was open, though when Mark met with Guidance Counselor Denis Pelletier, there was interest in the topic of Transgender/Transitioning and LGBT + Youth. Our ONA Committee discussed this, and as Gerri Cannon brings a skill set and wealth of personal dimension to this, and was willing to be the facilitator, she came up with a six-session series. Each week Mark, Denis Pelletier, Gerri and students were invited to gather. Topics included, but not limited to: terminology, asking basic questions—what do you think you know, identifying challenges, where do you get help and support and where is this available? Specific agencies that are in our community were named. How about parents, family support? What do you do if you are bullied, attacked, to whom do you report? What are parental supports? Who are the allies for youth, generally, and transgender youth in particular? Are there "safe spaces" locally—where? Who are the "safe" people to talk to? What is your vision for school and community as a better, safer place? Do you feel empowered moving forward?

We, of course, went off topic as ideas formed. While we peaked at 2 students, we really did have open dialogue, and those in attendance felt the time very worthwhile and a sign of support from our local church. Gerri was wonderful in bringing a "wider perspective" of current legislative actions due to her involvement in political and community circles. As a pattern or template for further conversations on other diverse topics this pattern would work well for student interaction, or at another time (evening), for parent or community presence.

If you have ideas, we would love to hear them. We would also appreciate your involvement, a little or a lot, with our committee.

Thank you - Geoff and Nancy Day - Open and Affirming Committee

**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.

#### **FAITH FORMATION**

On Saturday, June 9th, from 4pm-5pm, First Parish will be hosting a craft event at The Gathering Place on High Street in Somersworth. Come and join us and see what we are doing. This event is family friendly, we will have crafts for the young and the young-at-heart!

Visit the First Parish booth at the Somersworth Children's Festival on June 16th. We will have a craft available for the children.

There will be no Sunday School classes during the summer months. Sunday School will start up again on Sunday, September 16th.

Did you know that Summer Camp is not just for children? Check out the display on the bulletin board in the Sunday School classroom. There are many fun and exciting opportunities for adults. If you have any questions, please speak with Sue Vollkommer.



I want to say a sincere thank you for the generous and unexpected gift from the

church. I can only say thank you for your expression of thoughtfulness and support.

~Pastor Mark



#### SPAGHETTI SUPPER

By the time you read this, we will have had the last Spaghetti Supper before the summer break.

We've had very successful suppers these past few months and we have you to thank for it. We appreciate everyone who has helped.

We were able to contribute \$671 to the church's general fund in April.

Our next supper will be held on September 29th. We hope you have a wonderful summer!



Priscilla Chellis has decided to step down from preparing First Parish Church's monthly calendar. Her last calendar will accompany our July/August, 2018 newsletter.

Thank you, Priscilla, for taking the responsibility of making the calendar for the past 2 1/2 years and for being the Newsletter Editor for several years before that. As always, you have done a wonderful job with them.

Would you like to prepare the monthly calendar for our newsletter? If you are interested, or would like to know more about it, please contact Debbie Hall (kenanddebhall@comcast.net or 207-698-1158.



#### **Our Monthly Newsletter**

can be accessed entirely online! Check it out: <a href="www.somersworthfirstparish.org">www.somersworthfirstparish.org</a>.
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.