

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



JUNE, 2019

Thank you, Kathy Latchaw, for our beautiful Easter Flower Display





Christ has risen, alleluia, alleluia!
Risen indeed, alleluia, alleluia!

The time between Easter and Pentecost is a fruitful time to think about our interim time together. It is a time of not knowing yet, and wondering what is to be. You may be feeling a bit unsettled. Don't worry, that is perfectly normal during the interim time. We recognize that things are different, and we ask God's help in discerning a better understanding of who God is calling this congregation to be and what God's work is for us here and now, and in the future. God won't let us down!

We had two well-attended workshops in spring where we were able to name the many spiritual gifts this congregation has received from the riches of God's grace. Let's have a look at some of the gifts that were revealed at the workshops. We carry the gift of *mercy* when we are non-judgmental and care with no boundaries, when we don't pass by someone in need if you can help. We've seen the spiritual gift of *administration* among us, starting small in things, increasing in numbers and spreading the Good Word. We are a church blessed with the gift of *humor*, helping us break tension sometimes, acting as a cathartic and getting our attention. We claim *hospitality* as a gift of ours, providing food for the hungry and supporting others in that work, and greeting people in church and the food pantry. We have seen the spiritual gift of *craftsmanship* in beautiful things made by people of the church, the gift of music, bakers in the church, and the local community toolbox helping others to repair their homes. These are just a few examples of the spiritual gifts that were lifted up during our spiritual gifts workshops.

Reflecting on these spiritual gifts and how they are important to us helps us in our further interim work to better name *who we are*. We will use these gifts that we've uncovered (and others that we'll add to the list!) to shape our next inquiry into our core values as a church. We'll begin our work on revealing our core values by delving into our congregational history, and making a timeline of important points in the life of First Parish. We'll make a timeline together to celebrate all that God has been able to create in the work here at First Parish over the centuries! Please plan to join us so that your voice is included in our work together!

I wish you Easter blessings of resurrection joy!
Pastor Norma

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Thank you to everyone who helped with last month's spaghetti supper. We were so happy to have plenty of awesome people helping and a wonderful assortment of desserts!

We were able to give \$425 to the church from April's supper.

Our next supper will be next Saturday, May 25th. We are still in need of people to help with several jobs: cooking spaghetti noodles, serving food, serving drinks and bussing the tables. If you are able to help, please let Kathy Latchaw or Debbie Hall know.

Tom Allen will be stepping down from the Spaghetti Supper soon. We appreciate his help and will miss him and the wonderful job he does with helping to prepare our sauce.

We need someone to replace Tom on the committee and we are also in need of more volunteers to help make our suppers successful.

Tom Allen ~ Debbie Hall ~ Kathy 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.



Nursing Home
Ministry

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*

Toddy Eastman, *Wentworth Home, 795 Central Ave, Dover, NH 03820*

Pat Hamel, *The Manor at Canyon Lakes, #210, 2802 West 35th Ave., Kennewick, WA 99337-2583*

Audrey Loika, *Huntington Commons, 1 Huntington Common Dr., Apt. 208, Kennebunk, ME 04043*

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

--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
AND PRAYERS

Wendy Alves (St. Jean) [health]

Nancy Anderson [health]

Darryl Beliveau [health] *Nancy McDonough's sister*

Craig Breden [health]

Eric Burgess [health] *Jinny Burgess's son*

Gail Day [health]

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

Betty Foley [health]

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

Ruth Lucey [healing] *Loved one of Mike & Sharon Sirois*

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

Doug McFarland [health] *Geoff Day's cousin*

Nancy McDonough [health]

Lindsey Richesin [health] *Linda Palmer's daughter*

Steve Ricker [health] *Connie Ricker's son*

Darin Sabin [health] *Newington's Fire Chief*

Susan Sargent [healing]

Leann Schwartz [healing] *Gregg Fournier's sister and Barbara Dudley's daughter*

Paul Talon [health] *friend and co-worker of Sharon Sirois*

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!



*Sympathy is extended
to the families of*

Eli Kovalik (4/28) Pat Kovalik's husband

Bill Slauson (4/28) Peg Spear's husband

Harold Emery (5/10) Fran Karlik's son's father-in-law

~In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God~

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!



TRUSTEES

The church's income for April was \$10,739.00 and the year to date is \$44,362.00 when this is compared to 2018's first quarter there is a net loss of \$7,465.00.

We will be moving forward with the design and installation of the new septic system for the parsonage.

On June 9th , following church services, there will be a question and answer meeting to discuss the parsonage. We encourage all members to come and participate.

There is an opening for two building and grounds trustees. If you would be willing to give your time to this, please contact one of the trustees.

Thank you to Rachel Fournier who has offered to become our new custodian.

The Trustees.

David Hamel, Gregg Fournier, Rich Whitten, Ken Latchaw

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.*



JUNE LECTIONARY READINGS

Seventh Sunday of Easter - White

June 2, 2019

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

Day of Pentecost - Red

June 9, 2019

Acts 2:1-21 *or* Genesis 11:1-9

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:14-17 *or* Acts 2:1-21

John 14:8-17, (25-27)

Trinity Sunday - White

June 16, 2019

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

Second Sunday after Pentecost - Green

June 23, 2019

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a

Isaiah 65:1-9; Psalm 22:19-28

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 8:26-39

Third Sunday after Pentecost - Green

June 30, 2019

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21; Psalm 16

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9:51-62

LIBRARY RESOURCE

Do you like working with books? **We are looking for someone interested in taking care of our church library.**

Please talk with Pastor Norma or one of our church leaders if you would like to learn more about this very rewarding job.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

What a wonderful time thirty two women had at The Weathervane in Dover, NH for their Women's night out! It was so nice to see so many women relaxing, eating, chatting and laughing together. I think maybe we should do this more than once a year!

The Women's Fellowship will continue to meet throughout the summer so they can work on projects for the Holly Daze Fair. We welcome all women so if you have an idea ,please come and share it with us.

We want to thank Rich Whitten and Gregg Fournier for taking the time to come and answer questions the women had asked the PPRC. It was a very good discussion and everyone is encouraged to make sure if they have questions or comments, they talk with Rich or Norma. They welcome your thoughts.

MISSIONS

Thank you for your donations to the Seafarer's Ditty Bag project. As of this writing we haven't met to put the bags together, but it looks as if we have collected enough items for approximately 20 ditty bags.

FAITH FORMATION

Thank you to all who stayed for our Taco Luncheon following the Children's Sunday service. We collected \$63 which will be put into the Summer Camp Fund, which helps send any child from First Parish to Horton Center, or any UCC summer camp program.

It's not too late to register to attend a program at Horton Center. There are many opportunities for adults to attend a number of different programs. Please see the bulletin board downstairs in the Sunday School hallway for more information, or you may speak with Sue Vollkommer.

Sunday School is over for the summer. We will begin classes again on Sunday, September 8th.



- 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 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 *Mike & Sue Nye*
Ken & Kathy Latchaw
- June 24 *Keith & Sherie Dinger*
- June 26 Jaylee Conley
- June 29 *Jim & Elaine Goodberry*

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 kenanddehall@comcast.net
- * Monthly Newsletter, Calendar and updates on birthdays or anniversary 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 kenanddehall@comcast.net Written items may be left in the pocket on the copy room door as well (just let Deb know!).

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.

DEACONS

Deacons: Geoff Day, Nancy Day, Robin Hamel, Dave Hamel, Debbie Hall, Diane Chessman, and Kathy Latchaw

We will be welcoming new members on June 9th. We are blessed to have new people joining our church family!

Thank you to Sue Vollkommer and Angie Richer for the wonderful job they did organizing Children's Sunday. We are very proud of the children that participated!

Do you have any ideas for fun activities the church family could do? If you think of something let one of the deacons know. We are looking for ideas to do this summer.

Thank you to those who helped to clean and organize the kitchen area. It looks very nice.

The Deacon's unanimously agreed to adopt a draft of a "Communication Covenant" . This is a way to communicate with each other in a way that is respectful and constructive in our interactions with each other. It is a reminder to all of us to do a better job living the Golden Rule. As the other committees have the opportunity to review it, we will make sure the congregation has a copy of it .

Pastor Norma will be going on vacation July 21-August 3 and August 25-September 7

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

The Community Food Pantry received 4,104 pounds of food from the mail carrier's food drive – about 3,108 from Somersworth and the balance from Berwick last Saturday. This is close to the 4,135 pounds they received last year. Thank you to all who contributed food and helped on Saturday.

This month, the food pantry is asking First Parish to contribute dessert items such as pie crust mix, canned fruit for pies, cake mixes, brownie mixes, ice cream cones Jell-O's, cookie mixes, puddings and juices and help put a smile on their faces of the people they serve and a bit of joy in their hearts. All contributions can be put in the blue tub in the Narthex.

All that we do to help the Community Food Pantry is greatly appreciated by those who serve in it and those who receive from it.

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

Faith Formation 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 & Calendar Editor:

Debbie Hall

PRAYER GROUP MINISTRY

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

Prayer Group's next meeting is June 6th.

Prayer Group Members:

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 Road, Durham, NH 03824

(603) 397-5674

Email: kinross2@comcast.net