



**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

firstparishsomersworth@myfairpoint.net



2018

Thank you to Robin Martin & Kim Conley for our Easter Flower Display





Dear Ones:

The journey of life and faith has brought us to a place of shadows, death, and seemingly nothingness. Yet, the oft-repeated story of dead-end places and spaces, relationships that include physical, emotional, psychological battles fought over and over, and wars that continue to speak of our inhumanity to one another (and we know, don't we, that it doesn't take a war for this to happen!)....what looks like, feels like, smells like, tastes like, what sounds like a dead as a door-nail destination....the Living God reveals as just the place and space and involves just the people to be raised above the bottom of the barrel spot where you can't go any lower. Raised above, lifted up, soaring to heights that seemed beyond our reach! Easter joy is just this—God raised Jesus from death and nothing will ever be the same again. I'm reminded that woven through the teaching of Jesus is that thread which says—*"We show our thanks to God, our love of God, and give glory to God our Creator, when we bear fruit that is worthy of our repentance."* And you may well say, "Oh, Pastor, there's that word again—repentance. It sounds so, well, negative. Can't we just focus on the Good News?" And I'd respond, "Yeah, well, remember Jesus himself said, "Repent, for the kingdom is near/now/at hand/coming....so pay attention!" And remember, repent literally means "turn around". Easter joy reminds us to turn from death to life. Easter joy reminds us to go and share what you've experienced. Easter joy says hope is promised, but can only be fully embraced when you step out of the shadows into the transparent places. No hiding, full honesty, unparalleled love. The following prayer came across my pathway, and I share it has a sign of hope and peace. **Alleluia!**

Grace and peace ~ Pastor Mark

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Greetings All, Our Men's Group will be hosting the annual **Mother's Day Breakfast** on Saturday, May 5th at 8:30am in the Church Hall. Our special guests this year will be the return of Bill Voye and "The Silver Strummers" Band. For all that have seen them perform in the past, they will be well received again this year. We will generate a sign-up sheet in April so we can get an accurate seating count.

With the changes to our group at the end of last year, we voted to continue the special events we have done in the past. This will include our annual "Hack-ma Que" barbeque later this Summer.

Thanks to all for helping put this together and we'll see you there.

Submitted by Dave Hamel for the Men's Fellowship Group....

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.



A Prayer for the World

Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges,
The bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations.
Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, the neglect.
Then let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows.
Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken.
Let it burn away the fog so that we can see each other clearly.
So that we can see beyond labels, beyond accents, gender or skin color.
Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness,
So that we can share the joys and feel the sorrows of our neighbors.
And let the light of the sun be so strong that we will see all people as our neighbors.
Let the earth, nourished by rain, bring forth flowers to surround us with beauty.
And let the mountains teach our hearts to reach upward to heaven. AMEN.

~Rabbi Harold S. Kushner~



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

Bertha Carr, *Rockingham County
Nursing Home*

117 North Road, Brentwood, NH 03833

Gail Day, *Langdon Place of Dover*, 60 Middle
Rd, Dover, NH 03820

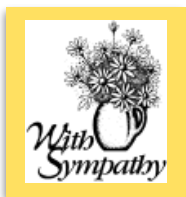
Rev. Bill & Pat Hamel, *The Manor at Canyon
Lakes*, #210, 2802 West 35th Ave., Kennewick,
WA 99337-2583

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



Sympathy is extended to
the families of:

- **Allen Rich** (April 4), parents Bill & Julia;
sister Susan (Carl) Skinner and wider family.
- **John Jacobs** (April 8), friend of Fran Karlik
- **Toshiko (Tosh) Horton** (April 12) wife of
Roger Horton (who passed away in 2015),
mother of sons Roger (Kelli), Bob (Jen), Rick;
and daughter Sarah (Mark), grandchildren and
great-grandchildren, sister-in-law of Priscilla
Dill, June McCormick, Sarah McGrath, Bill &
Mary Horton.

~May the deep peace of our living Lord surround
these families.



IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Craig Breden [health]

Eric Burgess [health] *Jinny Burgess' son*

Carol Cummings [healing]

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

Dan Gaudreault [healing] *Sue Boucher's nephew*

Debbie Hall [healing]

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 May the First Congregational Church, Farmington, and their interim pastor the Rev. Kent Schneider.*
- *That God will bless and guide our Transitional Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Charles Buck, and Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Richard Slater*
- *Recovery effort for all natural disasters.*
- *For all 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, at all ages and stages of life.*
- *Working together in community to address addiction to drugs, and anything that takes away from wholeness in life-and the building of community to implement strategies for prevention, while providing resources for treatment and recovery.*
- ***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!*
- *The Great Fifty Days of Easter will bring us to Pentecost empowerment! New life in Christ strengthened by the gifting and awareness of God's Living Spirit now lead us to bear fruit befitting of repentance and bearing fruit in life (words, actions, thoughts) that show and share the transformative life which Jesus revealed. In bearing this fruit, we give glory to God!*



MAY LECTIONARIES

Sixth Sunday of Easter - White

May 6, 2018
Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

Seventh Sunday of Easter - White

May 13, 2018
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

Day of Pentecost - Red

May 20, 2018
Acts 2:1-21 *or* Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27 *or* Acts 2:1-21
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

First Sunday after Pentecost - Green

May 27, 2018
Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

Substance Prevention & Recovery

A Night with Chris Herren, former NBA Player, who shares based on his personal journey and struggles with addiction, and brings a substance prevention presentation at 6PM on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at the Somersworth High School Cafetorium, 11 Memorial Drive, Somersworth, NH. Doors open at 5:30PM where prevention, treatment and recovery programs will be sharing information before and after the program. The event is open and free of charge to the community. Sponsored by the Somersworth Prevention Coalition.



May
CELEBRATIONS

- May 1 Craig Breden, Dave Stolpe,
Mark & Kathy Rideout
- May 2 Richard Jutras, *Brian & Christine Boucher*
- May 4 Heather Day
- May 5 Christopher Rideout
- May 6 Alexis Dascoulias
- May 9 Bea Gardner, Rich Whitten
- May 11 Jonathan Chellis
- May 12 Beverly Lyndes
- May 15 Ken Latchaw
- May 16 Connie Ricker, *Marc & Patty Cote*
- May 18 *Bill & Mary Horton*
- May 20 Scott Vollkommer
- May 27 Anthony Trussll
- May 29 *Rob & Kim Conley*
- May 31 Ed Courier, Sue Vollkommer,
Mathew St.Jean, Geoff & Nancy Day



Pentecost Fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, on a day called Pentecost, the community of believers, followers, disciples of Jesus was gifted with 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 "*from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind...*" (Acts 2:ff, 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. As 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 May 20th this year, also our Children's Sunday.** *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!*



SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Thank you to everyone who helped make our March and up-coming April suppers so successful. Our March supper was very busy. Kathy Latchaw and Laurel Curtis did a superb job making sure everything went smoothly while Marc & Patty were away and Debbie was recovering from recent surgery.

When you come for our next Spaghetti Supper, please notice our new coffee/drinks cart purchased by the Spaghetti Supper Committee. This will make it easier for coffee servers to carry the coffee pitchers. The cart is also always available for church use.

We contributed \$809 to the church in March.

Our last supper before summer break will be on May 26th. We hope you join us!



IT'S A PARTY

**The Golden Years are yet to come!
Help us carry Rich Whitten
Over the Hill!!**

Saturday, May 12th from 1:00–4:00pm

**Knights of Pythias Hall
9 Goodwin St., Berwick**

Refreshments will be served. BYOB

Your presence at the celebration is the only present desired!

RSVP please: Debbie(text or call 603-781-8230) or
kenanddebbhall@comcast.net

DIACONATE

Holy Week events were well attended, from Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday's "Prayers and Waves" and then Easter Sunrise and 10am worship. Shall we offer a Prayer Vigil again for 2019? We have not done one for several years so if you're interested, let us know.

We continue to discuss how to publicize events via facebook, postal mailings, newspaper ads, and church website in order to make First Parish more visible. The first YouTube and Facebook videos are now posted of recorded scriptures and sermons from recent worship services. We are still fine tuning the process so be patient with those involved. Interested in helping? Please speak with Bruce Robbins. We are "Somersworth First Parish" on YouTube and on Facebook find us at "First Parish United Church of Christ Somersworth".

The Deacons have decided that from now on, only gluten-free bread will be offered during the sharing of communion.

Interested in becoming a church member? Speak with Pastor Mark.

We are always looking for ideas on how to be more visible in our community. Here's what's coming up:

- *Spirit Up Somersworth* on May 5th will bring an opportunity to clean up our city with other community members.
- *Somersworth Children's Festival* on June 16th will give us the chance to have a booth offering simple crafts and games for all ages.
- *All Church Yard Sale* also on June 16th where we'll work together during a fun day of fellowship
- *Somersworth Little League T-Ball* where we'll once again sponsor a team and cheer them on. Watch for the schedule posted on the bulletin boards.
- *Somersworth High School Baccalaureate* on June 6th

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

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 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 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.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Tuesday morning Women's Fellowship has been creating some lovely crafts for our Holly Daze Fair. We have found many new and different project to work on. We have donated over 50 handmade blankets to residents at Riverside Rest Home. They are greatly appreciated.

There is also a Wednesday night group that gets together. So if you would like to join them to see what they are doing, contact Nancy McDonough and she will let you know what that group is doing.

The Women's Fellowship's Annual Evening Out is going to be TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2018 at 5:30pm. We will be going to Newick's and hope all women will join us. There will be a sign up sheet going around. Carpooling will be available.

Also, June 16th is our Church Yard Sale and we are looking for volunteers for that. There is more information in this newsletter about that so I hope you will check it out.

One quote I read that Barbara Bush said was, "The three most important things to me are my faith, family and friends." She will be missed but her words are so very true for all of us.

Blessings, Kathy Latchaw



Faith Formation

Children's Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, May 20th. Following worship the Faith Formation committee will be hosting a Taco Luncheon!! Please plan to stay and celebrate our children!



On Saturday, June 16th our church family is having it's annual YARD SALE AND WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THIS. First off, we are looking for people with trucks who would be willing to go and pick up items if need be. We need people to set up tables and to bring items into the hall on Thursday, June 14th. On the 15th, we need help with putting the items on the tables, then we need people to be there the day of the sale to help with selling items. Lastly – and most important of all - we need people to help clean up when the yard sale is over. There will be a sign-up sheet going around shortly so please consider how you might be able to help. The proceeds from this go to our church and all hands are needed to make this a successful sale.

In the meantime, we are hoping you will go through your unwanted treasures and bring them to the church. If you have questions please contact:

Kathy Latchaw at 603-427-8958 or

Priscilla Chellis 207-698-5977

Advanced Placement Testing First Parish Church is again hosting Guidance Counselors and students from Somersworth High School for Advanced Placement Testing. Dates are: Wednesday, May 9th 7am-12noon, and Tuesday, May 15th 7am-12noon, and Thursday May 17th 12noon-3pm. On these days access to the upstairs Narthex, Copy Room, Library and Chapel will be limited as there will be tables set up in the Chapel and Library areas. A sign will be posted on the upstairs front door and the door will be locked even if Pastor Mark is present during these hours. Quiet/silence is expected. Last year's students and administration really appreciated being in a space with minimal distractions and interruptions. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

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.



Somersworth Little League

First Parish Church is again sponsoring a t-ball team through Somersworth Little League. Schedules will be available in the Narthex. Opening day is Saturday, 4/28 10am at the Somersworth Little League Field (near the Fire Station). The team players have our church name on their hats and we have the singular opportunity to go to their games, introduce ourselves to the children, their parents, and any other family members who may be there---as well as engaging with the children, parents and family members of the team that is being played. Your Deacons hope you see this as a way for YOU to be the face of First Parish Church in YOUR community. This is one way to get up and get out there for God! The expectation is that your willingness to “be the face of the church” needs this outlet for you to go beyond the church walls and put your discipleship into action. When you do go, speak to the joy when we gather on Sunday. Games are being played Monday-Friday, 5:45pm at Millennium Field, Stackpole Road, Somersworth. Our team has 16 games. All games begin at 5:45pm at the field. Anyone may attend and support the players and their families. The hope is you interact with people, sharing you are from the church. **NOTE:** The church does have a pop-up tarp that can be set up at the field. If you plan to attend and are willing to take the responsibility for the tarp set up, and returning it to the church—it is available. **Copies of the schedule are available in the Narthex. Games cancelled because of rain are not made up.**



The Community Food Pantry

is in need of a couple of volunteers who are willing to pick up food on the weekends for the following months: March, June, August, October and December. Here is what is involved: On Saturday each week during the assigned month: pick up breads, desserts and dairy from Shaws' and meat, breads and desserts from Hannaford, both on Central Avenue, Dover. If you or someone you know might be a good volunteer and are available to do all or part of this, please let Pat Vachon communityfoodpantry@comcast.net, Carol Cummings or Debbie Hall know.



Mission Committee

Spirit Up Somersworth Clean-up Day

Spirit Up Somersworth Clean-Up Day is right around the corner on May 5th, 7:30AM-1PM. Everyone is invited to gather at Idlehurst School after 7:30AM—where there will be coffee. But you can simply go to any of the Ward locations (as noted below) for a cleaning assignment. **Our Mission Committee at First Parish Church is working to build a team** to participate in this community clean-up. Our “team” can work together or split up. Each of the five City Wards will have a “go to” spot to get a clean-up assignment, to which you bring back the bags and trash you collect. Details are still being worked out, but it looks like the locations for each ward will be: Ward 1: the Pines, Ward 2: Flanagan Center, Ward 3: Willand Pond [High St. side], Ward 4: Millenium Park, Ward 5: Jules Bisson Park. All participants are invited to gather at Idlehurst School for lunch at 12 Noon, where there will be many people with booths/information about sustainable practices which can enhance our lives, as well as Touch a Truck, and a bike safety focus. If you want to be a part of this effort, watch for on-line registration, or you can add your name to the Narthex List. Whether you sign up or not—if you can come for all or part of the time—do come!

Sunday



PODCAST

There is a concerted effort to make our Sunday worship available via you-tube, or as a podcast. While the pieces are still being lined up—there is a definite need for 6 people who would be willing to learn and do the technical end of the process. The intention is that at least one person each week will set up, and oversee the recording. With a group being trained, it should not fall on one person all the time. *Are you interested and willing to be one of this group? Speak with Bruce Robbins or Pastor Mark.*



The Senior Choir will be on "vacation" this summer as usual - but the Ministry of Music will NOT be!!!!!! With your help and others we will still have an active Music Ministry each and every Sunday. Do you play the piano, clarinet, guitar or another instrument? Do you sing? Would you like to share your talent with our congregation? Please talk with Bette (organist/choir director) and be ready to sign-up for a Sunday this summer! Let her know what you might like to do/sing/play and (if appropriate for worship) you can sign-up for a Sunday if it's not already taken!!!! PLEASE consider this opportunity to participate in worship during the summer season! My e-mail is daley71@aol.com, my phone is 603-332-5070 (I have an answering machine!)

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

Carroll-Strafford Association is seeking two volunteers: **One at-large member of the Executive Board**, lay or clergy, a three year term which cannot be renewed; and **One Vice Moderator**, lay person, a two-year term which is normally followed by a two-year term as Moderator. This person cannot be re-elected. Time commitment approximately 20 hours per year.