



First Parish United Church of Christ
(Congregational)
P.O. Box 228, 176 West High Street,
Somersworth, NH 03878-022
Church Office: (603) 692-2057
Rev. Thomas Gardner, Pastor
An Open & Affirming Church
www.somersworthfirstparish.org
pastor@somersworthfirstparish.org



May, 2025



CELEBRATING EASTER



THANK YOU TO KATHY LATCHAW AND
SHARON SIROIS FOR ARRANGING OUR
BEAUTIFUL EASTER FLOWER DISPLAY



MINISTRY OF PRAYER & CONCERN

Bob Behrman, *Kindred Transitional Care and Rehab, 307 Plaza Drive, Dover NH (formally Dover Rehab)*

Stephen Ferranti *Johnson Creek Village, 301 Durham Rd., Dover, NH 03820*

Gina Fortier *Wentworth Home, 795 Central Ave., Dover, NH 03820*

Richard Jackson *The Residence at Silver Square, 100 Sterling Way, Dover, NH 03820*

Ida Patterson, *Benchmark at Rye, 295 Lafayette Rd., Room 106, Rye, NH 03870*

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

Please do send your cards and greetings.

TRUSTEES

We will be planning a clean-up day on Saturday, May 17th for basic chores around the church.

It will begin at 9am for approximately 2 hours tops!

If you're able to participate, please help us get the church in tip top shape after the winter blahs!!!

Thank you in advance, The Trustees



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Joanne Anderson
Jerry Anderson
Norm Brown
Dan Brock
Kevin Cazeault
John Chesley
Gina Fortier

Beverly Lyndes
Linda Palmer
Connie Ricker
Kristen Russell
Diane Shepherd
Kim Shurtleff
Don Whitten

AND ongoing prayer focus during these days:

- *For our Carroll-Strafford Association Churches.*
- *That God will bless and guide our Conference Minister, Rev. Gordan Rankin, and Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Sara Marean*
- *That God will bless and guide Rev. Tom Gardner.*
- *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.*
- *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!*
- *We pray for those who are living with life-threatening illnesses; those who are aging or living with cancer, have mental health concerns and those who are caregivers.*
- ***We long for peace in our world,*** *praying that our nation and world leaders will work together in this time of need, finding peace and harmony with all - the sick, poor, homeless, hungry, victims of violence and abuse, our LGBTQ+ community, refugees, immigration concerns, violence in the schools and violence in our streets.*
- ***We give thanks for all those who have been working non-stop*** *behind the scenes at First Parish so that the day-to-day needs move along seamlessly. For our committees that oversee our finances, our children, our prayer needs, worship and building concerns, plus our local outreach with The Community Food Pantry and the Table of Plenty.*
- ***We are hopeful*** *that God will bless our own church growth in reaching out to new people as we keep the face of First Parish UCC in our community. We share the good news of God's light and love in Jesus Christ, being faithful disciples while inviting and including all who are seeking hope and a spiritual home.*



MAY LECTIONARY READINGS

Third Sunday of Easter - White

May 4, 2025

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

Psalms 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

Fourth Sunday of Easter - White

May 11, 2025

Acts 9:36-43

Psalms 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

Fifth Sunday of Easter - White

May 18, 2025

Acts 11:1-18

Psalms 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

Sixth Sunday of Easter - White

May 25, 2025

Acts 16:9-15

Psalms 67

Revelation 21:10, 21:22-22:5

John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Ascension of the Lord - White

May 29, 2025

Acts 1:1-11

Psalms 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53



May 1 Dave Stolpe, Mark & Kathy Rideout

May 2 Richard Jutras

May 6 Alexis Dascoulas

May 9 Richard Whitten

May 11 Jonathan Chellis

May 12 Beverly Lyndes

May 15 Ken Latchaw

May 16 Connie Ricker, Marc & Patty Cote

May 20 Scott Vollkommer

May 31 Sue Vollkommer, Geoff & Nancy Day

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sunday Worship Ministers:

The People of the Church

Pastor: Tom Gardner

Faith Formation Coordinator/

Mission Coordinator: Susan Vollkommer

Moderator: Nancie Cameron

Clerk: Debbie Hall

Contracted Treasurer: Linda Gauthier

Assistant Treasurer: Richard Shepherd

Pianist/Music Director: William Asher

Newsletter & Calendar Editor: Debbie Hall



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

Priscilla Chellis, (207) 698-5977,

Email: prchellis@comcast.net

Carol Cummings, (603) 842-5059,

Email: :

johnandcarol55@comcast.net

Fran Karlik, (603) 397-5674, Email:

kinross2@comcast.net



Rev. Tom Gardner's
Contact Information

Email:

thomasedwardgardner@gmail.com Rev.

Tom's cell: 603-393-4934



FLOWERS DONATED FOR EASTER SUNDAY

Flowers are donated by:

Kathy & Ken Latchaw	In memory of loved ones
Gabrielle Smith	In memory of my loving husband, Doug Spence
The Whitten Family	In memory of our mother, Pat Whitten
Don Whitten	In memory of my wife, Pat Whitten
Ken & Debbie Hall	In memory of Pat Whitten, John & Elizabeth Hall
Woodard Openo	In memory of John & Pat Ballantine
Cynthia & Richard Jutras	In honor of our family and friends
Keith Dinger & Cori Brown	In memory of Sherie Dinger
Betsy Behrmann	In memory of Verne & Gene Ross, Mae & Ben Crum, and William & Margaret Behrmann
Jenny & Joe Fortier	In memory of Bruce Fournier & William Fortier
Carol & John Cummings	In memory of son, Dave, daughter, Cindy and grandson, Randy Cummings
Rolly & Jean Janetos	In memory of Paul A. Phelan, Sr
Fran Karlik	In memory of loved ones
Sue Vollkommer	In memory of Peter Vollkommer
Keith Dinger & Cori Brown	In memory of Jacob & Alta Dinger, and Raymond & Virginia Harmon
Michael & Sharon Sirois	In memory of Loved Ones



Food Collection for the pantry: Our Mission Committee would like to start collecting food for The Community Food Pantry, which is located on the first floor of our church. This will be an ongoing mission for our church.

The Community Food Pantry was organized by our previous minister, Rev. Mark Rideout, and is run entirely by volunteers from our local churches. The food pantry is a member of the states of Maine's and New Hampshire's USDA and serves anyone in Maine and New Hampshire who are struggling to make ends meet.

During the past three months of 2025, the pantry had 1,361 family visits for an average of 454 visits per month.

The director, Pat Vachon, appreciates our help and has asked that we collect **canned pasta (such as Spaghetti O's) and canned baked beans (such as B&M baked beans).** These are items they currently have to purchase at the regular price.



The Easter Baskets that so many brought in items for the children at The Community Food Pantry was a huge success! They were given to families the week of April 6th, and the parents who picked them up were very grateful. A sincere thank you to all who donated items for the baskets.

Now we are getting fliers out for our Holly Daze Fair. If you know someone who is a "crafter" and would like to sell their items at our fair, let Diane Chessman know so she can get an application to them.

Also, we know it is too early to think about this, but we will be filling Christmas stockings for the children again.

The women's group meets every Tuesday morning from 9-11am. If you have a craft and would be willing to teach us how to do it, we would love to have you join us. We are always looking for something new to do.

Again, a sincere thank you and many blessings.

The Women's Fellowship



	March, 2025	Year-to-Date, 2025
Total Income	\$ 9,825.23	\$24,008.76
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 6,038.84</u>	<u>\$30,145.99</u>
Net Income	\$3,786.39	(\$6,137.23)
Checking Account Balance as of March 31, 2025		\$ 23,382.74
Savings Account Balance		<u>\$ 5,003.93</u>
Total Checking and Savings		\$ 28,386.67
Unavailable Checkbook Funds		<u>(\$3,976.91)</u>
Total Checkbook Funds Available		\$ 24,409.84
Memorial Fund Checkbook Balance		\$13,414.84
Mortgage Balance at Service Credit Union at 3/31/25		\$11,979.34