

**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



November, 2017



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

It is that time of the year already! **Our Holly Daze Fair is Saturday, November 4th from 9:00 to 1:00. There are so many wonderful items that you need to come see! We certainly hope you will come visit and bring/tell all your friends ! Let's make this fair a huge success! It is a wonderful time of fellowship for all!**

The chairpersons for the tables are:

- * Baked Goods: Jinny Burgess and Deb Hall
- * Handmade Jewelry: Linda Oelkuct
- * Vintage Jewelry: Sheryl Parmeter
- * Plants: Mary Graves
- * Sew Be It & Knitting: Fran Karlik and Sharon Brown
- * Kitchen Knives: Martha Collins and Raye Liebert
- * Holiday Crafts: Luise Watman
- * Paper Notes: Toddy Eastman
- * Luncheon: Sue Vollkommer
- * Baskets: Kathy Latchaw
- * Attic Treasures: Ida Patterson

We are in need of baked goods and people willing to help at the different tables. If you can give some of your time, please let one of the chairpersons know. Thank you in advance.

Thank you to all who helped make the SILENT AUCTION such a success! We made about \$1,350 and donated half of it to our Community Food Pantry the rest is going to our church's general fund.

There will be a meeting for all women of the church on Sunday, November 12th downstairs in the classroom to review our budget for next year.

We are so blessed to have so many wonderful people willing to help in every situation. What a wonderful church family. I am so very thankful for you all!

Most sincerely, Kathy Latchaw



Dear Ones:

As I write this, it is 34 days until Thanksgiving, 44 days until Advent begins, 62 days until Winter, and 66 days until....Christmas! Yikes—where does the time go?

As the seasons change, leaves swirl, places and spaces need to be “buttoned up”, I am reminded that the love of God does not change. It is an unconditional, present, empowering, surprising, challenging gift that is to be shared, “swirled in the world” so to speak, and clearly not to be hidden. In parable we’re told to let our light shine, let our salt season, let that which is hidden be revealed ~ to God’s glory and praise.

Jesus taught and lived this love, this light. Jesus risked deeply empowered by God’s Spirit. Jesus not only calls and sends us, but walks with us these pathways in our discipleship.

Worn or weary [you or the pathway], know you are loved as you are, for who you are, where you are on the journey. Jesus lived this, and we in this household of faith covenant to do the same.

Grace and Peace ~ Pastor Mark.



THANK YOU

THANK YOU

Thank you for your generosity through the offering which was received as part of the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 8th. There was a mix of pet foods, toys, bedding, blankets, and financial donations—all going to The Cocheco Valley Humane Society who are very thankful, and pleased to receive what was given.



ALL SAINTS DAY

All Saints Remembrance Sunday, November 5th, you are invited to bring a picture of family or friend, as a remembrance of those who have died, as we give thanks to God for the gift of the lives of those who have helped shape our life of faith. There will be a table in the front of the sanctuary on which to place pictures. Please arrive prior to worship, allowing time for you to place the picture(s) you bring. We also gather to share the sacrament of Holy Communion. The color for this Sunday is Red.



Advent Devotionals will be available at the end of November since *the First Sunday in Advent* is December

3rd. Yes, we will be shifting our liturgical gears, as we begin a new church year. Watch the Sunday bulletin, and the next newsletter for how we will be preparing *our hearts* and *the heart of our congregation for the true meaning of Christ’s Nativity*. Advent guides us to welcome once again, God in our midst!



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship is being planned.

The date and location is yet to be confirmed, and will be shared via the weekly Sunday bulletin.



Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of:

--**Family of James** Libby, 9/25, brother of Jeff & Carolyn Libby.

May God’s grace and peace be with this family.

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.





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

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,

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.

Choral & Handbell Festival, 11/5, 4 PM, First Parish Church, Dover. This is combined choirs from First Parish Church, Dover, NH and York, Me. Admission by donation.



NEW ARRIVALS

Collin Mark Carrington, 10/13, to Matt & Katelyn (Rideout) Carrington, welcomed by big sister Nora, and grandparents Mark & Kathy Rideout.

Griffen Randy Cummings, Oct. 17, to Ryan & Colleen Cummings, grandparents Dave & Lisa Cummings and Carol & John Cummings' 5th great grand child,

God's blessing be upon this family.



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Craig Breden [health]

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

Gerri Cannon [healing]

Mark Dudley [struck by car - healing] *son of Carroll & Barbara Dudley*

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

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

Janice Wentworth [healing]

Those affected by the many natural disasters—earthquakes, fires, hurricanes; the recent violence in Las Vegas—and violence in any community—with the prayer for peace, and access to resources for affordable healthcare—mental health, primary care, treatment and recovery from addiction.

AND ongoing prayer focus during these days:

- For our Carroll-Strafford Association Churches, and specifically in November, First Church, Congregational, Rochester, NH and their pastor, Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy.
- 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 affected by recent hurricanes in the Gulf coast and Caribbean, earthquakes in Mexico, and fires in the Midwest and Western states.
- 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
- 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.
- 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!
- Living in a Pentecost witness of faith, where we put flesh to words and action to ur thought!



TRUSTEES

Fall is here and it is Stewardship time again. This is our church and it depends on your pledge to be able to meet our expenses. We appreciate those that have sent their pledges in and hope that all church members will make sure they also provide us with their pledge. Our expenses continue to be more than our income, thus we have a deficit which makes it more important for each family or individual to think carefully how they can support our church. We have had to withdraw \$10,000 from our investment savings to meet our expenses. It is our faith in our congregation that the Stewardship Drive will reduce or eliminate the need to draw on our investments in the future.

As the Trustees build the 2018 budget, we continue to look for ways to save. We certainly welcome your suggestions to increase revenue and reduce expenses.

We are pleased to let you know that new tables and chairs have been ordered for our Fellowship Hall. The tables and chairs we are currently using are well used so it is certainly time to replace them. This was made possible from a financial gift for our church family.

In preparation for winter, our heating system has been inspected and serviced. The snow plowing contract has been taken care of. The leak in the elevator shaft will hopefully be resolved soon.

Fall clean up took place on October 28th and a sincere thank you to everyone who participated. We also appreciate those who work to keep our church looking its best all the time.

There will be two open spots on the Trustee's Committee. One is in finance and one is for building and grounds. Please remember you are the church and this is one way you can help our family be the best it can be.

Finance Update as of September 30, 2017:

Income/Expense	Sept. 2017	YTD 2017	YTD 2016	Change
Income	\$6,948	\$105,231	\$111,019	(\$5,788)
Expense	\$12,719	\$107,348	\$117,520	(\$10,172)
Net	(\$5,771)	(\$2,117)	(\$6,501)	(\$4,384)

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

Respectfully,

Greg Fournier, Robin Hamel, Kenneth Latchaw, Gerri Cannon and Bruce Robbins.

MISSIONS

On October 8th, during the Blessing of the Animals, pups were blessed and remembered. Donations to the Cocheco Valley Humane Society were collected. The CVHS was very appreciative of the gifts.

As the weather cools, please remember the food collection box in the Narthex. This collection is donated to the Community Food Pantry.



- Nov. 4 Leo Hurley, Nikita Benner
Paul & Sherry Cazeault
- Nov. 6 Robin Hamel
- Nov. 8 Lucille Berry
- Nov. 10 Helene Courier
- Nov. 11 Adrianna Breden DeYoung
- Nov. 12 Jeremy Day
- Nov. 14 Nancy Anderson
- Nov. 16 Pat Hamel
- Nov. 17 Christopher Drake Cox
- Nov. 25 *Charles & Adelia Drake*
Lewis & Eleanore Janetos
- Nov. 27 Betty Foley, Linda Farrell
- Nov. 29 Lewis Janetos, Dottie Douglas



To My First Parish Church Family,

Thank you all so very much for the beautiful Fall bouquet sent to me for my 95th birthday. Also, thank you for the many cards and phone calls.

All was greatly appreciated.

Love to all,

Helene MacKenzie

GENERAL SYNOD

General Synod, the every other year meeting of the United Church of Christ, gathers people from across the United States and the world. Gerri Cannon served as a delegate from the NH Conference to the synod held this year, and will attend the next synod as well. She invites you to look at the many on-line resources: Main page to all synod materials: <http://synod.uccpages.org/> Resolutions <http://uccpages.org/resolutions/index/html> and video <http://synod.uccpages.org/cideo.html> look especially for video #25.

FAITH FORMATION

On Friday, October 20, about twenty-four costumed children and adults came and had a great time at our Halloween Party. We played games, ate spooky named food, took photos in our photo booth, guessed what was in the little black bags, stuck our hands in gross body parts, guessed how many candy corns were in the jar, and tried our hand at some deviously delightful trivia. It was a fun evening for all who came.

It's time Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes! The shoeboxes are given to children all over the world as they learn about Jesus. See the display in the Sunday School hallway, take home a box, fill it with thoughtful toys and trinkets, and return it to church. Help spread the joy that is Jesus throughout the world.

Do you like to write notes and letters? Do you like to receive them? We would like to start a pen pal program between the children and the adults in the church. We are calling it the Big and Little Group. The idea is for a "big" (you) and a "little" (child) to exchange letters and notes. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex where you can sign up to be a "big" and we will match you with a "little". This sounds like it could be a lot of fun and a great way to allow the children and adults to get to know one another.

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



NOVEMBER LECTIONARIES

Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost - Green

November 5, 2017

Joshua 3:7-17, Psalms 107:1-7, 33-37

Micah 3:5-12, Psalm 43

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Matthew 23:1-12

Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost - Green

November 12, 2017

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7

Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 *or* Amos 5:18-24

Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 *or* Psalm 70

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

November 19, 2017

Judges 4:1-7, Psalm 123

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost/Reign of Christ - Green

November 26, 2017

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Psalm 100, Psalm 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

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 lewatman@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.

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!



Responding for Disaster Relief

There have been many natural disasters over the past week—repeated hurricanes, earthquakes, ongoing fires. Financial donations are **encouraged** as a way to respond. You may do this through our church, by cash or check, simply identify it is for Hurricane Relief. We will channel checks through United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries, OR, you may choose to send your donation directly: on the web, go to www.ucc.org, search for Disaster Ministries, and follow the prompts to donate, OR send to United Church of Christ, c/o Financial Services, 700 Prospect Ave. E, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100 OR, you may choose to donate to Church World Service, who will be facilitating emergency clean-up buckets to the many affected areas. As you can imagine, this work will be on-going. Address is: Church World Service, P. O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515 or search at info@cwsglobal.org

NOMINATIONS

The *Church Council* functions as the Nominating Committee, and facilitates this process each year. If you feel called to serve on any of the committees, please speak with our current Moderator, Rich Whitten. Committees also seek out people to serve that they feel would bring particular gifts and graces to the ministries which each committee represent.

Christmas Parade

Berwick/Somersworth Christmas Parade & Winter Gala will be held on Saturday, December 2nd, 2017. It will take place in and around Somersworth Main Street and Library Plaza. Times are being firmed up, and will be shared in the Sunday bulletin as well as the December Newsletter. First Parish Church is planning to be a parade participant. The theme this year is: "All I Want for Christmas". With a combined parade route that we believe will include parts of downtown Somersworth and Berwick, there will be some walking involved! For now, put the day and date on your calendar. We'll keep you posted via the Sunday Bulletin and email. We've been asked, and have agreed to lead the Christmas Caroling around at the City Christmas Tree Lighting, which will follow the parade. Again, times to be announced. Please—if you have mobility issues make sure you plan ahead, bring your own chair, etc.



100th Birthday Celebration

100th Birthday Celebration Lucille Berry, Studley Home, 15 Eastern Ave., Rochester, NH 03867 will celebrate her 100th birthday on Wednesday, November 8th. While we will have a "church card" to sign, would you plan on sending Lucille a card at the above address? Let's surround her with our prayers of joy and good health!



New Members are received periodically into covenant membership during morning worship. We'd like to arrange a time to meet together for those considering membership, or interested in knowing more about our shared life. You are invited to speak with Pastor Mark, and review an information packet, which is available by speaking with Pastor Mark or a Deacon.



Somersworth Prevention Coalition

invites you to a Community Prevention Planning Forum on Monday, November 27th, 6-7:30PM at Mulligan's Grill,

Somersworth High School + Career Technical Center. Are you passionate about having a healthy, substance free community? Do you have ideas about what efforts could be made to reduce youth and adult substance use? Come share your ideas at this planning forum. Our Drug Free Communities Grant focuses on environmental strategies—things that focus on the community as a whole, not just specific individuals. As a community based coalition, we need you ~ meaning, we can only achieve our goals by working together. For more information go to: info@somersworthcoalition.org or check out Facebook page.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

After a summer break, it was nice to have the Spaghetti Suppers start up again. We had a good time visiting with people we haven't seen for a few months and meeting new people. We enjoyed a delicious meal of spaghetti with meat sauce, assorted breads, salads and desserts. Many diners commented on how glad they were to eat their favorite Spaghetti Supper dessert!

Thank you to the superb volunteers who helped before, during and after the supper. We appreciate all of you!

After paying high beginning-of-the-season expenses, we raised \$518.

I hope you join us for the next supper on November 25th, and please remember to pass the word about our delicious meal. This is a wonderful opportunity to help raise money for the church's general fund and to bring a friend who does not have a church home.



HOLLY DAZE FAIR

November 4, 2017

9am-1pm

Luncheon 10:30am-1pm

First Parish Church

176 West High Street

Somersworth NH

603-692-2057

Seasonal Items, Plants, Crafts, Gifts,
Baked Goods, Attic Treasures,
Vintage Jewelry, Themed Baskets,
Rada Knives, Knitted Items & Much More!