

First Parish United Church of Christ (Congregational)

P.O. Box 228, 176 West High Street,

Somersworth, NH 03878-0228

Church Office: (603) 692-2057

An Open & Affirming Church

www.somersworthfirstparish.org

firstparishsomersworth@myfairpoint.net



October, 2018

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Greetings All... It's that time of year again. The "Men's Fellowship" is hosting the annual "Veterans Sock Drive". We will be taking donations of socks and toiletries until November 11th. We can accept any socks that are in good condition, clean, no holes, they don't have to match, and small toiletries such as tooth paste, tooth brushes, soap, and any other travel size products.

This has been a very successful fund raiser, and the proceeds will be distributed by our local contact in Somersworth. We will be setting up a collection area in the Narthex that can be used any time during the week. Our Veterans are very thankful for these donations every year, so please take advantage of this opportunity to help our Community.

Any questions, please contact myself or anyone from the "Men's Fellowship Group". Thanks again for your support.

Dave Hamel.. President - "Men's Fellowship"

Our Holly Daze Fair is just a month away. It is a major fundraiser for our church and we need your help in order to make it a big success.

* Deb Hall will be in charge of the food table and we are in need of desserts, cookies and items that would sell at that table. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask her.

* There is a sign up for baskets in the Narthex. If you can donate even one item for a basket, that would be great.

* We are still looking for knit items too.

* We need volunteers to help out the day of the fair. If you have any ideas for our fair, please contact Kathy Latchaw. If we work together, we can make this fair our best yet.

The Women's Fellowship welcomes all women in the church. Please come visit and share your talents with us, or just come for the fellowship. If you are not able to come on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00, then maybe you can join the Wednesday evening group. See Nancy McDonough for more information about the Wednesday night group.

Thank you in advance. Kathy Latchaw



Welcome to our new Interim Minister

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that Reverend Dr Norma Brettell has signed a covenant agreement to become the interim minister of First Parish effective no later than December 7th, 2018. Norma comes to us from Bartlett Congregational Church in Bartlett, NH, where she has served from 2014. As interim minister, Norma will serve at First Parish for 1 to 3 years, helping us in our search for a settled (permanent) minister.

Norma comes to the ministry relatively late in life, after a career in law. She received her Master of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School in 2013, and was ordained on May 25, 2014.

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee members were excited and pleased when Norma accepted our offer to become First Parish Interim Minister.

Please be sure to introduce yourself to Norma when she arrives, and take some time to get to know her at fellowship.

Your Pastor Parish Relations Committee members are Nancy Brown, Sharon Sirois, Linda Palmer, Rich Whitten.

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.



Oct. 1	<i>Troy & Cory Brown</i>
Oct. 2	<i>Ken Hall, Ken & Debbie Hall</i>
Oct. 4	<i>Pat Wattles</i>
Oct. 5	<i>Joe & Jenny Fortier</i>
Oct. 8	<i>Kelly Whitten</i>
Oct. 11	<i>John Cummings, Rob Conley</i>
Oct. 13	<i>Eric & Leah Stucker</i>
Oct. 14	<i>Brenda Davidson</i>
Oct. 16	<i>Fran Karlik</i>
Oct. 17	<i>Barbara Brown</i>
Oct. 28	<i>Diane Shepherd, Jacob Brown</i>
Oct. 29	<i>Robin Martin</i>
Oct. 30	<i>Angela Richer</i>



If you would like to see your birthday or anniversary listed in the newsletter, and are new to church or just never got around to it, please email me at: lcwatman@comcast.net



A sincere thank you to the following people who lead us in worship during the months of August and September.

In August, our worship leaders were:

- * The Women's Fellowship (lead by Kathy Latchaw)
- * Men's Fellowship (lead by Dave Hamel, Bill Vote and Rich Whitten)
- * Sharon Sirois
- * Geoff Day

Our September worship leaders were:

- * Rev. Dale Hempen
- * Allen Storms
- * Gerri Cannon

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

We are very excited to welcome Kathy Latchaw and Sheryl Parmenter to the Spaghetti Supper Committee.

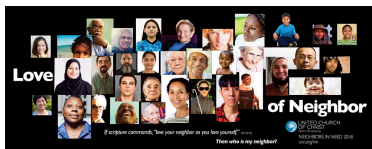
Thank you to everyone who helped with the September supper. We are so grateful to have your help! This month we had a light crowd at the dinner. After expenses, we were able to contribute \$411 to the church's general fund. So far this year, we have provided \$4,193.50 towards the general fund.

We are still in need of one more volunteer for the Spaghetti Supper Committee, especially from November to March, when Sheryl will be away. Can you help?

Would you be interested in helping "behind the scenes"? Ways you could help are: making desserts for the suppers, making the cole slaw or 3-bean salad (recipes available), helping make breads. The 3 choices of breads are all currently being made by Pat Whitten. While she loves doing this, she would welcome other bakers making one of the three choices (white, garlic herb, garlic buttered).

Our next supper will be held on October 27th. You are invited to come dressed in a Halloween costume.

Tom Allen, Debbie Hall,
Kathy Latchaw, Sheryl Parmenter



NEIGHBORS IN NEED

On Sunday, October 7th, First Parish will be collecting for the Neighbors In Need special offering. NIN is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the US. Neighbors In Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. The theme of this year's NIN offering is "Love of Neighbor" and special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. On Sunday, October 7, please consider prayerfully how you can support the missions of Neighbors In Need.



OCTOBER LECTIONARIES

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

October 7, 2018

Job 1:1, 2:1-10 & Psalm 26

Genesis 2:18-24 & Psalm 8

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost - Green

October 14, 2018

Job 23:1-9, 16-17 & Psalm 22:1-15

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 & Psalm 90:12-17

Hebrews 4:12-16

Mark 10:17-31

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost - Green

October 21, 2018

Job 38:1-7, (34-41) & Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c

Isaiah 53:4-12 & Psalm 91:9-16

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost - Green

October 28, 2018

Job 42:1-6, 10-17 & Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)

Jeremiah 31:7-9 & Psalm 126

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Please join us on Sunday, October 7th at 1pm for our annual Blessing of the Animals service. This brief time of worship and blessing falls near the traditional "feast day" of St. Francis of Assisi (Oct 4th). The Mission Committee is hosting this event in the lower parking lot of the church. All animals must be brought in on a leash or in a crate and be under control at all times. As an expression of the love and joy our pets bring into our lives, we ask that you bring a donation for the Cocheco Valley Humane Society. Either a monetary gift or one of the following: canned pet food, toys for dogs and cats, litter boxes, litter, cat/dog beds, dog biscuits, cat treats, bottles of bleach, laundry detergent, paper towels or even used/clean blankets and towels. Should you have any questions, please contact Priscilla Chellis at 207-698-5977.

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 Debbie Hall at kenanddebhall@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.



The Community Food Pantry is in need of fruits and vegetables for the month of October.



FAITH FORMATION

We are planning a Halloween event for Friday, October 19, from 6-8pm. It will be held in the Church Hall. It will be a spooky time for all. All children, and adults if they wish, are asked to come in costume (no weapons, please). This will be a family friendly event with ghoulish games, creepy crafts, and spooky snacks. Please plan to attend and, as always, invite your friends!

We have some upcoming events planned. We are planning a luncheon for November 11th. An Advent Craft Event, White Gifts, and the Cookie Walk are coming up in December.



PRAYER MINISTRY

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

Prayer Group Members:

Sue Boucher, P. O. Box 7193, Gonic, NH 03839
Dec-May: 7556 Moriah Ave, Brookridge Community,
Brooksville, FL 34613
Cell: 603-617-6949
Email: sznnboucher@yahoo.com

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

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.*

Our Friends in Nursing Homes



MINISTRY OF PRAYER & CONCERN

Edith Bowen *The Residence at Silver Square, 100 Sterling Way, Dover, NH 03820*

Jinny Burgess *Dover Center for Health & Rehabilitation, 307 Plaza Dr., Dover, NH 03820*

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

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*

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.

Please do send your cards and greetings.



Sympathy is extended to the families of:

John Allen [7/24] *Tom Allen's brother*

Lucille Berry [8/21] *Children are Ann Richards, Nancy Stokes and John Berry.*

Lewis Janetos [9/22] *Lewis was a member of First Parish Church since 1968. He left behind his wife: Eleanor Janetos, and children: Rollins Janetos, Julie Hurley, Donna Ferranti.*

Please remember these families in your prayers, as we ask the Lord to surround them with love and light.



IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Nancy Anderson [hospice]

Craig Breden [health]

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

Jinny Burgess [healing]

Patty Cote [healing]

Carol Cummings [healing]

Gail Day [health]

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

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

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

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

Marie Pelloni [health] *Alan Storm's sister-in-law*

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 Rev. Mark Rideout and 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!*

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.

DIACONATE

First of all, thank you to all of those who have helped with leading the Sunday services. We are blessed to have a church family so willing to step up and help out. If you would be willing to take part in leading a service in November, please get in touch with a deacon.

Laurel Curtis continues to be the deacon to contact at 603-969-1815 should you need to have the Emergency Pastoral Minister contacted. She will determine whether a minister should be contacted and if not, she will guide you in the correct direction and help when possible.

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to see BJ Hickman, the Magician, at our church on November 11th at 2PM. There is no cost for this event. We will provide more information as the time gets closer.

Our church Sunday School began September 16th. This might be a nice time to invite your child's friend to come and see what our Sunday School is all about.

Have you considered signing up to be a greeter or read scripture? There is a sign up list that you can sign up on.

Please know the Deacons are here for you. We are available to visit and support you.

Blessings to you.

Geoff Day, Priscilla Chellis, Deb Hall, Bill Voyer, Laurel Curtis, Kathy Latchaw

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

Intrm Pastor:

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, Luise Watman-Birthdays/Anniversaries



Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings will be in our community on Friday, November 30, 2018 at First Parish UCC. Ultrasound screenings to Identify risk factors for Cardiovascular disease include; **Carotid Artery** (plaque buildup-a leading cause of stroke), **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm** (an enlargement or weak area in the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body), **Peripheral Arterial Disease** (hardening of the arteries in the legs), a **Heart Rhythm Screening** (an EKG to detect Atrial Fibrillation-irregular heartbeat) and an **Osteoporosis Risk Assessment** for men and women. Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early.

Register online TODAY at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle and receive your Community Circle discount and your Preferred Appointment!



Worship Leaders for October

October 7	Revs. John & Faye Buttrick
October 14	Geoff Day
October 21	Sharon Sirois
October 28	Rev. Susan Walker

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

It has been a very busy summer - The Trustees and PPRC worked closely to help with getting an interim pastor for our church and as of this writing we are happy to announce that Rev. Dr. Norma Brettell has agreed to become our interim pastoral leader! Thanks for all the hard work and time the PPRC put into this process to make it happen.

The Parsonage - we continue to assess what course of action makes sense for our parsonage - we have decided to address home inspection discrepancies and are also working with local contractors to make the parsonage ready for our settled pastor or available for sale (TBD) - we have withdrawn \$25K from the maintenance reserve fund to help with the repairs and have also received \$10K settlement from the insurance company to paint and clean the entire house. Also a shout out to Priscilla Chellis, Sheryl Parmenter and Rich Whitten for their landscaping work at the parsonage.

Leola Pepler Trust Fund - we continue to work with lawyer Susan Thibeu from Maine to see if we can terminate the trust or some other form of action - the Trustees will keep you posted on any developments - also during this process we stumbled across Leola's will and decided to honor her wish to beautify her cemetery lot - starting with the transformation of her monument



Building and Grounds - working on snow plowing contract, buying a lawn mower for the parsonage, scheduling furnace cleanings and checking on septic system pumping

There are 2 open spots on our committee for anyone interested 😊 just speak to a Trustee!

Finance Update as of Aug 31, 2018:

Income/Expense	Aug 2018	YTD 2018	Checkbook Balance
Income	\$6,677	\$114,341	\$12,111
Expense	\$11,080	\$108,146	
Net	-\$4,404	\$6,195	
Note - Income YTD for 2018 includes \$25,000 from Investment Funds			

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

Gregg Fournier, Ken Latchaw, Gerri Cannon and Bruce Robbins