

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



SEPTEMBER, 2023



Hello everyone! Welcome back from our very quick summer vacation. Not sure we even had a summer. Things will be kicking back in with our board meetings and bearing up for holidays just around the corner.

First, we'd like to thank you for continuing your pledges throughout the summer.

A recap of summer events that took place. New Journey church had bazaars once a month, and we both had a few funerals and services every Sunday.

The pantry was in full swing with increased customers.

The most exciting news is the trustees have been working diligently since April on a new sign for the church. It's long over-due and will be a great addition with our new pastor. The sign is a declaration of welcoming all people to come worship at our church! We'll be excited to see it and show it off. If you have any questions please see any trustee or feel free to reach out to me via email, text, or phone call!

Welcome back everyone!
Blessings on your day

Nancie ~ Moderator, Chair of Trustees
bbmom624@gmail.com

• Mark your calendars for our ANNUAL YARD SALE on **October 7th**.

• We are not collecting items just yet, but watch for an email or listen for updates in church. We not only need items but we need many volunteers to help. If we don't get enough people to sign up, then we can't tackle the yard sale.

• Again – watch for a general email later in the month or listen for updates on Sunday mornings.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

• The women have been meeting every Tuesday morning and have been very busy getting items made for our HOLLY DAZE fair, which is on November 4, 2023. We are bringing the fair back to our church this year. I have to let you know, there are a lot of beautiful items that have been made. We have also invited some vendors this year. One has hand made quilts and braided rugs. Another make the cutest crochet animals. And then we have the "Bag Ladies" who have made beautiful carry-all bags. If you know of someone who has a talent they would like to sell at our fair, please have them call Kathy Latchaw as we still have tables ready to rent. But, in order to make the day successful, we need help. If you can help set up, or help on the day of the fair, please let either Kathy or Debbie Hall know. Also please let anyone and everyone know about our fair.

Blessings to you.
Kathy Latchaw
603-427-8958



MINISTRY OF PRAYER & CONCERN

Madeline Ashley *The Pines of
Newmarket, 9 Grant Rd., Newmarket,
NH 03857*

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

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

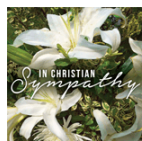
Pat Hamel, *The Manor at Canyon
Lakes, #210, 2802 West 35th Ave.,
Kennewick, WA 99337-2583*

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

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.*



**Sympathy is
extended to the
family of:**

Patricia Jackson [8/4/23]
wife of Dick Jackson



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

John Chesley (health)
Alexis Dascoulias (health)
Sherie Dinger (health)
Gina Fortier (health)
Lynn Jackson (health)
Bev Lyndes (health)
Diane Shepherd (healing)
Mike Sirois (healing)
Lea Ann Tung (health)

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.*



SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost-Green

September 3, 2023

Exodus 3:1-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

Jeremiah 15:15-21, Psalm 26:1-8

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost-Green

September 10, 2023

Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 149

Ezekiel 33:7-11, Psalm 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

September 17, 2023

Exodus 14:19-31, Psalm 114 or

Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21

Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

September 24, 2023

Exodus 16:2-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Jonas 3:10-4:11, Psalm 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16



Sept. 1 Doug Whitten

Sept. 2 Susan Nye,

Sept. 5 Joe Fortier

Sept. 7 *Richard & Julie Hurley*

Sept. 9 Sue Boucher

Sept. 12 Wendy St. Jean-Alves

Sept. 14 Nancie Cameron

Sept. 18 *Shawn & Angela Richer*

Sept. 19 Nancy Brown, Gregg Fournier,
Trevor Richer

Sept. 20 Nick Farrell

Sept. 24 *Dean & Robin Martin*

Sept. 26 Sherie Dinger, Susan Eastman



**LEA ANN
TUNG**

Bethany (Tung) Scott has contacted us to share that her mother, Lea Ann Tung, has been diagnosed with ALS.

Bethany asks that although Lea Ann cannot have visitors or take phone calls, she would appreciate cards and notes.

Lea Ann was our Asst Pastor and Youth Coordinator from 2000-2003, resigning due to health reasons. Lea Ann did a lot for our church as we experienced much growth in the early 2000's.

Please take some time to send off a card or two in the coming months as she and the family struggle through this diagnosis.

Her address is:
238 Middle Rd
Dover NH 03820



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: pastor@somersworthfirstparish.org
Telephone: Church Office: 603-692-2057
Rev. Tom's cell: 603-393-4934



You are invited to attend Rev. Jelty's installation to The New Journey Church on Sunday, September 10th at Noon. We hope you join us!

Welcome, Sebastian Grześkowiak

Our music director, William Asher and his fiancé, Sebastian Grześkowiak, have been anxiously waiting for Sebastian's arrival from Warsaw to the United States at the beginning of September so they can be married on January 20, 2024. We look forward to meeting Sebastian and welcoming him to our church family.

Congratulations
on Your
New Baby!



NEW ARRIVAL

Naomi Ruth Atkinson (7/19/23) *Her parents are Amanda & James Atkinson, Mary Graves is her great grandmother*

May blessing of hope and health surround this family.



Congratulations to Rachel Fournier!

Rachel became a USA citizen in July! We are so proud and happy for her!



TABLE OF PLENTY

The next time our church's team will be serving at the Table of Plenty will be on *Wednesday, September 6th*. We need a total of 6-8 people to help with food prep and serving starting at 2PM. We need 3-4 people to help cook the food and prepare it for take-outs from 2-4:00PM. We then need 3-4 people to help with serving from 4:00-5:30 followed by clean up. If you would like to help for all or part of these times or for more information, please contact Laurel Curtis at dlc2069@gmail.com



	July, 2023	Year-to-Date, 2023
Total Income	\$7,651.43	\$48,119.81
Total Expenses	<u>\$10,097.29</u>	<u>\$58,631.89</u>
Net Income	(\$2,445.86)	(\$10,512.08)
Checking Account Balance as of July 31, 2023		\$14,154.54
Savings Account Balance		<u>\$ 5,003.10</u>
Total Checking and Savings		\$19,157.64
Unavailable Checkbook Funds		<u>(\$3,482.04)</u>
Total Checkbook Funds Available		\$15,675.60
Memorial Fund Checkbook Balance		\$20,801.84
Mortgage Balance at Service Credit Union at 7/31/23		\$20,506.30