



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



July & August, 2025



Pentecost Reflection:

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. (Acts 2:1-21)

Right now we are in the longest season of the church year, Pentecost. Beginning 50 days after Easter, and lasting until Advent, Pentecost marks the growth of the Christian message from Jerusalem, out into the world. Rev. Kathryn Matthews of Amistad Chapel UCC notes, "The harvest festival of Pentecost, which came to remember the giving of the Law at Sinai, now marked the giving of new life and the gift of the church, a new way of living for those who would follow Jesus in every land and in every age. Not just some kinds of people, but all different kinds of people, in all different places, different languages and customs, different cultures and backgrounds and experiences, different abilities and gender and races and orientations, all different kinds of people, beloved of God and filled with God's Spirit, a new creation just as it could and ought to be." During this season, we are called to remember anew the radical inclusiveness of God's love for all people, regardless of our backgrounds. Pentecost also reminds us that as Christians, we are citizens of a new kingdom, loyal to one king. Right now, like so many times in the last two thousand years, we live with tensions between peoples and nations, and the book of Acts reminds us that, wherever we may be in the world, our national identity is secondary to our loyalty to Christ, our savior and king. It's the reason so many rulers in the book of Acts oppose the apostles- they realized even then, that if Jesus is king, all other earthly rulers must step aside. What a radically different message to our divided world today that this season reminds us! In God's kingdom, every government is secondary, and every person is welcome, together in Christ.



MINISTRY OF PRAYER & CONCERN

Bill Behrmann, *Kindred Transitional Care and Rehab, 307 Plaza Dr., Dover, NH (formerly Dover Rehab)*

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

Gina Fortier *Langdon Place, 60 Middle Rd., Dover, NH 03820*

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

Beverly Lyndes *The Lodges Care Center, 51 Main St., Springvale, ME 04083*

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.



Food Collection for the pantry: As an ongoing mission, we are collecting canned pasta (such as Spaghetti O's) and canned baked beans (such as B&M baked beans).

Donations can be placed in the basket in the narthex.



Rev. Tom Gardner's
Contact Information

Email:
thomasedwardgardner@gmail.com Rev.
Tom's cell: 603-393-4934



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Norm Brown
Don Brock
Kevin Cazeault
John Chesley
Gina Fortier

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

AND ongoing prayer focus during these days:

- *For our Granite State Association Churches.*
- *That God will bless and guide our Conference Minister, Rev. Gordan Rankin,*
- *That God will bless and guide Pastor 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.*

Women's Fellowship



The Tuesday Morning Ladies Group enjoyed a fun and creative session learning a new craft taught by Victoria Everson. Using dried flowers, everyone decorated beautiful lighted jars, resulting in lovely, colorful creations!

We have two exciting events this summer!
Please join us! Friends and family are invited.



COOK-OUT & BINGO

We will be serving hot dogs and chicken! A sign up is in the Narthex for sides and dessert. After filling up on delicious food, we will have some rousing games of Bingo! Prizes will be awarded! Friends and family are invited!

Saturday, July 19th from 4-7PM, Church Hall



"THE PRODUCERS" A MUSICAL

Sign up in the Narthex to attend
"The Producers" A Musical

*at the Rochester Opera House on
Sunday, August 17th at 2PM*



July 12 Carol Cummings
 July 17 Clay & Linda Oelkuct
 July 22 Dave & Chris Stolpe
 July 23 Cynthia Jutras
 July 24 Nancy Day
 July 27 Jordan (Brown) Cormier



Aug 1 Terry Burk
 Aug 2 Tom Allen, Patty Cote,
 Sylor Vollkommer
 Aug 7 Jennica LeSiege
 Aug 8 John & Barbara Pay
 Aug 9 Dee Drake
 Aug 11 Dick Jackson
 Aug 13 Mike & Sharon Sirois
 Aug 14 Chris Stolpe
 Aug 23 Cassidy Richer
 Richard & Cynthia Jutras
 Aug 24 Diane Chessman
 Aug 25 Linda Palmer
 Aug 28 Linda Breden, Julie Anderson
 Aug 29 Joanne Anderson

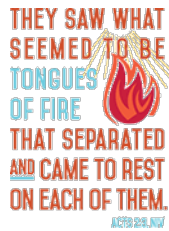
ALL ARE WELCOME!

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



	May, 2025	Year-to-Date, 2025
Total Income	\$ 5,023.20	\$38,294.17
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 6,713.26</u>	<u>\$49,771.14</u>
Net Income	(\$1,690.06)	(\$11,476.97)
Checking Account Balance as of May 31, 2025		\$ 18,670.30
Savings Account Balance		<u>\$ 5,004.01</u>
Total Checking and Savings		\$ 23,674.31
Unavailable Checkbook Funds		<u>(\$4,061.91)</u>
Total Checkbook Funds Available		\$ 19,612.40
Memorial Fund Checkbook Balance		\$13,414.84
Mortgage Balance at Service Credit Union at 5/31/25		\$11,145.62



JULY LECTIONARY READINGS

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

July 6, 2025

2 Kings 5:1-14, Psalm 30
Isaiah 66:10-14, Psalm 66:1-9
Galatians 6: (1-6), 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

July 13, 2025

Amos 7:7-17, Psalm 82
Deuteronomy 30:9-14, Psalm 25:1-10
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

July 20, 2025

Amos 8:1-12, Psalm 52
Genesis 18:1-10a, Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost - Green

July 27, 2025

Hosea 1:2-10, Psalm 85
Genesis 18:20-32, Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)
Luke 11:1-13

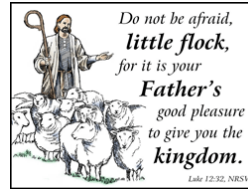


Do you know someone who needs some prayers? Please contact one of the Prayer Group members listed below:

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



AUGUST LECTIONARY READINGS

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

August 3, 2025

Hosea 11:1-11, Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23,
Psalm 49:1-12
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

August 10, 2025

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20, Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Genesis 15:1-6, Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

August 17, 2025

Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Jeremiah 23:23-29, Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost - Green

August 24, 2025

Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6
Isaiah 58:9b-14, Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

August 31, 2025

Jeremiah 2:4-13, Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Sirach 10:12-18 or Proverbs 25:6-7,
Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14