



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
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November 2025

Spaghetti Supper with Bingo

Thank you to the Women's Fellowship for hosting a Spaghetti Supper and Bingo evening. A big thank you to, Win Damon, our amazing Bingo caller.

Our next event will be Soup and Blessings! More information to come soon.





Thanksgiving, here in New Hampshire, sounds like real places and people. We notice hot coffee after worship when the cold clings to our coats. We notice the quiet saints who stack chairs in the fellowship hall, the crossing guards in the morning chill, the road crews out before dawn, the volunteers at the food pantry. We notice creation preaching its own sermon: rime on the pasture fence, the hush on the trail up Monadnock, the clean line of mountains to the north. Gratitude opens our eyes to the God already at work in small towns and city blocks from the Seacoast to the Connecticut River.

Psalm 100 also roots our thanks in God's character: "For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever." Enduring love doesn't deny grief or the needs we see around us; it holds us while we tell the truth. As a United Church of Christ congregation in the Granite State, our thanksgiving spills outward—into casseroles delivered, fuel vouchers shared, rides to appointments, and hands extended after the first snow. We give thanks by mending what is torn and standing with neighbors who feel forgotten.

So let's practice thanksgiving on purpose this month. Begin the day with one small thanks before your feet touch the chilly floor. Name a blessing at supper—even on hockey-practice nights. Offer a word of appreciation to someone whose work is usually unseen. And when worry rises, step back through the psalm's doorway: "Enter...with thanksgiving." The God who formed our hills and lakes is still good. The love that held our ancestors holds us now. Thanks be to God.



The Mission Committee is pleased to continue our annual Socks for Veterans drive this year! Donations will be delivered to Liberty House in Manchester, which has requested **new socks only**. You may bring your donations on *Sundays, November 9th and 16th*. Thank you for helping support our veterans with warmth and care.

We will be offering shoeboxes for **Operation Christmas Child** again this year. Please take a shoe box home and fill it with toys and small trinkets such as notebooks, pencils, crayons, storybooks, etc. Then return the filled shoebox to church. These shoeboxes will be taken to a Redemption Center where they will begin their journey. The boxes are part of an educational program to help children learn about christianity and the love of Jesus Christ. *The shoeboxes will be available in the Narthex on Sunday, November 2nd and I will collect them on Sundays, November 9th and 16th.*



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



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*

Richard Jackson *Wentworth Home, 795 Central Ave., 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.

Please do send your cards and greetings.



Sympathy is extended
to the family of:

Gina Fortier [10/22] son - Joe Fortier

May the blessing of hope and health
surround her family.



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Norm Brown

Don Brock

Patty Cote

Kevin Cazeault

John & Carol Cummings

Sue Eastman

Linda Palmer

Steven Parsley

Kristen Russell

Diane Shepherd

Kim Shurtleff

Elaine Weatherby

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.*



NOVEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost - Green
November 2, 2025
Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4, Psalm 119:137-144
Isaiah 1:10-18, Psalm 32:1-7
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost - Green
November 9, 2025
Haggai 2:1-9, Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or
Psalm 98
Job 19:23-27a, Psalm 17:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost - Green
November 16, 2025
Isaiah 65:17-25, Isaiah 12
Malachi 4:1-2a, Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost - Green
November 23, 2025
Jeremiah 23:1-6, Luke 1:68-79
Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

First Sunday of Advent - Purple
November 30, 2025
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44



Nov. 4 Leo Hurley,
Paul & Sherry Cazeault
Nov. 6 Robin Hamel
Nov. 12 Jeremy Day
Nov. 17 Christopher Drake Cox
Nov. 27 Linda Farrell, Marie Hurley
Nov. 29 Dottie Douglas



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



We had a successful yard sale on Saturday, September 27. The weather was beautiful and we had a good turnout of buyers starting very early Saturday morning.

I would like to thank everyone who helped us make it a success: from donating items, lining up help for the sale, publicity, helping to empty out the garage and set up tables, putting out all the items on Friday, working at the Yard Sale on Saturday, and of course cleaning up. We could not have done it without the help of everyone! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

We have sold a couple pieces of furniture since Saturday, so the final total is \$1153.30.

Richard Shepherd



Thank you for your pledges and donations to help our church!

I'm sending a friendly reminder that stewardship letters have been sent. Please give prayerful consideration as to how next year looks for your personal pledges. We build our budget accordingly and figure out our deficit accordingly.

We are also looking at some major repairs in the future:

- * Driveway sealing & filling cracks
- * New roof to lower insurance premiums
- * Elevator control panel box

These are major expenses, folks, that we are facing. I'm just putting it out there so people understand how important your pledge is! Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Moderator
Chair of Trustees
Nancie Cameron



What a wonderful evening we had at the Spaghetti supper. Thank you to all who helped. There were about 30 people who came and enjoyed themselves. Now we need to come up with another reason to get together for food and fun!

Our Holly Daze Fair is coming up very soon and we need some help at the fair. If you could help even for a short time, that would be great. AND please share it on Facebook and tell all of your friends.

Then in December we are going to help the Food pantry and fill 35 stockings for children. We will have a list of needs soon.

A sincere thank you for all your support.

Kathy Latchaw



	September, 2025	Year-to-Date, 2025
Total Income	\$ 7,312.45	\$64,671.15
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 6,136.58</u>	<u>\$79,781.56</u>
Net Income	\$ 1,175.87	(\$15,110.41)
Checking Account Balance as of September 30, 2025		\$ 14,408.59
Savings Account Balance		<u>\$ 5,004.18</u>
Total Checking and Savings		\$ 19,412.77
Unavailable Checkbook Funds		<u>(\$3,715.31)</u>
Total Checkbook Funds Available		\$ 15,697.46
Memorial Fund Checkbook Balance		\$13,414.84
Mortgage Balance at Service Credit Union at 9/30/25		\$ 9,460.39