



JULY & AUGUST, 2026



As we reach the middle of summer, we look around at a world gradually transformed by the warmth and rain of these last few weeks. After months of drought, through the rain, the gardens have grown, the fields have turned green, and creation has quietly continued its work. It is a reminder that growth often happens in ways we do not immediately see.

The life of faith is much the same. Scripture often speaks of seeds being planted, roots deepening, and fruit appearing in its own time. We cannot rush the process or force the harvest. Instead, we are invited to trust that God is at work, even in seasons that feel slow, uncertain, or hidden.

As we move through these summer weeks, we might ask where God is nurturing growth within us. Perhaps it is a deeper compassion, a renewed hope, or the courage to serve others more generously. Even when the skies are cloudy, God's Spirit continues the patient work of shaping us into people who reflect divine love.

So our prayer is this. Faithful God, teach us to trust the quiet work of your Spirit. Help us to be patient with ourselves and with one another, and may the fruit of our lives bring hope, kindness, and peace to all we meet.

**Pastor Tom Gardner's
Contact Information:**

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



The Women's Fellowship has been making plans for a craft/yard sale on July 11th and then a welcome back breakfast on September 13th. We also have been discussing having a community spaghetti supper in the fall. If you would like to help with planning this, please let us know. We will need volunteers to help with this.

We are starting early to make Christmas sacks that will be filled for the children in our food pantry. If you would like to help there is a list of items needed on the last page or if you would like to have us purchase items needed you can make a donation for that.

We are also planning some exciting outings this summer and would love to have more women join us. On July 14th (rain day is July 21st), we will be going to New Castle Commons. Kathy Latchaw has invited the women of the church to her home on August 4th (rain date is August 11th). If you are interested in joining us, let us know.

Our women spend time on Tuesdays checking on each other, thinking of ways to improve our church, organize fun activities, and making crafts. We welcome new people. Stop in and visit, say hi and see what we are all about.

Enjoy your summer.
Many blessings.



Hello everyone, I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Just a reminder please keep up with pledging through the summer months even though you may not attend. Your pledging does so much to keep the church running.

We will have the summer months off from any meetings and will resume in the fall. If you need me for anything don't hesitate to email, text or call me. I am available anytime for you. My email is: bballmom824@yahoo.com Cell 603-781-5302 See you in the fall!!

Nancie Cameron , Moderator & Chair of Trustees

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY

After a refreshing summer break, we will start the fall with a Welcome Back Service and Breakfast on September 13th.

We are hoping to have families join us and are looking for a babysitter to hire during worship. If you know someone who might be interested in this paid position, please contact Kathy Latchaw [klatchaw@comcast.net].

JULY & AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

Aug 1 Terry Burk
 Aug 2 Tom Allen, Patty Cote,
 Sylor Vollkommer
 Aug 8 John & Barbara Pay
 Aug 11 Dick Jackson
 Aug 12 Dean Martin
 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



	May, 2026	Year-to-Date, 2026
Total Income	\$ \$7,765.54	\$47,842.25
Total Expenses	<u>\$ \$5,526.53</u>	<u>\$46,266.90</u>
Net Income	\$ 2,230.01	\$ 1,575.55
Checking Account Balance as of May 31, 2026		\$ 24,147.51
Savings Account Balance		<u>\$ 5,004.51</u>
Total Checking and Savings		\$ 29,152.02
Unavailable Checkbook Funds		<u>(\$3,891.74)</u>
Total Checkbook Funds Available		\$ 25,260.28
Memorial Fund Checkbook Balance		\$13,414.84
Mortgage Balance at Service Credit Union at 531/26		\$ 4,484.06

MINISTRY OF PRAYER & CONCERN

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

Carroll Dudley, *Harmony Homes By The Bay, 40 Briggs Way, Durham, NH 03824*

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.



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Doris & Norm Ballard

Allison Brock

Priscilla, Richard &

Michelle Brock

Norm Brown

John Chesley

John & Carol Cummings

Win Damon

Dorota Grześkowiak

Sarah Gowans

Linda Palmer

Steven Parsley

Roger Proulx

Kim Shurtleff

Scott Vollkommer

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, and our Associate Minister, Rev Linda Hirst.*
- *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.



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

Priscilla Chellis, (207) 216-3338,
Email: prchellis@comcast.net

Carol Cummings, (603) 842-5059,
Email: : johnandcarol55@comcast.net

Fran Karlik, (603) 397-5674, Email:
kinross2@comcast.net



JULY LECTIONARY READINGS

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

July 5, 2026

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67,
Psalm 45:10-17 *or* Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Zechariah 9:9-12, Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-29, 25-30

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost - Green

July 12, 2026

Genesis 25:19-34, Psalm 119:105-112
Isaiah 55:10-13, Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

July 19, 2026

Genesis 28:10-19a, Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 *or*
Isaiah 44:6-8, Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Mathew 13:24-30, 36-43

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

July 26, 2026

Genesis 29:15-28, Psalm 105:1-11, 45b *or*
Psalm 128
1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



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.



AUGUST LECTIONARY READINGS

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

August 2, 2026

Genesis 32:22-31, Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Isaiah 55:1-5, Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost - Green

August 9, 2026

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28,
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
1 Kings 19:9-18, Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

August 16, 2026

Genesis 45:1-15, Palm 133
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8, Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

August 23, 2026

Exodus 1:8-2:10, Psalm 124
Isaiah 51:1-6, Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

August 30, 2026

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

A CHRISTMAS STOCKING

The Women's Fellowship is starting to prepare for Christmas stocking/bags to be given to 36 children who visit the Community Food Pantry. We are starting now to give us extra time to pick up items to add to the bags. A list of items we have given in the past is listed below. We have also added the number of each item that we already have.

Your donations to these bags would be greatly appreciated. Just a reminder that we need gender-neutral items only.

Thank you in advance for your help!

Diane Chessman
Women's Fellowship
Live Well, Laugh Often, Love Much

ITEM	HAVE	NEED 36	ITEM	HAVE	NEED 36
Crayons	40	0	Tooth Paste		
Paint w/water books			Candy/Candy Canes		
Brushes for above			Hand Spinners/ Snail Toy	48	
Colored Pencils	4		Glow-in-the-dark Bracelets	11	
Markers			Colored Chalk	5	
Coloring Books	4		Pencils	Tons of them	
Water Paints					
Stocker Books					
Blank Notebooks					
Scratch Art	4				
Play Dough/Clay					
Bubbles	12				
Squishies	4				
Stuffed animals (small)					
Combs					
Toothbrushes					