

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Prayer: **You have given yourself to us, loving God, in the simple food and drink we have shared. Jesus has been here. Even now, his presence is strengthening us to be his Body. God, give us courage; make us whole and give us peace. Fill us with Holy Spirit and send us out to touch the world with your healing Presence; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Friend. Amen.**

*Hymn #293 "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

*Benediction

*Response #462 "Come, Share the Lord" vs. 3

*Postlude

Lectionary Readings for the Baptism of Jesus: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

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*Thank you for joining us for worship today!  
It is our sincere hope that all who gather in  
this place will know and experience the love,  
forgiveness, hope, and new life available  
through Jesus Christ.*

*First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Littleton, New Hampshire*

*January 7, 2018*



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| <p><b>Pastor:</b><br/> <b>Rev. W. David Weddington</b><br/> E-mail: <a href="mailto:pastordavid@myfairpoint.net">pastordavid@myfairpoint.net</a></p> <p><b>Music Director &amp; Organist</b><br/> Dorothy Morton</p> <p>Sun. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>Worship Service and Sunday<br/> School 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Coffee Fellowship 11:15 a.m.</p> | <p>189 Main Street<br/> Littleton, NH 03561<br/> 603-444-3376, Fax: 603-444-6589<br/> E-mail: <a href="mailto:fstcong@myfairpoint.net">fstcong@myfairpoint.net</a><br/> <a href="http://www.1stconglittleton.org">www.1stconglittleton.org</a></p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p><b>Church office hours: Monday-Thursday</b><br/> 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p><b>FCC Shining Lights Learning Center</b><br/> 444-7379<br/> E-mail: <a href="mailto:fccshininglights@myfairpoint.net">fccshininglights@myfairpoint.net</a></p> |
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*Our Mission Statement:*

*As followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we are called to provide a loving invitation and welcome to all, to inspire and uplift through the worship of God, to reach out to heal and enrich lives through the Holy Spirit, and to nurture people at various stages of their spiritual growth.*

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**January 7, 2018**  
**Epiphany Sunday**

Those who are able may stand where marked (\*).

Gathering #462      “Come, Share the Lord”      *vs. 1, 2*

Welcome and Announcements      *Mary Menzies*

Opening Prayer

Prelude

Responsive Reading      *Psalm 19:1-4, 9-14*

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God!

The stars shout aloud: “God is here!”

**All: One day pours out the good news to the next;  
night speaks to night and God’s glory spreads.**

One: Hush! Not a word. Let the silent night speak.

Voiceless, the stars fill the world with great joy.

**All: God orders the world by words right and true—  
more precious than gold, more than heaps of fine gold,  
and sweeter than honey that drips from the comb.**

One: Protect us, O God, from our own foolish pride,  
and from all who would lead us away from your love.

**All: Let the words of our mouths and our hearts’ meditation  
please you, O God, our Rock, our Redeemer,  
now and forever. Amen.**

\*Hymn #265      “The First Noel”

**Confession: Kind and generous God, we have heard your promise to be with us always, but it’s hard sometimes to believe you. Our world is daily wounded by crime and war. The poor still suffer, the lonely still weep. In anger and sorrow, suspicion and fear, we harden our hearts to their cries. And still you offer us a path to forgiveness. And still you shine like a star in the night, and show us the way that leads to Life. And so, as we come to this table of blessing today, we confess that we walk in darkness; and we ask you, kind and generous God, to open our hearts to receive the light you offer us in Jesus’ holy name. AMEN**

Assurance of Pardon

Gloria Patri #813

Statement of Faith (*inside cover of hymnal*)

Special Music

Children’s Time

Moments of Concern and Celebration (please fill out a blue card)

Pastoral Prayer and Our Savior’s Prayer (“trespasses”)

Worship of God with our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Music

\*Doxology (#815)

\*Offertory Prayer

Scripture      Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon      “The Hopes and Fears of All the Years”

\*Hymn #250      “O Little Town of Bethlehem”



## January Prayer Request Concerns & Celebrations

### CONTINUING & NEW

Keeping those in need of our prayers: The President, World Leaders, the Youth of our Community, the future of our World, and Rev. David and Wilma Weddington as they participate and lead us into the future.

Pat Whipple's brother, **Ted** – he had four hernia operations and now has a bowel blockage. Surgery is the last resort. (Emily LaFlam)

**Parker Seekamp** – had a grand mal seizure. Pray they find the cause and cure it. (June Davis)

**Tyler** – got a heart! (Mary Hodgdon)

### Cancer

|                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Barry Jacobson (David Weddington)  | Curtis Sears (Emily LaFlam)       |
| Joni Prell (Linda Warden)          | Travis Gay (Judy Warden)          |
| Judy Dean (Alice Muh)              | Joyce Willoughby (Glenda Iles)    |
| Peter Campbell (Glenda Iles)       | Mark Morgan (Lars Nielson)        |
| Cynthia Farquharson (Linda Warden) | Betsy Harman (Judy Warden)        |
| Rebecca Martel (Glenda Iles)       | Doreen Degenerica (June Davis)    |
| Joyce Watrous (Glenad Iles)        | Mary Ellen Gilbert (Tina Peabody) |
| Ginny Dickman (Judy Warden)        | Jennifer Abdool (Bruce Webster)   |

### Illness/Recovery

|                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jim Raylman (Linda Warden)      | Bill Hardy, Sr. (Tina Peabody)  |
| Madison Ferland (Karen Byron)   | Betsy Bergen (Alice Muh)        |
| Johnny Suglia (Amy Sharpe)      | Barbara Creighton (Judy Warden) |
| Jean Kimball (David Weddington) |                                 |

## Loss/Grieving

Family of Harry Hatch (Ross Fairweather)  
Family of Faye White  
Family of June Fitch

## Military

The names of people in the military are on the name board by office.

*To add a name to our prayer list, please fill out a blue card located in the pew racks and place them in the offering plate or hand them to a Deacon. The name will remain in the bulletin for approximately 4 weeks. We understand that some situations are very serious and a longer period of time would be helpful. You may call the office with any names that need to be added or to update the status.*

*If you or someone you care about would like a visit or call, please contact Pastor David at 603-991-0535 or Pam Nute at 603-444-3376. If you have an emergency during the week and Pastor David is away, please call the church office at 444-3376 and Pam Nute will contact someone for you.*

*\*\*Names listed without original contact person will be removed from the list if we are not notified. In order to keep this list up-to-date, it is important that we be notified when someone should come off the list. Thank you.*



**Thank you to everyone who dedicated a poinsettia this year ~ the outpouring was spectacular!**

*~ Glenda Iles*