

Pastor – Rev. Dr. W. David Thomas
Organist – Mrs. Judy Hunter
Lay Reader -

Associate Pastor – Mr. Aaron Goodro
Asst. Music Dir. – Mr. Andrew Gaydos

Good Grief James 1.2-12

January 8, 2012

PRELUDE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*please stand if able

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN OF PRAISE "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" # 1

*INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER (Debts)

*GLORIA PATRI Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen. Hymn #620

ANTHEM Special Music, Helen Cunningham "Broken and Spilled Out"

RESPONSIVE READING Sing Joyful Hymnal # 678

HYMN "You Are My Hiding Place" (twice) # 53

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO GIVING

OFFERTORY "In the Bleak Mid-Winter"

*DOXOLOGY Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen Hymn #623

*HYMN OF PREPARATION "He Leadeth Me" # 447

SCRIPTURE READING James 1: 2-12 page 1880

MESSAGE "Good Grief"

*HYMN OF RESPONSE "He Touched Me" Hymn # 314

LORD'S SUPPER

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: "Blest be the tie that binds, Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above."

To Re-enter the Meeting House during the worship service, please use the front doors when weather permits.

Introduction:

I. Testing by T_____

A. We all have t_____

B. Troubles make us s_____

II. Testing by N_____

A. We all need w_____

B. God provides our w_____

III. Testing by A_____

A. We all are s_____

B. Things do not make us a_____

Conclusion:

Questions for reflection or small group discussion

- What is the difference between a Jewish understanding of wisdom and how we typically think of the meaning of the word? Can you name books in the Old Testament that are wisdom literature?
- What does “paraneasis” mean?
- Can you give examples of how we sometimes link “God’s blessing with His “approval”?
- James says that God’s goal is for us to be perfect, complete, and deficient in nothing. What would each of these look like if they were true of you?
- Where do your ethics come from?
- What do you think of Jeremiah’s assessment that is “deceitful above all things and incurably sick”?
- Can you give some examples of how we define ourselves by what “we do” or even “what we have”?
- How does scripture define you?
- Why is it foolish to trust in wealth or position?
- How have you been tested by trouble? How did you do in your test?
- Does following Christ assure you of the possibility of avoiding trouble? How can you avoid trouble?
- If we are all “needy” how does this inform our thinking toward others and their needs?

“Following Christ’s Call”

Campaign Update!

THANKS TO YOU !

Your generous contributions received to date
total \$845,000.

WHAT IS NEXT?

Construction should be completed sometime this Summer. Because many of our 2012 projected campaign contributions will not be received until December 31, 2012, we will need to borrow short term money based on our *PROMISED PLEDGES* to pay for the building. This amount will most likely be \$200,000 to \$250,000.

How can you help us?

If you have not yet made a pledge, please prayerfully consider a gift now. We would be pleased to provide you with any information you may need to consider this possibility.

For those who have already pledged:

1. If your 2012 promised donation will be a single check please let us know about when you will be able to make this contribution.
2. If you have the resources to complete your pledge before 12/31/2012, please let us know the timing of doing so.
3. Should you be unable to complete your promised pledge by 12/31/2012, please let us know, so that we may plan for adjustments.

Please be assured that all discussions on these matters will be held in our utmost confidence. Your campaign treasurers:

Bill & Mary Lou Birch wbirch@comcast.net 603-580-5406

**First Congregational Church
Kingston, New Hampshire**

Call to the Annual Budget Meeting

The Annual Budget Meeting of the First Congregational Church, Inc. of Kingston, New Hampshire will be held on Sunday, January 22nd at 12:15pm in the Kingston Meetinghouse.

Article I: A discussion and vote upon the budget for Fiscal Year 2012.

Article II: A discussion about maintaining and adding to the memorial plaques in the entryway.

Article III: A discussion and vote upon distributing select funds from low-yield accounts to relevant groups for their use.

Article IV: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Theberge,
Church Clerk