



The Chimes

The Newsletter of First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2017

Pastor Jonathan's Message

Dear friends at FPC,

It has been a privilege to work closely with staff and several major boards in these opening months. Each of them brings such dedication and flexibility of spirit to their work. I am inspired by them and honored to be working side by side in this important year!

Many of you have contributed to the "Moving Forward" discussions in the parlor. These were held after worship throughout October. In those meetings we talked about how you are experiencing God's Spirit at FPC.

Now we are entering a period of listening to these thoughts with a warm heart and an open spirit. I have gathered a team of eight members, younger and older, with the support and advice of the Council and Board of Deacons. These eight will host three evenings with soup and conversation about next steps. We are hoping that you will take time to come out for a little supper and an hour of conversation about where God's Spirit is prompting us to stretch, flex and grow.

These are all Monday evenings, November 27, December 11, and January 8. Our team will summarize where we are, invite more conversation

***Worship ~ Sundays
at 10:00 AM***

and after an hour, close with prayer. They will then spend another hour listening thoughtfully to what they are hearing. Their summaries will be available as they happen, meeting by meeting, on Steeple Chat and in print too. If you cannot make these meetings you can still talk to the members of this "discernment team".

In this same period the Board of Deacons will be seeking members of the Search and Call team (the group that will seek and choose your next pastor). You will find more information about that process in Gary Munson's article in this edition of the Chimes.

I am grateful for your warm, hard working spirit and look forward to the many special events that we will enjoy together in the next two months.

Warmly in faith,
Pastor Jonathan



CONGRATULATIONS ON 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

To *Pat and Pete Sorensen* who were married on September 14, 1957 in Brooklyn, New York

and

To *Eileen and Gordon Drake* who were married on September 21, 1957 in Oquossoc, Maine.



A Quick Note from your Road Race Committee

We are very pleased to report that the 2017 Cochecho Challenge was a veritable success. Net proceeds of \$9,300 were realized and will be used to financially support our church, its missions, ministries and programs. Many thanks to the volunteers, especially those from FPC, who helped in large part to make this event the success that it was. In order to put on our fourth annual race to be held on **September 1, 2018**, it is necessary for us to find and recruit a Race-Director-in-Training and a sales-type person to obtain sponsors – please contact John Straight or Kathy Daniels if you know of anyone who can fill these critical roles.

White Gifts Celebration!



First Parish Church will be hosting two Christmas parties for the residents of St. John's & Central Towers on **Saturday, December 9th**, at **2:00 p.m.** The White Gifts Celebration is a tradition for First Parish Church and an opportunity to share our holiday joy with our senior citizens of Dover. Please sign up on the bulletin board to help out with refreshments. If you would like to purchase a white gift please select a gift tag from the tree in the Atrium **starting on Sunday, November 19th**, and **again on Sunday, November 26th**. Committee members from Mission and Action will be available after worship to help distribute tags to our FPC Family. Gifts will be offered and brought forward during worship service on **December 3rd**. Be sure to bring your gifts wrapped in "white paper" with the issued tag fastened on top. Adults and children of all ages are invited to come sing carols and to share the Christmas spirit. Please contact Susan Spence at 842-5139 or Carolyn Ricker at 742-4485 with any questions or comments.

TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE \$100 CHALLENGE

Our First Parish Church family is working to develop fun and creative ways to financially support our beloved church, its mission and its programs. We hope that all parishioners will find a way to participate, have some fun and meet new friends by helping to meet our financial goals.

We are challenging each and every person to find a way, through their Time, Talents, or Treasures, to “earn” \$100 to donate to the church. If you are unable to “earn” the full \$100 Challenge, any amount which you are able to contribute is gratefully accepted. It is more important that all members participate as they are able.

You can meet your challenge in several ways:

1. By performing a specific service for which you are paid (talent/time)
2. By selling an object that you own (treasure)
3. By making something to sell (time/talent)
4. By giving up something (a cup of coffee per week for one year) and donating the amount unspent (treasure)
5. By donating \$100 outright (treasure)
6. By being creative and thinking of your own way to meet this challenge.

For more information on how to participate in this FUNdraising event, visit the Time, Talent and Treasure bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, or contact Joyce Tugel, jtugel@gmail.com.

Christmas Concert

Antique Brass and Organ Christmas Concert, featuring the group *Antique Brass* with *Rick Gremlitz* at the majestic First Parish pipe organ. Friday, December 15th, at 7:00 p.m. Come and enjoy the special musical sounds of the season, concluding with a sing-a-long of all your holiday favorites! Tickets at the door; donations \$10.00.

Community Thanksgiving Service

The Dover Area Religious Leaders Group (DARLA) will be leading the interfaith community Thanksgiving Service at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 25 Third Street in Dover on Sunday, November 19th, at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

CHRISTMAS DINNER



The Men's Group will again be hosting the First Parish Church Christmas Dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Christmas Day. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m.. Volunteers will be needed and deeply appreciated for set-up, serving and clean-up. Donations of pies and desserts as well as monetary gifts would be very helpful. Please contact Sam Ronda at sam.ronda@gmail.com or at 337-5258 if you can help. Many thanks!



As winter nears we begin to reflect on the year flashing by. It has been bountiful for First Parish and I'd like to lift up a few special groups among us that need to be recognized for their spirit, hard work, and amazing results.

First, our thrift shop "Find It at the First" paves the way for our community and its pathway to our church. The folks who work tirelessly throughout most of the year helping clients, receiving and valuating inventory, and keeping things neat and tidy need to be recognized as a much needed cog in our gear-works. If you haven't been in lately, please stop by for a visit and give some big "thank you" hugs!

Labor Day weekend our annual Cochecho Challenge half-marathon took place, starting and finishing at FPC. And what a race it was bringing in well over one hundred runners from all over the seacoast. Please take a moment to thank our entire race committee led by John Straight who is retiring as race director, but will stay on board to mentor his successor. Since the race must go on, maybe this would be a great place to let your leadership light shine! We need you!

Our annual Holiday Fair (happening this month!) is yet another example of our parishioners coming together with a cooperative spirit of selfless doing.

The teams of folks involved with this undertaking show once again that maximum effort plus dedicated use of time yields astonishing results. When you go to the fair on November 18th, give thanks, and say "thanks" to everyone you see!

Our FUNdraising Task Force started something last fall that really caught the participation bug of many. So say thanks to them for planting the seeds of growth, creating a sense of community, and bridging the gap which connects people in need with those that can offer their time and talent. And thank you all for keeping this vital ministry alive for years to come!

Not only does each and every one of these endeavors provide a vital mission of outreach locally, they financially help support the many day-to-day operations and activities of our church in a very big and important way. Each one started as an idea and have since grown into cornerstones of our congregation's vitality. They also bind us all together as servants of and to the Lord by connecting to ourselves and to our greater community. Perhaps we all pray asking God how we as individuals can be a part of an idea, a cornerstone, or anything in between as we all live and grow in His enveloping love.

Grace, peace, and blessings to all!

Rich Henck, Council Chairperson

ANNUAL FPC HOLIDAY FAIR

Saturday, November 18th

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

A church wide fundraising and community outreach event!

Join the fun and fellowship of working with fellow parishioners and do a small part to make our fair a huge success!

We are currently looking for additional vendors to participate in this year's fair. If you know someone who has items they would like to display for sale, please contact our vendor coordinator, Joe Stieglitz (bertramstieglitz@twc.com), **as soon as possible** for an application to join our Holiday Fair.

The raffle table is also accepting donations. They would really appreciate donations that they can use to help create gift baskets for the raffle. Some ideas are wine or food to create specialty food baskets; movie tickets and popcorn to create a family movie night basket; and games to create a family game night basket – the possibilities are endless! Please contact *Paula Sterling* (pandasterling@gmail.com) if you have any items you can contribute.

You may also help in one or more of the following ways:

- Help with set-up Thursday evening before the fair
- Help at a table for a 2-hour shift
- Donate items for children to purchase in the Children's Only Shopping room
- Help with clean-up after the fair
- Make reminder phone calls the week of the Fair
- Make baked goods to be sold – pies, breads, cookies, candy, fudge
- Donate homemade preserves
- Donate plants for the Plant Room
- Donate Tiffany items (new & nearly new) to the Thrift Shop
- Donate antiques, collectible and vintage items – please contact *Jim Prue* at jeprue@comcast.net (749-6897)
- Sell raffle tickets to friends and family for our Quilt Raffle
- Invite friends and family to come to the Lobster Stew Luncheon
- Help place posters in prominent locations and spread the word about our Fair!



Sign-ups will take place during coffee hours in November. Please take this opportunity to volunteer and reach out with us into our community.

If you want to help out but can't make it on Sundays, contact: *Bethany Gould* at 335-1847 or fpcfair@gmail.com or *Kathy Baker* at 742-5976 or skmbaker@comcast.net.



www.facebook.com/FPCDover.sundayschool



November 5th!
Don't forget to turn your
clock **BACK** one hour



October - November

Sunday School Mission

Thanksgiving Meal Food

Collection

to benefit CAPS

*Community Action Partnerships
of Strafford County*

List of non-perishable items needed:

- 25 packages of Stuffing Mix
- 25 packages of Pie Crust Mix
- 25 boxes of Corn Bread Mix
- 25 packets of Gravy Mix
- 25 cans of Cranberry Sauce



No FIRST Kids Gathering or
Sunday School Classes on
Sunday, November 26th



We had a **TREMENDOUS** collection of
food to benefit the children of our
community and
“End 68 Hours of Hunger”
**Thank you to all who donated
to this very important organization!**



“Sharing the Spirit”

Beginning November 26th,
we will be collecting items to fill
shoeboxes for Strafford County
families in need, including children in
the Head Start Program.
The number of boxes to be filled has
yet to be determined, but please
donate “shoebox-sized” items for both
boys and girls.



COFFEE HOUR
will be served downstairs
in Nazareth Hall on
Sunday, December 17th.
The congregation
is asked to
walk through our
Sunday school area
to vote for the best
Classroom Advent Door!



No FIRST Kids Gathering or
Sunday School on
**Sunday, December 24th or
Sunday, December 31st**

A SPECIAL SEASONAL MUSICAL EVENT!

Handel's MESSIAH returns to First Parish Church!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3--7:00 p.m.

First Parish Church, 218 Central Ave, Dover



MESSIAH SING-ALONG

COME to *SING* or COME to *LISTEN!*

Musical scores will be provided, or bring your own.

Choruses and solos from Parts I and II of *Messiah* concluding with the *Hallelujah* Chorus.

Soloists: *Gina Branagan Connolly*, soprano

***Ashley Wade*, mezzo-soprano**

***Christopher Laux*, baritone**

***Wendell Purrington*, tenor**

Chorus Directors: *Marty Thyng* and *Rick Gremlitz*

Organ Accompaniment by *Robert Littlefield*



Admission Donation: \$ 10.00 at the door.

Advent and Christmas Worship at First Parish Church

December 3rd ~ 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

The First Sunday of Advent and Holy Communion
Lighting of the Candle of Hope
Sermon by *Pastor Jonathan Goodell*
Presentation of White Gifts
Music by *First Parish Choir*

December 10th ~ 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

The Second Sunday of Advent
Lighting of the Candle of Peace
Sermon by *Pastor Jonathan Goodell*
Music by *First Parish Choir*

December 17th ~ 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

The Third Sunday of Advent
Lighting the Candle of Joy
A Service of Lessons and Carols
Presentation of "Sharing the Spirit" Shoeboxes
Music by *First Parish Choir*

December 24th ~ Christmas Eve

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Lighting the Candle of Love
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Traditional singing of the *Hallelujah Chorus*
Music by *First Parish Choir*
5:00 p.m. Candlelight Service for Families
Lighting of the Christ Candle
Music by *Joyous Ringers*
Story for Children by *Pastor Jonathan*
Distribution of the Light/Silent Night
7:00 p.m. Festival Service in Music and the Word
Lighting of the Christ Candle
Candlelight Procession of *Youth and First Parish Choirs*
Christmas Message by *Pastor Jonathan Goodell*
Distribution of the Light/Silent Night



December 25th ~ Christmas Day

Christmas Dinner at 5:30 PM Hosted by the Men's Group

December 31st ~ 1st Sunday after Christmas

Sermon by *Pastor Jonathan Goodell*



In Sympathy



We mourn the loss of our dear friends called home by God to share in the everlasting kingdom of Heaven...

Colleen Ashe ~

Mother of Tim Ashe

Roland Hofemann ~

Husband of Lois Hofemann & FPC member

Ellie Daniels ~

Mother of Scott Daniels

Bill Urmston ~

Husband of Carol Urmston & FPC Member

Joan-Marie Benn ~

Mother of Suzanne Foley, Richard and Randy Benn

Al Johnston ~

Husband of Priscilla Johnston & FPC Member

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone who prayed for me and sent their best wishes during my recent shoulder surgery. I truly felt your support.
Carin Lee

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www.firstparishdover.org

First Parish Church

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Dover, NH 03820

Email: firstparish@comcast.net

Office hours: M-F 9am-3pm

(603) 742-5664

Rev. Jonathan Carey Goodell, Int Minister

revjcareygoodell@gmail.com

Rick Gremlitz, Church Administrator

rickgremlitz@yahoo.com

NH UCC: www.nhcucc.org

Bulletin Deadline: Tuesdays by 9:00AM

Chimes Deadline: The 15th of every month ~ Please email bulletin and chimes information to Joanne at firstparish@comcast.net

Poinsettias are available to order for our Christmas services. The cost will be \$10.00 per plant. Please sign up on the church bulletin board and pre-pay in the office by

Memorial Poinsettias



December 10th.

Thank you.

Blue Christmas Service

On Sunday evening, December 17th, at 7:00 PM, the Dover Area Religious Leaders Association (DARLA) will offer their annual Blue Christmas Service at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 22 Fox Run Road in Newington. This special worship experience lifts up the hope of Emmanuel – God With Us – while acknowledging that the season is not filled with joy for all, i.e., those who have lost a job or those struggling with depression, or those who will be experiencing their first Christmas following the loss of a loved one, etc.

Clergy from various congregations in the area will participate. If this season is a difficult one for you, please know that this service is for you. Or if you know someone who struggles emotionally at Christmas time, we hope you will extend an invitation for them to attend – and perhaps you can be a support by attending with them.



Church Supper



Saturday, December 2nd

There is a place for you at our table...

Come and enjoy a feast! All for just \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 12 or under. Served from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Ham 'n beans, homemade breads, coleslaw, string bean casserole, desserts and a few culinary surprises! Enjoy some live musical entertainment while you dine!

Bring a friend; all are welcome!



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Return Service Requested

03820

Dover, New Hampshire

218 Central Avenue

The United Church of Christ

The First Parish Church Congregational

The Chimes

