



Steeple Chat

First Parish Church

An Open and Affirming Congregational Church
of the United Church of Christ

This Sunday, October 12th in Church...

WORSHIP
with us

Eighteenth Sunday
after Pentecost
Historical Sunday:
Our Immigrant Roots

Rev. Dana Mann, Pastor

Music Ministry

The First Parish Handbell Choir

Guest Musicians: Mark Thallander, organ; Wendy Hagarty,
trumpet; Ted Hagarty, clarinet and saxophone



Join us online

Our print readers can
use this QR code to the
zoom link.

<https://zoom.us/j/825890693>

or

Phone in using this number:
1-929-205-6099

When asked, use our Webinar ID:
825 890 693

Sunday, October 12th: Join us this Historical Sunday for a look back at the origins of our gathering as First Parish Church. This Sunday's stories are written by our church historian, Diane Fiske, and drawn from her research of our church records and conversations with present members of our congregation. *Our Church Historical Committee: Diane Fiske, Jane Greenslit, Steve Hall, Deena Mottola, Carol Seely, Amy Perry.*

How Did You Get Here? (Hint: We are all immigrants, and we all have a story!) Come share your family's story at a potluck luncheon after church on October 12th, our annual Historical Sunday. Bring a dish (perhaps from your country of origin?) and join the storytelling fun as we learn the paths we have all taken to be together in this community. Questions? Please reach out to Marcia Goodnow by email: marciagoodnow@gmail.com, or call the Church Office. If you'll join us, please call or email the Church Office at office@firstparishdover.org by the end of the day today so that we may plan for seating.

Faith Formation

Children & Youth Faith Formation

Sunday Children's Gathering

Following Children's Time in worship, all children Pre-K through Grade 6 are welcome to join adult leaders in the Parlor for an interactive lesson. A team leader will guide the children from the sanctuary. A parent can collect the children following the service.

October Themes:

October 12th Together we make a difference
Exodus 2:1-10

October 19th Welcome! Hospitality is us!
Luke 10:38-41

October 26th Listening for God
Luke 11: 1-4

Headstart Project: The children are invited to bring to their Sunday gatherings holiday-themed or plain gift bags to kick off the Christmas Headstart Project. Please see the announcement from the Faith



Children's Room

There is an unstaffed Children's Room located downstairs, at the foot of the staircase, for children under the age of 5, accompanied by a parent/guardian. Feel

free to come and go in worship whenever your child needs a break or a moment to play.

Of course, children are always welcome to remain in the sanctuary with their parent or guardian! Ask a Welcome Desk Volunteer for an activity bag (near the entrance to the sanctuary).

New Gathering for 6th - 8th Grade Youth Our first gathering is October 16th, 6:15pm!

We'll begin to more fully explore our faith tradition, where we fit in with other religious traditions, and how our church works in God's world. Our time together over the next months will combine learning

Formation team below for more information about what is needed from the congregation.

and fellowship, service, and even a few outings! Please contact Pastor Dana dmann@firstparishdover.org if you would like to join.

Christmas Gifts for Headstart Children

Hello everyone!

Each year Faith Formation has a mission to provide Christmas gifts for the Community Action Partnership Headstart Pre-school Program, located at the Bradley Center in Dover. This year we want to make it another success. To be more effective, we are switching to GIFT BAGS, so the wrapping component is much less cumbersome. We will be making up 70 bags for ages 3 to 5 and 10 bags for toddlers, with an even split between boys and girls.

As a congregation-wide event, we hope everyone will contribute what they can to help make the Advent and Christmas season meaningful for many children!

If you have questions about any of the items requested, or about the project, please reach out to Jane Kennedy at janewkennedy55@comcast.net. Here's what we need:

All Items should be brought to the box set aside in the Atrium by November 2, 2025

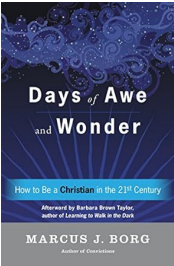
- 100 Christmas Gift Bags (New or Gently Used)
- Ribbon for tying bows on the handles
- Gift Tags to tie on bags

- Preschool (age 3-5):
- Hats and mittens
 - Small stuffed animals
 - Blunt children's scissors
 - Play-dough and play-dough toys
 - Books
 - Markers (Washable, please)

- Toddlers:
- Cardboard Books
 - Hats and Mittens
 - Small stuffed animals

No Candy Please

Adult & Intergenerational Faith Formation



Wednesdays in October: Adult Book/Bible Study with Pastor Dana
Come to one, come to all!
Wednesdays in October (15th, 22nd, 29th)
4:00pm to 5:30pm in the First Parish Church Parlor

Please join us! We'll gather in the parlor and sift through (not necessarily in order!) **Marcus Borg's Days of Awe and Wonder**. As he refers to scripture, we'll explore passages from the perspective of the original sayings of Jesus. Contact Pastor Dana at dmann@firstparishdover.org for details.

From the back cover: Borg cracks open Christianity for many of us who feel trapped outside its impenetrable walls of dubious dogmas. With skill and care he defines our faith, realigns our compassion, and invites us to believe again. (Carol Howard Merritt)

Blessing the Animals
Friday October 17th, at 5:00pm
For the beloved creatures who bless us!



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

We'll gather just outside of the church building, on the lawn near the Thrift Shop. All different kinds of pets are welcome: large and small. For their protection, we suggest small animals (ie: rabbits, guinea pigs) come in their cages; for those less social, we suggest bringing a photograph for blessing instead; and for those no longer with us physically, we suggest a photograph as we will hold them in loving memory.

Saturday, October 18th
4:00pm to 5:30pm
in Fellowship Hall

Please let us know ahead if childcare would be helpful.

Questions? Please contact Pastor Dana.

New, newish among us?
Pondering, wondering about becoming a member of First Parish Church?

Come join in conversation with those who recently joined and those who have been members for years! Along with Pastor Dana, church leaders of our various workgroups/teams/boards will talk about their activities and ways to participate, and together we'll explore the meaningfulness of membership in this spiritual community. Following our gathering, if the time is right for you, we'll act on the process of joining. Of course there will be appetizers to eat...

Come Walk With Us!
On **Saturday, October 11**, the Green Team invites you to join us on a walk and enjoy the beauty God has created all around us!

We'll meet at **9:00 am** sharp at SELT's (Southeast Land Trust of NH) **Burley Farm** located at 247 North River Road, Epping, NH 03042) for "an easy jaunt around and through fields overlooking the beaver pond," starting from the Kiosk in the parking area. Car pooling is always a good idea - connect with a friend and feel free to use the church parking lot as a starting off point. Hope to see you there!

For directions and information about the location and trails, visit: seltnh.org/seltlands/burleyfarms and download a trail map [Burley-Farms-TrailGuide-mobile.pdf](#)

From our Director of Music



Our Church is very honored to host nationally known composer, conductor and keyboard artist Mark Hayes at the New England Choral and Keyboard Festival concert in our sanctuary on Sunday, October 26 at 6:00 p.m. This concert event is sponsored by the Mark Thallander Foundation. There is no admission charge; a free-will offering will be taken at the concert.

The concert will feature a Festival Choir of over 120 voices, to be conducted by Mark Hayes, comprised of singers from our choir, area church choirs, and local choral groups from NH and southern Maine. The Festival Choir will sing six selections either composed or arranged by Mark Hayes, including these First Parish favorites: *And the Father Will Dance*, *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* and *Then Will the Very Rocks Cry Out*.

Mark Hayes will also perform several of his solo piano selections at the concert as well as piano/organ duets with Mark Thallander at the organ. You may read Mark Hayes' extensive list of credits and musical accomplishments on his website: <https://markhayes.com/>.

PLEASE invite your family, friends, and neighbors to attend! This will be a wonderful evening of music with a master musician and composer. If you would like more information about this concert please reach out to Rick Gremlitz, Music Director at rgremlitz@firstparishdover.org.

From our Holiday Fair team



Think ahead to Holiday Fair: November 15th
It is time to get excited about our annual Holiday Fair, scheduled for November 15. This is our biggest fundraising and community outreach event of the year, and we hope everyone will participate! In addition to your time, we will need food and other items to be contributed. Soon, there will be sign-up lists in the Atrium and Fellowship Hall. You may also be contacted by one of the Fair Coordinators for the projects listed below – just say

- YES!
- Holiday Café - need food and volunteers
 - Cookie Walk (Deb Gremlitz & Pat Sorensen) - need lots of cookies
 - Craft Group – need craft items donated
 - Pantry Table (Vickie Chase) – needs cakes, pies and other goodies
 - Quilt Raffle (Diane Fiske) - need volunteers
 - Raffle Room (Ashley Eller) - need volunteers
 - Tiffany Room (Jim Prue) – need antiques, memorabilia, and volunteers
 - Door Prize Table – need volunteers
 - Set up and Take Down Teams (Stacy Rine) - need volunteers

Gary Imbrie & Alex Beauchner
Co-Chairs – Holiday Fair Committee

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Tiffany Collectibles and Antiques Room Donations Wanted
We've got exciting collections for sale, but the 'Tiffany Antiques and Collectibles Room' is still seeking your wonderful treasures! If you have collectible or vintage items that you are willing to donate, please call or email Jim Prue at jeprue@comcast.net. He will evaluate your items free of charge.

Items ready for sale include a large inventory of Vintage Coca-Cola memorabilia including: commemorative bottles, six-pack small bottles in a metal carrier (unopened), a large wall clock (illuminated) advertisement, souvenir pocket knives, lighters and more. Also for sale are silver commemorative spoons & a 13 colonies silver spoon set; Shirley Temple glassware; antique laundry mangle; glassware and brassware items; brass balance beam scale; U.S. and foreign coins with many U.S. Proof sets; Native American Indian vase with small mat (set); and more items coming in daily!

Raffle items wanted for the Raffle Room

The Raffle Room is seeking a wide variety of prizes that will appeal to all ages! We're in need of your connections: maybe you have a woodsy cabin on AirBnB and can offer a weekend for the raffle...or know someone who does? How about those tickets to the baseball game you won, but will never use? These are the types of experiences we're hoping to offer our raffle ticket buyers this year. If you've got connections, Ashley Eller wants to connect with you!

Other prized raffle items we'd love to collect:

- Gift cards to restaurants or local businesses (Salons/spas, toy stores, pet stores, etc.)
- Passes or tickets to events, museums or adventurous outings.
- Preassembled gift baskets or a collection of items with a theme. Any items put into a gift basket should be new and unopened.

Please visit the [Raffle Item Sign Up](#) list Ashley has created to let her know what you'll donate. If you've got ideas or questions about what makes a good raffle item, send Ashley an email at ashleyeller@gmail.com or text her at: 603-953-4847. We'll soon be collecting your donation at the Church Office.

Pantry Sale Table: Baked Goods Wanted

Vickie Chase is organizing the collection of baked goods for the always well-stocked and very popular Pantry Bake Sale. If you have an interest in supplying goods for the sale, please reach out to Vickie for the complete list of items that are in high demand. She'll fill you in on the details for when to deliver your goodies and the best way to package them. Email Vickie at Vickiejean513@gmail.com.

Find it at the First! Thrift Shop Update

Fall Hours

Thursdays 1:00pm - 7:00pm
Fridays 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Saturdays 10:00am - 1:00pm

Thank you for your donations and support! Please spread the word and consider volunteering.

The Find it at the First Thrift Shop will now take donations of winter clothing and outerwear. Volunteers at the shop would like to have a store brimming with bargains for shoppers on the day of the Holiday Fair (November 15th). Donations may be dropped off during shop hours.

We are still in need of volunteers at the shop, particularly on occasional Saturday mornings. Please consider donating your time to the biggest volunteer-led revenue generator of the church. You will be helping your church and members of the community. Talk to Charlotte Ackerman, Sandy O'Neill or Barbara Kipp if you think you would like to volunteer.

GET INVOLVED IN CHURCH

Volunteer on Sundays

There are many ways for you to participate in the life of our church through Worship on Sunday.

Greeters & Ushers

Everyone in our church community is invited to participate in two ways:

- Greeters: Greet us with a bulletin at the entrances to the Sanctuary, and welcome guests at the Welcome Desk.
- Ushers collect prayer cards and plate offerings at specific times during worship.

If you would like to volunteer as an usher or greeter **please sign up on the sheet posted in the Atrium**. If you have questions about what to do, reach out to [Joyce Tugel](#).

Fellowship Hospitality

Our morning gathering after worship is an important part of our life as church. We need your help!

If you would like to be a part of our "Fellowship Hospitality Team" assisting with set-up and clean-up for Fellowship Hour, **please sign up on the sheet posted in the Atrium**.

Please reach out to [Annette Rine](#) or [Stacy Rine](#) with questions about what's involved.

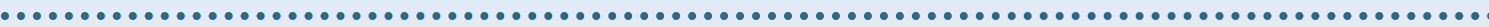
Acolytes Light the way!

Acolytes young and young-at-heart light the altar candles to begin our time of worship. (Parents, you can help!)

How does it work?

- Meet a Deacon in the Narthex around 9:45 for the "outfit."
- Proceed to the chancel when the prelude begins (usually after some announcements).
- Return to seats after the Acolyte "outfits" have been put away.

[SIGN UP ONLINE](#) right now. You'll even get an email reminder!



**All Gods Children
Have a Place in the Choir!**
New members are always welcome in the choir! For information about joining please speak with [Rick Gremlitz, Choir Director](#) after a Sunday service or reach out by email.

Weekly Rehearsal Schedule
Sunday evenings 6:00pm - 7:30pm

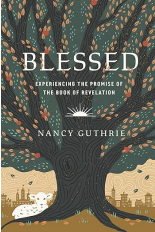
Join the Handbell Choir at weekly rehearsals and ring in the fun! For information about Handbell Choir or about getting into the ring of things, email [John Russell](#).

Weekly Rehearsal Schedule
Sundays 11:30am - 12:30pm

Donate Altar Flowers
The altar is beautifully adorned each week with flower arrangements from our church community members.

If you would like to contribute flowers for a Sunday worship service, please sign up in on the board in the Atrium. You will get an email from the [church office](#) with instructions.

The Men's Group...



...is currently reading and discussing *Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation* by Nancy Guthrie.

The Men's Group meets 7pm every Wednesday evening at the Clubhouse at 1 Cielo Drive in Dover (behind Hannaford off the Durham Road- Route 108). For details about joining Men's Group, or just sitting in for an evening or two, please contact Sam Ronda at 603-337-5258.

Giving to First Parish Church

Your pledges are essential for maintaining First Parish Church and supporting our many mission projects in Dover, and beyond.



Electronic Giving
Offerings may be made online by clicking the "Contribute Here" button (or using the QR code to the left). All gifts are welcome at any time, whether pledged or not. For more information about

pledging, giving online, or how to set up recurring donations, please contact our Collector: Steve Hall at oldbass113@gmail.com.

Mail your pledge or offering to:
First Parish Church, Congregational
218 Central Avenue
Dover, NH 03820
Attn: Collector

[Contribute Here](#)

Church Office



Church Contact List

603-742-5664 | firstparishdover.org

Pastor Dana Mann:
dmann@firstparishdover.org

Church Office: office@firstparishdover.org

Rick Gremlitz: rgremlitz@firstparishdover.org

Nancy Prue: treasurer@firstparishdover.org

Community Desk:
communityservice@firstparishdover.org

Church Office Fall Hours

Tuesday through Friday
9:00am to 1:00pm

[Church Calendar](#)

Please email office@firstparishdover.org to add your team or committee meeting to the church calendar, or reserve a meeting space.

Steeple Chat Announcements

Steeple Chat is published Friday mornings with information pertinent to the week ahead. Church teams and committees with announcements or church specific news for weekly Steeple Chat emails are invited to send them to the office **by Wednesday evening**.



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

[First Parish Church, Congregational](#)

First Parish Church is an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all to participate fully in the life of our church family, its ministries, fellowship, leadership, rites and sacraments, regardless of ability, race, ethnicity, social or economic situation, sexual orientation or gender identity.