

Steeple Chat

The weekly update from your church



In our Church this Sunday, May 29, 2022 The Seventh Sunday of Easter and Memorial Day Weekend

10:00 a.m.

ONE SERVICE---AND YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES:

**We are having in-person worship services in the sanctuary
on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

**For those who prefer online worship, we offer the service
live through Zoom. (see link below)**



**Message by Rev Paige
Besse-Rankin
Finding Faith's Freedom
*Acts 16: 16-34***

Children's Message by Pastor Paige

**Music Ministry
First Parish Choir
*Come, Ye Disconsolate***

**Please click this link to join the
webinar service**

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

OR: phone in using this number:

1 929 205 6099.

When asked, use our Webinar ID: 825 890 693.

Zoom Fellowship Time follows our Sunday service

Fellowship time will officially begin 5 minutes after the end of the Postlude, and will be combined with the in-person outdoor refreshment time. That way, the folks attending in person will be able to interact with those Zooming into Fellowship time.



In order to get there, you have to sign out from worship and use the link found below or in the Sunday morning email to get into the Fellowship time.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84310197500?
pwd=QW9hZWU1FVtDkajlUOU9Jd3RCQ0tiUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84310197500?pwd=QW9hZWU1FVtDkajlUOU9Jd3RCQ0tiUT09)

Meeting ID: 843 1019 7500

Passcode: 541084

[Click Here for Church Calendar](#)

In Steeple Chat this week:

- *Church Calendar
- *Sunday Worship
- *Fellowship time
- *Sunday School
- *Youth Group
- *Pastor Paige's
Corner
- *Call to Annual
Meeting
- *Our Prayer List
- *Jump Into June
- *Silent Auction
- *Memorial Day Office
Hours
- *Neighbors Helping
Neighbors
- *Budget Discussion
- *Save the Date
- *Annual Reports
- *Fellowship Time
- *Covid Precautions
- *Is Your Pledge Card
In?
- *Graduates in 2022
- *Men's Group Update
- *Celebration of Life



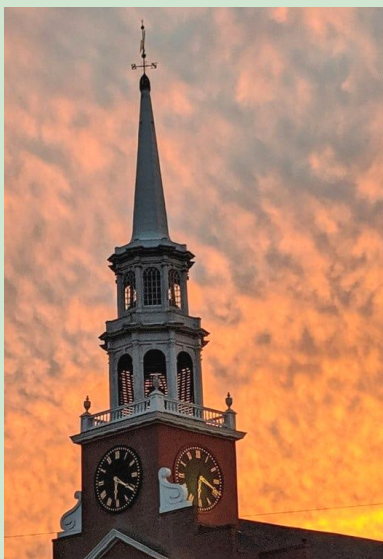
Sunday School classes will
meet on Sundays at 9:00 am -

- May 29, 9:00 am **MEMORIAL
DAY WEEKEND NO SUNDAY
SCHOOL**
- Jun 5, 9:00 am
- Jun 12, 9:00 am **CHILDREN'S
SUNDAY! No Sunday school**

**This is our weekly Zoom
Sunday School meeting link:**

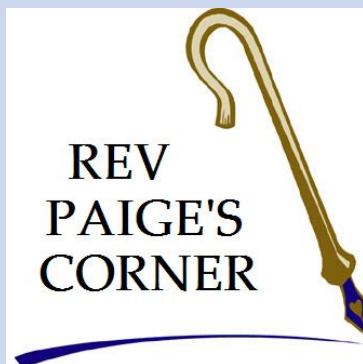
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82124
825437?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82124825437?)

- *Juneteenth Celebration
- *NH Gives
- *Open and Affirming Team
- *Pride Day
- *Racial Justice Team
- *Racial Justice Supper Club
- *Lunchtime Devotions
- *Thrift Shop
- *Your Offerings
- *Recordings Sign-up
- *Thrift Shop
- *Stephen Ministry Available
- *ONA Covenant



**pwd=ZVJlNnFPNHYoVHJpTFdsVj
NveGFOQT09**

Meeting ID: 821 2482 5437
Passcode: 899244



Holding on to Hope

Last week, I had the opportunity to attend a preaching conference with some of the best preachers in the country. The theme this year was “After the Storm – responding to trauma”. Now most of us agreed that we were not really “after the storm”, but reflecting together on the collective trauma of these days and the wisdom of our faith was meaningful in many ways.

Kimberly Wagner helped us to understand more fully the nature of trauma – which she explained was the ongoing impact and response to an event. Her working definition of trauma: “A blow or wounding of mind, body and spirit self that occurs when a destructive experience or event exceeds a person’s or community’s resources to process or assimilate the experience into preconceived frameworks of understanding.” She pointed out that the word “trauma” has been pulled into our culture as a catch-all for all sorts of things which can make it a bit challenging to pin down.

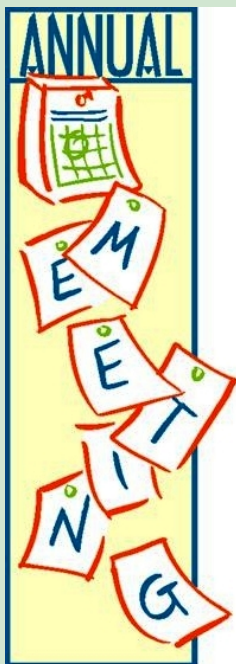
She discussed a number of impacts of trauma such as a crisis of time – where the event becomes an eternal present and interrupts and distorts our sense of past-present and future. She also spoke about how drama can lead us to struggle to make our stories understandable, helpful and meaningful. Trauma can fracture our ability to make sense of things leaving us with a pile of shards that impacts our sense of self, identity, body, community and faith. She spoke of the way that a traumatic event can first bring a community together but over time can turn into a separating force that breaks communities apart along fracture lines.

I am still processing everything I heard and learned at the conference. While thinking about our lives through the lens of trauma is not a novel idea, it did help me to see some of the dynamics in myself, in our church, and in our country in some different ways.

As we try to make sense of yet another horrific event this week – piled onto so many others, it is normal and understandable to find ourselves numb, overwhelmed, despairing, and struggling. It is an act of faith to cry out to God, to acknowledge the pain of these days, and to turn to one another for support.

As people of faith, we live at the intersection of the pain of the events of these days with the hope of our faith. We hold on to our story of life being stronger than the forces of death, of God's love being stronger than our brokenness, of redemption and resurrection. These beliefs do not deny or lessen the pain of these days, but they ground us and orient us when the news of the day would leave us floundering. They bring us together when the events of the day would fracture us. Our faith reminds us whose we are. It does not wipe away the trauma, but perhaps it allows us to hold onto hope and to nurture resilience to move forward and to love our neighbors.

Prayerfully,
Rev Paige



Call to Annual Meeting

In Accordance with Church By-Law 11.3, notice is hereby given of the Annual Meeting of First Parish Church to be held on Sunday, June 19, 2022, immediately following the morning worship service in the sanctuary. The Annual Meeting will be held both in-person and also via Zoom. For those who cannot participate in-person or via Zoom, please contact the church office so that alternative methods of participation can be discussed.

The purposes of the meeting will include:
Reading of the Church Necrology, approving minutes, receiving reports, action of the proposed budget for 2022-23, action on the Nominating Committee report, hearing updates on the LChip Grant Project, a presentation and

conversation with the Big Picture Team and conducting other business as may properly and legally be brought before the meeting.

The Annual Meeting is called by order of the Church Council.

Jack Callahan, Chairperson

May 17, 2022

Our **Prayer List** is published weekly as a link here in Steeple Chat.

So that we may keep the list current, please let us know of any additions, edits, or deletions to the Prayer List.

Please notify Kayla in the church office :

firstparish@comcast.net or 742-5664

Thank you.

For the latest Prayer List, click here:

[**Prayer List**](#)



Jump Into June Festival

Live Music - SILENT AUCTION - Plants - Crafters - Fun Food - Games

Face Painting - Pies - Artists + MORE!

Saturday June 4th / Rain Date June 11th

10 AM - 2 PM

ONLINE PIE ORDERS www.firstparishdover.org

First Parish Church Congregational

218 Central Ave, Dover NH

JUMP INTO JUNE FESTIVAL

Saturday June 4th
(Rain Date: June 11th)
10 am-2 pm

MUSIC SCHEDULE:

10 am - Long Journey **Featuring Carolyn Hutton + Paul Mangione**

1 pm- Eric Sinclair

11:30 am - Guest Performer

We're still in search of Volunteers and Donations!
We're specifically looking for pies and sweet breads

Please sign up on the following Breeze link
<https://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/65db82> to see
where you would like to be on the day of the event.

We're also looking for Plants:
House Plants, Hanging Plants & Herbs

Please join us for this incredible day of fun and festivities!

If you have any questions, please contact:
Ingrid Roeder
IngridFPCDover@Gmail.com

*The proceeds of Jump into June will go to the church general fund
which supports our various missions throughout our church and
community.*

**Baked Goods/Beverages +
Ice Cream Donations**

**WE'RE LOOKING FOR
PIES AND
SWEETBREADS**

**Please drop off your
donations by Friday June 3rd**



**Here is the Breeze link for making donations:
[Click Here for Breeze Link](#)**

SILENT AUCTION

Jump into June Festival Silent Auction

Calling all First Parish members and friends... it's time to demonstrate your creativity! The Jump into June Festival (JiJF) takes place on June 4th from 10:00AM-2:00PM and one of the main attractions at the festival is the Silent Auction table. The JiJF committee is looking for contributions for this table in the form of themed baskets, gift certificates to local



businesses or for experiences. Gifts of new items, certificates for personal services like babysitting, housecleaning or yardwork are also welcome. If you have a vacation home to share or an item that might be useful to others to share, those also make great items on which to bid. Our bakers and cooks could donate the service of a meal or bread a month for a period of time. The sky is the limit for ideas! Put on your thinking caps and join the effort to support FPC.

If you need help with ideas or would like to contribute, please contact Sandy O'Neill at sandy_oneill@comcast.net. Gift certificates can be dropped off in the church office with Kayla for safe-keeping and items for the table can be dropped off at the church the week of May 23rd up until Thursday June 2.

Happy Memorial Day Weekend!

Friendly reminder that on May 30th the First Parish Office will be closed all day. We will re-open at 10 am on May 31st.

We are wishing you a happy Memorial Day Weekend.



Budget Discussion--Sunday, June 12 following the service

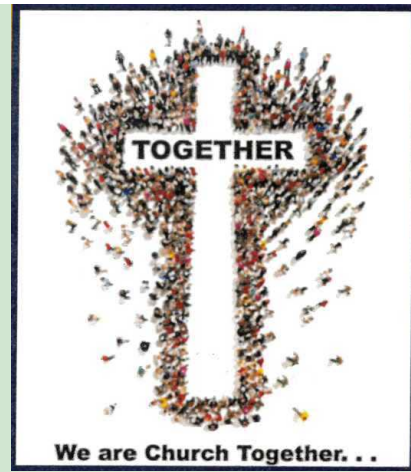
There will be a discussion both in-person and via Zoom on the proposed church budget for 2022-2023 on Sunday, June 12, following the online worship service. This discussion is held in preparation for our Annual Meeting scheduled for June 19th.

The 2022 Annual Report containing the proposed budget documents will be either directly mailed or emailed via a link to all church members and friends.

Members and friends are invited to participate in this budget discussion on June 12. Those in-person, please remain in the sanctuary following the service; those on Zoom, just stay on the same Zoom link as the service, and the discussion will begin shortly after the service has concluded.

Save the Date: Calling all Church Leaders

We will be gathering all those serving the church in leadership – members of boards, committees, teams, officers – on Saturday, June 25 from 9- Noon. We will provide brunch. The event is planned by Council to offer resources for our work together, to begin planning for the year to come, to organize committees and teams, and to continue to discern God's vision for us for the days to time. Watch for an invitation and RSVP in the near future.



Annual Reports Available via Email:

We hope that a number of folks in the congregation will be willing to receive their copy of the Annual Report in pdf format, and delivered by email. Doing so will greatly reduce the expense to the church of paper, printing, postage, and also be more environmentally friendly

If you are willing to help lower our costs and read your report on your computer or device, or print your own copy if you wish. Here is a sign up link that will let us know that we may remove you from the direct mail list. Thank you for your help! Annual Reports will be distributed the second week of June.

Sign up for email delivery of Annual Report: [Click Here for PDF Request.](#)

We Love Fellowship Time!

We value the time following worship to chat, to meet new folks, to catch up on each other's news and to catch our breath. It doesn't need to be fancy, but the time to connect is precious. We are looking for hosts for Fellowship time to help with set up, clean up and simple refreshments. Please be in touch with the office if you are willing to help.



Invitation to a Celebration of the Life of David Surette

On Sunday, May 29 at 1 pm, the church will be hosting a Celebration of the Life of David Surette. Fitting for a musician and teacher, the celebration will include a lot of music performed by friends, family and students.

The congregation is invited to participate via Zoom using this link: [Click Here](#) Webinar ID: 823 8044 3149

Covid Precautions at Church

The numbers of Covid cases in our area have sharply risen over the last 2 weeks and we are right on the edge of turning back into a red zone – hopefully for a short time. Masking in the building is guided by the CDC Community Status. Signs will be posted. We do have masks available for those who need them when they enter the building. If we move to Red Community status, everyone will be masked in the building and Fellowship time will move outside.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors Update

“For....I was a stranger and you welcomed me...” Matthew 25:35

In late 2019, your Neighbors Helping Neighbors team set out to help a Nigerian family become self-sufficient. They were seeking asylum under United States law and international treaties. While they awaited action by the U.S. Immigration Court, we provided a gift and loan to help them buy a car large enough to take the whole family to appointments and shopping (they paid the loan off ahead of schedule!); a generous member of our Church gave them an electronic keyboard; another member gives the oldest child piano lessons; and someone donated a printer/scanner/copier.



Mom and dad are raising their three children in the Madbury United Church of Christ. Please **click on this link** to view a video of the children singing “I Will Make You Fishers of Men.”

The good news is that the Court granted their Petition for Asylum and the family is now eligible to pursue Permanent Residency (a Green Card) and, after five years of Permanent Residency, United States citizenship.

We should all be proud of our efforts to support these asylum seekers. We have lived our faith and made a difference in the lives of this young family. Thank you to all who contributed!

Mom and dad both work; they arrange their work shifts so one of them is always home with the kids. They have saved their earnings and look forward to buying a house with enough room for their two sons and one daughter. If you have a home you might put on the market or know of someone who might sell

their home, please call **Don Goodnow at 603-953-4500**. I will put you in touch with our Nigerian friends.

Juneteenth

Join the Celebration in Portsmouth

The Racial Justice & Healing Team invites you to join them in celebration of Juneteenth at the

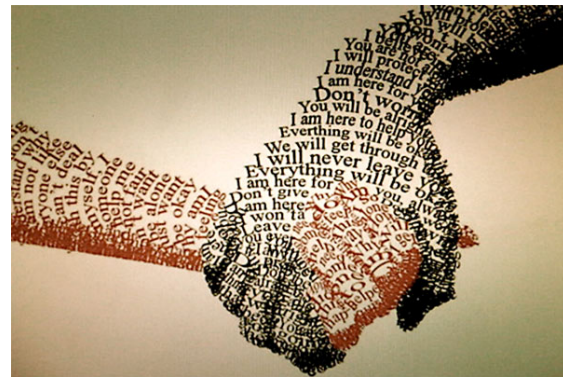
Portsmouth Music Hall. Juneteenth is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African-Americans. It is also often observed for celebrating African-American culture.

Join us for the concert...Let It Shine: Howard Gospel Choir

Saturday, June 18, 2022, 4:00pm
[The Music Hall Portsmouth, NH](#)

Purchase your own ticket online. Tickets are \$35.00 general admission.

Founded in the fall of 1968 by Melanie Russell and Rosalind Thompkins, the Howard Gospel Choir (HGC) of Howard University, Washington DC is the first collegiate choir of its kind in the world. As a result, HGC has pioneered an international legacy in gospel music ministry. For almost five decades, the Howard Gospel Choir has set a very high standard as a premier performing arts ensemble, singing at a wide variety of venues.



This event is presented in partnership with the [Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire](#).

The name “Juneteenth” is a *blend of two words: “June” and “nineteenth.”* It's believed to be the oldest African-American holiday, with annual celebrations on June 19th in different parts of the country dating back to 1866. The holiday was first celebrated in Texas, where on that date in 1865, in the aftermath of the Civil War, slaves were declared free under the terms of the 1862 Emancipation Proclamation.

Please let Susan Dunker know If you are attending. E-mail: sedunker15@gmail.com

Help Us Make History | NH Gives



We have finally begun the process to preserve and restore our windows and the exterior sanctuary trim and steeple are included. Soon, the peeling paint and old windows will look shiny and new. This restoration of our historic church is expensive—even with half the costs being funded by an LCHIP grant! We will be conducting a giving campaign within the church. Stay tuned for that. But we think the public might

help us as well, so, to help raise the rest of money for the project, we are participating in the NH GIVES fund raising days on June 7th and June 8th.

It is our hope that you will help us get the public involved in the restoration of this iconic Dover building. We will need you to use your social media and contacts to push the message to help support First Parish in this preservation effort.



Please [join our campaign](#) and help us reach our goal! We need you to tell your friends and family members about the important work we do and ask them to join us in helping to make a difference.

Get ready to give! On **June 7 - 8**, visit [nhgives.org](#) and make a donation to us and/or to any of the great participating nonprofit organizations in New Hampshire. **All giving will end at 5 PM on June 8**, so make sure to get your gift in on time!



Is Your Pledge Card In Yet?

Church leaders are working hard on a budget proposal to bring to the annual meeting, but that can't be finalized without a good sense of pledges for the year to come, as that is a major part of our income. We are so thankful for everyone who has turned in a pledge card by email, online, or using the paper card. If you haven't turned yours in yet, we would greatly appreciate it if you could do it now.

One easy way is to use this link: [Click Here for Pledges](#)

Graduates 2022

A tradition at First Parish is to recognize and celebrate our church family graduates each June. This includes high school, two-year programs, college, and graduate school degrees.



If you have a graduate in your family, please send to the church office a picture of the graduate with information on the school, college, or program they are graduating from. Please send your pictures and information either by email to: **firstparish@comcast.net** or mail to 218 Central Ave, Dover, NH 03820.



Join Us in Portsmouth for Pride Day

On Saturday, June 25th, Seacoast Outright will hold its annual Pride Day in Portsmouth. You can check it out at <https://www.seacoastoutright.org/pride>. As part of the day, there will be a

"PRIDE Marketplace" at Strawberry Banke from 12:30pm to 5pm (rain or shine).

Our church will have a booth in the Marketplace to support and celebrate with participants. It is a great way to live our "Open and Affirming" designation as well as connect with local LGBTQ+ folks and their allies.

If you can give any amount of time to hang out and help cover the booth (no experience necessary - just a friendly smile required), please contact Allison Friend-Gray at allison_tugel@alumni.brown.edu.

Open and Affirming Team being Convened

Although the congregation voted to become Open and Affirming several years ago, we have not had a team working to continue to address those commitments. There is interest in getting a working group together. If you are interested, please speak with or email Rev Paige at pastorpaigebr@gmail.com.



Men's Group Update

Men's Group has started a new book study. The book is *Who Wrote the Bible* by Richard Elliott Friedman. Men's Group is currently meeting at the Cielo Drive Community Center from 7 PM to 8 PM every Wednesday. We adjourn to La Festa for further



fellowship. Please contact Sam Ronda at 603-337-5258 with any questions.

Racial Justice Supper Club

The Team for Racial Justice and Healing is going to host monthly conversations on topics of interest around Racial Justice and Healing. The Supper Club will include the presentation of a short educational component – a video or article – followed by group discussion. These conversations are open to all who would like to participate on a “come as you are able” basis. Supper Club meetings will take place on the last Wednesday of the month from 6- 7:30 pm.



The first two sessions will take place over Zoom. Participants are invited to bring their supper to their screen. Our hope is to bring these discussions in person later this spring as pandemic restrictions are lifted.

The next session will be on April 27 and will focus on the presentation from the Hopkinton church on becoming a Racial Justice Church.

Join us at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89890121941?pwd=WjlmN29ESmFrdlZMMHhvVTgxOWhSdz09>

[Meeting ID: 898 9012 1941 Passcode: 615693]



Lunch Time Devotions: Tuesdays and Thursdays each week at 12:00 noon

We offer devotions on Tuesdays and Thursday each week. This is open for everyone on a drop-in basis. Come when you feel like it! What will you find when you

join us? We spend a few moments greeting each other and catching up, we hear a scripture reading and a brief reflection on that reading. Then we listen to a song. We share people and situations we want to lift up in prayer and finally we pray together. Please join us Tuesdays and/or Thursdays and ground your day in prayer. You can find us here:

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92409379536?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92409379536?pwd=RUxZaFFBK3JOUWplRTRLaWFBaVRkQT09)

[pwd=RUxZaFFBK3JOUWplRTRLaWFBaVRkQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92409379536?pwd=RUxZaFFBK3JOUWplRTRLaWFBaVRkQT09)

Dial: 1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 924 0937 9536

Password: 835028

Thrift Store

The Thrift Store is open on:
THURSDAYS 1-4 PM
SATURDAYS 10 AM-1 PM

The Thrift Store is seeking volunteers for Friday hours in the future. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Thrift Shop volunteers on Thursday or Saturday, or contact Ingrid at IngridFPCDover@gmail.com



Thrift Shop donations are being accepted during regular hours.



YOUR OFFERINGS
For those who are able, we strongly invite ongoing sharing of pledges and offerings. Offerings may be made from through the church

webpage here: [Donate](#); or by mail, or through electronic giving.

An additional option for giving to your church is through the QR Code box reproduced here.

To use: Hold your iPhone or iPad camera up to the QR Code box and a link should appear on your screen. Click on that link which will take you to the FPC donate area.



VIDEO Recordings of ONLINE Sunday Services

During this time of live-streamed services, we record the video (and audio) of our Sunday online services. These recordings are now available as mp4 video files through our Basecamp software program.

If you do not already have access to Basecamp, you may register by filling in the registration form posted on the Breeze program. Here is the link to sign-up:



Find it at the First Thrift Shop:

The Thrift Shop is open Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 am to 1 p.m. Donations are welcome during hours of operation.

First Parish is a **Stephen Ministry Church** that provides weekly individual and confidential spiritual care for those in need. Please contact one of the following to get connected: Judy Edwards, 603-978-4789 or Dave Dickson, 603-781-9791.

First Parish Church is Open and Affirming,

welcoming 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.

ALL are Welcome Here!

See you ONLINE!

First Parish Church, Congregational,
United Church of Christ
218 Central Ave
Dover, New Hampshire 03820

(603) 742-5664

Visit our website:

www.firstparishdover.org



First Parish Church | 218 Central Ave, Dover, NH 03820

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