

APRIL ~ MAY 2018

# The Chimes

First Parish Church  
Congregational ~ United Church  
of Christ

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR



**Sunday, April 1**  
**Sunrise Service**  
6:15 am Hilton Park  
Followed by Breakfast at FPC

**Easter Festival Service 10**  
**am in the Sanctuary**  
Followed by our  
Special Easter Coffee Hour

April 8 Communion

April 15

April 22 Walk the Walk

April 29

May 6 Heifer Fair

May 11 Immigrant Garden 7pm

May 12 Immigrant Garden 2 pm

May 13

May 20 Confirmation

May 27 Children's Steeple  
Tour

Dear friends in faith,

The words to the children's anthem for Palm Sunday are drawn from Psalm 24: "Lift up your heads O gates... that the King of Glory may come in!"

Doors and gates can be beautiful, inviting or forbidding, can't they? They are powerful because they create a way to go from one world to another, from the public world to the private, or from the outside of the city of Jerusalem to the inside!

On Easter a greater door than the doors of Jerusalem was pushed open! It was the door between despair and hope, between darkness and light, between fear and faith. The door of a tomb was opened and angels greeted frightened women with words of grace!

Our own great adventure is to get the doors of our heart to crack open, to find more than happiness and good times with family during this season. We can have joy and spiritual growth at Easter!

So where are the doors in your life that need to be thrown open? Perhaps one door is called "doubt". It can lead to greater truth. Another door may be called "forgiveness." It too can lead to better places ... to a deeper love for spouse or friend. A door called "justice" can bring us to a kinder or wiser life.

This is a season for door opening, for light coming in after a cold winter, for grace being shared as we give our hearts away.

I wish for you Easter joy and the opening of a door or two in your heart this season!

Yours in faith,  
Pastor Jonathan





# Easter is for You...

Written by **Matt Fitzgerald** (Still Speaking Devotions – UCC)

## **1 Corinthians 15:20**

*Christ has  
been raised  
from the  
dead, the first  
fruits of those  
who have  
died.*

Mary Magdalene stumbled through the dawn until "Christ is risen" destroyed her faith in the grave. Mary heard it first, early in the morning. Death had been defeated. Not just Christ's, but because of his, hers as well.

How long did it take the news to reach Pontius Pilate? You know he heard it. Whispered as a rumor or hollered by a preacher. "Easter is for you, Pontius Pilate!"

History suggests he didn't believe a word. Imagine if he had.

Pilate could have changed. Easter could have healed whatever demon drove him. Why keep a death grip on power when you've been handed eternity? Pilate could have been transformed.

He had his chance. And he kept his faith in the grave. It's too late for him.

But not for you. Will Easter change you?

You could listen to wounded people tell their stories long after boredom has set in. You could let harried young parents go before you at the grocery store. Only a fool wants to rush through eternity. You could forgive. Forever is far too long to bear a grudge. You could call your loved ones from the office, pull your children out of school for a day at the zoo, stare at the sky for 45 minutes without moving, letting your soul become coordinated to the rhythm of spring breeze, blue sky, early daffodil.

You could go deeper, let down all of your defenses, take off all your armor. You don't need it anymore. Death itself has been defeated. Breathe deep. Live easy. Take a step toward heaven. Not by dying, but by realizing that death has been destroyed. Eternity has just begun. Christ is risen! Not as an isolated miracle, but as the first of many. Get ready. You might be next.

**Prayer:** Thank you God! We don't understand Easter, but we grab ahold of it anyhow, rejoicing, unnerved and grateful as you lift us up with Jesus.

### **About the Author**

Matt Fitzgerald is the Senior Pastor of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Chicago. He is the host of "[Preachers on Preaching](#)," a weekly podcast sponsored by [The Christian Century](#).



## Upcoming Events

### We're Going Out To The Ballgame!

You can on Fellowship Day of Fun coming June 24! Join us as we travel to Portland Maine to watch the Sea Dogs take on the Trenton Thunder. For those who don't know, the Portland Sea Dogs are an affiliate of the Boston Red Sox.

Kathy Daniels has reserved 32 tickets in one section. More can be purchased but must be done as soon as possible. Reserve your seats by signing up on the bulletin board and making payment directly to Kathy Daniels. Tickets cannot be returned for a refund BUT can be transferred to anyone.

Game time is 1pm. Cost is \$8 per person (child or adult). We can carpool if interest is expressed (leave FPC @ 10:45 am). Parking is generally \$5-\$10, and concessions are extra. This is a rain or shine event--the event could be postponed or canceled due to weather by the facility itself.

Please plan ahead and purchase your tickets as soon as possible. Email Kathy at [moments9@live.com](mailto:moments9@live.com) or call 603-767-8747.



## Celebrate, Come Celebrate! Fifty Year Member and New Member Dinner

Our Annual Dinner celebrating those who have been members of FPC for 50 or more years and those who have recently joined our membership will be held on **Monday, May 14**, at **5:30 P.M.** in our Fellowship Hall. We will conclude before dark so folks can still be home early.

Please call the Church Office to let us know if you are coming so we may plan accordingly.



Ruth Keene, Artist, Friend and  
FPC Member for 90+ years



Help honor our First Parish high school, college and post-graduate students in worship on June 3rd.

Please let the church office know who in your family has earned a degree by **May 25<sup>th</sup>** at [firstparish@comcast.net](mailto:firstparish@comcast.net) Please be sure to include the school name, type of degree and major.

**Update from the Search  
Committee  
March 19, 2018**

Your Search Committee has been meeting weekly and can report that we are making great progress. Our job in this first stage is to create the First Parish Church Profile, a document our prospective candidates will find online and that we hope will pique their interest in us. Times have changed since we last made such profiles; this one contains links to pictures of our Seacoast area, links to watch a children's sermon and links to hear the choir sing. We are trying to use the many tools available to us to show that we are a vibrant and engaging gathering! We are about 75% of the way through a first draft of this task; however, it will come as no surprise to you that we have done the "easy" parts first and the challenging descriptions are ahead of us.

We want your input and need your help! Very soon you will receive an email from the church which will direct you to a brief survey. We looked at some professionally done surveys that were many questions long but decided to create our own survey that asks only the most pertinent questions. Questions can be answered by clicking on a number 1-5; however, each question is followed by a space for your further comments. We are excited about the opportunity this gives to all parishioners to add honest thoughts on each topic, and we look forward to hearing from all of you. We hope you will greet the survey with enthusiasm and give it some time and careful thought. We look forward to sharing with you, at a later date, a report on our findings: What are most of

us thinking as we look forward to calling our new minister? What is on our minds - collectively and individually—and what are our hopes?

If you would like help doing this survey on a computer or would like a paper copy, please put a note in the offering plate on a Sunday or contact the church office. Please complete the survey during the month of April.

Blessings and thank you for your prayers,

*Marcia Goodnow*

For the FPC Search Committee

**HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS –  
THE DOVER FRIENDLY KITCHEN**

The Dover Friendly Kitchen is a community soup kitchen under the auspices of the Dover Cooperative Ministries Council, Inc. Every Tuesday and Thursday from 5-6 p.m. we serve a supper meal from the St. Thomas Episcopal Parish Hall at the corner of Hale and Locust Streets in Dover, New Hampshire.

Each meal is provided by a team of volunteers representing different faith communities and businesses in the Dover area. For many years, First Parish Church has provided a team on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. The current FPC team of 20-25 people is coordinated by Connie Ronda and arrives ready to cook, serve, entertain and clean up.

Attendance varies per session, however we have routinely served 50-60 guests per meal. And, we serve seconds and give take-home meals when there is food leftover.

In addition to hosting a monthly meal, FPC, through its Mission & Action Board, also provides support with an annual financial contribution from its budget. However, with \$20,000 needed annually to serve these free meals in our community, donations large and small are always welcome. Anyone wishing to donate is encouraged to use one of the white donation envelopes located in the sanctuary pew racks and write on the outside that they wish to make a special donation designated to the Dover Friendly Kitchen.

Marguerite Ferrer, Dover Friendly Kitchen Program Coordinator, and our own Connie Ronda will share more about the Dover Friendly Kitchen during a Mission Moment in our Sanctuary on April 8, 2018.

***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.***

## Mission Caucus: Vote With Your Feet! Choose Your Family Summer Mission!

The mission caucus is a way for us to choose together a promising summer mission experience as a church. Members are invited to create a proposal and a poster. We will place these in the sanctuary on June 3rd and then carry them to the Fellowship Hall where you can meet the creators of the proposal and decide which one is of most interest to you. As we vote with our feet we will gain a sense of where the heart of the church is and where our energy goes in service this summer. Stay tuned.

Proposal application forms will be available the week after Easter in the office.

### Diane Fiske ~ Historian and Teacher

With a smile, wit and patience Diane has a way of helping us see the value of the past and how it has shaped our present as well as the future of First Parish Church. Her historical talks are greeted with great anticipation every year as we learn more about FPC.

Diane is currently featured in a YouTube video about First Parish and our buildings, from the first to our current home here on Central Avenue. Be sure to see it! Go to the link on the First Parish Church Facebook page titled "Made in Dover: Postcards from the Past."



## Mission and Action Scholarships

Each year the FPC Mission & Action Board awards scholarships to graduates from the congregation pursuing higher education. The *Martha Rowe Scholarship* is awarded to individuals pursuing a degree in the nursing field, a patient care related field or a health care related field. The *Richard Abbott Scholarship* is awarded to an individual pursuing a business major or a degree in a business-related field. Mission and Action also awards scholarships to individuals who wish to continue their education on the post-secondary level in any field or grants to individuals proposing to participate in a community service project.

Applicants for scholarships will receive consideration based on community projects completed, contributions to First Parish Church and to their school, an application essay and the recommendations of three individuals. Application forms are available on the M&A church bulletin board. The deadline for submission of applications is **May 1, 2018**. For more information please contact the Scholarship Coordinator, Karen Graham. She may be reached at 603-433-2078 or [krengraham@gmail.com](mailto:krengraham@gmail.com).



## April



### Hilton Park *Easter Sunday*

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

@ 6:15 AM

followed by Easter  
Breakfast in  
Fellowship Hall.

Join us as we worship along with  
the rising sun. It is always  
beautiful and usually COLD.

Dress warm!

The service is lead by our  
2017-2018 Confirmation Class!  
Pancake breakfast will be served  
at FPC immediately following the  
service.



**April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

SPECIAL PROGRAM

**beginning @ 10:00 AM**

Activities to include:

Heifer International video, games  
and crafts to make and sell at our  
annual Heifer Fair

## May



### Sunday School Mission Project *Heifer International*



An Ark for Today's World

#### ***Heifer International***

is a global nonprofit working with  
communities to end hunger and  
poverty and care for the Earth.  
Since 1944, Heifer has helped 10.5  
million families in more than 125  
countries move toward greater self-  
reliance through the gift of livestock  
and training in environmentally  
sound agriculture.

We will have FOOD AND OTHER  
ITEMS FOR SALE on

**Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**

Each classroom has their own  
'specialty' for sale.



**May 27<sup>th</sup>**

SPECIAL PROGRAM

**beginning @ 10:00 AM in Nazareth Hall**

Activities to include:

Preparation for Children's Sunday &  
the **Annual Steeple Tour!!!**

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**April 1<sup>st</sup> or April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>  
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY**



# News from our Sister Church in Zimbabwe -

## Mission and Action asks that you hold our sister church in your prayers:

### Highfield Church



Greetings in the name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ are sent to us by Rev. K. Muchayi. He sadly informs us that his house was gutted by fire on October 27, 2017. The fire was caused by an electrical fault, which came about after the electrical company had cut off power. On returning power the current was too high for their equipment and a fire broke out and burnt everything in one room; the walls, ceiling, clothing, blankets, shoes, bed and wardrobe. His children's laptop and the churches desktop monitor were also burned. Thanks to their neighbors who quickly came and managed to subdue the fire and stopped it from spreading to other rooms. They have been struggling to repair the damage.

Last month Rev Mugari of the UCC confirmed the events outlined by Rev Muchayi. He stated, thank God that no life was lost neither was anyone injured. The Church was able to renovate most of the areas that were damaged. Rev Muchayi told me that all what is left is to repair and paint the ceiling of the affected room as well as in the passage, painting is also yet to be done on the walls. Of course, his children's laptop that he mentioned is also yet to be replaced, but the Church desk top monitor was replaced by the Northern Conference Office.

With approval from the Church Council, your Mission & Action Board will host a visitor from our UKAMA partner, Highfield Church in Zimbabwe. Contingent on airline prices, our guest will arrive on October 12<sup>th</sup> and depart on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Those dates coincide with the Annual Meeting of the NH Conference UCC and our delegate will attend that event.

We expect to host our delegate from October 12-17 and from October 24-29. S/he will spend the middle days with the NH Conference UKAMA Mission Group and the other 11 representatives from Zimbabwe. S/he may have a chance to visit with another UKAMA partner church. This schedule will leave ample time for us to provide our delegate with a warm welcome to Dover and the Seacoast. \$3,000 must be raised for this UKAMA project and fundraising will begin in March. Funds raised will cover airfare and expenses for our delegate; any extra funds will be used to advance our larger UKAMA project. Please join us in preparing for a visit from our Sister Church in Zimbabwe. Thank you from Team Z:

Carolyn Ricker [clriccker@comcast.net](mailto:clriccker@comcast.net)  
Ann Drysdale [aedrysdale@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:aedrysdale@SBCGlobal.net)  
Don Goodnow [ddgoodnow@gmail.com](mailto:ddgoodnow@gmail.com)



### Zimbabwe UKAMA Delegation Visit Update



Come give the gift of life! First Parish Church will be hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. All blood types are urgently needed! Did you know that every 3 seconds someone needs the precious gift of blood? You may call 1-800-Red Cross to make an appointment or you may simply walk in. Thank you all!

### Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> & May 5<sup>th</sup>

Come and enjoy some feasts!

All for just \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 13.

Served from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Ham 'n beans, homemade breads, coleslaw, string bean casserole, desserts and a few culinary surprises!

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT WHILE YOU DINE!**

## CONTACT US

[www.firstparishdover.org](http://www.firstparishdover.org)

First Parish Church, 218 Central Avenue  
Dover, NH 03820

Email: [firstparish@comcast.net](mailto:firstparish@comcast.net)

Office hours: M-F 9 AM -3 PM  
(603) 742-5664

*Rev. Jonathan C Goodell*, Interim Minister  
[revjcareygoodell@gmail.com](mailto:revjcareygoodell@gmail.com)

*Rick Gremlitz*, Church Administrator  
[rickgremlitz@yahoo.com](mailto:rickgremlitz@yahoo.com)

NH UCC: [www.nhcucc.org](http://www.nhcucc.org)

**Bulletin Deadline:** Tuesdays by 9:00AM

**Chimes Deadline:** The 15<sup>th</sup> of every  
month ~ Please email bulletin and  
chimes information to *Joanne* at [firstparish@comcast.net](mailto:firstparish@comcast.net)



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

Return Service Requested

*The Chimes*  
The First Parish Church Congregational  
The United Church of Christ  
218 Central Avenue  
Dover, New Hampshire  
03820

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Permit 257

## A Note from your Treasurer

As we approach Spring and the season of renewal and growth, it is a fitting time to also reflect on similar aspects of the financial health of our church.

We have made substantial progress in the past few years toward renewing our physical structures and strengthening our financial base by reducing our operational and long-term expenses without relying so heavily on our endowments. Much work remains but we are, in fact, strengthening the roots of our congregation in this way so that our faith practice here can grow and spread out from our wonderful old building, branching out into our community with mission and service to God's people.

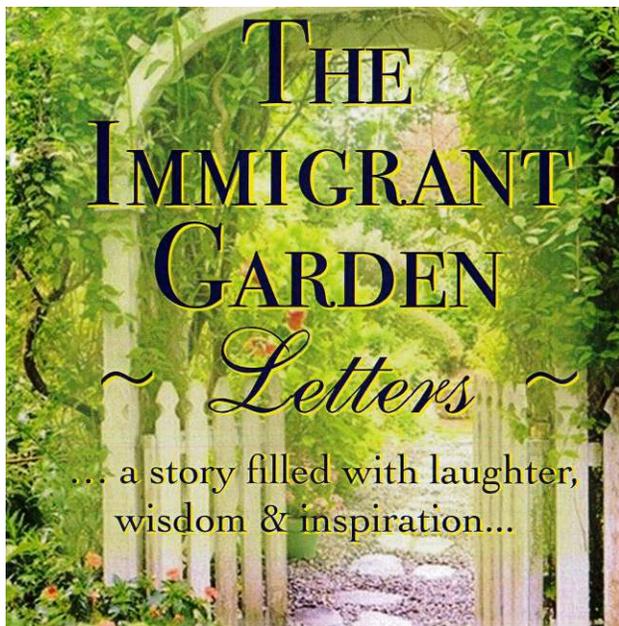
We also have a great endowment that can sustainably provide income each year of \$75,000 - \$80,000. This is truly a blessing that many churches do not have, and this provides even more strength for our growing programs. We give thanks to God for our wonderful history and strong endowments.

Our Stewardship team will soon be reaching out to all of us to support our commitment to First Parish in a predictable way through pledges that we can count on when planning our budget and paying our many operating bills. It is the time to seriously consider the full financial requirements to keep First Parish operating and to make our commitments to providing a solid financial foundation for FPC.

I note for your consideration that pledges from last year (\$265,000 in our 2017-2018 budget) represented only slightly more than half of our total expenses, and only 90% of our personnel costs, (even after cutting the Administrator position to half time and cutting back on other staff hours). This means that we are forced to do major fundraising just to meet our operations budget, let alone to raise money for the various worthy missions and service projects we envision.

So as Spring arrives, and you notice the new growth around you, please take a moment to consider the financial seeds we all need to sow at First Parish to help strengthen the financial roots that provide the base for our worship here in our lovely space, as well as our many outreach services.

Blessings,  
Sandi Potter



## THE IMMIGRANT GARDEN ~ Letters ~

... a story filled with laughter,  
wisdom & inspiration...

*The Immigrant Garden is a journey of love and self-discovery---and a story you will long remember!*

Performances of this play will be held in our sanctuary on Friday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 12 at 2:00 p.m. This production was performed at the West End Theater in Portsmouth last year to critical acclaim and is being reprised especially for our church community by our own Carol Davenport and company. Production proceeds will benefit our church's outreach programs.

## **A Word of Thanks...**

I want you to know how very much the meals have meant to me. I must say it was daunting to be told that I needed to give myself 3 months of healing for my left fractured hip which meant no pressure on my left leg or foot. The doctor said clearly "no standing to make meals"... No driving...

I think I have emailed all who have made the most wonderful meals in thanks for their delicious thoughtfulness in cooking and also many have taken time to visit which was lovely for me since I am not getting much socialability. Indeed I decided not to be too glum about this and used the last two winter months to read, knit, and organize other areas so I don't feel completely as if this time has been wasted.

I definitely missed the thought provoking adult education class which is given by Lesley Hocking on Sunday mornings. I appreciated Pastor Johnathan coming to give me communion. I have listened to many, many great and inspirational weekly sermons which have been given by Emily Goodnow, our UCC pastor in Bridgton, Maine who grew up in this church. These can be received weekly from the internet and include the

Bible readings before her sermon as well.

Those who have sent me words of encouragement have also bolstered my spirits and I thank those of you who took your time to do so...often many times over. It truly does matter to one who has limited access to their church and friends within. Thank you! So, too, for the three who brought me flowers. I was so happy to see you and appreciate your thoughtfulness. With a WOW for the ones who gave a special generational visit! Nor can I forget those who offered transportation with the multiple doctor visits which I have had. The fact of your offer, whether I needed you or not, was something that warmed my heart with your generosity.

I have not mentioned many names on purpose. The importance is for those of you who helped me, in any circumstance or way, I feel blessed by God for showing me how much you cared. I thank you with all my heart and soul and I look forward to being back with you as soon as possible.

With thanksgiving,  
Bonnie Peterman



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

**Richard Towle** ~

Husband of the Late Kay Towle

**Doris Swift**~

Mother of Laurie McIntosh

**Anna Munch** ~

Mother of Sallie, John & Mary

**Cliff Vining** ~

Father of Mike Vining

**William Kennedy** ~

Father of Bill Kennedy

**Herbert Brown** ~

FPC member, father of five



We rejoiced in the Sacrament of Baptism of Mackenzie Rose Sweet on Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Mackenzie is the daughter of Kaitlyn Brooke Friedrich Sweet and Eric Francis Sweet.

**Men's Group meets  
Wednesday  
evenings at 7:00  
PM in the Parlor.**

**Annual Reports from each Board and Committee Chair covering July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 are due in the church office no later than MAY 14th. Please send your reports electronically in a Word format.**

**Thank you!**