

# Steeple Chat

The weekly update from your church



## In our ONLINE Church this Sunday, April 5, 2020 Palm and Passion Sunday



**10:00 a.m.**

### **ONLINE Service**

Prelude Music begins at 9:50 a.m.

**Voices from the Crowd:  
Stories & Scriptures  
of Holy Week**

*In worship, we often read the Bible in small bits and pieces. Scripture is so rich that we can hear the voice of God speaking to us in a single verse! But we can miss the larger story, how things fit together, and*

*the growing intensity that the Gospel writers intend. It is a good practice from time to time to read the scripture in larger pieces, as we will do this Sunday using the voices of many in our congregation.*

**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.**

**OUR ONLINE Ministry of Music  
First Parish Choir:  
*Hosanna* arr Joel Raney  
Prelude: Piano and Organ Duet:  
*The Palms* Jean Baptiste Faure**

*This choir selection is from our FaceBook video archives;  
The Piano/Organ selection of The Palms is from the audio  
recording of last year's Palm Sunday service*

**In Steeple Chat  
this week:**

**\*Sunday Worship  
\*Sunday School**

- \*Holy Week at FPC
- \*Your Offerings
- \*Rev Paige's Corner
- \*The Church Online
- \*Noon Devotions
- \*Food Needs
- \*Deacons Bench
- \*Zimbabwe Partners
- \*Key Fobs
- \*Church Staff
- \*OGHS
- \*Videos Available
- \*Prayer List
- \*Your Pictures
- \*SISC Message
- \*Scholarships
- \*Horton Center
- \*Thrift Shop Closed
- \*Stephen Ministry



Saturday

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

## In Our Saturday (Sunday) School

Saturday April 4 - Sunday School is  
on Saturday from 11:00-11:30 am  
via Zoom

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/101736310>

### Palm Sunday

At Home "*Peep Bible Story*  
Diorama Competition" All ages are  
welcome to participate. Post your  
photos in the comment section of  
the event on Facebook by noon on  
Palm Sunday. If you're unable to  
post on FB send your photos to:  
[IngridfpcDover@gmail.com](mailto:IngridfpcDover@gmail.com)

The winners #1,#2 and #3 will be  
announced on Easter! You can  
enter individually, or as a family.

### First Kids Story Time

Friday April 3rd from 10:00-10:20  
am via Zoom

Guest Story Teller: Ashley Gould

Wednesday April 8th from 10:00-  
10:20 am via Zoom

Guest Storyteller: Lauren Carey

Zoom Links will be posted on the  
FPC Sunday School FB page the  
morning of the event.



# Holy Week ONLINE Services



Tenebrae Service

## Maundy Thursday and Service of Tenebrae

*April 9 - New Time: 7 pm*

You are invited to have some sort of bread and something to drink near your device for communion during this service. Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/305701462>

Or call 1 312 626 6799--Webinar ID: 305 701 462

**Good Friday Community Worship** presented by Dover Area Religious Leaders Association (DARLA)

*April 10 at Noon*

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/572668557>

Or call +1 929 205 6099--Webinar ID: 572 668 557

## Lunch time Devotions

*Monday – Thursday during Holy Week 12:00 noon*

Topic: Lunchtime Prayer and Devotions

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/600432321>

Or call: +1 253 215 8782 US--Meeting ID: 600 432 321



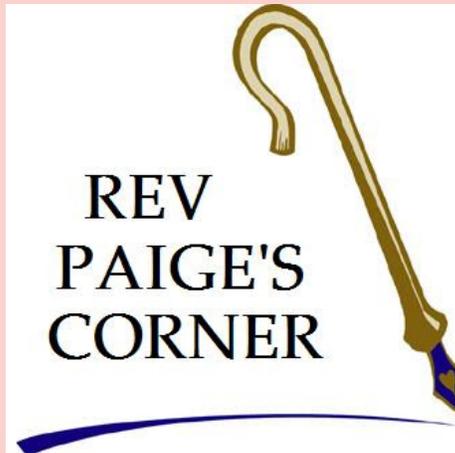
**YOUR OFFERINGS**  
For those who are able,  
we strongly invite  
ongoing sharing of  
pledges and  
offerings. Offerings  
may be made from  
through the church

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.



### **Lessons for These Days**

In many ways, we say these are unprecedented time. We have never seen anything like it. And there is a lot of truth to that. But I have been amazed in my devotions how many scriptures there have something to say to us now and how many times the people of God have faced great challenges with God alongside.

One story that was vividly on my mind this week was the story of Manna in the wilderness found in Exodus 16. The escaped slaves are following Moses through the wilderness on the way to the promised land. But no one knows how far or how long it will take to get there and they are out of food. They are starving and they are complaining and angry with Moses and with God for bringing them to this place. But then God begins to provide manna in the morning and quails at night. Now they have what they need to survive. But the thing is that they are directed to take only what they need for the day. They can't collect it or store it or hoard it for the future. Manna quickly rotted. It was a waste to trying collect it for the future and it might deprive others who needed it that day. I can only imagine how hard it was to have to trust that God would provide each and every day – to be so out of control. And yet they were fed. They had what they needed for that day even if they couldn't see 2 days off or a week off or a month off.

I have been thinking about that a lot this week in a lot of contexts. As we have considered at church whether to attempt to help fill the food gap for those who are impacted by the Food Pantry's closing, the fear is that we will run out of food – so should we even try? As we have been discussing the church's financial situation in these days when church donors are stepping up but much of our other income is diminished, how far out do we plan? As I go to the grocery store myself and consider how much to buy. If I try to think too far out, I can't see what is coming and I get very anxious. But if I focus on the reality that I have what I need today – enough food to help those coming to the church door, enough resources to pay the staff and bills for the church this week, enough food – and yes toilet paper – to get by at home today – I am thankful.

I am learning anew how much this ancient scripture is relevant or us here and now. And I am so very thankful!

Blessings!  
*Rev Paige*

### **ONLINE WORSHIP, Palm Sunday**

We are continuing worshiping on-line Sunday mornings at 10 am. (Organ prelude begins at 9:50 a.m.)

If you can get online at that time with a computer or a smart device, the best way to connect with worship is by using this link for our "Zoom Webinar": Please click this link to join the webinar:

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

But, YOU DO NOT NEED A COMPUTER OR INTERNET TO HEAR WORSHIP! Anyone with a telephone can phone in using this number: 1 929 205 6099. When asked, use our Webinar ID: 825 890 693. You will then be able to hear worship.

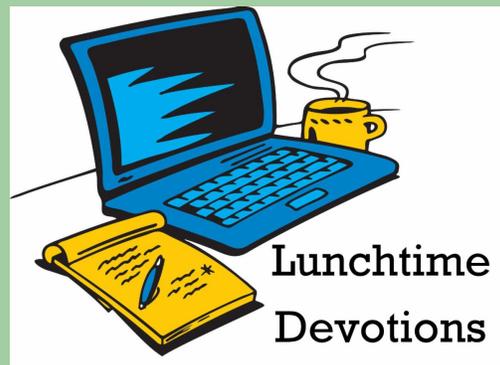


Later in the day on Sunday, a video recording of the service will be posted on the church Facebook page, and later in the Basecamp Worship Recordings.

Those who join through the Zoom internet link can not only see worship, but can use the "chat" and function to offer feedback such as prayer concerns and announcements. Those joining worship by phone will not have that ability.

### LUNCHTIME DEVOTIONS CONTINUE

Next week, Holy Week, Monday through Thursday at Noontime, we will continue offering a short devotional and prayer time online for those who want to check in and join us. These devotions last around 20 minutes and include a time to check in, hear a scripture and brief reflection, share a recorded piece of music and share a time of prayer.



To connect to lunchtime devotions:

Weekdays at 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/600432321>. Or by telephone, call +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) and use meeting ID: 600 432 321. (Because this is not in "webinar" form, we will be able to hear our phone participants.)



Due to the current crisis, the Dover Food Pantry has been forced to close. First Parish Church is partnering with Community Action Partnership (CAP) to help fill the gap for emergency food assistance. There are now drive-by donation bins in the church parking lot for the donation of non-perishable food items. These bins will be quarantined for 1 week when they

are brought in before being unpacked and sorted for distribution.

CAP has had to stop accepting public food donations because they have

no room in their building to quarantine food, but the church building is closed to the public with lots of empty room. Partnering together, it is our hope to offer some emergency food distribution at the church during food pantry hours for clients without vehicles to get to the CAP building. The Dover Rotary Club has a trailer and has offered to help with transportation.

If you have food to donation, please drive through the church parking lot and place non-perishable food in the labelled bin. Working together, we are hoping to keep people fed during these difficult days.



from the Deacons bench

**The Deacons** send you our prayers and love, hoping that everyone is safe and able to handle the growing cabin fever! While it will look different than we anticipated a month ago, we are looking forward to the celebrations of Holy Week. Pastor Paige and the Deacons have planned special ways we can Be Church Together, even when we are socially distancing. Please plan to join us via Zoom for Palm Sunday, Maundy

Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday as we come together to experience the Passion and Resurrection, while we contemplate how to carry the JOY of Easter morning into a scared world.

First Parish has always known that the true church is bigger than a building and we will embrace imperfect technology to ensure our spirits are not socially distancing from our FPC family or from God.

**From our Ukama Partner in Zimbabwe, John Matiza,**

Dear Friends,

As the Covid19 pandemic ravages the world, our prayers are with you all. In Zimbabwe we have 1 fatality from coronavirus. We are all concerned but our trust is in the Lord. Please read through *Psalm 91*. We are currently working from home. All our field trips as OM has been cancelled as well. Our plan to visit the UK in May this year has been cancelled because of covid19. May the Lord continue to protect you during this difficult time.

Best wishes, *John & Ketani*



**CHURCH**

KEY FOBS



**Key FOBS**

**In an effort to limit access to the church building, all key fobs assigned that open the outside doors have been deactivated until further notice. Only church staff have access to the building at this time.**

**CHURCH STAFF** Our Church Council adopted the following motion that affects our

church staff: *To comply with the State of New Hampshire stay-at-home order, the church facility shall be closed to the public. Church Staff and leaders are to carry out their duties at home whenever possible, and only enter the church when necessary duties cannot be performed at home and while maintaining social distancing within the church facility.*



### **One Great Hour of Sharing: March 2020**

A spiritual practice we have invited everyone to participate in this year is the use of a giving calendar. We urge you to continue using your containers and giving calendars. We do not have a date for container collection at this time, but will notify you when that date is established. Use of containers and calendars help us to think about those in need around the

world. Through OGHS, our church reaches people who suffer from emergencies, chronic poverty, and violence worldwide.

### **VIDEO Recordings of ONLINE Sunday Services**

During this time of live-streamed, non-touch 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:

<https://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/55811a>



When you get to the Basecamp homepage, scroll down to the Projects section and click on "Worship Recordings". The mp3 audio files of previous services will continue to be available, in addition to the new video files.

Recently added to the audio files available on Basecamp is a recording, *Hymns of Comfort and Hope*. This is a collection of twenty much loved hymns recorded by Rick Gremlitz on the FPC organ. Just click on the folder "Special Music Audio files" and the link to download the hymn collection will be there. Copies of this collection as a CD may also be requested through the church office.

Our Prayer List is published weekly as a "click through" link in Steeple Chat.

If you have prayer concerns that should be included



# PRAYERS

*of our*

CHURCH FAMILY

in our weekly listings, please contact the church office at 742-5664 or by email at: [firstparish@comcast.net](mailto:firstparish@comcast.net).

For the latest Prayer List, click here: [Prayer List](#).

Our Deacons have a great plan to help us be more connected during this time of isolation.

After Easter, following our online Sunday service, we will share a slide show of current pictures that YOU submit of you and your family.



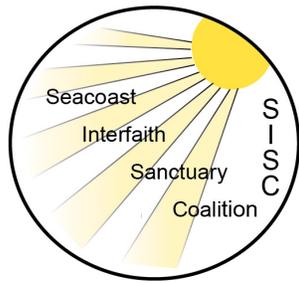
Please take a "selfie", or 2 or 3, on your cell phone or tablet and email to Deb Gremlitz at [debgrem@yahoo.com](mailto:debgrem@yahoo.com). We hope to "see you soon!"



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### *Did You Know: Bite Size Information on Immigrant Detention*

3) Reasons People Are In Detention Did you know... there are three primary reasons that someone may be placed in immigrant detention: 1) They have applied for asylum\* and are being held while they await a decision on their case, 2) they did not secure the documentation (such as a visa) they needed to enter the country, or 3) they violated a



condition of their immigration status (such as overstaying a student visa).  
Want to learn more and find out how you can help?  
Contact your SISC Volunteer Coordinator Joyce Tugel or

read: [https://immigrantjustice.org/sites/default/files/uploaded-files/no-content-type/2019-05/Detention-accountability-toolkit\\_May2019\\_FINAL.pdf](https://immigrantjustice.org/sites/default/files/uploaded-files/no-content-type/2019-05/Detention-accountability-toolkit_May2019_FINAL.pdf).

*\*Asylum is an internationally recognized right for people seeking to immigrate who have a “well-founded fear of persecution due to their race, membership in a particular social group, political opinion, religion, or national origin.”*

The **Mission and Action** Committee of First Parish Church is offering three scholarships again this year to qualifying students. Following are the available three scholarships.



- The *Martha Rowe Scholarship* (\$500) is awarded to an individual pursuing a degree in the nursing field, a patient care related field, or a health care related field.
- The *Richard Abbott Scholarship* (\$500) is awarded to an individual pursuing a business major or a degree in a business-related field.
- The *Mission and Action Board Grants* (\$500) are awarded to an individual pursuing his or her education at the post-secondary level in any field or proposing to participate in a community service project.

Applicants will receive consideration based on the following:

1. The community service project(s) you have participated in and the impact they have had on the community.
2. Your contributions to First Parish Church, the broader community, and your school.
3. The application essay that explains why you are a strong candidate for the scholarship.

The recommendations of three people.

The deadline for submission, with all components completed, is April 18, 2020. There will be no extensions. An application and cover letter can be picked up from the table in front of the church office or by talking to Carol Seely.

For more information, you can contact Carol by phone at 603 312-0771 or by email at [kqvvet@rcn.com](mailto:kqvvet@rcn.com).

**Horton Center Summer Camps!**

Details on the schedule and exciting



plans for summer 2020 at our own New Hampshire UCC camp are now available.

Click here for the Horton Center website: [Horton Center](#)



**Find it at the First Thrift Shop *The Thrift Shop* is CLOSED until further notice. Please hold off on any Thrift Shop donations.**

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

