

The CHIMES

First Parish Church

Congregational ~
United Church of Christ



A Message From Your Interim Pastor

Dear Friends at FPC,

Well this has been quite a Thanksgiving, built on the power of the very special celebrations for our Director of Music Rick Gremlitz, and the announcement of a pastoral candidate in Rev. Paige Besse-Rankin. I couldn't be happier for you and feel we are at a crossroads of blessing!

They say you should leave when the party is still fun and that definitely describes how I feel about these months in Dover. You are a warm hearted and generous community with a legacy of faith formation and a genius for mission. That special mix of qualities makes this a place that a new pastor will embrace. I am sure of it!

I am looking forward to having this second Advent with you. As you can imagine the Advent themes of gestation and preparation are especially rich this year. And so the lessons from our Advent readings and rituals will help us both, you and me, as we get ready for something new.

So I hope that you will show up with warmth and strength in this time and that your giving and investment in this community of faith will be confident and joyful.

Thank you for the place you have given me to do some important ministry with you. I look forward to our last weeks. My final Sunday will be January 13th.

With blessings and love,

Pastor Jonathan

P.S. My office hours most weeks are Tuesday and Thursday. Call Joanne and get on my calendar if you would like!

Saturday, December 1
4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Church Supper

Saturday, December 8
2:00 p.m.
*White Gifts Parties at
St. John's & Central
Towers*

Sunday, December 9
7:00 p.m. at FPC
MESSIAH SING

Sunday, December 23
10:00 a.m.
*Service of Lessons
and Carols*

Monday, December 24
4:00 & 7:00 p.m.
*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Services*

Sunday, January 6
10:00 a.m.
*Annual Epiphany
Pageant*

CHANGES IN CHIMES

After numerous years of producing a monthly, and more recently bi-monthly *Chimes* newsletter, it is being announced that this will be the last issue of the *Chimes* at this time. All information that has been in the *Chimes* will now be included in the weekly Steeple Chat. If you have information or short articles that need to be included in Steeple Chat, please send them to the church office at firstparish@comcast.net or to Rick Gremlitz at rickgremlitz@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Dear Friends at First Parish,

In this season of expressing thankfulness for our abundance, I wish to offer to the congregation of our church my humble appreciation for the manifold blessings you recently bestowed as we celebrated the 50th anniversary of my arrival in 1968 at First Parish as Director of Music and Organist.

Let me simply state that I am humbled, grateful, and overwhelmed for all that happened that weekend: the wonderful “toast and roast” dinner on Saturday evening, the celebratory worship service on Sunday morning, the Sunday afternoon organ concert by my dear friend Maestro Hector Olivera, the premiere of the commissioned anthem, *May I Walk Softly and Wisely Speak* made that entire weekend magical for me and for my family. The memories you made for us and the affection and friendship freely shared on those days will last a lifetime.

Personally, it is difficult to comprehend that 50 years have passed since I first sat on the organ bench in our beautiful First Parish sanctuary. As my colleagues in the “organ world” say: “that’s a lot of wind through the pipes!” I thank God and I thank you, our beloved congregation, for a lifetime of music making together to the glory of God.

Faithfully,

Rick Gremlitz

DIRECTOR OF FAITH PROGRAMMING UPDATE

As “mainline” Christians, perhaps we sometimes feel awkward saying, “I love Jesus,” but I must confess that serving you all this year has helped me realize a deeper relationship with God through Jesus (and the Holy Spirit!). I could certainly strengthen that spiritual relationship on my own, but my growth is enhanced by my participation in church life, both in moments of worship and service. I might go so far as to say there is a direct, mathematical relationship between spiritual growth and time in church. It might even be exponential! I need to gather more data...

Our Sunday School kids have participated in worship in some new ways this year, singing an African folk song in the Shona language to our visiting friend from Zimbabwe, Danniford. They recently witnessed two baptisms as a way to learn about sacraments. They shared their gratitude for people they recognize as saints in their lives as the entire congregation displayed names of saints and their gifts of spirit during our All Saints service. The Sunday before Thanksgiving our students processed forward with supplements to Thanksgiving meals donated to local families in need by the Dover Food Pantry. We also delivered about 20 bags of food to End 68 Hours of Hunger that reaches kids through our local schools. If your children are involved in Sunday School, they are involved with mission work.

Next up is our annual Christmas Shoe Box mission serving local children through Community Action Partnership of Strafford County. Our goal is to fill 89 shoe boxes for infant/toddler and preschool age boys and girls. Markers, crayons, hats, mittens, socks, baby wipes, coloring books, small toys and books are some of the items needed.

Our youth group will be spreading some Christmas spirit to local residents in assisted living by caroling after church on Sunday, December 23rd. Stay tuned for activities to be announced for the remainder of winter shortly after the New Year. Please keep our youth in your prayers as they navigate their transition to adulthood. High school can be a time of serious anxiety and pressure and they need to know we are here for them. High school is not preparing them for the real world. It IS the real world. They are not the future of our church. They ARE the church.

It is certainly an exciting moment in our church’s history as we prepare to meet and listen to our candidate for Senior Pastor, Paige Besse-Rankin. May this Advent season bring you and yours much Peace and Joy.

Yours in Christ, Matt Endrizzi



*You will be
enriched in every
way for your
great generosity,
which will
produce
thanksgiving to
God.*

2 Corinthians 9:11

UPCOMING EVENTS

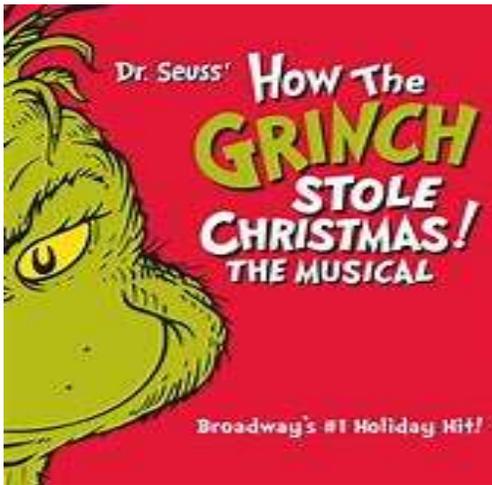
Saturday, December 1st

Come and enjoy a special menu of roast pork, vegetables, salad, applesauce, mashed potatoes with gravy and special desserts.

All for just \$12 for adults and \$5 for children under 12.

Served from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

HOLIDAY MUSIC WHILE YOU DINE!



FELLOWSHIP AND FUN EVENT

Save the date! Join us Saturday, December 1st at 1:00 p.m. at the Wang in Boston for the musical *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Our seating is in the balcony and the cost is \$25 per person for all ages. Kathy Daniels has reserved 25 tickets so please pay Kathy directly. Carpooling can be arranged. If enough interest, we could gather at Polcari's in Saugus after the show for dinner (reservations would be needed for a large party). Come join your fellow parishioners for a fun afternoon in Boston. Sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office.

First Parish Church will be hosting two Christmas parties for the residents of St. John's & Central Towers on **Saturday, December 8th**, 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 18th, and again on Sunday, November 25th**. 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 2nd**. 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 Ann Drysdale at 216-410-8685 with any questions or comments.



Come give the gift of life! First Parish Church will be hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, **January 2nd**, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 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!

Advent and Christmas Worship at First Parish Church

December 2nd ~ 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 9th ~ 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 16th ~ 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

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

December 23rd ~ 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Lighting the Candle of Love
A Service of Lessons and Carols
Traditional singing of the *Hallelujah Chorus*
Music by *First Parish Choir and First Parish Ringers*

December 24th ~ Christmas Eve

4:00 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

5:30 p.m. Christmas Dinner hosted by the Men's Group

December 30th ~10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Sermon by *Pastor Jonathan Goodell*

January 6 ~ 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Annual Epiphany Pageant





OUR CHURCH FAMILY



LOSSES IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to the families of:

Barbara Elkerton ~ October 23rd

Sylvia Jones ~ October 23rd

Norma Willard ~ September 24th

Henry Wing ~ November 18th

New members were received into our church fellowship on Sunday, November 4th. They are: *Kimberly Faustino, Christine Kenny and Thomas Willard.*

A warm welcome goes to each one of you; we are delighted to have you here and that you have chosen First Parish to be your church home.



BIRTHS

Our church family celebrates the birth of *Emily Lynn Ashford*, on October 16, 2018, daughter of *Richard and Nicole Ashford*. *Emily's* big sister is *Ryleigh*.

We also celebrate the birth of *Aria Pemberley Dupuis*, on October 19, 2018, daughter of *Timothy Dupuis and Kate Knight*. *Aria's* big brothers are *Everett and Julian*.

BAPTISMS

Receiving the sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, November 4th, were: *Carter Adam Kirchofer*, born May 11, 2018 and *Riley Adam Kirchofer*, born May 17, 2004. *Carter and Riley* are the sons of *Gregory Adam Kirchofer and Michelle Ann Rutherford Kirchofer*.

My sincere thanks for the beautiful altar flowers over Thanksgiving. A total surprise and unexpected.

I had stressed out about the coffee shop move upstairs to feed the fair goers. However, together with the mission and action, deacons and others we were able to start a new tradition successfully. A big thank you and shout out to all the bakers, cooks, servers and worker bees. In a team effort we worked hard, had fun and made some money for our church.

With a grateful heart, Sally Chenard

CONTACT US

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Bulletin Deadline: Tuesdays by 9:00AM



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