



The Chimes

The Newsletter of First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ

FEBRUARY & MARCH 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.

**Worship ~ Sundays
at 10:00 AM**

Dear Friends at First Parish,

We seem to be keeping a steady pace in the work of transition at First Parish. The deacons held a prayerful and thoughtful selection process from a list of twenty-five people able and willing to serve on the Search Committee. These nine members were commissioned last Sunday and will meet with their New Hampshire Conference advisor, Rev. Dr. Andy Gilman, in about a week.

What is likely to happen then? They will work hard on an in-depth description of First Parish called a “profile”. They will gather facts about the church and the community and think hard about First Parish’s unique characteristics and future. I invite you to pray for them in this important time of deliberation. When that process is done they will meet with their conference advisor again and prepare to receive profiles from pastoral candidates. This process is open ended and they will report in from time to time on how they are doing.

What is our ‘next step’ as a congregation? Even as the search team reflects on the future of the church, we can also be reflecting on what it is that deeply motivates and sustains us. The deacons and discernment team are already shaping meetings with the warmth of the discernment meetings, but with a chance to hold up the light of our shared, diverse Christian faith.

Why come to these meetings? These meetings strengthen our core faith and build conviction toward the future. They add energy to the search team’s questions and deliberations. (And their presence is just the kind of thing that draws pastors in search toward this wonderful, blessed place!)

Let’s engage, invest and keep up the good work!

In faith,
Pastor Jonathan

CONGRATULATIONS ELI!!

Eli Dunker-Bendigo who is the son of Susan Dunker, participated in his third year with the NH affiliate of the Scholastic Art and Writing awards. As a senior this year, he is eligible to submit two portfolios. He also submitted four individual photos. Of those submissions, he was awarded a Gold Key (top honor) for each of his two portfolios, and another Gold Key for one of his individual photos. They say that less than half of submissions are awarded a prize. All of these winners will be forwarded on to judging at the national level.

The ceremony for the state awards will take place at Pinkerton Academy in Derry on Sunday afternoon, February 4th. They will announce the national award winners in March. <https://artawardsnh.com>.

Meanwhile at the library, they were awarded a national award from the Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs.

COCHECHO CHALLENGE HALF-MARATHON

The Road Race Committee has announced that registration for the Fourth Annual Cochecho Challenge Half-Marathon is now open! The race will take place on Saturday, September 1, 2018. To register, go to CochechoChallenge.com and click on Race Registration. For more information, please contact Lesley Hocking or John Straight.

Happy Birthday



Birthday greetings go to FPC's longest-time member, *Ruth Keene*. Ruth turned 105 on Christmas Day. Having joined the church in 1927, she holds the longest membership in First Parish. Congratulations!!

Happy Birthday to *Dot Goodwin* who turns 98 years young on January 24th. Congratulations and best wishes to *Dot* from her FPC family.



Congratulations to *Kris and Jack Lynes* on the birth of a great-grandson, *Wyatt Frances Boyle*, on December 2, 2017. *Wyatt* is the son of *Meghann and Patrick Boyle*.

And to *Emma Bent* on the birth of her grandson, *Anthony Charles Brackett*, on January 14th. *Anthony* is the son of *Timothy and Stephanie Brackett*.

Newly Formed Pastoral Search Committee

On Saturday, January 6, your First Parish Diaconate Board met to select nine people to serve together as our Pastoral Search Committee. The meeting lasted roughly 6 hours, involving unrushed discussion and prayerful consideration of the 25 candidates that had been recommended and had also acknowledged that they were willing and able to serve if chosen. (There were about 40 total candidates originally recommended.)

The Pastoral Search Committee members were announced on Sunday, January 21, during the worship service. The members are Jack Callahan, Marcia Goodnow, Allison Friend-Gray, Deb Gremlitz, Steve Hall, Erica Helm, Bill Leslie, Pat Sorensen, and Donna Tetreault.

The Diaconate feels that this group is a representative, capable, caring and committed cross-section of our congregation who will work together well as a team. We were extremely fortunate to have such a large and rich pool of candidates, and we are deeply appreciative of all who were willing to be considered.

The committee's UCC New Hampshire Conference appointed support minister – "Search and Call Consultant" - is the Rev. Dr. Andrew ("Andy") Gilman. The committee's initial organizational meeting with Rev. Gilman and Pastor Jonathan will be on Saturday, February 3.

Once the Pastoral Search Committee gains traction you will begin to hear from them directly. Your continued prayers are invited for them and their task of finding our next settled pastor.

The deacons thank Pastor Jonathan Goodell and Church Administrator Rick Gremlitz for their helpful guidance and input through the whole process of

forming the Pastoral Search Committee. And the deacons thank all of you, the FPC congregants, for your energetic participation in the "Moving Forward" Dialog and Discernment activities that will inform the Pastoral Search Committee in creating our Church Profile for the search.

Prepared to Serve

February 24, 2018



Pembroke Academy, Pembroke, NH
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Prepared to Serve is a special training event that welcomes participants from all over New Hampshire with fellowship, inspiring worship and educational, faith-building workshops on a wide variety of topics including stewardship, church leadership, church finances, global missions and Christian education

You may register online at www.nhcucc.org. Online registrations completed before **February 14, 2018** will pay a reduced fee of \$40/person. Registrations after the close of online registration will need to wait until the day of the event; the "day of" registration fee is \$50/person. The registration fee includes a continental breakfast, refreshments and a full buffet lunch or optional boxed lunch. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come experience the joy and inspiration that Prepared to Serve offers.



With great joy we welcome the New Year and all of its new opportunities to serve. I get the feeling that we are feeling very blessed as a church as we enter into 2018. Thanks to Pastor Jonathan for leading us toward our spiritual goals and guiding us to ever more purpose in our Christian life. And thanks, too, to all of you that make us who we are as a beacon in and for our community. We are blessed, indeed!

Many congrats to our Diaconate Board who arduously toiled many hours to select the search committee for our next settled pastor. Thanks and best of luck to all of them as they embark on this incredibly important task for our future.

On January 28th we will be celebrating 2 years as an Open and Affirming Congregation. As part of that celebration we will reveal a new panel as part of our church sign out front, as well as a new logo. Both bring us further toward our goal to show our colors and commit outwardly as an all-welcoming congregation of faith.

Your humble council brings you news about Fellowship Hour after church! We are experimenting with fun! Popcorn will be served the first Sunday of each month. At the inaugural, with some fanfare, many enjoyed that familiar, inviting popcorn aroma emanating from Fellowship Hall and wafting through the corridors.

Don't forget to peek in on the First Parish Facebook page and follow! It's a great way to stay even more connected with FPC.

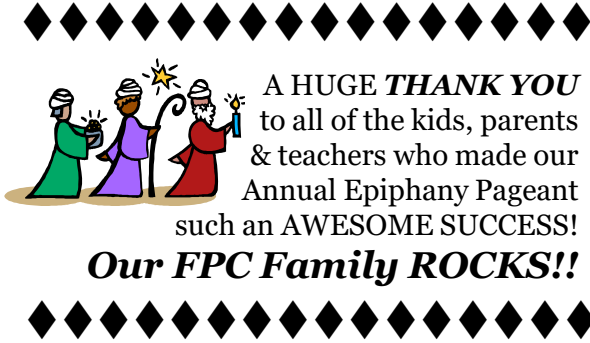
Yours for peace and continued growth in the New Year!

Rich Henck
Council Chair



T9 will perform their rockin' a cappella concert in the sanctuary of First Parish Church on Sunday, February 18th at 3:00 p.m. They're kickin' off 2018 with new material...Earth, Wind and Fire's *September*...Toto's *Rosanna*...and hangin' out at the B-52s' *Love Shack*. Tickets may be purchased at the door; adults 18 and over \$10.00; children 17 and under \$5.00; family package for up to two adults accompanying children 17 and under \$25.00. Invite your friends!

February



A HUGE **THANK YOU**
to all of the kids, parents
& teachers who made our
Annual Epiphany Pageant
such an **AWESOME SUCCESS!**

Our FPC Family ROCKS!!



Have a child
away at college?
Give us their address and
we'll send them a
Valentine from FPC!
Contact Donna at:
hondagirl1967@msn.com
or call: 742-5664 x 13
by **February 6th**



Open House with Pastor Jonathan

Sunday, February 18th!

Refreshments will be
served in Nazareth Hall
beginning at 9:15 am.

Please drop in
for some special food

and then take your drinks and eats to a
nearby class room for an adults only time
while the children enjoy worship.



March

March 11th, 2018



Don't forget to turn your clocks
AHEAD one hour for
Daylight Savings Time



March 25th, 2018

FPC Annual Palm Sunday Luncheon & Easter Egg Hunt

Come join us for **food and fellowship**
immediately following the service.

This meal is hosted by our
Christian Education Board
and beverages, salads and desserts
will be provided.

Please bring a main dish to share.

Egg hunt immediately following in the sanctuary

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Mission Project

Pet Products

Cocheco Valley Humane Society



February 25th

Special Program

**beginning @9:30 AM
in Nazareth Hall**

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

MARCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Mission Project

***Personal Care/
Infant Items***



Holiday Fair 2017 Report

Our First Parish community once again hosted a highly successful Holiday Fair on November 18, 2017. The success of our annual fair is in direct proportion to the many volunteers from our church family coming together. We welcomed nearly 600 guests to this year's Holiday Extravaganza and we raised over \$11,200 for the First Parish ministries and programs.

Under the direction of Joe, our vendors continued to enjoy a positive experience with our Fair. Vendor satisfaction is key to being able to offer a variety of high quality merchandise to shoppers. The lay-out in Nazareth Hall was repeated from last year, giving vendors additional space and dramatically improving "traffic flow", as well as making end of Fair clean up much more efficient.

The Raffle Room was again under the venue of coordinator, Paula Sterling. With assistance from many volunteers, the raffle was a great success, as always.

On that note, I was so pleased to see so many of our new members step up to volunteer their help with the fair. It is always an exciting time, and I hope they enjoyed themselves as much as I enjoyed meeting and talking with them.

The Raffle Quilt, put together by Dode Boudreau this year, was just beautiful. Ticket sales were through the roof!

The Antique & Collectibles Room, again coordinated by Jim Prue, was extremely successful this year. Jim's knowledge and experience with unique antiques is invaluable to us. Many thanks to Jim for volunteering his time and expertise!

Looking towards this year's fair which will be held on Saturday, **November 17th**, there are a few areas where we

could use some help and fill some vacant positions. If you want to become more involved in the church this is a very rewarding and fun way to do just that. The greatest need for this year's fair is someone to take over the coordination of the raffle room. If this sounds like something of interest to you please let Bethany Gould know **before February 11th**, either in person or at fpcfair@gmail.com.

Lastly, I just want to say thank you again to everyone who helped at the fair this year. The fair wouldn't be possible if there wasn't the help provided to me in all areas of the fair. I am truly grateful to everyone who was there to help with anything that needed to get done, or just checking in to make sure everything for the fair was all set. The next fair meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, March 18th**, in the Parlor immediately following the morning worship service. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Thank you all so much.

Bethany Gould, Fair Coordinator

Offering Envelopes...

for this new calendar year are available in the atrium on the table right outside the office. There are still several to pick up, so please stop by and take yours at your earliest convenience. If you do not have envelopes for 2018 but would like them, there is a sheet next to the envelopes where you may request them.

In Sympathy



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

Rosemary Cleary ~

Mother of Jen Spargo

Lucille Pirie ~

Wife of Former FPC Associate Minister Jim Pirie

Bill Sehmeyer ~

Grandfather of Miles Lee-Rogers

Lynn Shamblin ~

Daughter of Jean Ellison

Jacob Thompson ~

9-year old cousin of Ashley Courter

Ruth Wiggin ~

Wife of the Late Ralph Wiggin & FPC Member

Marion David ~

Mother of Larry David & 57-Year FPC Member

Kay Towle ~

Wife of Richard Towle & 70-Year FPC Member

Marion Bartlett

Wife of Ron Bartlett

Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. We will open the sanctuary from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. for prayer and supply materials for reflection. The pastor and a deacon will be present to offer communion and/or ashes as desired.

Our Lent season will be undergirded by the Next Step meetings. We will also supply devotional materials for you to walk the Lent pilgrimage for yourself.



Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism on November 26th was *Rye Margaret Duckrow*, born on July 9, 2017. *Rye* is the daughter of *Chris and Serena Duckrow Fonda* and baby sister of *Sage*.

and on January 28th *Adalyn June Behrmann*, born on February 15 2017. *Adalyn* is the daughter of *Michael and Erika Behrmann*.

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www.firstparishdover.org

First Parish Church

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Email: firstparish@comcast.net

Office hours: M-F 9am-3pm

(603) 742-5664

Rev. Jonathan Carey Goodell, Int Minister

revjcareygoodell@gmail.com

Rick Gremlitz, Church Administrator

rickgremlitz@yahoo.com

NH UCC: www.nhcucc.org

Bulletin Deadline: Tuesdays by 9:00AM

Chimes Deadline: The 15th of every month ~ Please email bulletin and chimes information to *Joanne* at firstparish@comcast.net



Church Suppers

There is a place for you
at our table...

4:30 – 6:30 p.m.



ITALIAN!

Saturday, February 3rd

Come and enjoy a feast! This month's theme will be Italian! All for just \$10.00 adults and \$5.00 for children 12 or under. Served from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Entertainment while you dine by the duo guitarists/vocalists *The Woo Girls: Annie Keazer-Perry and Katherine Derby*, Bring a friend; all are welcome!

A NEW ENGLAND BOILED DINNER!

Saturday, March 3rd

Adults \$15.00; Children under 12 \$12.00.
Corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, beets, cole slaw, Irish soda bread and maybe a few culinary surprises! Enjoy some musical entertainment while you dine! Come on by and enjoy our famous First Parish food!



**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**

