

July~ August 2018

The Chimes

First Parish Church
Congregational ~ United Church
of Christ



Upcoming Events

June 24
Sea Dogs Trip

June 24 & 27
Sanctuary Training
4:30-6:30 pm



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Dear Friends at First Parish,

As we read our ancient membership covenant from time to time, I want to point out some of its power.

When we say this brief statement out loud the word “we” is like a golden thread that stitches it together. It is a statement of belief and it is a statement of practice.

Let’s start with belief. In our tradition, we say “God is love.” We speak of a God of action and personal commitment to us. God’s heart is love and God’s essence is a loving community of three persons. So our covenant starts and ends with community... God’s love shared with humanity and then returned to complete God’s joy... and ours.

But this golden thread is also an awesome statement of practice.

This is a statement that has been affirmed by tens of thousands of parishioners at First Parish over almost four centuries. They have allowed its stirring affirmations to move them. They have been challenged to grow by this shared statement of allegiance to the story of God’s Love in the world. They have acted on that story of love over and over and over.

How does that love become real?

The covenant starts with a powerful affirmation... that we are seeking and responding to the Word and Will of God. We keep the “why” of our faith clear and in front of us...the will of God. And we read the words of the Scriptures to gain insight, power and connection with God. This covenant is not a statement of belief only, but a statement of intention. It is our way of recognizing that God’s love is as active as yeast, stirring us up to love and good deeds.

I hope that this summer is a time when you can take that pledge and promise a little farther and that you will join with others in some form of active service.

Yours faithfully,
Pastor Jonathan



We Shall Not Be Moved

by **Vicki Kemper**

If someone told you how to be more effective in your work for a more just and peaceful world, would you do it? If someone gave you a roadmap to the very center of the heart of God, would you follow it?

My inbox is overflowing with weekly missives promoting "five powerful rituals that will make you resilient," "six easy tips for dealing with difficult people", "seven sure-fire ways to be happy, happy, happy".

Perhaps my life would be better if I actually read the emails and followed their suggestions—or not. But I'm pretty sure both I and the world would be better off if I followed the Jesus way as much as I talk about it, or if I heeded the wise, if challenging, words of Psalm 15.

Our scriptures are filled with hard sayings—some that are hard to understand, others that are harder still to do. But Psalm 15 is pretty straight forward in its description of what makes for a good life, an unshakeable peace, and a home in God's heart: A passion for justice, a commitment to truth-telling, a concern for the welfare of others that shapes everything from what we say to how willingly we share, a resistance to evil, a proper humility before God, an easy freedom in lending, and integrity in all our dealings. (See what I did there? You can go ahead and delete all those unread how-to emails; you're now good to go.)

Find an interpretation of Psalm 15 that works for you and put it someplace where it will set your weary heart to singing.

We shall not, we shall not be moved.

Prayer

Holy God, I want to be one of those people who make the world better just by being here. I want to be more like you.

Vicki Kemper is the Pastor of First Congregational, UCC, of Amherst, Massachusetts.

*"Those
who do
these
things
will
always
be
secure."
Psalm
15:5*

Archaeological Dig at FPC Historic Site

This summer we have the opportunity to participate in an archaeology dig at our historic site on Dover Point Road! For the past several years I have been working with Dr. Meghan Howey, Chair of the Anthropology Department at UNH, in a project known as The Great Bay Archaeology Survey (GBAS) and in conjunction with the New Hampshire State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program (SCRAP). We have been researching and excavating 17th century historic garrison sites in the Oyster River Plantation area. Since our second building on Dover Point Road was built during the same time period (1654), that site will be included in this project. As you probably know, in the early 17th century the Oyster River Plantation was a part of the Town of Dover, and the inhabitants there attended our church. It wasn't until 1716 that Durham actually became a separate parish. If you would like to know more about this project or are interested in participating in the dig on our Dover Point Road site, please contact me. You can come just to observe or you can actually be an archaeologist for a day or more! All instructions will be given on site. The dates for our dig will be between July 2 and 13.

Diane Fiske, Church Historian
603-749-0933 or

Our new *Director of Faith Programming*

The Church Council and Christian Education Board are very pleased to announce that Matt Endrizzi has been chosen for the position of *Director of Faith Programming*, which combines the functions of Christian Education Coordinator and Youth Ministries Coordinator into one position. Matt will assume his new role beginning July 1, 2018.

Congratulations to Matt and to our Church! We wish him God's grace and peace in his new relationship with us as Director of Faith Programming!



On Children's Sunday, June 10th, First Parish Church celebrated Donna Evans and her dedicated ten-year ministry here as our Christian Education Coordinator. We give her our sincerest thanks and appreciation for all she has brought to First Parish Church, its youth and its teachers. Although Donna is leaving this position, we are delighted that she will stay close-by and that First Parish will remain her church family. Shalom, our friend, shalom.

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.



**Volunteer Training For
For Immigrants
Sunday, June 24
& Wednesday, June 27
4:30 – 6:30 pm**

Seacoast Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition will hold Volunteer Training at First Parish Church.

Learn what it means to support undocumented immigrants and how volunteers can provide support.

Sanctuary Church, Part 3

Joyce Tugel and Don Goodnow invite you to prayerfully and compassionately consider declaring First Parish Church a Level 2 Sanctuary Church, in support of local undocumented immigrants and our Sisters and Brothers in Christ at Dover Friends Meeting. Below is the third part of a three-part article that outlines how we came to make this recommendation.

Sanctuary Churches in New Hampshire

New Hampshire churches have already declared themselves Sanctuary Churches and 27 churches have announced their solidarity with the Sanctuary Church movement. Dover Friends Meeting, Meriden Congregational Church (UCC), and the Manchester Unitarian Universalist Church have declared themselves Level 1 Sanctuary Churches. Durham Community Church declared itself a Level 2 Sanctuary Church in March 2018.

A Level 1 Sanctuary Church is a faith community that commits to provide physical Sanctuary in their place of worship to people who are under threat of deportation.

A Level 2 Sanctuary Church is a faith community that commits to support a Level 1 Sanctuary Church by providing support, such as:

- Prayerful and thoughtful consideration of the lessons from Matthew 25:35-36: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."
- Logistical and financial support, including providing groceries, transportation, and relief child care.
- Christian Fellowship

First Parish Church has a proud history of welcoming the stranger:

- As we were building our own house of worship in 1829, we helped Irish immigrants build a Catholic church in Dover;
- We embraced the Abolition (of slavery) Movement long before the Civil War brought an end to that cruel institution;
- We helped Arie and Anje Legerstee and their two children flee Nazi persecution and settle in Dover;
- We helped Phaly Long and her two children, Sokchea and Chantou, all Cambodian refugees, settle in Dover;
- Sari and Sambol Sang and their three children, also refugees from Cambodia, were welcomed to Dover by First Parish Church;
- We welcomed the Mung family, also Cambodian refugees, to Dover; and
- We helped Mula, an Afghan refugee, make his way in Dover.

It is time for us to celebrate our Christian faith in support of local Indonesians and the Dover Friends.



Help Host Our Visitors from the Highfield Church in Zimbabwe

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 12th and depart on October 29th. 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 clricke@comcast.net

Ann Drysdale aedrysdale@SBCGlobal.net

Don Goodnow ddgoodnow@gmail.com



NEW SUMMER HOURS FOR CHURCH OFFICE

Beginning the week of July 2nd, please note that the church office hours will be **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Regular office hours of Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. will resume on Tuesday, **September 4th.**

NEW MISSION●●●

Our mission caucus in early June was a beautiful event. New mission interest is alive and well at First Parish! Our people moved from table to table learning about the mission concerns and showing interest by signing up. Every table had at least a small group of five or six members show interest.

Here are the mission focus areas:

Janet Williams is organizing a Habitat Work Day in the early fall. Nan Nutt is planning an intergenerational mission trip to Puerto Rico in February of next year. Jackie Williams is shaping a Rainbow Coffee House for youth in the area. And Don Goodnow and Joyce Tugel are raising up ways to assist the Friends Meeting in Dover with their sanctuary plans. What exciting visions! Remember too the very ambitious, ongoing work with Grab 'n Go, a feeding program for children in Dover over the summer organized by Pat Sorensen. They need volunteers each week! You can show interest and support, praying for these efforts. You can also join in now by reaching out to the organizers with a note.

Contact Us:



www.firstparishdover.org

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Dover, NH 03820

Email: firstparish@comcast.net

Summer Office hours: T,W,Th 9 AM - 1 PM
(603) 742-5664

Rev. Jonathan C Goodell, Interim Minister
revjcareygoodell@gmail.com

Rick Gremlitz, Church Administrator
rickgremlitz@yahoo.com

Matt Endrizzi, Director of Faith Programming
matt.endrizzi@gmail.com

NH UCC: www.nhcucc.org

Bulletin Deadline: Tuesdays by 9:00AM

Next Chimes Deadline: August 15th

~ Please email bulletin and

chimes information to *Joanne* at firstparish@comcast.net



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