

# Steeple Chat

The weekly update from your church



## In our ONLINE Church this Sunday, July 12, 2020 The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



**10:00 a.m.**  
**ONLINE Service**  
Prelude Music begins at 9:50 a.m.

Message by Rev Paige Besse-Rankin  
*When God's Word Goes Out*  
Psalm 119: 105-112; Isaiah 55:10-13

Children's Message by  
Pastor Paige

OUR ONLINE Ministry of Music

The First Parish Choir  
*Prayer for Peace-Earlene Rentz*  
*"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace"*  
(Previously recorded March 2020)

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.

### In Steeple Chat this week:

- \*Sunday Worship
- \*Sunday School  
on summer break
- \*Noontime Devotions
- \*Pastor Paige's  
Corner
- \*Our Prayer List
- \*VBS Bible Camp
- \*Homeless Help
- \*Zoom Book Club
- \*Food Pantry
- \*Rev Matiza Letter
- \*Ukama Update



Our Sunday School is on break  
for the summer.

- \*Dream Team
- \*SISC Update
- \*Your Offerings
- \*Sunday Replays
- \*Service Video Recordings Sign-up
- \*Thrift Shop Closed
- \*Stephen Ministry Available
- \*ONA Covenant



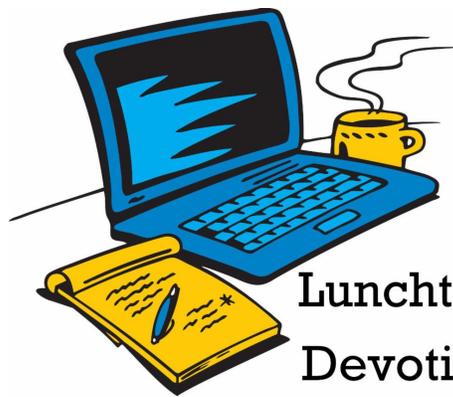
*We are happy to announce a special summer program:*

**Virtual Living Arts Vacation Bible School Camp**

for Families & All Ages who would like to participate...

**August 10-14**

**Please see details below....**



**Lunchtime Devotions**

**Lunch Time Devotions:  
Mondays, Wednesdays, and  
Thursdays at 12:00 noon**

We offer devotions on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12-12:30. This is open for everyone on a drop in basis. Come when you feel like it! What will you find when you join us? We spend a few moments greeting each other and catching up, we hear a scripture reading and a brief reflection on that reading. Then

we listen to a song. We share people and situations we want to lift up in prayer and finally we pray together. Please join us Mondays, Wednesdays, and/or Thursdays and ground your day in prayer. You can find us here:

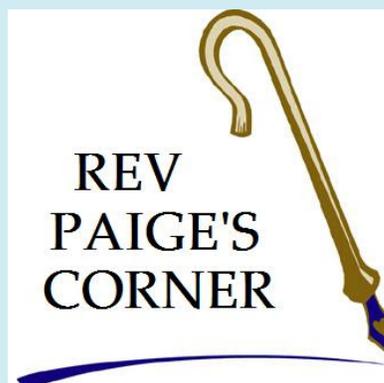
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92409379536?pwd=RUXZaFFBK3JOUWplRTRLaWFBaVRkQT09>

Dial: 1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 924 0937 9536

Password: 835028



**Rev Paige's Corner:  
Creating Safe Space**

As most of you are hopefully aware, the church has a "Safer Spaces" team that oversees our procedures about safety around the church. Their most important focus is the abuse prevention policy and training, but lately, they have also begun to look at other issues like fire drills and emergencies.

As churches have become more conscious of the

need to protect our most vulnerable and the dangers of assumptions about who is in our midst, best practices have evolved. It has always struck me that the goal of these policies is not to assume we are keeping people out who might abuse the vulnerable. However, much background checking we might do, we know people with these backgrounds do not wear scarlet letters and they are not obvious when we get to know them. So, abuse prevention policies in churches are built around the assumption that folks with these issues are in fact in our midst. So, by policy, no one is alone with a child, doors have windows or are left open, and even the nicest and sweetest among us are screened and trained.

I have been reflecting on this as we continue through these days where the church building is largely closed to the public, but open for staff and some leaders and some volunteers. It seems that most days there are some hard questions to think about how to keep folks in the church building safe from the pandemic.

One example: I am driving my daughter to college and flying back in a few weeks. Should I work from home for 10 days after the trip? Should I stay away from the building? These sorts of questions are coming up more and more to the point that if we are particularly cautious, it would be hard to keep the building running at all.

But I have begun to wonder if the model we should follow is similar to the one we use for abuse prevention. Assume anyone in the building could have the virus without being aware. So masks, closed doors, room occupancy limits, physical distancing and more are very important in spite of all temptations. This feels very awkward at times because we all are desperate for things to go back to normal – to have the contact we yearn for with friends – to not have to breath through a mask – to not have to think about all of this. It is fair to say the entire staff is struggling with this reality day by day and we need your help to maintain this as safe space.

We make these choices in love and care knowing that all of us would feel horrible if someone caught the virus here. Medical guidance changes day by day and we all have different levels of anxiety and different levels of vulnerability.

But we are committed to keep the church as safe a place a possible (on many, many levels.)

Blessings!

Rev Paige



**PRAYERS**

*of our*

**CHURCH FAMILY**

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

If you have prayer concerns that should be included 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.](#)

**Virtual Living Arts  
Vacation Bible**

**School Camp**  
for Families & All Ages  
who would like to  
participate...

August 10-14

The goal of this virtual camp is to continue our faith journeys at home, outdoors & in the community. It is a new way of thinking about camp while experiencing God, having fun & learning together but apart, alongside one another while following COVID-19 safe practices of social distancing.

The camp will be led by Rev Paige Besse-Rankin and Ingrid Roeder, Program Director.

We will kick off the Camp during worship on Sunday August 9th at 10 am!

Camp Schedule:

Monday August 10th - 10-11 am & 6:30-7:30 pm

Tuesday August 11th - 10-11 am & 6:30-7:30 pm

Wednesday August 12th - 10-11 am & 6:30-7:30 pm

Thursday August 13th - 10-11 am & 6:30-7:30 pm

Friday August 14th - 10-11 am & 6:30-7:30 pm

Each day we will open on-line at 10 am to sing, laugh and go over the days activities.

PLEASE REGISTER BY AUGUST 2nd at this link: [REGISTER](#)

Any questions, please contact Ingrid Roeder, Program Director & Volunteer Coordinator [IngridFPCDover@gmail.com](mailto:IngridFPCDover@gmail.com)

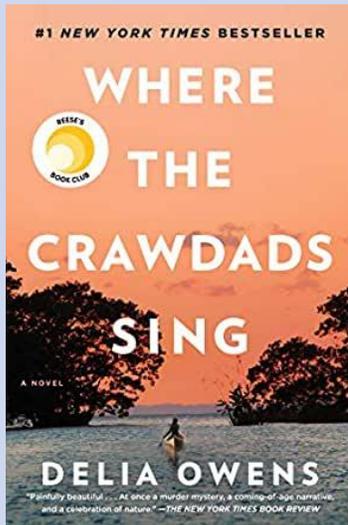
### **Boots, Bags, And Tents, Summer Version**

Our Strafford Community Action Partnership (CAP) friends report that the homeless need hand sanitizer, sunscreen, canned food (the pull-top kind), and sleeping bags throughout the summer. If your pantry or your closet is overflowing, please consider donating some of these items to help the homeless. You may simply drop them off in the food bins at the Atrium entrance to the Church. Items useful to the homeless will be relayed to our CAP partner for distribution to those in need. Members and friends of our Church were



very generous to those in our community who lacked shelter this past winter. Warm weather changes the conditions of living without shelter, but the needs are still great.

Thank you for your generosity!  
First Parish Church Mission and Action Board



The next **Book Club** discussion will be on the book, "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens on Thursday July 23rd.

Everyone is welcome to join us in the conversation.

The Zoom link and time will be posted on the FPC Facebook page & in Steeple Chat in the coming weeks.

A Virtual discussion will begin the morning of July 23rd on the FPC Facebook page as well.

The Dover Cooperative Ministries Council is seeking an individual to fill the position of Dover Food Pantry Director. The job includes overseeing the weekly operations of the Food Pantry, recruiting volunteers, ordering and picking up pantry food and keeping Food Pantry paperwork up to date. It is a salaried position requiring 15 to 20 hours a week.

Please call Pat Sorensen at 742-7360 if you would like more information.



**Rev John & Ketani Matiza**  
**June 2020 news updates.**

Dear Friends

*"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary."* (Isaiah 40:31).

Read the rest of their letter [HERE](#)



### **UKAMA news:**

The BBC reports that prices continue to rise; customers are few; and commercial activity is slow.

The government of Zimbabwe reports nine deaths and 734 people infected in this country of over fifteen million people.

Rev. Kozanai Muchayi, Pastor of the Highfield Church in Harare, Zimbabwe, writes:

Highfield is doing well. My family and I are doing well though hunger is still looming in the pastors' families. Here we will begin our services this coming Sunday; we have been allowed to open our doors for the members to begin to come to Church, but under strict health conditions. So, we will try to meet the required conditions, in order to resume worship.

Greetings from my family and the whole Highfield family. May the grace of our Lord continue binding us together as a family.

Love from Rev Kozanai Muchayi

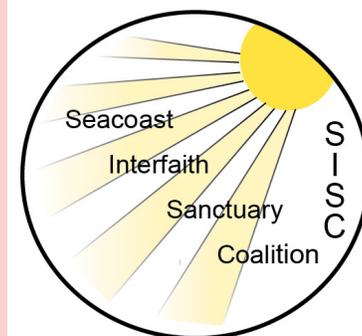


**The Dream Team**  
will be meeting via Zoom on Thursday  
afternoons from 4-5 pm throughout the  
summer.

**Ingrid will send the Zoom link.**

### **An Update from the Seacoast Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition (SISC): Who Operates Detention Sites**

***Did you know ...*** that the majority of detention sites in the country are operated by for-profit companies? As of 2017, 70% of people held in immigration detention in this country are held in facilities operated by for-profit companies. The remaining 30% are held in ICE-operated facilities such as federal correctional facilities, county/city-operated detention centers such as the Strafford County jail. For-profit,



privately-run facilities such as the GEO Group have a strong lobbying presence in Washington. Want to learn more and find out how you can help?

Contact your SISC Volunteer Coordinator, Joyce Tugel [jtugel@gmail.com](mailto:jtugel@gmail.com), or read National Immigrant Justice Center *Immigration Detention Oversight and Accountability Toolkit 4 Updated May 2019*



**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.



IF YOU MISS the Sunday morning ONLINE live service, there two ways to view the service later:

An edited video of the service is posted on (1) the FPC Facebook page, and (2) in Basecamp Worship Recordings. (to access Basecamp, see the details just below)

**SUNDAY SERVICES  
REPLAYS**



HOWEVER, the Zoom video of the service is not directly transferable without being first being downloaded, then edited, and then uploaded. Please know that each of these three video file transfers take considerable time, so the re-play versions will not be available until late Sunday.



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

During this time of live-streamed 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>



**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)

