

Steeple Chat

The weekly update from your church



In our ONLINE Church this Sunday, August 2, 2020 The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



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

Virtual Message by Rev Gordon Rankin
Loose Ends
Luke 8:51-62

Children's Message by Ingrid Roeder

OUR ONLINE Ministry of Music

The First Parish Choir
Shelter in the Storm by Thomas Dorsey; arr Joel Raney

*From the First Parish Choir video archives;
sung in the service of September 15, 2019*

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
- *VBS Bible Camp
- *Stewardship 2020
 - *Lunchtime
Devotions
- *Our Prayer List
- *Racial Justice and
Healing Group



- *White Privilege
- *Homeless Help
- *Fund Raising
- *Tag Sale
- *Dream Team
- *Your Offerings
- *Music Ministry
- Recordings Sign-up
- *Thrift Shop Closed
- *Stephen Ministry Available
- *ONA Covenant



Our regular Sunday School is on break for the summer.

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....

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



Virtual

Living Arts

Vacation Bible School Camp

August 10-14

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 so that we can have your art supplies put together for you. You can pick them up or we can mail them to you. Registration at this link: [REGISTER](#)

Any questions, please contact Ingrid Roeder, Program Director & Volunteer Coordinator IngridFPCDover@gmail.com



Important Stewardship News

For such a time as this,
we are amid a very
exciting and busy time

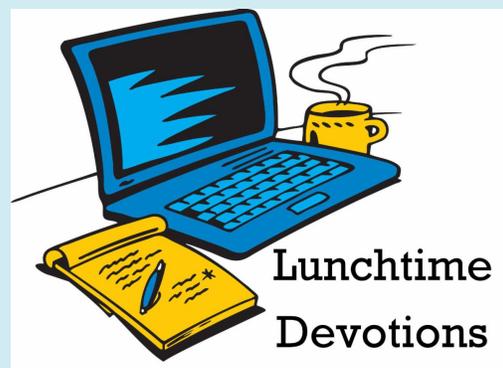
for our beloved church! The pastor, church administrator, council, boards and committees have prepared their reports for the past year and their budgets for the upcoming year. Check your mail this coming week! This information will be coming to you via the annual report for your review. Also, in that same mailing will be your Pledge Card for the 2020/2021 church year. This is an opportunity to pledge your time, talents, and financial commitment to First Parish so we can continue bringing the best of what we can offer before God to our church family and surrounding communities. We will all be “bringing our pledges forward” by Covenant Sunday on August 16th. For those that prefer to pledge online, there will be a link/button specifically for pledging on the church web site beginning once you receive the mailing. Thank you for prayerfully considering this important commitment for *such a time as this*.

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>



Lunchtime Devotions



Our Prayer List is published weekly as a link here 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.

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

News from the Racial Justice and Healing Group

Black Lives Matter (BLM) is a global initiative whose mission is to counter acts of violence and racial injustices aimed at our Black fellow citizens. The First Parish Racial Justice and Healing group received approval from Church Council to place a Black Lives Matter sign in front of First Parish Church, and thanks to donations from parishioners, we are pleased to be able to offer signs to anyone interested in placing a sign in their yard or window.



Signs will be available for pickup Wednesday and Thursday mornings during August, from 10 am – noon. In order to maintain our safe distancing practices, those who request a sign using [this link](#) will find that day's orders placed in front of the church entry. If you are unable to come to First Parish during those dates or times, please contact the First Parish Racial Justice and Healing team. We would be happy to help make arrangements for you: jtugel@gmail.com

Do you have questions about Black Lives Matter? See if this "FAQ" sheet helps to clarify the intent of this racial justice movement. Let's keep our conversations going. Click here on the [FAQ](#)



"White Privilege: Let's Talk – A Resource for Transformational Dialogue" is an adult curriculum from the United Church of Christ that's designed to invite church members to engage in safe meaningful, substantive, and bold conversations on race. The

materials include a participant's reader, video clips, and resources for deeper study as well as a guide for a series of 6 discussions. The program looks at four areas of focus: telling the story of your spiritual journey through the lens of

race; looking at the dynamic of a culture in which whiteness is the established norm; learning how America attaches a cash value to whiteness; and inviting the participants to commit to becoming an ally in the pursuit of racial equity. The team for Racial Justice and Healing will be offering this program in September and October as a way to deepen our own understandings. If you are interesting in joining a discussion group, please register using this link: <https://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/325433>

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



A Fundraising Team...

The corona virus has been disruptive for everyone – every single area of our lives has been impacted but particularly work in event fundraising. So, how do we navigate social distancing protocols to fund raise effectively?

During this time, we need to get creative in ways to reach out and inspire our community so let's get together and brainstorm about what fundraising at First

Parish Church can look like virtually, digitally, socially & safely.

Who is interested in joining this Fundraising Team? You may sign up right here: [Fundraising](#). For any questions, please contact Ingrid Roeder, Program Director & Volunteer Coordinator, IngridFPCDover@gmail.com

We're going to have a First Parish Church Tag Sale!!! For those who are interested in helping to make this Tag Sale a safe & successful fundraising event please register at the following link: [TagSale](#)



We will meet in the next couple of weeks via Zoom to discuss possible dates, and the plan for

this outdoor event. Who would like to be on the Tag Sale Team?



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

Ingrid will send the Zoom link.



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.



Music Videos now posted in Basecamp

We have begun posting videos of various music ministry offerings from our online services in a separate folder in the Basecamp Worship and Music Recording section.

Posted this week is the FPC virtual choir selection from July 26, and the Mark Thallander organ solos from July 19. We will add to the music ministry collection in the coming weeks.



If you do not have access to the Basecamp Worship and Music Recordings, please following the instructions in the box below:



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://fpcdoover.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

