

# Steeple Chat

The weekly update from your church



**WELCOME TO  
VIRTUAL CHURCH!**

**WE CONTINUE ONLINE...**

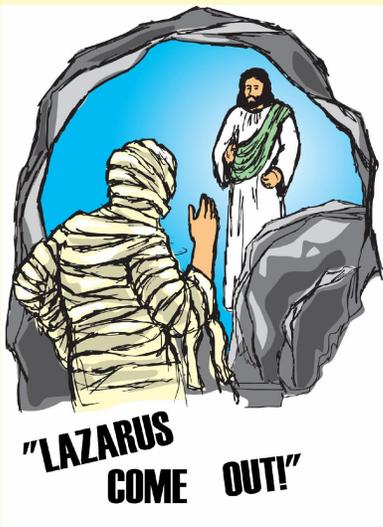
**Our Church Building is closed until further notice due to COVID 19. All in-person and on-site programs are cancelled.**

**Our Sunday service at 10:00 a.m. is live-streamed through the Zoom online platform. Details in the worship information box below.**

**Other programs and meetings during the week will be offered through Zoom and will be announced in Steeple Chat and our church FaceBook page.**



**In our ONLINE Church this Sunday,  
March 29, 2020  
The Fifth Sunday in Lent**



**10:00 a.m.  
ONLINE Service**

**Message by  
Rev Paige Besse-Rankin**

**Unbound  
John 11: 1-45**

**Children's Message by  
Pastor Paige**

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.

**OUR ONLINE Ministry of Music  
First Parish Choir:  
Keep God's Light Mark Patterson**

*This choir selection from our FaceBook video archives will be included  
in this week's live-stream service.  
This piece was recorded during a service in May 2018.*

**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.



**In Steeple Chat  
this week:**

- \*Virtual Church
- \*Sunday Worship
- \*Sunday School News
- \*Online Service
- \*Rev Paige's Corner
- \*Lunchtime Online Devotions
- \*Corona Ministry Response Teams
- \*From the Collector
  - \*Palm Sunday
  - \*FPC Staff
  - \*OGHS
- \*Videos Available
  - \*Prayer List
  - \*Scholarships
  - \*Horton Center
- \*Thrift Shop Closed
- \*Stephen Ministry



**In Our Saturday  
(Sunday) School**

**Saturday March 28 - Sunday School  
is on Saturday from 11:00-11:30 am  
via Zoom**

**Zoom Meeting Link:**

<https://zoom.us/j/101736310>

**First Kids Story Time**

**Wednesday April 1st from 10:00-  
10:20 am via Zoom - Guest  
Storyteller Erica Helm**

**Friday April 3rd from 10:00-10:20  
am via Zoom - Ingrid Roeder**

**Zoom Meeting Links will arrive in**

**your In-box and also on the FPC Sunday School FB page the morning of the event.**

**April 5th Palm Sunday - At Home "Peep Bible Story Diorama Competition"**  
All ages are welcome to participate. Post your photos in the comment section of the event on Facebook by noon on Palm Sunday. If you're unable to post on FB send your photos to me- Ingrid [\*\*IngridfpcDover@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:IngridfpcDover@gmail.com)  
**The winners #1, #2 and #3 will be announced on Easter! You can enter individually, or as a family.**



### **ONLINE WORSHIP, Week 3**

We are continuing worshipping on-line Sunday mornings at 10 am. (Organ prelude begins at 9:50 a.m.)

If you can get online at that time with a computer or a smart device, the best way to connect with worship is by using this link

for our "Zoom Webinar": Please click this link to join the webinar:

[\*\*https://zoom.us/j/825890693\*\*](https://zoom.us/j/825890693)

But, YOU DO NOT NEED A COMPUTER OR INTERNET TO HEAR WORSHIP! Anyone with a telephone can phone in using this number: 1 929 205 6099. When asked, use our Webinar ID: 825 890 693. You will then be able to hear worship.

We attempted to also livestream our Sunday worship via The First Parish Church Facebook page, but this was not possible last Sunday. However, later in the day on Sunday, a video recording of the service will be posted on the church Facebook page.

Those who join through the Zoom internet link can not only see worship, but can use the "chat" and function to offer feedback such as prayer concerns and announcements. Those joining worship by phone or by Facebook Live will not have that ability.

### **Finding Ways to Be Helpful**

Although many of us are largely isolating ourselves and staying at home in these days, many still want to find a way to make a difference and to feel productive.

The church has received an impressive number of volunteers willing to serve on our Covid-19 Response teams for which we are very thankful. The longer this goes, the more we are going to need those volunteers. I hear



## REV PAIGE'S CORNER

reports of others spontaneously reaching out to neighbors and extended family and checking in or sending care packages or letters.

We are also beginning to hear about things people can be doing at home to make a difference in these days. Here are some leads, though you may know of others:

Some in our church are sewing masks for health care workers. One link to information on that project is this

one: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/1377403252447594/?multi\\_permlinks=1378442339010352%2C1378382882349631%2C1378354935685759-if\\_id=1584886217954155-if\\_t=group\\_activity](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1377403252447594/?multi_permlinks=1378442339010352%2C1378382882349631%2C1378354935685759-if_id=1584886217954155-if_t=group_activity)

I am also suggesting making “Plarn”. This is taking plastic bags and turning them into plastic yarn that we can weave into mats for the homeless. If you don’t have your own collection of plastic bags, let me know and I will drop some at your door as I have accumulated many many more than I can deal with for our spring service project. Directions for plarn making can be found here: <http://www.plasticbagcrafts.com/make-plarn/> (Please note that the directions create narrower plarn that I use. I need loops that are about 3” wide – about 2/grocery bag.)

I have heard that Crossroads Shelter in Portsmouth is looking for volunteers to cook at home and drop off meals for residents. They report: Prepare food in your home and drop it off at the shelter. This includes both dinner entrees and bagged lunches. Whether we provide the ingredients and pans, or you do, this will help us to continue serving residents three meals a day when volunteers are unable to come into the shelter. Please contact our volunteer coordinator, Kristina Siegenthaler, at [k.siegenthaler@crossroadshouse.org](mailto:k.siegenthaler@crossroadshouse.org), or 603.436.2218 ext. 107, for more information.

End 68 hours of Hunger and Food Pantries are struggling with increased need and challenges getting food. Stores are limiting purchase amounts and are not allowing them to order in bulk. At the same time some organizations are restricting donations out of concern that the virus might be transferred. Still, if you are doing your shopping and don’t need to 2 cans of tuna or pasta that we are limited to, pick them up anyway for donation. End 68 Hours is still accepting donations at St Johns and we are working on a way to provide remove drop-off and “can quarantine” in the coming week.

Think about parents you know who are working at home and trying to care for children at the same time. Perhaps you can facetime their kids and read to them or play a game with them so they can get a break to work or for sanity. We are hearing stories about households with duplicate game boards in front of the screen, but there are some other creative options as well.

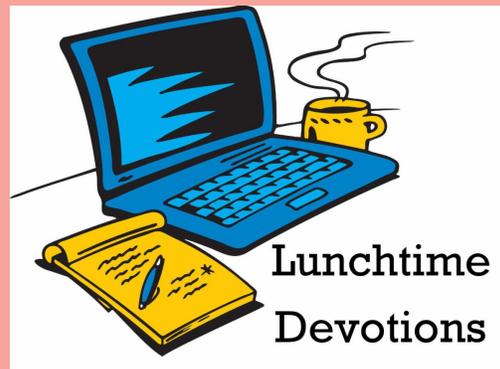
We will keep gathering ideas for ways to serve and stay isolated at the same time, so stay tuned. If you know if other ideas, send them our way to share.

I am so thankful for you all! Being church together in such a time as this is life-giving and grounding.

Blessings!

## LUNCHTIME DEVOTIONS CONTINUE

Next week, Monday through Fridays at Noontime, we will continue offering a short devotional and prayer time online for those who want to check in and join us. These devotions last around 20 minutes and include a time to check in, hear a scripture and brief reflection, share a recorded piece of music and share a time of prayer.



To connect to lunchtime devotions:

Weekdays at 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/600432321>. Or by telephone, call +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) and use meeting ID: 600 432 321. (Because this is not in “webinar” form, we will be able to hear our phone participants.)

## Corona Ministry *Response* TEAMS



### CORONA MINISTRY RESPONSE TEAMS

We have organized four response teams this week. If you would like to join one, please use this

link: <https://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/d88975>

The **Phone Team** has begun calling to check in on church members. These are friendly check in calls to see if everyone is ok and also to see if there are needs to be met. (Can you get groceries or other necessities? Can you access worship if you want? Would some regular contact be helpful?) This will be an ongoing process and if you have suggestions of folks that should be a priority, please let us know. (And maybe add a call yourself.)

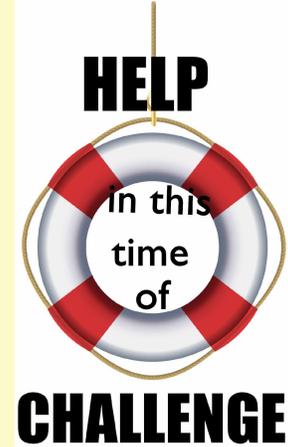
The **Sunshine Team** is creating some cheery letters, cards, and care packages for those who are locked in during this time.

The **No Contact Errand Team** is available to make grocery runs or other essential errands for those who are at high risk or in isolation. We have a good pool of volunteers for this, so call or email the church if you have need for this service and we will match you with a volunteer. We will use stores with curbside pickup where you can call in orders from home or order online and the volunteer can relay the order to your door.

And we have a team for **Unexpected Needs**. (It's early and we haven't thought of everything, so we are so thankful to have this group of volunteers to be on call as things come up in the weeks ahead.)

At the moment, these response teams are primarily Inreach oriented – focused on church members and friends and acquaintances. We are also keeping our eyes

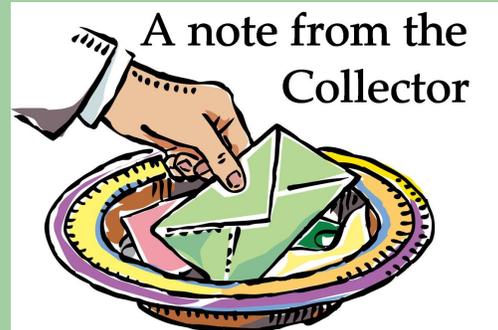
open for Outreach needs and have been in contact with Dover Cooperative Ministries and CAP to evaluate needs and ways we can respond. We are also trying to gather resources at the church to have to hand out the door if folks ring our door bell. We have set up a "Basecamp" area to share information as it comes to us and are collaborating with other Dover Churches with this.



### From the Collector:

Some Parishioners have asked me (via email) how they can continue to give in this time when the church is closed. There are multiple options:

- 1) Mail your checks to the church. Mail is regularly received. I will process your check.
- 2) Give online using the First Parish Church web page ([firstparishdover.org](http://firstparishdover.org)). On the main page, find the "Donate Here" button. You will find multiple options that will include giving frequency (or one time), credit or debit card, checking account or savings account. Your donation will be deposited to our bank account and reported to me (only).
- 3) Give using your smart phone. You will need to download the free "GivePlus" app. Once you find First Parish Church, follow the instructions. You will have the same options as using the church website.



If you have any questions, please email me at [oldbass113@gmail.com](mailto:oldbass113@gmail.com). (FYI - bass as in low singer, not the fish!)

Steven Hall, Collector



### Help Needed for Palm Sunday Worship!

It is now clear we will be unable to stage our Shadow Drama for Palm and Passion Sunday and that we will likely be worshipping online. We are seeking images that we can use for online worship on Palm Sunday to accompany the Passion Sunday readings. You don't need to be an artist to help with this project. We welcome a variety of forms. While some might draw or paint, others might create a tablescape

and photograph it. Still others might use digital and graphic skills. Photos of shadow silhouettes, fabric art, clay, planter gardens... there are lots of possibilities to create an image for reflection around the story. (No Peeps please. This is separate from the Peep Bible Story adventure being done by CE.) Images need to be scanned or photographed and emailed to [pastorpaigebr@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpaigebr@gmail.com) by Friday, April 3. Questions or consults about ideas can also be sent to that email this week.

To sign up to help with this project, please go to: <https://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/0615cf>  
Thanks for helping enrich our worship experience in this unique times!



**CHURCH STAFF** Our staff are working during this time, though each day varies about who is in the building and who is working from home. Our Sextons are doing deep cleaning and special projects. Our Program staff and ministers are often working from home but available by phone or email.

**One Great Hour of Sharing:  
March 2020**

A spiritual practice we have invited everyone to participate in this year is the use of a giving calendar. We urge you to continue using your containers and giving calendars. We do not have a date for container collection at this time, but will notify you when that date is established. Use of containers and calendars help us to think about those in need around the world. Through OGHS, our church reaches people who suffer from emergencies, chronic poverty, and violence worldwide.



**NOW AVAILABLE:  
VIDEO Recordings of  
ONLINE Services**

During this time of live-streamed, non-touch 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>



When you get to the Basecamp homepage, scroll down to the Projects section and click on "Worship Recordings". The mp3 audio files of previous services will continue to be available, in addition to the new video files.

Recently added to the audio files available on Basecamp is a recording, *Hymns of Comfort and Hope*. This is a collection of twenty much loved hymns recorded by Rick Gremlitz on the FPC organ. Just click on the folder "Special Music Audio files" and the link to download the hymn collection will be there. Copies of this collection as a CD may also be requested through the church office.



# PRAYERS *of our* CHURCH FAMILY

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

The Prayer list is also available in hard copies at the church on the bulletin boards near the office and on the table in the narthex.

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](#).



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The **Mission and Action** Committee of First Parish Church is offering three scholarships again this year to qualifying students. Following are the available three scholarships.

- The *Martha Rowe Scholarship* (\$500) is awarded to an individual pursuing a degree in the nursing field, a patient care related field, or a health care related field.
- The *Richard Abbott Scholarship* (\$500) is awarded to an individual pursuing a business major or a degree in a business-related field.
- The *Mission and Action Board Grants* (\$500) are awarded to an individual pursuing his or her education at the post-secondary level in any field or proposing to participate in a community service project.



Applicants will receive consideration based on the following:

1. The community service project(s) you have participated in and the impact they have had on the community.
2. Your contributions to First Parish Church, the broader community, and your school.
3. The application essay that explains why you are a strong candidate for the scholarship.

The recommendations of three people.

The deadline for submission, with all components completed, is April 18, 2020. There will be no extensions. An application and cover letter can be picked up from the table in front of the church office or by talking to Carol Seely.

For more information, you can contact Carol by phone at 603 312-0771 or by email at [k9vet@rcn.com](mailto:k9vet@rcn.com).



## Horton Center Summer Camps!

Details on the schedule and exciting plans for summer 2020 at our own New Hampshire UCC camp are now available.

Click here for the Horton Center website: [Horton Center](#)



**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 in church!***

**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)

