In our ONLINE Church this Sunday, 
May 3, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Easter and Holy Communion
Celebration of Earth Day and Good Shepherd Sunday

10:00 a.m.
ONLINE Service
Prelude Music begins at 9:50 a.m.
Message by
Rev Paige Besse-Rankin
Psalm 23; John 10:1-10
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
Children's Zoom Choir:
We Are the Church Together
First Parish Choir:
For the Beauty of the Earth Lloyd Larson
This choir selection is from our FaceBook video archives of September 2018.

Communion Via Zoom:
This Sunday, we will be celebrating
communion during our worship service. We would invite you to have some sort of bread product and some sort of drink near your viewing screen if possible in order to participate with us in this celebration.

IF YOU MISS the Sunday morning ONLINE live service, there are 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 at the bottom of this page)

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 replay versions will not be available until late Sunday.

In Steeple Chat this week:
* Sunday Worship
* Online Communion
* Service Replays
* Sunday School
* First Kids Story Time
* Rev Paige's Corner
* Looking Ahead
* Noon Devotions
* Your Pictures Please
* Tech Challenged?
* Your Offerings
* Zoom Social
* Our Prayer List
* SISC Update
* Service Video Recordings Sign-up
* Horton Center
* Thrift Shop Closed
* Stephen Ministry

Saturday

Sunday School

In Our Saturday (Sunday) School

Saturday May 2 - Sunday School is on Saturday from 11:00-11:30 am via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/101736310?pwd=RXEweE1BY1FvSlIwNXovK2Q5ZnV6dz09
+1 253 215 8782 US
First Kids Story Time

Friday May 1st from 10:00-10:20 am via Zoom
Guest Story Teller: Ann Reid

Wednesday May 6th from 10:00-10:20 am via Zoom
Guest Story Teller: Ingrid Roeder

Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/468935566?pwd=Z0lHTXhMOHlMdWhGQy9uZFo2RXg0UT09
Meeting ID: 468 935 566
Password: 360247
+1 253 215 8782 US
+1 301 715 8592 US
Meeting ID: 468 935 566
Password: 360247

Worship in the Future

During my time as the interim pastor at the UCC Church in Yankton SD, they came up to their 150th anniversary. (They proudly claim themselves as the mother church of congregationalism in the Dakota territory. They are the oldest UCC church in South Dakota.) The planning committee wanted something family friendly and so each Sunday School class did a short drama of an important moment in the church’s history. We asked the middle school class to think forward. What would the church be like at its 250th anniversary? They had some great ideas, but one really jumps out at me in these days. They imagined that when the church gathered for worship, some would show up in person, but there would be also lots of people joining worship holographically from all over the world. They even imagined a holographic pastor preaching from a mission trip to Africa.

As I have checked out who has been attending worship over the last month, it is clear to me that our geography has expanded. Snowbirds, church folks that moved across the country years ago, family and friends from around the country are now joining us for worship. And while we are working to strengthen the sense of community connection in our digital format (have you noticed that Deacons are now greeting again in the chat area?) we know many are missing the hugs and the handshakes.

It is funny. In some clergy circles, there has been lamenting that worship isn’t real in this format. But I don’t buy it. A key point in my own spiritual journey...
and the point I committed to Jesus came when I was a child in Alabama watching on the family television in the family room as Robert Schuller led worship from California. For several years, that was my church and they inspired and fed me and through letters and mailing, made me feel cared about.

Some of our children are working on a “zoom children’s choir” anthem – a favorite Sunday School Song: “We are the church.” What speaks loudly to me is the first verse: “The church is not a building. The church is not a steeple. The church is not a resting place. The church is the people!”

I suspect live-steaming worship is here to stay for us as it allows us to unite in praise with friends who we care deeply about even if they can’t be at 218 Central Avenue on Sunday morning. Praise God!

Blessings!
Rev Paige

What is coming in worship....

May 10 – Festival of the Christian Home on the church calendar and Mother’s day on the American Calendar. This day we will bless our homes, celebrate the variety of ways families come together and, yes, pray for moms. We would love to have photos of your moms and/or your family to share.

God-moments & Good News Moments:
There is an old-fashioned church word we don’t hear too often these days in our corner of the church: testimony. Testimony in worship is a practice of folks sharing their own stories of where they have experienced God. They are our stories and our way of bearing witness to the ways the spirit is moving in our midst. They call on us to be mindful and to keep watch for where God is showing up. They can be profound or humorous, emotional or reflective. The way we did Advent Candle Lighting this year was testimony. One church I served called them “Good News Moments”. In FPC’s confirmation history, there is a practice of “God moments”.

We are hearing how much you are enjoying seeing one another on screen each Sunday and we are trying to find ways to involve many of you even though webinar doesn’t allow everyone to see everyone. (Trust me – 157 little boxes on screen would be a lot to deal with!) To that end, we would welcome the chance to include some God-moments or Good News moments in the days ahead. If you would like to share one, email Pastor Paige at pastorpaigebr@gmail.com

LINK for Daily Lunch Prayer and Devotions
We continue with Lunch Devotions Monday through Friday at noon time. To Join Zoom Meeting use this link:
https://zoom.us/j/92409379536?
Keep those photos coming!
Wasn’t it great to see the photo parade last Sunday? We are so thankful to the Deacons for dreaming it up and for Rick and Deb Gremlitz for putting it together.

This Sunday, we would like to include your photos from Creation in the Prelude as part of our celebration of Earth Day. And on May 10, we would like to celebrate families and Moms in worship as part of our celebration of the “Festival of the Christian Home”. If you would be willing to share photos for either, please send them to the church email. If you need technical assistance about how to share such a photo, feel free to call or email us.

ARE you technology challenged?
In these days of online worship and several other opportunities to gather via Zoom, it is apparent that there are some in our congregation who cannot fully participate due to technology challenges.

If this is your situation, there are "tech-savvy" folks in the church who have the knowledge and the willingness to "talk you through" via a phone call to seek possible solutions to getting you fully connected.

If you would like some personal help in this way through a scheduled phone call with a "tech helper", please contact the church office at 742-5664 or by email at: firstparish@comcast.net.

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
Let's Zoom Connect--Hollywood Squares style, a virtual meet-up.

Oh, how good it is to worship together still on Sunday mornings. The Deacons have been hearing this a lot recently. We are also hearing that people miss seeing each other and chatting in person, whether in the aisles, or the atrium on the way to coffee hour.

We're going to experiment with some Zoom Social times - part coffee hour, part happy hour. We'll set aside to some times to Zoom together with cameras on and mics open. These will be small group chats. We're starting slow and are looking for a few folks to help us test this out. Then, we envision mix-and-match chats were a group gathers for a bit and then switch to a new meeting right after and say hi to a new group of friends. The goal is fellowship and a chance to "look around the room" and connect.

Interested in helping us test this out and get started? We're looking for some folks to sign-up and give it a go. It wasn't that long ago we didn't know how the first digital service would go. Now, it's part of our weekly routine.

To sign up........click here: https://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/35ce05
Then we will be in touch to set up the details. Stay tuned!

Our Prayer List is published weekly as a "click through" 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.

For the latest Prayer List, click here: Prayer List.

An update from the Seacoast Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition:

Did you know...

Did you know...

The Strafford County Jail has had to stop all
visits during the COVID-19 crisis. This means that our immigrant friends and neighbors are more alone than ever. They do have the option to make video calls – but only if they have enough money in their commissary accounts to cover the costs. You can help by making a donation to the NH Conference United Church of Christ [https://bit.ly/2GibJnx](https://bit.ly/2GibJnx) (checks to NHCUCC with IRSG in memo line) so they can put money directly into people’s commissary accounts. Thank you!

If you have any questions, please contact Joyce Tugel, Seacoast Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition Volunteer Coordinator for First Parish Church: [jtugel@gmail.com](mailto:jtugel@gmail.com)

**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](https://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/55811a) files.
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 ONLINE!