

Steeple Chat

The weekly update from your church



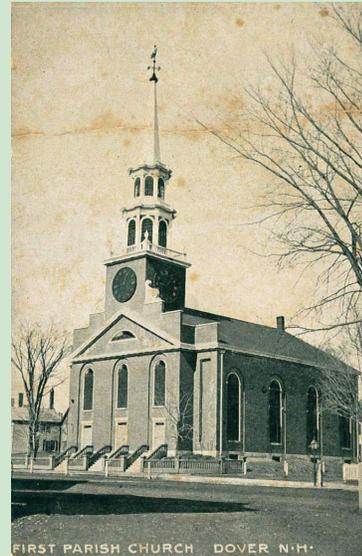
In our ONLINE Church this Sunday, October 25, 2020 The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost Reformation Sunday

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

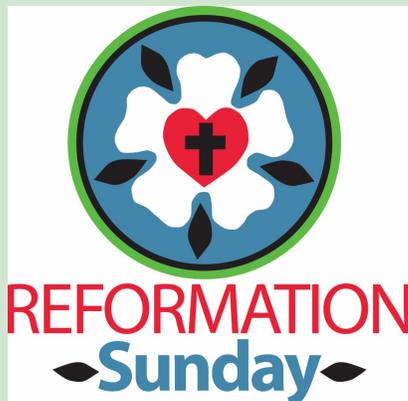
**REFORMATION SUNDAY
and HISTORY SUNDAY**

Message by Diane Fiske
Church Historian
Immigrants, Natives and Slaves
Matthew 22: 34-46

Children's Message by Pastor Paige



Clergy Appreciation Litany
led by Deacon Chairperson *Erica Helm*



OUR ONLINE Ministry of Music
First Parish Virtual Choir:
O Love by Elaine Hagenberg

Organ Prelude by *Marty Thyng*
Toccata on A Mighty Fortress
Tune by Martin Luther;
arr Joyce Jones

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
- *Pastor Paige's Corner
- *Lunchtime Devotions
- *Prayer List
- *Upcoming Worship
- *Deacon's Bench
- *All Saints request
- *Thrift Shop
- *Holiday Fair News:
 - Fair Web Page*
 - Volunteers Needed*
 - Baked Goods*
 - Plant Room*
 - SERVV Fair Trade*
 - Items at Fair*
- Deck the parking lot*
- Holiday Wreaths*
- *Virtual Book Club
- *Cookbook deadline
- *Your Offerings
- *Music Ministry
- *Recordings Sign-up
- *Thrift Shop Hours
- *Stephen Ministry available
- *ONA Covenant



Sunday
School
THIS
Sunday
at 9:15
am!

News about our
Virtual Sunday School.

This Sunday, October 25, we begin a new Sunday School model based on the Living Arts Camp from this past summer.

There will be less virtual, more creativity, and more activities.

We will be connect for about 15 minutes prior to worship just to touch base, talk about what we've learned and to show our art work.

Ingrid is sending boxes of art supplies, and Journals to the youth.

Join us on Zoom for virtual
Sunday School.
Here is the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81872238147?pwd=UTFHRog1Y1JyaGhMUUuU2eVlscDZWZz09>

REV PAIGE'S CORNER



The holidays are coming... and Covid isn't leaving.... Like a houseguest who decided to stay. I hear more and more these days about "COVID fatigue". And I wonder if the approaching holidays aren't in fact upping the ante for most of us. I know that I have been settling into the current version of normal – reinventing – limiting – but finding ways to get through each day and even find some joy and love along the way. And I think I could keep going this way for the time it will take us to get to the

vaccine....except here come the holidays.

It is the normal nature of things for holidays to disrupt routine and they are wrapped in traditions. How many ways to we say "it's not Christmas unless...." (fill in the blank with your favorite holiday tradition.) I remember an early Thanksgiving with my in-laws when my heart was broken because my beloved yam recipe was not on the menu. No, their tradition was marshmallow topping and they wanted nothing to do with my orange juice and walnuts. "But it's not Thanksgiving without..." Oh. Right. In the worlds of one of my mission trip gurus: "flexibility is fun."

In the spring, the disruption of routine and activities brought with it a lot of grief, but I thought I had settled in. But I am finding as we begin to move towards holiday planning at home and church it is bringing back that sense of grief. Zoom Thanksgiving chats with family who would usually be at our table because my college kid will be quarantined after coming home from another state feel disappointing. No Advent "Messiah Sing" is a blow. And it is going to take some serious inspiration to save Christmas eve worship. (I believe.)

And there is temptation to make dumb decisions in these moments – to let down our vigilance around protecting ourselves and those around us from the virus, to not be proactive in reaching out to others when we need support, to letting ourselves fall into despair and grumpiness.

But.... God is with us on the journey and the Holy Spirit is moving in our midst and I see so much that I am thankful for in the midst of this struggle.

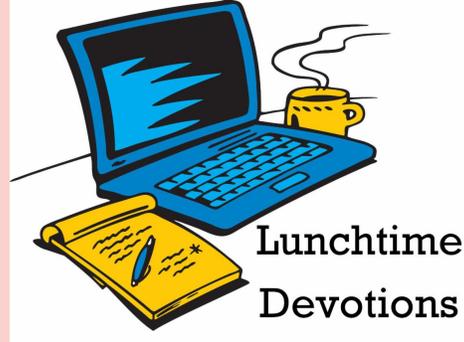
So that brings us back to fatigue on the journey through this wilderness time. I think the answers might be the same as I would choose on a long trip: stopping for good rest periods along the way; making sure to find nourishment (healthy food for body and spirit); finding fellowship with fellow travelers; and the vision of where we are going.

Prayerfully,
Rev Paige

Lunch Time Devotions: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:00 noon

We offer devotions on Tuesdays 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 Tuesdays 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



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.](#)

Upcoming Worship Plans:

November 1 – All Saints Day with special remembrances of members lost during the pandemic time for whom we have not been able to have public funerals

November 8 -Veteran's Recognition

November 15 – Confirmation Sunday! We have delayed long enough! Let's welcome our 4 confirmands into full adult membership with a special celebration!

November 22 – Thanksgiving Sunday service

November 22 at 7:00 p.m. Community Thanksgiving Service--FPC is hosting on Zoom



from the Deacons bench

From the Deacons

The Deacons are delighted to welcome new members to the Board. We are truly blessed with an abundance of talent and faith serving First Parish. The Deacons have spent time reflecting on the opportunities we have been presented over the past 6 months. The challenge of offering meaningful worship and fellowship while not being together physically has required some considerable flexing of our faith-filled muscles. There is no question that First Parish Church has risen to the challenge,

providing robust worship experiences, creative fellowship, and innovative ways to Be Church TOGETHER even from afar. We are hoping to capitalize on our

new skills as we move into Advent and Christmastide. In order to maintain safety and provide strong modeling of caring for all members, the Deacons have decided that worship will remain virtual at least until January. This was not an easy decision and the Deacons recognize that many were holding out hope that things would be different. There is no doubt that Pastor Paige and the Advent planning team will develop a season that will offer a balm to soothe the rawness so many of us are feeling. We may not walk through the season hand in hand, but our anticipation of what is to come will not be diminished by physical distance. It is exciting to think of all the ways we can celebrate our age old traditions looking through a new lens.

All Saints Day request

We are preparing for All Saints Day observed in worship on Sunday, November 1st. We would like to gather names of those whom you would like remembered this year. There will be an opportunity to share names in the Q&A section during worship for the next couple of weeks. Or, you can share names and even photos by email to firstparish@comcast.net



In the church, the word *Saint* gets used in a couple of ways. While it is often used in the ways the wider culture uses it to be an extraordinary person worthy of special notice, it is also used to apply to all the faithful who are seen as blessed. The word saint has its roots in the same word for “holy”. A life of faith is seen as a transforming force that “sanctifies” us – transforms us to be more Christ-like. The tradition of “All Saints Day” is to remember those who have died – particularly those in the prior year. All Hallows Eve (Halloween) also spun off from this celebration.



The ***Find It At The First Thrift Shop*** is NOW OPEN on Thursdays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. AND on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

PLEASE hold off any donations at the present time--there is simply not

space at the present time.

Please come into to say hello! Masks are required.



Holiday Fair News

Please visit our recently launched 2020 Virtual Church Fair webpage here: fpcfair.org.

The website will remain open for sales through November 13th, but some items will disappear before that.

The Fair webpage contains the link to the online Church Fair virtual store which is now "open for business". Invite your friends! Shop early and shop often!!



Volunteers are STILL needed!

The FPC virtual fair has arrived! In order to make this year's fair run smoothly we need your help!

If you would like to be a packer, runner, or a greeter for our fair this year please sign up at the following link:

fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/6676e8

If you have any questions please contact our Fair guru Bethany at fpcfair@gmail.com

Baked Goods---will you help? Baked goods are still needed for the Church Fair. If you wish to bake something delicious, please fill out this Breeze form:

fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/408fof

Items that are not frozen can be dropped off at the church November 13th or in the day of the fair, November 14th, before 8:30.

Plant Room There will be plants at this years Virtual Christmas Fair, so if you have any houseplants that need to be split or re-potted, now is the time to work on that "To-Do" project!!

As soon as you have plants to donate, please contact Cindy Chase to make arrangements to drop them off at her home on Dover Point Road, so that we can get

pictures posted on FPC's Virtual Christmas Fair website.

Plant 2020 Co-Chairs,
Cindy Chase ~ (603) 969-6555
(C) Chaseforever@hotmail.com
Faith Levesque ~ (603) 608-1121
(L) dolphinwannabe@comcast.net



SERRV ~ Fair Trade Handcrafted items from around the World

For the 2020 Virtual Christmas Fair (except for the SERRV items that are shown on our website that are for sale on a first come-first served basis) your individual Fair Trade SERRV order needs to be purchased online through our SERRV & Earn fundraiser. First Parish Church will receive 20% from your order(s) this year, instead of the 10% that we receive when we place a Consignment order!

Before shopping, please check the orange banner at the top of SERRV's home page to make sure that First Parish Church

Congregational is identified - so that we receive the 20% of your online order.

Our custom SERRV & Earn web link is serrv.org?a=VirtualFair

Our entire web link (URL) must be used so that SERRV can track all purchases for our 2020 Christmas Fair SERRV fundraiser. Feel free to share it with family, friends, and co-workers but please note that it is recommended that our web link be shared as a hyperlinked image or text on a website/social media page or in an email. Don't share it via a mobile device as it may not maintain the full link. And again, before ordering please make sure that First Parish Church Congregational is identified on the orange banner before shopping.

As an added bonus, there are FOUR weekend specials to keep in mind when supporting our SERRV & Earn fundraiser this year. The Promo Codes are date specific, but I wanted to share them with you so that you can plan your online shopping accordingly:

10/31 - 11/1 ~~ FREE Gift with purchase (\$16 value!)
Promo Code: SEFREEJOY20

11/14 - 11/15 ~~ FREE Ground Shipping
Promo Code: SEHOLIDAY20

11/21 - 11/22 ~~ FREE \$10 Gift Card with every \$50+ purchase
Promo Code: SEGC20

12/5 - 12/6 ~~ FREE Ground Shipping
Promo Code: SESNOWMAN20

Please Note: Exclusions will apply -- as soon as details are received they will be posted here on Steeple Chat.

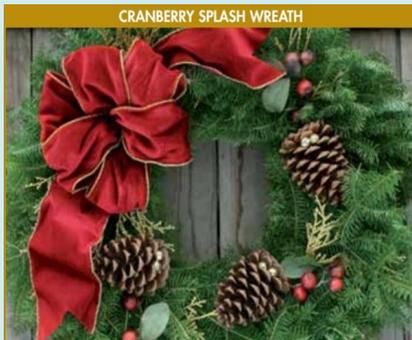
Behind each handcrafted SERRV item is a story, of an empowered artisan or farmer who is supporting his/her family; especially through these challenging times that COVID-19 is presenting. With your purchase(s), you are helping to create a more sustainable world, by joining this growing global community by being a part of these stories of change that ultimately creates meaningful, long-term, worldwide connections with disadvantaged artisans and farmers. EVERY PURCHASE MAKES AN IMPACT AND A DIFFERENCE, thank you for your continued support through these challenging times (worldwide) that we are all facing.

Please contact Faith Levesque at (603) 608-1121 (L) or FirstParishSERRV2020@gmail.com with any questions.

Deck the Parking Space Competition

To add fun to our “Drive Thru Church Fair” on November 14, we are going to “Deck the Parking Lot” and we are looking for folks to “adopt” a parking space. Each group or individual will be assigned an empty space in which to create something fun and festive! (We know some of you have some crazy holiday decorations stashed away. Wouldn't it be fun to show them off early?) You can pick your own theme! Decoration of your assigned space will take place before people begin driving through to pick up orders at 10 am. Those picking up orders will be given ballots to vote on their favorite space. Winners get bragging rights and perhaps even a prize.

Willing to take on the challenge? Register here: <https://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/6e700e>



CRANBERRY SPLASH WREATH

Holiday Wreaths at Fair

First Parish will be selling wreaths and evergreen gifts as part of the Holiday Fair fundraiser this year. This is something we can all do to help raise money for First Parish in a year where the fair is taking a new direction and we are uncertain of how successful we can be. Our goal is to sell at least 100 wreaths and related gifts. To do that we need your help; but it's easy!

Wreaths and other items come fully decorated and ready to hang or use. There are 4 wreath choices along with a candlelit centerpiece and a holiday table top tree. Costs are from \$24-\$32 dollars and include delivery to the church for pickup on Fair Day – Nov. 14th.

In addition to having the items listed as part of the holiday fair website, I am encouraging those of you who are willing, to help us “safely sell” these items to your neighbors and family. Send phone calls or messages to ask if they are interested in supporting this church fundraiser. Share info on social media like Facebook. I can provide order sheets to fill in to help you track your contact lists

. They will also be available in the front office upon request.

Your friends and family can order and pay online in two ways:

1. For locals: Go onto the fair website www.FPCfair.org and purchase and pay for item(s). [Orders will close Nov 7th for Nov 14th delivery.] Items are available for pickup at the church on Nov 14th.
2. For delivery anywhere in US, items can be ordered from www.GiftItForward.com

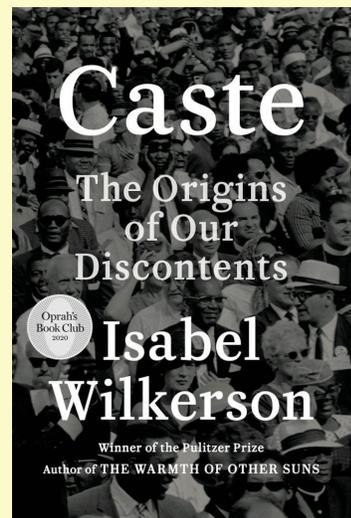
and sent directly. The costs for items listed on that site are higher than the ones we charge locally, but include all shipping and handling. When ordering this way, use the organization code (**FIRSTPNH001**) and First Parish will receive \$8 per item ordered!

This is a great option to send gifts to family and friends outside of NH.

For more info, contact Sandi Potter pottersw@gmail.com or 610-393-6040

The next **Virtual Book Club** discussion will be on the book *Caste* on Thursday November 5th from 7-8 pm. Please RSVP for the Zoom link or Ingrid will post the link on the Church Facebook the day of the discussion.

In her new book, *Caste*, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Isabel Wilkerson examines the laws and practices that created what she describes as a bipolar, black and white caste system in the United States.



From The Dream Team!

This Sunday, October 24th is the recipe submission deadline so we can begin producing the cookbook in time for the Fair!

Please have fun with the recipes and be creative i.e. if your comfort food is Fluffernutter Sandwich go over the directions with your favorite bread. Or if your comfort food is a Twinkie...unwrap it and describe what was so wonderful about it. Include your comfort meal if you would like i.e. Prime Rib

with Gorgonzola blue cheese & garlic mashed potatoes.

We welcome stories and memories about your favorite recipes and meals.

Please submit your comfort food recipes to Ingrid Roeder at IngridFPCDover@gmail.com or send them to First Parish Church, 218 Central Ave. Dover, NH 03820

PLEASE submit all recipes by October 24th.

Thank you everyone, this should be a lot of fun!

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 Ministry Videos posted in Basecamp

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

We continue to add to the music ministry collection every week.



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://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/55811a>





Find it at the First Thrift Shop:

The Thrift Shop is open Thursdays from 1 to 4 pm and Saturdays, from 10 am until 1 pm.

Please hold off on donations due to lack of space at the present time. Masks are required for entry to the Thrift Shop.

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

