

September ~ October 2018

The Chimes

First Parish Church
Congregational ~ United Church
of Christ

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR



**September 7 – 9
Weekend**

**Choir Retreat
At Ames Farm**

**September 12
Blood Drive**

**September 15
Isle of Shoals Cruise**

**September 16
Rally Day Sunday**

**Sunday, September 30
Sunday, October 7
Sunday, October 28
Fair Planning Meetings**

**Saturday, October 6
Church Supper**

**Sunday, October 28
Hector Olivera Concert**

Dear friends at FPC,

At the beginning of the summer we had a “Facebook event”. One of our members created a “meme” (an image with words) for our Facebook page. The image is at the foot of this page. In that moment of time, with the separation of children from their parents, the sharing of this meme exploded ... it was shared and shared ... over nine million times. And out of this moment thousands of people ‘liked’ our page and decided to ‘follow’ us.

This may sound like internet “froth” to some of you. But it has given us an opportunity to step out into the light a little more as a community. And so as the fall gets going we are going to give you some of the flavor of this moment in a meeting after church.

Then we are going to “walk the walk” in our home meetings, thinking about what it means to let God surprise us. How do we make our faith a little more real at moments like this?

So let’s flex and grow into this moment, listening for God’s voice and taking the opportunity to express God’s love in Dover and to those watching and listening.

Warmly in faith,
Pastor Jonathan





Grace...

Update from Your Search Committee

It has been a busy summer, but we want you to know that we have made time to meet regularly and to forge ahead in the important work you have entrusted to us. We began reviewing candidate profiles in June, and one or two new ones come in each week. Know that they represent a vast range of ages, experience, geographical locale and skill sets. At this point we have conducted initial Skype interviews with several candidates, and more are scheduled right after Labor Day. Skype technology is both a blessing and a curse! While it allows us to have a personal interaction with a candidate without the expense of travel, it provides a somewhat artificial engagement, which often falls short of feeling wholly authentic. Our work is now more intense and immediate; after each of these interviews we are challenged to have honest discussion and to listen together-- reflecting, praying, and trying, always, to discern the Holy Spirit. More than ever, we are grateful for your support and your continued prayers.

Humbly and prayerfully submitted,
Marcia Goodnow,
FPC Search Committee Chair

Why I Don't Believe in Karma

Written by Emily Heath

I don't believe in karma. I don't believe that if you do something crummy to someone else you will pay down the line. Conversely, I don't believe that if you live your life like a saint you will get a good break.

Why? Just look around. Good people suffer far too often. People who spew hate and act unjustly build fortunes and die happy. So, I don't believe in karma, even though sometimes I wish I could. It would be an easier world if doing the right thing meant you were rewarded. But then again, that would mean that too many good things were being done for the wrong reasons. It would mean that our good acts were done only to serve ourselves.

Instead, I believe in grace. I don't believe that we receive God's blessings and goodness because we have worked our way into it. I believe grace comes when we least expect it. We drop the ball, and the world should come crashing down, but instead we bounce. And so, because we have received grace, we do the right thing not, in order to save ourselves, but so that we can say thank you.

That still doesn't explain why "bad things happen to good people." But to me it does explain why sometimes the world seems so unfair. No one deserves suffering. It's not their karmic comeuppance. Mrs. Lopez is not in the ICU because she sinned, and Mr. Jones didn't get laid off because he's a bad person.

As a child I used to get frustrated when people would say "life isn't fair." Now, that feels like a reassurance. Life is not fair, and so suffering is not divine payback. It just is. I'd like to talk to God face-to-face about that in the next life, because I've got some complaints I'd like to lodge.

I think that grace means when that day comes, God will listen.

Prayer: Dear God, I don't understand why things happen sometimes, but I do believe your grace is there with us, even on the worst of days. Amen.

About the Author: Emily C. Heath is the Senior Pastor of the Congregational Church in Exeter, New Hampshire, and the author of the forthcoming *Glorify: Reclaiming the Heart of Progressive Christianity*.

**To celebrate the
opening day of
SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sunday,
September 16th in
Fellowship Hall**

**Join us for an
All Church
Ice Cream Social!**

**There will be savory
snacks and coffee
with a special game of
BINGO designed for us
to get to know each
other better.**

**This is a CASUAL
DRESS SUNDAY.**



Sunday, September 16th

**JOIN US for
FIRST Kids Gathering
in Nazareth Hall @ 9:30 AM**



**Classes will be held during the
10:00 AM worship hour and classrooms
will be combined as follows:**

Preschool – 2nd Grade

Erica Helm

Sara Stewart

Katelyn Gould

3rd, 4th & 5th Grade

Amy Bennington

Beth Setear

Cindy Chase

6th – 8th Grade

Allison Friend-Gray

Lesley Hocking

Jack Leggett

Lance Dion



Food Items Needed:

Peanut Butter (18 oz plastic); Saltines/Graham Crackers; Canned Beef Stew; Canned Pasta (Beefaroni, Ravioli); Canned Soup (12-20 oz); Hormel Complete Meals; Macaroni & Cheese; Fruit Cups (4-pack); Granola Bars/Nutrition Bars; Instant Flavored Rice or Noodles; Instant Flavored Potatoes; Tuna or Chicken or Pulled Pork (10 oz or smaller cans); Instant Oatmeal (individual packets); Pudding Cups (4 pack)
NO GLASS CONTAINERS

Always get easy-open containers when available

Any other non-perishable food you may have that is not expired will be accepted as well



www.facebook.com/FPCDover.sundayschool

FAITH PROGRAMMING UPDATE

Teachers and members of the Christian Education Board got together for a Sunday School Retreat on Friday, August 10th. A major topic of discussion involved upstairs/downstairs mindfulness. We hope to see some changes this year that will work to build stronger bonds within our church family by bringing energy to BOTH of our Sunday morning worship services. Students and teachers will be present at the beginning of Worship Service at 10 a.m. and will leave together as a school body after the Children's Message. What we hope to see downstairs in Nazareth Hall are more members of the congregation who show up early to attend the FIRST Kids Gathering at 9:30 a.m. Carol Seely will be accompanying us on the piano. Every person who comes to worship God, whether it be upstairs or downstairs, or BOTH, will bring an additional dose of energy that helps build us as children of God into the church family we hope to be.

Another way we hope to build stronger bonds between upstairs and downstairs is to have a pool of guest teachers who put their name on the calendar to cover a handful of classes throughout the Sunday School year. This will give some of you an opportunity to share your gifts with our children as well as lend support to our Sunday School teachers who rarely, if ever, have a chance to attend Worship Service upstairs. The plan will be to have at least one faculty member present with our guest teacher, so everyone is supported. If you feel called to such service, please give me a call or email me.

In Youth Ministry news, we are aiming to create separate opportunities for middle and high school students starting this fall. Details are still being finalized but one joyful piece of news to share is that a Youth Advisory group has been gathered to assist the formation of our Youth Ministry on a more spiritual level. That board consists of Judy Edwards, Allison Friend-Gray, Jack Lynes, Gary Munson, and Nate Swanson. Stay tuned for me to ask some of you to help as part of a Youth Action group. We will be looking for people who can join in fun activities, music, discussion of topics relevant to youth, service projects, and, of course, FOOD!

I will be posting updates to two separate Facebook pages, so if you are on that platform, look for FPCDover.SundaySchool and FPCDover.Youth. I am excited to be in this role as your Director of Faith Programming. If you want to participate in any way with our Sunday school, youth, or adult ed programs, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Matt Endrizzi at matt.endrizzi@gmail.com or 603-742-5664 extension 13

Adult Sunday School

Join us when Adult Sunday School resumes on September 16th!

Participants in the adult Sunday School class are looking forward to resuming on Sunday, September 16, along with the rest of Sunday School. Anyone is welcome to join us, either routinely or dropping in when you can. The atmosphere of the class is one of sharing, where we recognize that each of us and our faith is a work in progress.

Planned for this fall:

- **Sundays Sept. 16, 23, 30 and Oct. 6:** Covenants in the Bible, led by Gary Munson. The relationship between God and humankind has changed over the vast sweep of the Bible, from Adam and Eve in the Garden, Noah, the people building the Tower of Babel, Abram, Moses and the Israelites and others in the Old Testament, to our relationship through Christ in the New Testament. What is the nature of each of the 'covenants'? What do they reveal about God and ourselves and our relationship, and about our faith?
- **Sundays Oct. 13, 20, 27:** The Case for Faith, led by Mark Swanson. This study will examine selected topics from the book with that title by Lee Strobel, the well-known Christian author and apologist, and former atheist and investigative reporter. Strobel replies to doubts about Christianity, including the problem of evil, the contradiction between miracles and science, whether God is worthy of worship if he kills innocent children, whether Jesus is the only way to God, and the church's history of oppression and violence.
- **Sundays Nov. 4, 11, 18:** Topic TBD, led by Pastor Jonathan.

The class meets at 8:50 a.m. in Room 8 downstairs and ends at 9:40 a.m.

If any questions or suggestions please contact Gary Munson or Joyce Tugel. If you'd like to be on the informal adult Sunday School email distribution, just contact Gary at munson.post@gmail.com.

Music Ministry

Youth Music Program

Youth Choir and Joyous Ringers: We are continuing a rehearsal schedule this year with these two groups that hopefully will better accommodate busy families. We will rehearse each group on a several week cycle from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. on Sundays. The Joyous Ringers and Youth Choir will alternate in these multi-week cycles. Specifically: the Joyous Ringers will begin rehearsals Sunday, September 23rd, at 11:00 and rehearse until 11:45. They will rehearse each Sunday through October 14th. The Youth Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, October 21st from 11:00 a.m. until 11:45 a.m.

The Joyous Ringers

This group of children and youth handbell players is open to all children and youth of the church from first grade and up. The group will be directed again this year by Emily Grondin. You may contact Emily at katklawz11@yahoo.com. FIRST SUNDAY REHEARSAL will be September 23rd.

The Youth Choir

This singing choir is open to all children and youth in the church. You may contact the director, Carol Seely at 603-312-0771 or email her at k9vet@rcn.com with questions. FIRST SUNDAY REHEARSAL will be October 21st.



First Parish Ringers

Our adult and high school-age handbell group welcomes those who would like to try ringing but have never had the opportunity before. We would love to have you join us for the coming year. Membership is open to adults and those who are in the 8th grade or older. Experience and the ability to read music is not necessary but would be helpful. We will begin our regular schedule of Sunday evening rehearsals at 5:15 p.m. on September 16th. Please call Carol Seely at 603-312-0771 or email her at k9vet@rcn.com with questions.

The First Parish Choir

This choir is a group of singers, open to all ages from high schoolers to adults. Choir rehearsals are on Sunday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The choir sings almost every Sunday from mid-September through mid-June and for special services and events. For further information, please contact Rick Gremlitz, Director of Music, at 603.868.1196 or at rickgremlitz@yahoo.com. FIRST SUNDAY EVENING REHEARSAL will be September 16th.



I know it's hard to believe but fair season is right around the corner. The date of the fair is Saturday, November 17th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. I encourage you all to attend one of our meetings and get involved in the planning. These are held after the worship service in the Parlor and the dates are:

September 30th

October 7th

October 28th

November 4th (this date is tentative and may be canceled if not needed.)

In the months to come, please think about what you can do to help this church-wide fundraiser. Maybe get in touch with Mary Gould (email: bmgoould5@aol.com or 603-335-1847) to donate something to the raffle room. Or find an awesome cookie or candy recipe to make for one of the tables. Or simply just save the date and sign up in October to volunteer to help that day. Any way you can help is greatly appreciated and needed to make a successful fair this year. If you have any questions or want to help out, you may contact Bethany Gould at fpcfair@gmail.com or 603-842-9925.

CONTACT US

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Email: firstparish@comcast.net

Office hours: M-F 9 AM -3 PM
(603) 742-5664

Rev. Jonathan C Goodell, Interim Minister
revjcareygoodell@gmail.com

Rick Gremlitz, Church Administrator
rickgremlitz@yahoo.com

Matt Endrizzi, Director of Faith Programming
Matt.endrizzi@gmail.com

NH UCC: www.nhcucc.org

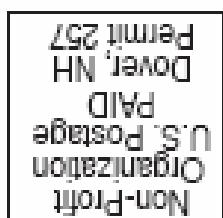
Bulletin Deadline: Tuesdays by 9:00AM

Next Chimes Deadline:

October 15th ~ Please email bulletin and
chimes information to *Joanne* at firstparish@comcast.net



Return Service Requested



The First Parish Church Congregational
The United Church of Christ
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