

Steeple Chat

The weekly update from your church



In our Church this Sunday, February 10

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

10:00 a.m. Worship Service



HYMN SING will precede the service at 9:45 a.m.

Message by Pastor Paige Besse-Rankin

What's Your Excuse?

Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5: 1-11

Children's Message by Pastor Paige

Ministry of Music

The First Parish Choir

***Keep God's Light* Mark Patterson**

***Marty Thyng*, percussion**

Vocal Duet: *Alison Buchsbaum and John Martin*

***O Lord Most Holy (Panis Angelicus)* Cesar Franck**

We observe Scout Sunday this week.

Please join us for our fellowship gathering following the service.

Child care is available during the service.

A Gift for Our New Pastor...

Rev Paige is excited to get to know us and has asked for our help! This week in worship, you will be handed an information sheet with some questions to answer about yourself. We will be snapping informal individual photos at the end of worship so that Paige can begin to get names and faces better connected. Paige considers it a gift for you to take a few moments to share this information with her. If you are not in

worship this week, you can get a copy of the information sheet in the church office or in *Steeple Chat* next week.



In our Sunday School

Join us Sunday for **FIRST Kids Gathering** time at 9:30 a.m. in Nazareth Hall for children and their families. At 9:55 a.m., all will move upstairs to the sanctuary for worship. Following the Children's Message, kids and teachers will return downstairs for their classes and activities.



Adult Discussion Group

Anyone is welcome to join the Adult Sunday School, either routinely, or dropping in when you can. The atmosphere of the class is one of sharing, recognizing that each of us, and our faith, is a work in progress.



Our February discussion:

The Witness of the Twelve - A Compelling Story

This week, we conclude our discussion on this topic. We begin at 8:50 a.m. downstairs in classroom 8. All are welcome. Got questions? Please contact Gary Munson at munson.post@gmail.com

Upcoming Events and Notes

Join in the fun at **Fellowship Game Day** on Saturday February 16th from 2-4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All ages welcome, and guests too! An assortment of board games will be available or bring your favorite. Bring a snack to share, drinks will be provided. Sign up on church bulletin board is appreciated for planning purposes.



Finding the Best Tempo

Once in a while I have been in a position to conduct a choir or a band. (I am not a particularly skilled conductor, but I can generally get a group from the beginning to the end of a piece of music.) While it could be argued that the conductor's job is much bigger than this, it seems to me

REV PAIGE'S CORNER



that two of the most essential jobs of a conductor are setting the tempo and keeping the group together.

As a young musician, I consistently heard my teachers tell me to stop rushing the music as I tended to push the tempo faster than allowed full musical expression. Of course, as a worship leader, I also know that nothing can kill the energy of worship service

more than having the hymns so slow that they drag everything down. So finding the best tempo is very important for a piece of music. (I also know we don't all feel tempo the same way!)



It has often felt to me that pastoral ministry has some of this same experience. As a pastor, I often have some influence in how fast a congregation moves forward, tries new things, or runs activities. Too slow and people get frustrated. Too fast and people can get exhausted or feel as if they are being left behind and left out.

As I wrap up my second week as your pastor, I am thinking a lot about the tempo we talk in these days of new beginnings. There is so much energy and excitement right now and I am hearing from many of you about your hopes and ideas for the days ahead. Many have been "waiting for the new pastor to...." And now she is here. And I come with lots of ideas of my own! So I want to ride the wave of this hopeful and excited time towards your vision for our church. And, at the same time, I want to make sure I understand history, why you do what you do and how things work before making changes that might not be right for us.

As we talk about what is next, I welcome your wisdom and guidance on what tempo we want to set for these days. I also welcome your prayers as I am learning a lot of new information right now and I know I am missing some things that are important. There are some "start up" and "getting up to speed" things that need to happen that may slow my tempo a bit.

Peace! *Rev Paige*

FROM Last Week's Steeple Chat: *The Care and Tending of Your New Pastor*

If you missed Rev Paige's opening greetings to the congregation in last week's *Steeple Chat*, you may click here for a copy: [PastorNotes](#)

In Our Church Life

Please remember your Nametag As Pastor Paige Besse-Rankin begins her ministry with us, it would be helpful to her for us to wear our church nametags, especially on Sunday mornings. If you have lost your



nametag, please notify the church office and a new one will be made for you.

312-0771 or email Carol at k9vet@rcn.com

First Parish Ringers are in need of two additional ringers. Experience and the ability to read music is a plus, but not necessary. Please call Carol Seely at 603



Prepared to Serve

Did you know that each year, the NH Conference UCC offers an amazing event with 40 or more workshops on all sorts of topics? The event is "Invited to Serve" and it is open to all - not just conference delegates. There are workshops on finance, stewardship, education, spirituality, justice issues and more. The

registration gets you workshops, worship and lunch. This year, *Prepared to Serve* will take place Saturday, February 23, 2019 at Pembroke Academy, Pembroke, NH (209 Academy Road). The event will run from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (8:00 am - 8:45 am Registration and Refreshments). Others are going from First Parish if you want to carpool. There are funds available to defray the \$40 registration fee.

Come to Camp! Christian Summer camp changes lives! The NH Conference UCC runs a wonderful summer camp on the top of a mountain! Horton Center offers opportunities through the summer for people of all ages to come away for fun, adventure, and faith exploration.



This summer, there are more opportunities than ever as Horton Center does a new thing. Each week, there will be three different conferences offered for different ages - each with its own theme and focus. There is something for everyone!

And if it feels a little scary to go to camp for the first time with people you don't know, sign up for one of the Week 3 camps. Rev Paige and Rev Gordon will each be deaning camps that week. Check it out and find links for online registration at: www.hortoncenter.org.

Our **InReach Ministry** is looking for additional volunteers! Can you help out with preparing and delivering a meal to a sick church member? Perhaps drive someone to the doctor? Or maybe spend an hour of your time with a church member's mom while he runs out to the store? There's no commitment needed, just an occasional favor to help out someone in need.

Do you know someone who might need InReach?? - a service provided by our church family volunteers that believes it's the little things that make a big difference during a time of illness, loss, or even joy? Speak to Cindy or Betsy, or email them at fpc.inreach@gmail.com.



Find it at the First Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays, 1-4 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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.

See you in church!

First Parish Church Congregational

The United Church of Christ
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[Visit our website: www.firstparishdover.org](http://www.firstparishdover.org)



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