

Steeple Chat

The weekly update from your church



In our Church this Sunday, January 13

***First Sunday after the Epiphany
and Holy Communion***

10:00 a.m. Worship Service



Message by Interim Pastor Jonathan Goodell

Compass Points

Isaiah 43:1-7

Children's Message by Pastor Jonathan

Ministry of Music

**The First Parish Choir; *Emily Grondin*, violin
Love Never Ends (Romans 8:35) James Biery**

**The service will include *A Liturgy of Farewell* with our
Interim Minister Jonathan Goodell**

**The rose on the chancel railing this Sunday is in celebration of the birth of
Kace Lawrence Duckrow Fonda, on January 2, 2019, son of *Chris and
Serena Duckrow Fonda*. Big sisters are *Sage and Rye*.**

**Following the service on Sunday all are invited to a special Time of Fellowship
and refreshments during which we will honor and thank *Pastor Jonathan* for
his ministry among us during the past eighteen months.**

Child care is available during the service.

Individual cards and personal notes of gratitude to Pastor Jonathan

from members of the congregation are encouraged as a part of our farewell. These may be brought to the church this Sunday and placed in a basket in Fellowship Hall.

CHURCH SUPPER!

Saturday, January 12--4:30-6:00 p.m.

This month's Church Supper will feature ham & homemade beans, hot dogs, homemade coleslaw, green bean casserole, mac and cheese, brown and corn breads, homemade pies, desserts and some culinary surprises!

Adults, \$ 10.00; Children under 12, \$ 5.00

Entertainment while you dine:
The Piano stylings of *Cody Michaels*

Come on by and enjoy our famous First Parish food!



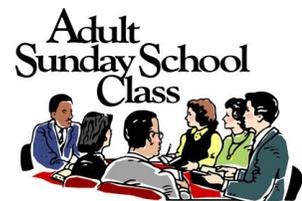
In our Sunday School

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.



Beginning on January 13: The Witness of the Twelve - A Compelling Story

After the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, what happened with the twelve apostles? We all know about Judas Iscariot. More importantly, what about the other eleven and the 'replacement guy', Matthias? What did they do? Details are sketchy and legends abound, but there is enough substance that their collective story is a powerful and inspirational witness to the authenticity of Christ and the Gospel. We'll learn what we can about each of the apostles from passages in the New Testament, to get to know them a little bit. Then we'll look at other ancient sources that tell the stories of their travels and deaths. This study

will begin on January 13 and finish February 17. We begin at 8:50 AM in classroom 8. All are welcome. Come for the whole study, or drop in when you can. Got questions? Please contact Gary Munson.
All are welcome! Class meets 8:50 - 9:40 a.m. in Room 8 downstairs.

Upcoming Events and Notes

January 2019 at First Parish Church The Season of Epiphany



Sunday, January 20—Second Sunday after Epiphany— 10:00 a.m.

Our Guest Minister for this service will be *Rev Donna Spencer-Collins*, a UCC minister in Haverhill, Massachusetts. Donna's most recent accomplishment is as founding pastor of a very robust new church congregation that meets in a refurbished factory building on the banks of the Merrimac River. During this service we will observe the 3rd anniversary of our congregation's Open and Affirming vote and the Martin Luther King Jr Day.

Pastoral Candidate Weekend:

Saturday, January 26—Open House—2:00-5:00 p.m.

All members and friends of the church are invited to an Open House to greet our candidate for Senior Minister, *Rev Paige Besse-Rankin*, and her family. Come on by and enjoy refreshments and informal conversation.

Sunday, January 27--Third Sunday after Epiphany-- 10:00 a.m. Service

Our candidate for Senior Minister, *Rev Paige Besse-Rankin* will lead us in worship and present her candidate sermon. All members and friends of First Parish are encouraged to attend this special service.

A Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following the service to consider a motion to extend a Call to Ministry at First Parish Church to *Rev Paige Besse-Rankin*. A fellowship/coffee hour will follow the vote.



In Our Church Life

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.

FROM The Cochecho Challenge Half Marathon Committee

Matthew 5:16 says: *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*



On behalf of the Cochecho Challenge Half Marathon committee, I would like to take this opportunity to say that the race continues to let First Parish Church shine in the community. In the past 4 years we have grown in size, so that we had 156 entrants to this year's race, up 25% from the previous year. We are serving a diverse cross-section of people, from local runners to international, from recreational runners to avid racers. This year, entrants came from 16 states and 4 countries. The race is a positive for our church because runners continue to praise our volunteers for the way they spurred racers on, encouraging them on their journeys.

The race helps to build our own First Parish Church community, as 23 volunteers stood at posts throughout the city, while a dozen more stayed at the church to help with food, prizes, or check-in. It is an event that highlights our capacity to come together as one church body for a common goal. The race allows us to continue our annual missions through generous donations and sponsorship. This year, over 20 businesses contributed to our church through this growing event. As a result, we raised \$8300 toward our budget for the coming year!

I'd like to take a moment to recognize John Straight for his dedication to the Cochecho Challenge for the past 5 years and for making it the successful event that it is. He spent countless hours working on the race doing everything from rallying sponsors to securing a beer provider, and we are indebted to him for his service. I have large shoes to fill as race director!

Stay tuned for updates from the Cochecho Challenge committee as we are working toward the addition of a short, walker-friendly race this year! We hope you join us for this family-friendly race and help cheer on all our runners for the 5th annual event on August 31, 2019.

Thank you!
Leslie Hocking, Race Director

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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