

Steeple Chat

The weekly update from your church



In our Church this Sunday, August 18

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. Service in the sanctuary

Message by Pastor Paige Besse-Rankin

"Faith when the Road Gets Tough"

Luke 12: 49-56 & Hebrews 11:29- 12:2

Music Ministry

Bonnie Marshall, *piano*; Emily Grondin, *violin*

"As Jacob with travel was weary", "Breathe on Me", "The River", and "Redemption"

Child care is available during the service.

Refreshments and fellowship follow the service.

In Steeple Chat this week:

- *Rev Paige's
corner**
- *Blessing of
Backpacks**
- *Maranatha UCC
Event**
- *Confirmation
2020**
- *Plants for Church
Fair**
- *Solidarity Walk**
- *Welcome the
Stranger**
- *Cochecho Road
Race**
- *Thrift Shop**
- *Stephen Ministry**

Rally Day is coming!

Our Sunday School kickoff festivities will happen on Sunday, September 15. We will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Sunday School. Plan to stay after worship for a party! Stay tuned for more plans.

Adult Discussion Group

The Adult Discussion Group will
NOT meet on Sunday August 18 but

will return on August 25.

Adult
Sunday School
Class



REV PAIGE'S CORNER



READY..... SET.....

Perhaps it is all the discussion of the road races coming in a couple of weeks. Or perhaps it is this week's scripture reading from Hebrews calling us to "run with perseverance the race that is set before us". Perhaps it is all the preparation for "back to school" with our students - including the one in my home. Or perhaps it is all the work we are doing now to prepare for the new program year. I have felt this week as if the church is "getting ready"

- but not quite there.

I once has the opportunity to walk a half-marathon as a fundraiser for a cause I cared about. When they lined up all the thousands of marathon participants, they staged us by anticipated completion time. The fastest people were up front and the slowest (like the walkers) were in the back. Now I was fine with not getting run over when the starting gun went off by all the serious runners. On the other hand, it was at least 10 minutes and hundreds of yards before we even got to the starting line! There was the effort it took to even get to the starting line! (And yes, in these days of technology, the start time for my event was when my toe tag went over the start line so I didn't lose that 10 minutes off my time.) (And we won't even discuss getting to the staging parking lot 2 hours early at 4 am to get on the shuttle bus to the starting line and standing there for a good hour....) It is all part of the journey.

So as we move along toward the starting line of this new program year (as if real worship and ministry isn't happening all summer long), there are important preparations to be made and lots of wonderful conversations happening about where the road will take us and our hopes for the year to come. But here I love the rest of the verse from Hebrews 12: "looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith". We are not on a wilderness path here, but following where Jesus is leading.

So come join the preparations - planning and scheduling, visioning and preparing, cleaning and decorating - and list with me for the starting signal as we get ready, get set....

Blessings, Rev Paige



Blessing of the Backpacks – Next Sunday

As school gets underway for a new year, we are offering a time of special blessing for our students. They are encouraged to bring school backs to church on August 25 for a special blessing.

PLANTS for

It is time to start thinking about how you can help us for the Holiday Fair this

HOLIDAY FAIR



November. That's right. We who are doing the Plant Table this year need YOUR help now. Please begin your cuttings for the plant table now. We can use any kind of plants you would like to donate and you think you can donate. We would like them already rooted and growing in pots/containers that you don't want back. Other things we are looking for are pots, glass jars with or without lids, small birch bark logs, pine cones of various sizes. For more information please contact Carol Seely (k9vet@rcn.com), Faith Levesque (dolphinwannabe@comcast.net) or Donna Sgrignuoli (gdsgrignuoli@comcast.net). We are looking forward to a Plant Room with some spectacular and different plants and crafts!

Confirmation 2020

Confirmation is the rite of passage in the church where we recognize that young people need to choose their faith for themselves. It is also the point when they become adult members of the church.

Confirmation Class is designed to give information and experiences to help young people make this decision. It is intentional and a higher commitment than many church activities. It is a journey that students take in companionship with teachers, mentors and the entire congregation. It is an exciting program that asks a lot of students, families, and the church as a whole. But it is worth it!

Preparations are underway for Confirmation 2020 to begin on September 8. Weekly class will take place on Sundays from 12:30 - 2 pm. Invitations are going out now, but our database is still being updated, so if you know a potential Confirmation Class student (high school aged), please contact Rev Paige. We don't want to miss anyone!

SOLIDARITY WALK FOR IMMIGRANT JUSTICE



The New Hampshire Council of Churches is organizing a Solidarity Walk For Immigrant Justice from August 21 through August 24 and you can participate. Some volunteers will walk all or part of a route from Concord to Dover over the four days but the Council seeks volunteers who want to contribute in any of the following ways:

- Walk for part of a day, a whole day, or for the whole walk from the United States District Court in Concord to the Strafford County Department of Corrections in Dover. About one hundred immigrants are detained at the Strafford DOC.
- Provide food for walkers.
- Set up and clean up various venues along the walk route.
- Provide first aid and/or medical supplies for one or more days of the walk.
- Pray for justice for immigrants and for a joyous and safe walk for those who walk.

This is an opportunity to meet others who are concerned about the way some immigrants are being treated in our country, to express your concern about detention conditions, and to show that you answer the call to **WELCOME THE STRANGER**.

**WELCOME THE
STRANGER**



**IMMIGRANT
SUPPORT**

You can sign up to volunteer or learn more about the walk at www.NHChurches.org.

FROM Don Goodnow on behalf of our *Mission and Action Committee*:

I recently attended a meeting of the Immigrant and Refugee Support Group (IRSG) of the New Hampshire Conference of the UCC and learned about a Nigerian family of five that lives in Dover. Their cases are pending in Immigration Court in Boston; meanwhile, they have work permits. Dad works two jobs; Mom stays home with the three young children, ages 1, 4, and 5 and 1/2. They have many needs; perhaps we can help.

A small team of First Parish Church members has formed to work with this family to assess their needs and determine what we can do to help. In the meantime, the Chair of the IRSG has identified the following needs. Can you help?

The family has a car but Dad takes it to work as many as 80 hours in the week. This leaves Mom stranded with the three young children. They need a second car.

The IRSG has a computer for this family but we are looking for someone who would be willing to load common programs (Microsoft Office, Adobe Reader, etc.) onto the computer.

- * They could use a printer/scanner/copier.
- * The oldest child shows an interest in music. Can someone help with music lessons?

The IRSG has requests out for these items; if you can help, please call Don Goodnow at 603-953-4500. If a need has not yet been met, you can make a difference for this family.



AUG
24

MARANATHA KIDS SOCCER TOURNAMENT

AT DEMERRITT PARK, MADBURY, NH. 10am - 2pm



OPEN REGISTRATIONS TO ANY AMATEUR SOCCER TEAMS
(LIMITED for BOYS AND GIRLS UNDER 12 years old)*

BOOK YOUR TEAM BEFORE

FRIDAY, 16TH AUGUST 2019

**terms and conditions apply*

COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US!
FUNDRAISING INDONESIAN FOOD BAZAAR



CONTACT PERSON:

John (Soccer)
(818) 915 3470

Michelin (Food Bazaar)
(347) 260 3743

Chris (General Info)
(603) 507 3542



**RUN FOR
THE FUN!
AND THE
GREAT
CAUSES!**



**REGISTRATION
FEES BENEFIT:**

The Dover Food Pantry
Red Cross Blood Drives
Dover's Friendly Kitchen
End 68 Hours of Hunger
The Cochecho Valley
Humane Society
Alcoholics Anonymous
Girl & Boy Scouts
of America
Plus many more!

**August 31, 2019
8:30AM**

FIND OUT MORE AT

www.CochcechoChallenge.com

First Parish Congregational Church
218 Central Avenue, Dover, NH

Find it at the First Thrift Shop The 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.

ALL are Welcome Here!

See you in church!

First Parish Church Congregational

The United Church of Christ
218 Central Avenue
Dover, New Hampshire 03820
(603) 742-5664
Visit our website: www.firstparishdover.org

