

# Steeple Chat

The weekly update from your church



## In our Church this Sunday, June 9 Pentecost Sunday and Children's Day



**10:00 a.m. Service in  
the sanctuary**

**Celebration of our  
Church School Year in  
Word and Song**

**Honoring our Sunday  
School Students**

**Honoring our Graduates**

**Celebrating our Teachers**

**Awarding of Scholarships**

**A Message for All Ages by Pastor Paige**

***Strengthen the Church Offering***

**Child care is available during the service.**

**ALL are welcome and invited to join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service in the Fellowship Hall.**

**In Steeple Chat  
this week:**

**\*Adult Group  
\*Pastor Paige's  
Corner**

**In our  
Sunday  
School**

**Sunday  
School**

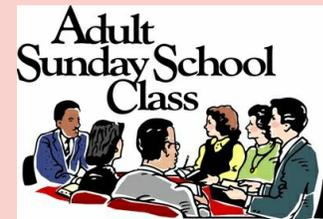
- \*Sound System
- \*Budget Meeting
- \*History Online
- \*Pride Day
- \*Church Keys
- \*Sea Dogs Game
- \*Strengthen the Church
- \*Annual Meeting
- \*Thrift Shop
- \*Stephen Ministry

students should gather in the sanctuary at 9:00 to prepare for the Children's Day service.



### Adult Discussion Group

The Sunday Adult Discussion Class will not meet this Sunday, June 9. Please watch for updates throughout the summer for the Sundays we plan to meet. Topics will include casual discussions on current events which challenge us spiritually. Join us for thought provoking conversations that are sure to feed your faith journey.



### REV PAIGE'S CORNER *General Synod 2019*

Every two years, delegates and visitors gather from UCC Congregations across the nation for General Synod. The Thirty-

second General Synod will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 21-25, 2019. The theme for the 32nd General Synod is based on the scripture Matthew 5:16 "In the same way let your light shine before others . . ."

"When we light just one candle in the darkness, it illuminates dimly, but when many candles are lit, and all let their lights shine, together we can bring brightness to the world." – The Rev. Franz Rigert, Wisconsin Conference Minister.

Always an extraordinary event in the life of the Church, delegates and visitors will experience dynamic workshops, generative plenary sessions, inspirational worship, engaging youth activities, special banquets, and luncheons. Delegates will conduct the business of the denomination and set priorities for our ministries. Keynote speakers will offer illumination and insight into challenges that face our congregations and communities. And delegates and visitors alike will stand up for issues that

demand a faithful witness, worship together, and participate in local community service projects.

Much of Synod worship, plenary and keynotes can be streamed online from [ucc.org](http://ucc.org). If you are interested in seeing the resolutions under consideration this year, you are welcome to read them at

<https://www.synod2019.org/en/uccsynod2019/Resolutions>

Rev Paige will be attending Synod this year as a visitor. Gordon Rankin – both our conference minister and a member of our congregation – will be attending as an associate delegate with the NH delegation. Feel free to speak with them before or after about Synod!

### ***Strengthen the Church Offering this Sunday***

The Strengthen the Church (STC) offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Most congregations will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, June 9th, 2019.

The New Hampshire Conference retains 50% of STC gifts for use within the Conference. More specifically, the NH portion of these gifts helped to support the National Youth Event (NYE) in 2016, the Regional Youth Event last summer, and will provide support for NH youth and leaders participating in NYE 2020 as well.

Each Pentecost, we celebrate the church as we have known it, the church we are, and the church that we can be, together. Please join us in common mission, vision, and purpose by contributing to the Strengthen the Church offering on June 9th, 2019!

Check out this 1 minute video about this UCC offering: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gsM8uIuNJI4>

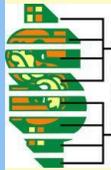
Blessings!  
*Rev Paige*

**THIS SUNDAY!**  
**Sound System Tryout**  
We have made arrangements with

CMI Sound Systems of Connecticut to set up a trial run of the new sound system being proposed for the sanctuary. The test system will be in use this Sunday, June 9 for Children's Day service. That way, our congregation will have the first hand opportunity to hear the system used in a variety of situations during the service. The team from CMI will be happy to answer any specific questions you may have following the service. The specifics on the system proposed will be in the Annual Report being distributed next Sunday.



## BUDGET HEARING & DISCUSSION

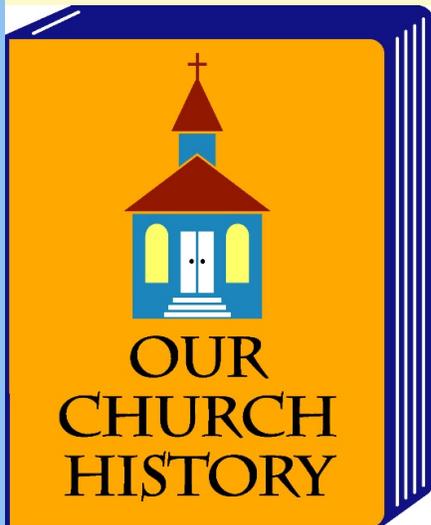


## BUDGET MEETING

A **Budget Hearing** in preparation for the Annual Meeting will be held THIS Sunday, June 9, following the service, in the parlor. Copies of the Annual Report, including the proposed budget for 2019-2020, will be distributed that morning.

Also being discussed will be the proposal for a new sound system in the sanctuary, the proposal for staff reconfiguration, and the proposal for by-law changes.

## OUR FPC HERITAGE IS NOW ONLINE!



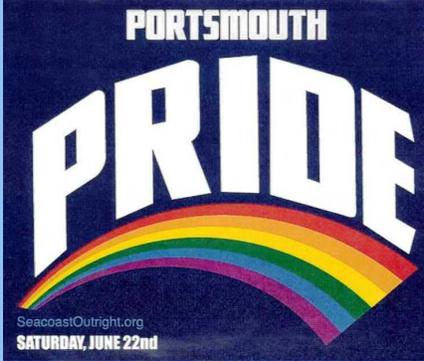
Exciting news from the **Historical Committee!** First Parish Church's earliest records are now online! They are available to parishioners, scholars and interested parties throughout the world, and have been digitally preserved forever. New England's Hidden Histories and FPC are both indebted to the National Endowment for the Humanities for its support for this work. Use the following link to access these old records:

<http://congregationallibrary.org/nehh/series1/DoverNHFirst1319>. You also can go directly to the Congregational Library website, click on Digital Collections, then follow links to all the churches that have participated in this project.

This project has been in the works for the few years. We are extremely grateful to our Historian, Diane Fiske, who pursued this project. Diane has also volunteered many hours to the Congregational Library for transcribing old records. Thank you, Diane!

## PORTSMOUTH PRIDE DAY

Portsmouth **PRIDE Day** will be Saturday, June 22, 2019. It is organized by Seacoast Outright - an organization celebrating its



25th year supporting LGBTQ youth and their allies in the Seacoast area. First Parish Church is planning to have a presence there this year. At about 12:30, we will march in rainbow formation (wear red) from Market Square to Strawberry Banke. Once there, we'll have a table at the "Marketplace" from 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

We need volunteers! You can sign up directly by visiting [bit.ly/fpcpride2019](http://bit.ly/fpcpride2019) or by contacting Allison Friend-Gray at [allison\\_tugel@alumni.brown.edu](mailto:allison_tugel@alumni.brown.edu)

## A KEY CONCERN

# CHURCH KEYS



The transition to our **new door locking system** is nearly complete.

If you currently have a key to the church, please stop by the church office to turn it in.

If you have a continuing need for access to the church building, you will need to complete a sign-out form and receive one of the new key "fobs" which will be used in place of an actual key to open the exterior door.

## FELLOWSHIP & FUN



**Fellowship Fun Day!** Join us for the Portland Sea Dogs Baseball Game on **Saturday, June 22 at 6:00 p.m.**

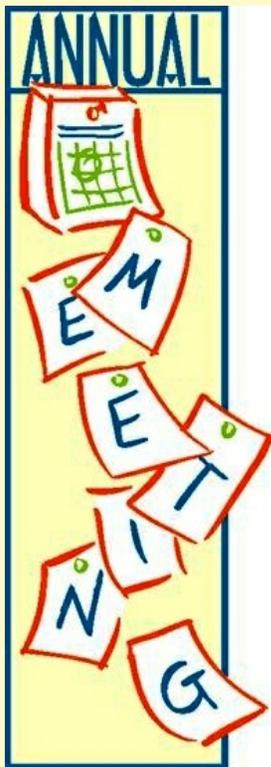
Kathy Daniels has game tickets to purchase at \$8 each. Info on car pooling and further arrangements will be forthcoming. Any questions, please call or speak with Kathy Daniels.

# STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

*... God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young shall see visions, and your old shall dream dreams. ...*

— Acts 2: 17 (NRSV)

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## CALL to ANNUAL MEETING:

In Accordance with Church By-Laws 11.3 and 11.7, notice is hereby given of the Annual Meeting of First Parish Church to be held on Sunday, June 16, 2019, immediately following the morning worship service.

The purposes of the meeting will be:

1. To hear the reading of the Necrology.
2. To receive the reports of the minister, church program staff and the several boards and committees.
3. To hear a summary report of the Treasurer for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.
4. To act on a proposal for sanctuary sound system replacement and funding.
5. To hear a proposal for program and office staff reconfiguration.
6. To act on the proposed budget and income for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.
7. To act on proposed by-law revisions 8.1.5, 8.2.1, and 8.5.1, which will permit members of Council, Wardens, & Diaconate to serve two consecutive terms.
8. To act on the report of the Nominating Committee.
9. To conduct other business as may properly and legally be brought before the meeting.

The Annual Meeting is called by order of the Church Council.  
*Joyce Tugel, Chairperson May 14, 2019*

**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  
218 Central Avenue  
Dover, New Hampshire 03820  
(603) 742-5664

Visit our website: [www.firstparishdover.org](http://www.firstparishdover.org)

