

# Steeple Chat

The weekly update from your church



## In our Church this Sunday, May 19 The Fifth Sunday of Easter



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

**HYMN SING precedes the service**

**Message by Pastor Paige Besse-Rankin  
*When God Explodes Our Boxes***

**Children's Message by Pastor Paige**

**Moment for Mission: *My Friend's Place***

**The Ministry of Music  
First Parish Choir:  
*Look at the World* John Rutter**

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

**The annual Heifer Fair will follow the service  
in Fellowship Hall**

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

### **In Steeple Chat this week:**

- \* Heifer Fair
- \* Quilt Show
- \* Closet Day
- \* Stewardship Update
- \* Pastor Paige Installation
- \* Marginal Way

### **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. In our FIRST Kids



- \*Church Supper
- \*Sea Dogs Game
- \*Sign-Up Books
- \*Flower Delivery
- \*New Members
- \*Graduates
- \*Annual Meeting
- \*Coming Events
- \*Sound System
- \*Thrift Shop
- \*Stephen Ministry

Gathering, we will make artwork that will be used during the Pentecost service on June 9th, when we will celebrate our Sunday School kids. Next week, May 26th, there will be no FIRST Kids and no Sunday School classes. After the Children's Message, kids who want to, and have their parent's permission, will take a tour of our church steeple. Wear shoes and clothes for climbing steep stairs and ladders.

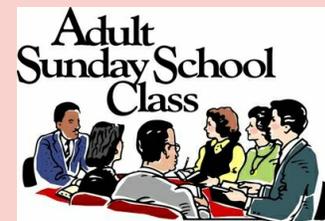


## Youth and Parents

A meeting for any youth and parents interested in learning more about next year's confirmation process will be held **THIS Sunday, May 19** at 9 a.m. in the parlor.

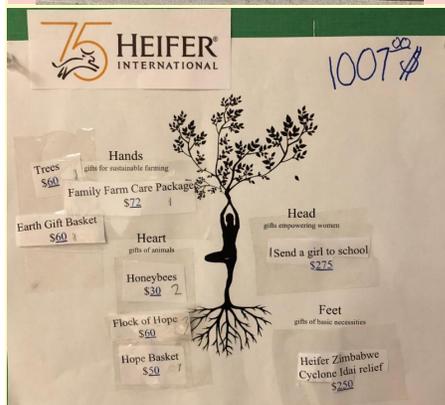


## Adult Discussion Group



Adult Class will meet this Sunday

We will continue to discuss a recent article in the New York Times, *It's Getting Harder to Talk About God*. All are welcome! Starting at 8:50 am in Room 8.



## Heifer Fair

Heifer International--Our Sunday School kids chose a variety of projects to help with this year, and these graphics hanging on the CE Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall define which projects will get funded with the money we raise.

This Sunday is Heifer Fair! Crafts and artwork that the kids have made, as well as any baked goods you bring in, will be displayed during Fellowship Hour for people to purchase by donation. Please bring any baked goods in a single



container to the kitchen before the worship service. We will put out paper baggies for people to put their food in as they make their purchase. No plastic baggies, please!

## QUILT SHOW and SALE

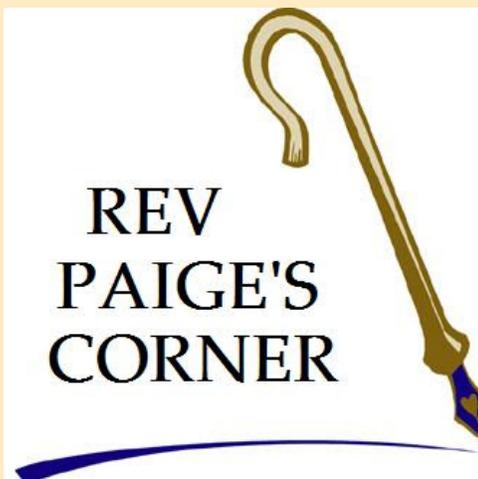


## COMING TOMORROW!

**Quilt Show and Sale** Presented by the First Parish Artisan Quilters on **Saturday, May 18 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.** Our sanctuary will be filled with color and patterns from the many quilts that will be on display. The show will feature quilts of all sizes, both new and old; family quilts, as well as other quilted projects such as table runners and placemats.

There will also be a Cafe with the famous First Parish food during the event.

Admission is \$ 5.00 per person.



## REMINDER--CLOSET DAY

Sunday, May 19 is "Closet Day". After fellowship time, we are going down to inventory closets and establish what needs to be kept, what needs to go to the dump or the thrift store, and what can be reorganized. We are asking that groups with things in storage have a representative present on May 19. (If not, speak to Pastor Paige about how to

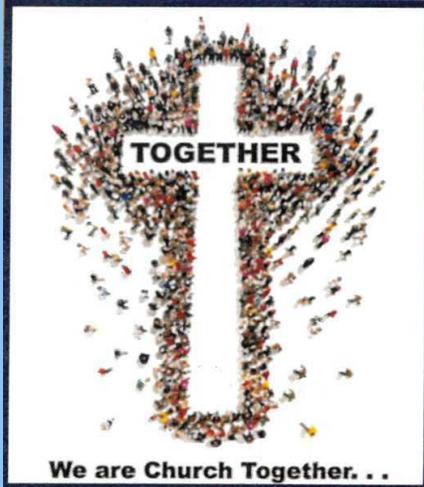
label and identify things ahead of time.) Let's do some archeology together! Should be good for some laughs and help us be better stewards of this amazing space we have!

**Rev Paige**

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

**THANK YOU** to the many members and friends of the church who have returned pledge cards during the past two weeks.

If **YOU** haven't returned your pledge card yet, you are welcome to mail it or drop it by the office, or in the offering plate on



Sunday. As our Church Council will meet this week to finalize the proposed budget and income for the coming year, it would be a great help to the Council and your church to be able to count on everyone's financial support in the coming year

We are very thankful for all the ways the people of this congregation overflow with generosity!

## PASTOR PAIGE INSTALLATION SERVICE



All are invited to the **Installation Service** of *Rev Paige Besse-Rankin* as the 35th Senior Pastor of our First Parish Church. **Sunday, May 26 at 3:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. Celebratory Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall. Our choirs will be participating in this service, along with guests from the Carroll-Strafford Association and the New Hampshire UCC Conference. The Installation Message will be presented by *Rev Dr Davida Crabtree*, a long-time colleague and friend of Rev Paige.

Let us celebrate together this momentous occasion in the life of our church.

## MARGINAL WAY WALK II



**WHO:** Anyone can join *Marty Thyng* on a gentle stroll along the ocean, with easy inclines.

**WHAT:** Walk and enjoy the spectacular views and ocean overlooks.

**WHERE:** *The Marginal Way* in Ogunquit, Maine

**WHEN:** **Saturday, June 1, 2019, at 10:30 a.m.** Meet in the Perkins Cove parking lot at the entrance to the Way.

**WHY:** Exercise, camaraderie, and FUN!

**COST:** \$10 per person (all funds donated to FPC Time & Talent FUNdraising.)

**BRING:** Binoculars, phones/cameras.

**AND:** Dress in layers, early June can be cool. Optional lunch at end of walk.

**SIGN-UP:** In the white books!

**PRAY:** For a sunny day!!

## OUR NEXT CHURCH

**BARBEQUE AND INDOOR PICNIC!**  
**Saturday, June 1st, 4:30--6:00 p.m.**

## SUPPER



The special menu will feature:grilled chicken and pulled pork, along with potato salad, coleslaw, corn "off" the cob and a wide variety of special side salads. Of course, our picnic supper is complete with our homemade pies and other desserts!

For those able to help with food donations, there will be sign-ups this Sunday.

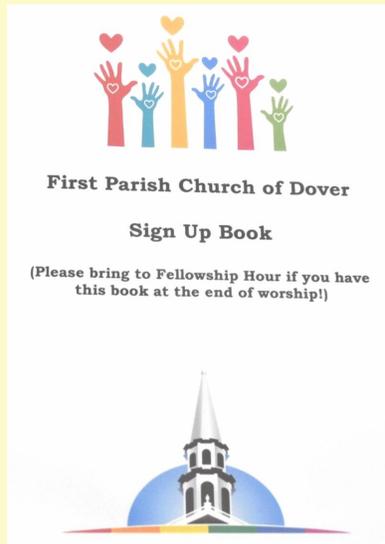
## FELLOWSHIP & FUN



**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.

## CONTINUING OPPORTUNITIES



Our white **Sign-Up** books continue to connect folks who are willing to assist with church-related projects and ministries.

This Sunday, signups added are for the Marginal Way Walk on June 1, continuing signups for the New Members classes, The white binders are circulated during the service, but if that time is not convenient for you to sign up, the books are also available at coffee hour, and on the table just outside the church office during the week.

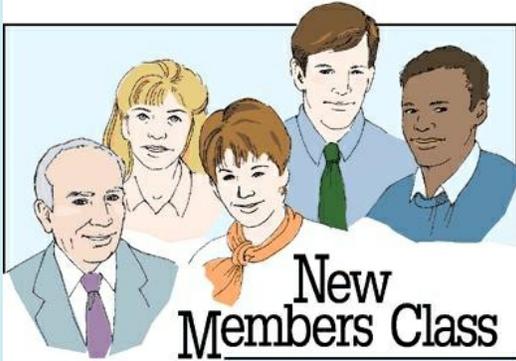
If you are organizing a church activity that needs sign ups, please feel free to add your sign-up sheets to each of the two Books!

## CAN YOU HELP?



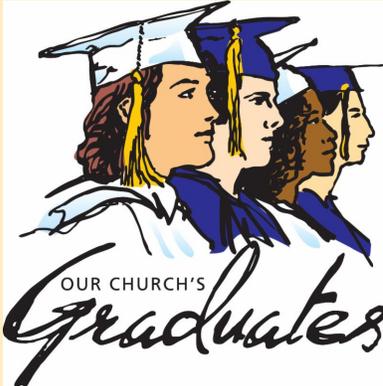
We are seeking folks in the congregation willing to assist in the coming weeks by delivering the Sunday altar flowers to church members following the service. If you can help in this way, there will be a short sign-up and date assignment meeting next Sunday, May 26 in the parlor following the service.

**We are currently organizing new member classes for the church. The program discusses our spiritual journeys, the life of First Parish Church – its story and**



structure, and UCC 101. The program will meet 2 or 3 times depending on the needs of the group. If you are interested, please use this link to connect to a scheduling survey. Add your name and check off which dates would work for you. Hopefully we will achieve a “calendar

bingo”: <https://doodle.com/poll/8tctkib28siwzi4z>



Once again, we plan to honor our high school, college, and post-graduate students in the worship service on Sunday, June 9th.

Please let the church office know by June 3rd of any family members who will be graduating from high school, or earning a degree in your family. Please include the student’s full name, parents’ names, name of school or college, degree and major. You may send graduate information to

[firstparish@comcast.net](mailto:firstparish@comcast.net)., or phone the church office at 742-5664.



#### 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.

## In the Life of our Church

### COMING EVENTS

**Children's Day:** This special service when we celebrate our Sunday School program and its accomplishments.  
*Sunday, June 9 at 10:00 a.m.*

**A Budget Hearing in preparation for the Annual Meeting will be held on 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.**

The Church Council requested the Church Administrator and Pastor to investigate improvements and upgrades to the sanctuary sound system to address its several shortcomings.

A proposal has been received from *CMI Sound Systems* based in Connecticut. *CMI* has significant experience working in historic church buildings, and Pastor Paige has worked with them in a previous church.

*CMI* will be providing a demonstration of the proposed sound system during the service on Sunday, June 9 so the congregation will be able to hear the system in operation.

More details will be provided in the coming weeks. The proposed sound system replacement will be on the agenda at the Annual Meeting.

### PROPOSED SANCTUARY SOUND SYSTEM UPGRADE



**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. NOTE: The Thrift Shop will be CLOSED on Saturday, May 18.

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)

