

Steeple Chat

The weekly update from your church



In our Church this Sunday, October 13 The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. Service in the sanctuary

Message for all Ages

The Nine that Didn't Return

A drama inspired by the story *Where are the Nine?*

by Martin Bell in *The Way of the Wolf*

Luke 17: 11-19

Music Ministry

The Joyous Ringers Handbell Choir:

Jesus Loves Me William Bradbury; arr Sandy Rogers

The First Parish Choir:

Blessed, How Blessed Text: Susan Palo Cherwien;

Music: David Cherwien

The rose on the chancel railing this Sunday celebrates the birth of *Rowan David Slater*, grandson of *Connie Slater* and the late *Rev David Slater*. Rowan was born on October 2, 2019 and is the son of *Paul Slater* and *Laurie Chalifoux-Slater*, brother to *Cameron*, *Vivian* and *Benjamin*.

All are invited to a time of Fellowship and refreshments following the service.

Child care is available during the service.



Sunday School

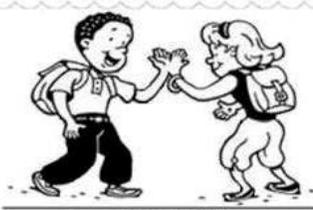
Sunday October 13 schedule:

**9:00 The New Testaments Sunday
School Class**

in Room 6

This Sunday, there is no First Kids/Sunday School program. Families are encouraged to attend the worship service together. Those children and youth participating in the drama selection for the service, please be in the sanctuary to rehearse at 9:15.

Our Sunday School Mission for
October/November is *End 68 Hours of*

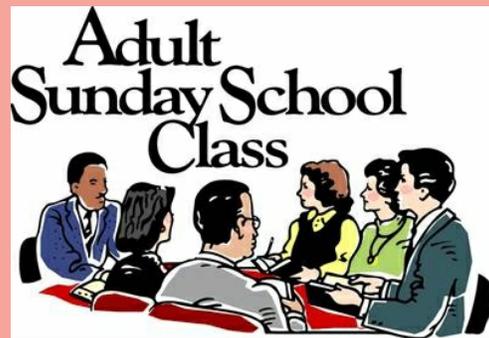


End 68 Hours of Hunger

Hunger which is a public non-profit effort to confront the approximately 68 hours of hunger that some school children experience between the free lunch they receive in school Friday and the free breakfast they receive in school the following Monday.

The Food Bins are located in the atrium, and downstairs under the tree.

1 in 5 children struggle with food insecurity in the United States.



Adult Sunday School Class

Sunday, October 13

8:50 a.m. Adult Sunday School
in Room 8

The Adult Discussion Group meets each Sunday. Join us for lessons around the Season of Creation and Pentecost, with focus scripture and insightful thoughts and words shared by all. Topic this week is *Get Up and*

Go; click here for the study guide: [GetUpandGo](#)

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY

The church will be closed on Monday, October 14 in observance of the federal holiday.

OUR MEDITATION FOR THIS WEEK



Get Up and Go The restorative power of Christ and the boundary crossing communities that God seeks to build is expressed in a story of the healing of the 10.

Jesus' healing of the 10 with leprosy shows God's endurance during the most difficult and painful times through to healing on the other side. It is in the actions of the 10 that they are made well--Jesus invites them to go and return to the community so they might be a part of it again. Although we might not experience dramatic physical healing, we can step out in faith and allow God to heal relationships of personal wounds.

Seek healing for a relationship that is broken. Take action that will help make your relationship healthy again.

In Steeple Chat this week:

- *Weekly Meditation
- *Historical Sunday
- *Holy Cow Survey
- *Archaeology Dig

- *Rev Paige's Corner
- *History Walk
- *NH UCC Annual Conference
- *Pumpkin Carving
- *Music Events
- *Holiday Fair
- *Special Events
- *Thrift Shop
- *Stephen Ministry



Our Church History

October 20th is Historical Sunday at First Parish and the Historical Committee is pleased to announce that on that day, our Church Historian, Diane Fiske is planning to deliver her annual historical talk during the worship service. The theme for this year is *Digging into Our Past, A Report on the Archeology Dig at the Historic Site on Dover Point.* During fellowship time that day the Historical Committee will present a display of artifacts found at the dig.

Also during fellowship time, we will travel back to the 1990's with the FPC senior youth group on their mission trip to the Lakota Reservation in South Dakota. On display will be the photograph journal belonging to participant, Judy Reid, that thoroughly chronicles the trip with words and photos. Also on display will be items from the church archives featuring the year-long efforts of this group of young people to make the trip a reality. Please join us on the 20th for Historical Sunday at First Parish.

Holy Cow—The Survey continues...we need YOUR input!

The First Parish CL21 (*Creating and Leading the 21st Century Church*) team thanks those who have completed the online Holy Cow



survey.

Our hope is to have participation by ALL the members and friends of the church in the congregational assessment survey. This survey will build upon the important discernment work we conducted during our interim pastoral period. The analysis of the survey responses

will identify the strengths of our congregation, reveal where parishioners would like to go in the future, and uncover potential resources we may be missing.

Please access the survey through this link: [FPC Survey](#).

If you would like help completing the online survey, we will be setting up laptop computers and would be happy to assist you during Fellowship Hour on THIS Sunday, October 13 and Sunday, October 20.

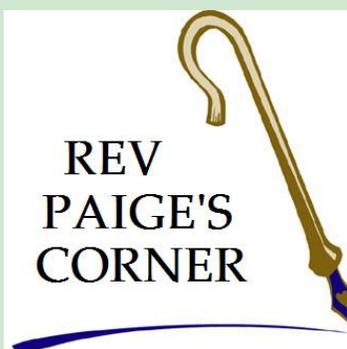
If you have questions about the survey or the CL21 project, please connect with a member of the First Parish CL21 team: *Rich Henck, Lesley Hocking, Bill Leslie, Joyce Tugel, Rick Gremlitz, Rev. Paige Besse-Rankin.*



October is Archaeology Month!

There will be a 2-day Community Dig at our site on Dover Point on Friday and Saturday, October 18 & 19 from 9 - 4:30, weather permitting.

We will be looking at the stockade fence area, the possible clay floor of the meetinghouse, and other areas of interest. If you'd like to participate in this public dig, come to watch, or come for a guided tour at 3:30 on Friday, please call Diane Fiske (603-749-0933) to sign up. Tools and meals will be provided for those who participate.



Creative Worship

As I am sure you have figured out by now, I love worship that is creative. When I was a freshman in college, I was asked to lead a Bible Study for our Campus Ministry. Feeling wildly unequipped to do such a thing, I looked around for guidance and came across a book titled "Transforming Bible Study" by Walter Wink. The premise of the book was to approach scripture with all parts of the brain

– to exploring scripture using as many senses as possible. I know I wasn't aware of the multiple learning styles approach to education at that time, but Walter Wink was all over it. And so my Bible Study wasn't just an intellectual exercise but also included arts or working with clay, music or writing a drama, poetry or photography. I had no idea how much that early learning would shape my ministry – and perhaps it was my creative arts therapy training as well – but I am always trying to find ways to make the scripture tangible, memorable, and real. And, as I tell my confirmation students, I have a deeply rooted conviction that worship should not be boring if I can help it.

I am so thankful for so much positive feedback I receive each week from many of you as it tells me that this approach is meaningful for most of you, as well – though I fully understand that not every worship service is going to be meaningful to every person in the pews.

Unfortunately, creativity can be a bit messy and unpredictable. I have learned a lot through the years about how to manage creative worship and what to watch for in planning, but that doesn't mean unexpected things don't still happen. "The way we always do it" has a kind of safety in that everyone knows what to expect and what to do. The chance for misunderstanding is small and things might run like clockwork. Creativity and innovation in worship often come with surprises. For instance, we had three meetings, created a map, emailed out directions and more about how to move the congregation up to the communion table last Sunday and back to the pews, but we still got ourselves tangled up a bit. Last time we tried to move the congregation in a circle for a blessing, we "gridlocked" in the aisles, so we wanted to keep that from happening this time and went to the other extreme. The temptation is to never try it again.... Except I know that congregations can learn new tricks and the feedback I got about how meaningful it was to come to the table a select from the wonderful international breads that members of the congregation made tells me it is worth the effort. So my hope is that we laugh and forgive the extra time it took as a small price to pay for a meaningful worship experience.

This week we are having an "intergenerational" worship service – in other words a worship experience we hope will be meaningful for all ages. (As a huge fan of the Muppets, I know it is possible for things to work at multiple levels.) So worship this week will be a little different and the message will take a different form than the traditional sermon. And the service will be streamlined a bit (so you might gain back some of those extra minutes worship took last week.)

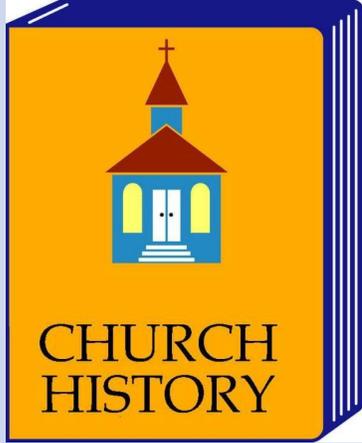
But I believe it is all in the service of the One who taught with fishing nets, seed parables, leftovers on a supper table, a muddy river, and so much more that we might fully understand the source of all creativity – the Creator of the universe.

Blessings!

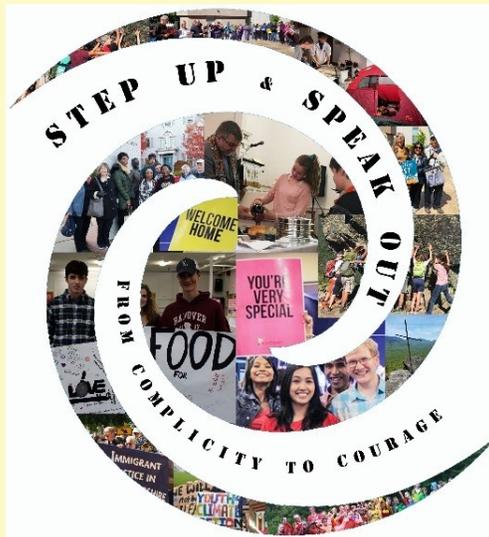
Rev Paige

A Walk Through Church History

Sunday, October 20 will be Historical Sunday in worship. Our Confirmation Class will have a church history program beginning at noon that day. Confirmation students will be "walking through" 2000 years of church history and meeting historical figures who will share stories with them. This program is open to all who would like to join in. We are also looking for some volunteer actors! Please speak with Ingrid if you are willing to



read a short story to the class. Hold the date and join in the adventure.



NH UCC Conference Annual Meeting – October 19

The 218th Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ will be Saturday, October 19 at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. The theme of our meeting this year is, *Step Up, Speak Out – from Complicity to Courage*.

The theme will be unpacked as we explore an adaptation of Deuteronomy 31:6-7, “Be strong, bold, and courageous as you lead...for God goes with you.” The featured speaker will be The Rev. Traci

Blackmon, Associate General Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries of The United Church of Christ. She will share reflections on her life work and focus on communal resistance to systemic injustice. Although the church sends official voting delegates, this event is open to all who want to register as visitors and it is a great opportunity to learn and connect. You can find more information here: <https://www.nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/2019-annual-meeting>



Pumpkin Carving Event

Our next Fellowship and Fun event will be

on Saturday, October 26 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Bring your own pumpkin for an afternoon of fellowship, food and pumpkin carving/decorating! No pumpkin is neither too small or big! we will provide tools and patterns. Pizza and beverages will be provided. Bring a dessert to share if you wish. Sign ups encouraged for food planning in the white binder. Contact Kathy Daniels (603-767-8747) with any questions.



Upcoming Music Events...save the dates!

Wednesday, October 30, 1:00-3:00 *This is Not Your Grandmother's Organ!*

First Parish and Rick Gremitz are

again hosting an OLLI Class to which First Parish members and friends are invited at no charge. Our sanctuary organ is a fusion of pipes that have sung since 1829, combined with digital pipe samples, combined with an evolving selection of MIDI voices. This combination of sound sources results in an instrument that produces an incredible array of sounds over a wide dynamic range. This unique instrument will be demonstrated with an opportunity to get up close and personal with the beautiful 3 keyboard console



**Thursday, December
5 at 7:00 p.m.**

Messiah Sing-Along

For the third year, First Parish will present the musical masterpiece of the season to the community.

Come to sing *or* come to listen!

Musical scores will be provided, or bring your own.

The program will include the choruses and solos from Parts I and II of *Messiah* concluding with the *Hallelujah* Chorus.

Admission at the door will be \$ 10.00 per person; Students free



- * HANDMADE CRAFTS & QUILTS
- * CHILDREN'S SHOPPING & ACTIVITIES
- * PLANT SALE
- * HANDMADE QUILT RAFFLE
- * THRIFT SHOP
- * ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES
- * HOLIDAY CAFE
- * LIVE HOLIDAY MUSIC
- * HOMEMADE CANDY & FUDGE
- * COOKIE WALK & BAKED GOODS
- * HOMEMADE FRUIT AND MEAT PIES
- * 100+ ITEM RAFFLE TABLE
- * OVER 30 ARTISAN VENDORS

HOLIDAY FAIR NEWS and REQUESTS



The next meeting of the **Holiday Fair Committee** will be Sunday, October 20 following the service in the parlor; all are welcome to attend.

The **Plant Room** at this year's Holiday Fair is looking for creative individuals to make items using Birch wood. This Birch tree reindeer is one idea, what other creative items can you think of making? We have a Birch tree to use, but it needs to be cut down. If you are able to assist with this, please contact Faith Levesque at 603-608-1121 (L).

Craft Group meets every Tuesday morning from 9:00 - 11:00. Bring a project (personal or for the Fair) and join us!!

SERRV At this year's Fair, there will be a table in Fellowship Hall with handmade items from the fair trade and nonprofit

organization SERRV. In 1949, SERRV started helping WWII refugees in Europe earn income by selling their handmade goods to churches in the United States, then they opened a shop in Maryland and started sending out catalogs. Seventy years later, nearly 8,000 artisans and farmers in 25 countries hand make a wide range of unique items. We will only be able to offer a small sampling, but you have an opportunity to pre-order items from their website <https://www.serrv.org> and pay for/pick them up at the Fair! SERRV Order Forms are available on the name tag table outside the church office, or you can print your own from here: [SERRV](#). Completed order forms can be put into the Fair mailbox in the church office no later than noon on Monday, October 28th. Behind each handcrafted SERRV item is a story, of an empowered artisan or farmer who is supporting his/her family; with your purchase(s), you are helping to create a more sustainable world, by joining this growing global community by being a part of these stories of change that ultimately creates meaningful, long-term, worldwide connections with disadvantaged artisans and farmers. Contact Faith Levesque (603) 608-1121 (L) with any questions.

The Fair **Raffle** room needs your help!! If you have a gift card you aren't ever going to use, some items laying around your house you think could make a cool basket to raffle off, or anything else you think would be perfect for the raffle room please consider donating. You can either bring donations to church and leave them in the fair box with a note that says "Fair Raffle" or contact Mary Gould at bmgould5@aol.com or at home at 603-335-1847.

The Fair **Bakery** Table Committee is seeking donations of jams, jellies, chutneys or any other preserves made from THIS YEAR'S harvest. Please place in new jars with lids only. Please include a 4 ounce jar for sampling.

Click below on links to events of interest sponsored by local or regional groups and organizations:

[FCA Golf Tournament](#)

Special Events

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

