

# Steeple Chat

The weekly update from your church



## In our Church this Sunday, October 20 Historical Sunday

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

**Message by Church Historian Diane Fiske**

*Digging Into Our Past:*

*A report on the Archaeology Dig at our Historic Site*

Jeremiah 31: 31-34; Luke 18: 1-8

### **Music Ministry**

The First Parish Choir:

*More Love* Text: Shaker Songs, adapted; Music: Kevin Siegfried

The First Parish Ringers; *Rachel Swanson*, violin:

*Spirit Song* John Wilber; arr Cynthia Dobrinski

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 photography 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.

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

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



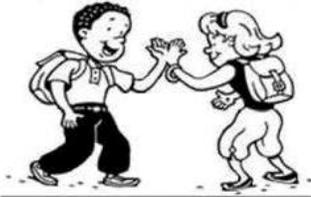
### **Sunday School**

***Sunday October 20 schedule:***

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

in Room 6

**9:30 First Kids/Sunday School** program in Nazareth Hall. Families are encouraged to attend the worship service together; children will leave the service following the Children's Message for their Sunday School classes.

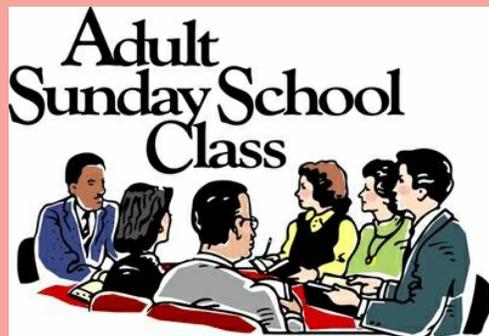


## End 68 Hours of Hunger

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

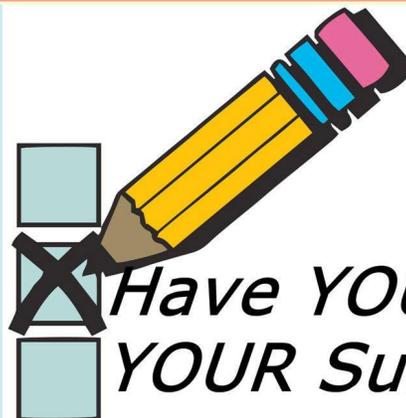
**Sunday, October 20**

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

The Adult Discussion Group meets each Sunday. The class will be led by Gary Munson and will start with *The Red Cup Exercise*. Topic for this week is *Faith Persists*; click here for the study guide: [Faith Persists](#)

### In Steeple Chat this week:

- \*Survey NOW!
- \*Rev Paige's Corner
- \*Archaeology Dig
- \*Fellowship Hours
- \*Pumpkin Carving
- \*Council Corner
- \*Pledge Statements
- \*Saints and Veterans
- \*Music Events
- \*Saturday Supper
- \*Holiday Fair
- \*Special Events
- \*Thrift Shop
- \*Stephen Ministry



**Have YOU done  
YOUR Survey??**

**Holy Cow—The Survey continues...we NEED your input by October 26th!**

The CL21 team is happy to report that so far the survey numbers are in, and you are responding. So thank you!!! Your voice counts!! For those who have yet to click on the link herein, please do, thank you in advance, and your voice will be heard also. Please access the survey through this link: [FPC Survey](#).

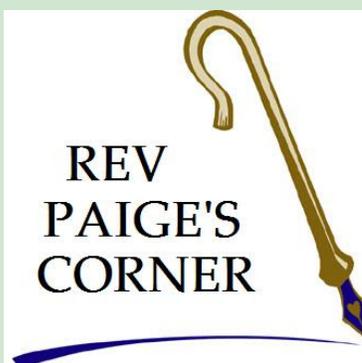
Our surveys will be reviewed in the weeks after the Holy Cow survey session closes, which reminds us that October 26 is our last day to complete the survey. So if you haven't, please take a short time this coming week...



it'll be time well spent for First Parish (that's all of us)!

If you would like help completing the online survey, this Sunday we will be setting up laptop computers in the conference room off Fellowship Hall after church and would be happy to assist you during Fellowship Hour. Hardcopies will also be available.

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.*



### Story Time

As we come to Historical Sunday this week with both the annual Church Historian talk in worship and the Walk Through Church History program at noon, I find myself thinking about the joy of learning and remembering stories of those who came before us.

I had a church history professor who told us that for many, thinking about church history is like an airplane trip. Many of us know the story of the beginning of the church at Pentecost, and then we take off and fly over the next 2000 years – barely seeing what comes in between Pentecost and the years in our lifetime. And I will confess that when I approached history and names and dates that I would be tested on, I didn't much like it either. But now I see history as a collection of stories – often interconnected in webs. In many ways, they are stories of people just like us struggling with some of the same things we struggle with. On the other hand, times and operating assumptions were sometimes quite different. These stories are gifts that can inspire us and make us think more deeply about where we came from. They offer us lessons and reminders of what is important.

So come and join us on Sunday for story time!

**Blessings!**  
**Rev Paige**

### 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 Saturday, please call Diane Fiske (603-749-0933) to sign up. Tools and meals will be provided for those who participate.



Our congregation overflows with parishioners who understand the importance of gathering after our Sunday Service to chat, to care for each other, and to celebrate our faith. We are now seeking volunteers for November Fellowship Hour goodies. If you are already in our Fellowship Hour Volunteer system, you will receive a

message in the next few days; simply click on the link to submit your contribution.

If you are not yet part of our Fellowship Hour email list, you can join by submitting your information at:

<https://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/5d8b3e> You will then receive the Fellowship Hour Volunteer signup message that's sent out once each month. Or, you can sign up in the First Parish volunteer notebook.

Let's keep our celebration going .... won't you please consider providing baked goods or fresh fruit one Sunday in November?

Come see me during Fellowship Hour if you have any questions – *Joyce Tugel*, Fellowship Hour Coordinator



### 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.



Greetings from your Church Council:

We plan to provide through Steeple Chat a monthly update on council actions and happenings.

At our August meeting, we held a workshop session and discussed the areas of church life where the council plans to focus on this year:

- \*Better tools for understanding finances
- \*Communication tools
- \*Facilitating a process for the congregation to review/update Mission Statement
- \*Providing a scaffold for 21<sup>st</sup> century ministry

including:

- Clarification of leadership roles (by-law changes)
- Empowering the congregation
- Helping our congregation embrace change
- Reflecting our values of inclusion, justice
- Development of a Strategic plan

At our October meeting we finalized and approved the following Church Council covenant:

*We gather together as the Council of First Parish Church Dover to coordinate the activities of the Church, discuss issues and opportunities that arise, and guide our Church as we listen and respond to God's call in new and exciting ways.*

*In our work and conversations, we realize that there can be disagreements and misunderstandings. In order to maintain clear communication and healthy discussion, we commit to the following ways of working together:*

- *Come prepared and ready to contribute to the conversation*
- *Empower and trust the chair to keep our meeting on track*
- *Maintain focus on the agenda and meeting goals*
- *Listen well*
- *Take turns speaking*
- *Disagree respectfully*
- *Presume positive intent*
- *Make decisions collaboratively*
- *Do our best to follow through with what we say we'll do*
- *Keep God in the picture*

We continue to work on greater understanding and clarity of our church finances, attempting to simplify the monthly financial reports for the Boards and Committees of the church.

Other items at the October meeting:

Approved use of *Basecamp* program for Boards, Committees and Staff

Received update on the CAT Survey (also known as Holy Cow)

Discussion on Boy Scout troop charter

Faithfully yours, *Bill Leslie*, Council Chairperson

### **Did you get your pledge statement?**

First quarter pledge statements were sent out last week by email. If you didn't see your, check your various folders – spam, updates, etc. If you don't find it, please

## Pledge Statements



contact the church office to confirm we have your proper email address or to request statements by mail.



## COMMEMORATION of our SAINTS & VETERANS

### Collecting names of Saints and Veterans

In November, we will be observing both All Saints Day and Veteran's Day in worship.

We are inviting you to share names of both that can be lifted up in worship. ("Saints" for our purposes are folks who have died in the last year who you want to remember." Add the names in the Sign up book or email

[firstparish@comcast.net](mailto:firstparish@comcast.net)



### 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**

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

Our next **Church Supper** will be on Saturday, November 2 from



## Saturday Church Supper

4:30-6:00 p.m.

The menu will be the traditional (and famous!) ham and beans with all the fixin's!

Sign-ups to help with food donations for the supper will be after the service this Sunday.

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- \* 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 THIS 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](mailto: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.

# Special Events

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

[FCA Golf Tournament](#)

[Spiritual Care Conference](#)

**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](http://www.firstparishdover.org)

