

# Steeple Chat

The weekly update from your church



**In our Church this Sunday, September 15**

## The Season of Creation: Storm Sunday



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

**Message by Pastor Paige Besse-  
Rankin**

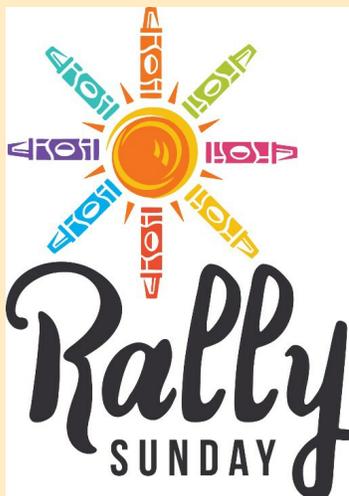
*Stormy Weather*  
Psalm 29; Luke 8:22-25

**Music Ministry**

The First Parish Choir:  
*Shelter in the Storm* arr Joel Raney

**Commissioning of Sunday School  
Blessing of Confirmands**

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



**Exercise Your Faith on Rally  
Day! Come Join the Fun!**  
**Sunday September 15 schedule:**

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

**9:00 Dream Catchers Sunday School  
Class** in Room 6

**9:30 First Kids Gathering** – Join us in  
Nazareth Hall as we kick off our new Sunday  
school year with a fun project, song, and

welcome! If you haven't registered your students, please use this  
link: <https://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/ad20e2>

**10 am: Worship! Storm Sunday:** We will dedicate our Sunday

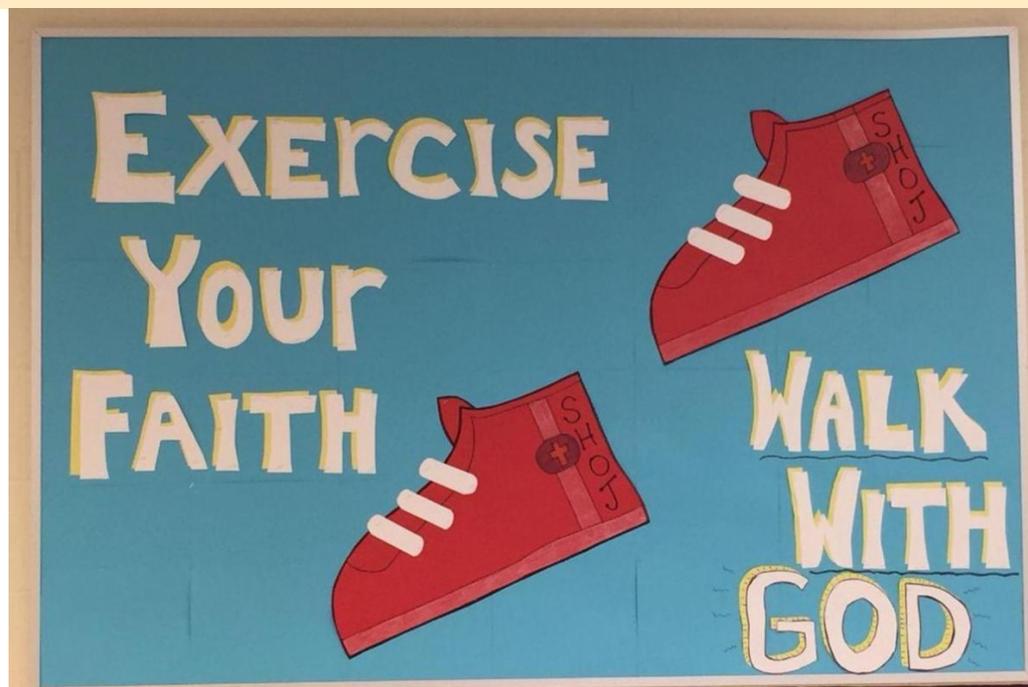
School, Bless Our Confirmands, and reflect on God's presence in the midst of stormy days. We will also recognize the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sunday School and Sunday School classes will begin. First Parish Choir will return to worship as the new church year begins.

**11:00 a.m. – Rally Day Party** in Nazareth Hall. Join us downstairs for lunch, Ice cream, and the Amazing Race (crafts, games, and fun.) There will be prizes and those who bring along friends get an extra chance to win. There will be time to welcome our new staff person, Ingrid and learn a bit more about the history of our Sunday School.

**12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class**

**5:15 p.m. First Parish Ringers** first rehearsal

**7:00 p.m. First Parish Choir** rehearsal



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

- \*Adult  
Registration**
- \*Weekly  
Meditation**
- \*Pastor's Page**
- \*Welcome Ingrid**
- \*Music Ministry**
- \*Blood Drive**
- \*Prayer Shawls**
- \*Youth Voice**
- \*Habitat for  
Humanity**
- \*Fellowship&Fun**
- \*CL 21 News**
- \*Holiday Fair**



### **Rally Day – Adult Registration**

While you might expect that we are registering kids for Sunday school on Rally Day, you may be surprised that we have a registration form for Adults this year.

We are trying to make sure our

**\*NHUCC Women's  
Retreat  
\*Thrift Shop  
\*Stephen Ministry**



church database is up-to-date and accurate so that we can soon print a new directory.

We are also exploring interest in some new programs. There will be a paper registration form in the bulletin this week, but you may also complete the form on-line by using this link:

<https://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/add58d>

## **OUR MEDITATION FOR THIS WEEK**



**Storm Sunday** offers a dual theme of seeing God present and powerful in our world and recognizing that God's wisdom is different than we might have first thought; we consider how our faith empowers us to find our way through the storms of life.

*God sits enthroned over the flood; God sits enthroned as ruler forever. May God give strength to God's people! May God bless God's people with peace! (Psalm 29:10-11)*

Creator God is not the only role that God plays in our lives. As these verses explain, God is a God of the storm, and God strengthens and calms us. While we might struggle with the different roles God plays in our lives, we can be assured that God is present in times of storm.

**Listen** to or read the news, paying particular attentions to stories that talk about how storms have affected a community. Pray for people whose lives have been affected by storms, that they feel God's strength and peace surrounding them.

**I woke up this morning to news that tornados touched down a couple of miles from where we lived in Sioux Falls. The miracle of it is that it hit in the middle of the night mostly in retail areas so there is tremendous damage but as of my writing now, no deaths. Of course, there are so many storm photos to take in right now as we look at the damage from Hurricane Dorian and the devastation in parts of the**



**REV  
PAIGE'S  
CORNER**

Bahamas. But I also pray for those who lived through these sorts of disasters last year who have been mostly forgotten even though recovery from devastating storms can take years as a community tries to develop a “new normal.”

In our “Season of Creation”, this week is designated as “Storm Sunday.” While I celebrate the Ocean, Flora and Fauna, and the Cosmos – our other 3 weekly themes for this year’s cycle – I find it

hard to celebrate “storms” in the same way. So you won’t come into a musical video of storm images this week in the prelude. And yet, pondering our faith in and through storms – affirming that the power of God is even stronger than any storm, reminding ourselves that God rides through storms with us – these are good topics for reflection.

And, as I often do when a disaster happens, I checked in with the UCC Disaster ministries webpage for updates on how the church is responding to those in crisis right now. [Ucc.org/disaster](http://Ucc.org/disaster) is a great place to check in on ways to respond after a disaster and updates on how we are connected and responding.

But I also discovered something else there. September has been designated as “National Preparedness Month” and the theme this year is “Prepared, Not Scared.” So on the same web page are some very helpful resources for local churches and families to prepare for all sorts of disasters that might come our way – checklists, actions plans, and ways to be proactive when things are calm. I commend it to everyone.

Meanwhile, if you want to help folks in the Bahamas or Sioux Falls or in other disaster zones, the UCC has some good donation channels for financial gifts. They also recommend a program for assembling “Clean-up kits” and they have opportunities for volunteers to serve in the long-term work of rebuilding. (The UCC are not first responders. They work long-term in communities years after a disaster.)

**Blessings!**

**Rev Paige**



## **Welcome Ingrid!**

This Sunday, we will welcome *Ingrid Roeder* as our new Program Director and Volunteer Coordinator.

You will have the opportunity to meet Ingrid at the Rally Day Party in Nazareth Hall following the service.

The SOUNDS of MUSIC at  
First Parish Church...



# Choirs Schedule for Fall

Fall marks the beginning of the "new season" for our music groups---

YOU can be a part of this Ministry of Music in the life of our church.

**The Joyous Ringers** This group of children and youth

handbell players is open to all children and youth of the church from 1st grade and up. The group will be directed by Emily Grondin. First rehearsal will be Sunday, September 22 at 11:00 a.m. in Nazareth Hall. You may contact Emily Grondin at: [katklawz11@yahoo.com](mailto:katklawz11@yahoo.com)

**The Youth Choir** This singing Choir is open to all children and youth in the church. First rehearsal will be Sunday, October 20 at 11:00 a.m. You may contact the director, Carol Seely at 603 312-0771 or email her at [k9vet@rcn.com](mailto:k9vet@rcn.com) with questions

**The First Parish Choir** is a group of singers, open to all ages, from high schoolers through to adults of all ages. Choir rehearsals are on Sunday evenings from 7:00- 8:30 p.m. The Choir sings almost every Sunday from mid-September through mid-June and for special services and events. For further information, please contact Rick Gremlitz, Director of Music, at (603) 868-1196 or at [rickgremlitz@yahoo.com](mailto:rickgremlitz@yahoo.com). **FIRST SUNDAY EVENING REHEARSAL** will be **THIS Sunday, September 15th.**

**First Parish Ringers** Our adult and high school-age handbell group welcomes those who would like to try ringing but have never had the opportunity before. We would love to have you join us for the coming year. Membership is open to adults and those who are in the 8th grade or older. Experience and the ability to read music is not necessary, but would be helpful. We will begin our regular schedule of Sunday evenings at 5:15 p.m. **THIS Sunday, September 15th.** Please call Carol Seely at 603-312-0771 or email her at [k9vet@rcn.com](mailto:k9vet@rcn.com) with questions.

## **BLOOD DRIVE**

First Parish will be hosting a Red Cross blood drive on Wednesday, September 18 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

All blood types are urgently needed! Did you know every 3 seconds someone needs the precious gift of blood? Come give the gift of life! You may call 1-800 Red-Cross to make an appointment, walk in's welcome. Contact

# Blood DRIVE

Kathy Daniels at moments9@live.com with any questions.



From the **Prayer Shawl** group:  
We would love to have you join us on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> and the third Thursday of every month at 3:30, for a time of Fellowship to knit and crochet prayer shawls

A Prayer Shawl is symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving, God. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, hug, shelter, and beautify. A Prayer Shawl is a gift

to someone to “wrap” them in prayers to bring them comfort, love, and strength. If you have any questions or know of someone in need of a Prayer Shawl, contact Emma Bent (953-3767) or Sandi Potter (343-4976)



**Youth Voice:** *The Right and Wrong ways to help after a Disaster*

(From UCC.org) September 10, 2019

Written by **Carol Fouke-Mpoyo**

*This guest column is by Myla, 12, a UCC member in Pennsylvania\*, based on her research of disaster recovery.*

In 1998, Hurricane Mitch killed more than 11,000 people and left more than 1.5 million homeless. Lots of people wanted to help but many did it in the wrong way. *To continue reading this article, click here: [Youth Voice](#)*

**HABITAT FOR  
HUMANITY  
OPPORTUNITY**



**Southeast New Hampshire Habitat for Humanity FPC Work Day: Saturday, September 28th**

SENH Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization helping families build and improve places to call home. They believe in a world where everyone has a decent place to live and seek to build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter. SENH Habitat believes affordable housing plays a critical role in strong and stable New Hampshire communities.

**Volunteer to help build a Habitat home on Saturday, September 28, 2019!**

First Parish is putting together a crew to work on an

ADA compliant addition to the existing home of Mr. & Mrs. Beauregard on 5A Power St., Raymond, NH. Mr. Beauregard is a disabled veteran and wheelchair user. This project will provide an accessible bedroom and bathroom on the main floor as well as adapting the existing kitchen with an ADA compliant island, cook top and kitchen sink. The work day runs from 8am to 4:15pm.

Every Habitat home is built by volunteers. No prior construction experience is needed. Habitat offers on-site training each morning and provides tools. If you can't make it or feel like a building site is not a good fit, you can join the team by contributing water, snacks or lunch. A FPC team went to the Rochester Habitat build site last fall and had a fun, rewarding day. Please consider joining us for another great day in Raymond on Saturday, September 28. Sign up in the white books or on Breeze:

<https://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/373ce31>

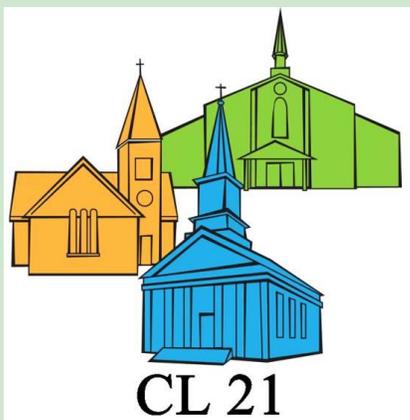
## A FELLOWSHIP and FUN TIME



**FORE!** Our next Fellowship and Fun Day is Sunday, September 29 at Hilltop Fun Center in Somersworth for a round of miniature golf.

We will gather after the service, at Wendy's, for a quick pregame lunch then onward to Hilltop Fun Center for an approximate start/tee time of fun at 12:15 pm. If you wish to join us directly at the event this is more than ok. Our arrival at both locales will depend on the length of the service that day. The price for mini-golf is \$8.00.

Sign-up in the FPC sign up book and know it is not necessary but helpful in planning for the facility. Please contact Kathy Daniels 603-767-8747 with any questions. We hope to see you!



## *Creating and Leading the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church*

Creating and Leading the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church (CL21) is a two-year program created by the NH UCC Conference that provides tools and resources to explore communication, adaptive change, discovering and keeping deep vision, and creativity and innovation. So far the First Parish CL21 team has participated in seminars that have heightened our

awareness of all of the above. Our next step involves your input! We will be asking the congregation to take a survey that addresses these critical areas of our spiritual growth and planning. Your responses to the survey are critical to the success of the program, and will help us all make critical decisions regarding the future of our own beloved 21<sup>st</sup> century church. If you have questions about the CAT survey (more info to come in ensuing weeks) or the CL21 project, please connect with a member of the First

**HOLIDAY FAIR  
NOTES**



The Holiday Fair 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.

The Holiday Fair Craft Group is collecting used greeting cards (front & back) for several craft projects. There is a snowflake box, on the table outside of the church office, where your old greeting cards (of ANY occasion) may be put; especially needed are cards at least 5" square.

# NHCUCC Women's Fellowship Retreat

## “THE STORY OF YOU”

Mindfulness, Simplicity, Gratefulness

### Retreat Leaders:

**The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof** - A Veriditas Labyrinth Facilitator

**Liz Greenberg, LICSW** - A SoulCollage® Facilitator

You will make SoulCollage® Cards. Through experiences of SoulCollage® and Labyrinth, you will enter into knowing yourself better. Creating and sharing your cards can be fun, profound, and sacred experience.

**Friday & Saturday, September 27 & 28**

## Camp Sentinel

Center Tuftonboro, NH

Cost of retreat is \$80 before September 10 and \$90 after September 10, which includes 3 meals, waterfront activities, lodging, retreat materials, and worship.

Make checks payable to NHCUCC Women's Fellowship and send to: Trudie Bergeron, 46 Nantucket Place, Greenland, NH 03840 or for questions [Trudieglenn@yahoo.com](mailto:Trudieglenn@yahoo.com)

**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)

