



STEEPLE CHAT

*the weekly updates from
your church*

March 15, 2024

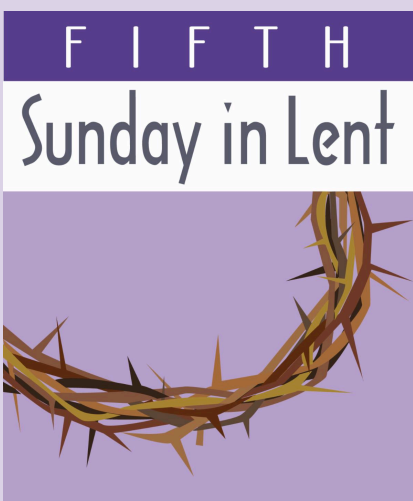
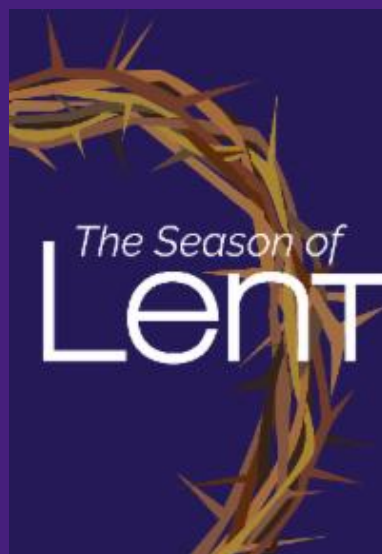
**In our Church this Sunday Morning
March 17, 2024**

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

**All our Sunday services are in-person in the
sanctuary on Sunday mornings at 10:00.**

**For those who prefer online worship, we offer the
service live through Zoom. (see link below)**



HYMN SING beginning at 9:45

Message by Guest Minister

Rev Judy Brandon

The Meaning of the Cross

John 12: 20-33

Children's Message by

Rev Judy Brandon

Send Me Jesus

Music Ministry

The First Parish Choir:

***Passion Adagio* From *Moonlight Sonata* by Ludwig Van Beethoven;
arr. John Purifoy, 2004**

Please click this link to join the service online via

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/825890693>

OR: phone in using this number:

1 929 205 6099.

When asked, use our Webinar ID: 825 890 693.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- *Sunday Worship
- *Great News!
- *Guest Ministers
- *Hymn Sing
- *Lenten Journey
- *Holy Week Schedule
- *Palm Sunday Brunch
- *Stewardship Note
- *Secrets from the Arc*
(*Archives)
- *Palm Sunday Brunch
- *Art Club
- *SISC Update
- *Bits of Church History
- *CPR /AED Training
- *Altar Flowers Ministry
- *Horton Center
- *Thrift Shop Update
- *Cochecho Challenge
- *Men's Group News
- *Your Offerings
- *Recordings Sign-up
- *Stephen Ministry
- *ONA Covenant

Steeple Chat Most visited Links:

Current Prayer List

Church Calendar

Share Photos On Dropbox

Worship Zoom Link

Fellowship

(Following Sunday Worship) Meeting ID: 830
4767 4642 Passcode: 185813



As Council Chair, I am excited to share that the Board of Deacons has called *The Rev. Dr. Dana Mann* as our Transitional Interim Pastor. Pastor Dana is an ordained UCC pastor and is currently serving one of our New Hampshire churches. She will officially begin her time with us on June 2, 2024. Please 'save the date' and join us in-person or via Zoom to welcome her to our church family!

More details will follow about this wonderful news in a church-wide mailing next week.

Laura Sevigny, Council Chairperson



GREAT NEWS FOR OUR CHURCH!

Our Guest Ministers at First Parish Church in the coming weeks will be:

Palm Sunday, March 24: *Rev Maren Tirabassi*

Easter Sunday, March 31: *Rev Maren Tirabassi*



Welcome,
**GUEST
MINISTERS**



Hymn Sing returns!

This Sunday, beginning at 9:45, you are invited to join us (in-person or online) for a long-standing First Parish tradition: A Hymn Sing!

In the past, we have had the opportunity to take hymn suggestions from the congregation as we sang. Since we want those folks on Zoom to also participate, the hymns have been "pre-selected" and Steve will lead us through those.

In the future, you will be asked to suggest hymns to be sung and submit those suggestions at the previous Sunday service.

...speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit; sing and make music from your heart to the Lord...Ephesians 5:19



THE LENTEN JOURNEY: WEEK FIVE

Reflection

What is a grain? Grains are seeds, specifically they are the seeds of plants that grow in a manner like grass, such as corn, wheat, soybeans, and rice. They may have a protective covering, called a hull, or be bare. Grains are used for human consumption, and we often encounter them in their dried state. Yet, in most cases, in order to be suitable as

nutrition, they must be reconstituted with water in cooking. In other words, there is a process that first preserves them for longevity and accessible use that is followed by a process that returns an element that has been temporarily removed until the proper time.

In much of his teaching ministry, Jesus used parables to point to the kingdom and to explain complex concepts in accessible ways. The Gospel of John, however, is more noted for the seven signs that point to his identity and mission. Parables and signs both employ symbolism, which equate a known reality with a more mysterious one. The single grain is a metaphor that refers to Jesus and his passion at the same time that it challenges his followers to recognize themselves as part of a community that is being cultivated, nourished, and developed in order to be of service to the kingdom at the appointed time.

Jesus did not come to be a single grain. Even though his heart is troubled, Jesus declares that he has come for the moment that will imminently present itself to him. He comes to confront the powers of this world. His purpose, like ourselves, does not end at being a single grain. A single grain has not fulfilled its purpose. A single grain may be comforted within its protective shell. We enjoy the comfort, familiarity, and ease of our sanctuaries and helping ministries that do a little good but stop short of any controversy or disruptive impulses that could actually eliminate suffering, inequities, and despair.

By the way, a single grain that does not complete its proper life cycle will eventually wither and die having lived a life that attempted to serve only itself. Self-protection does not prevent death; it only detracts from life's meaning and purpose.

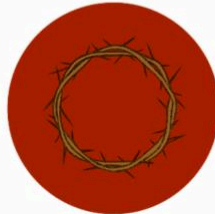
Our attempts to preserve the single grain leave the world hungry and starving. But, if we allow that single grain to die and be reconstituted with Living Water, we can grow with abundant life to nourish the world.

Say no to single grains.

By Cheryl A. Lindsay



Worship Schedule for **Holy Week**



Palm Sunday, March 24

10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship in sanctuary

The service will be both in-person and online.

Message by Rev Maren Tirabassi

Music by First Parish Choir

Distribution of Palms

Palm Sunday Potluck Luncheon following the service.

Please sign up for Luncheon either in the White Book
or use the link in Steeple Chat.

Maundy Thursday, March 28

6:15 p.m. Fellowship Hall: Simple Supper of soup & matzah. Supper in-person only.

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary: Service of Communion
and Tenebrae;

The service will be both in-person and online.

Meditation by Rev Maren Tirabassi.

We gather together on Maundy Thursday evening for a
simple supper of matzoh and soup and quiet

conversation, followed by a service in the sanctuary remembering Jesus' last
Passover with his disciples. There will be Holy Communion and readings in the
voices of those who were present with Jesus during Holy Week.

This is a family friendly service for all ages. There will be a Children's Message.
Although there is mention of Jesus' arrest and trial, the violence, crucifixion, and
death are saved for until the Good Friday services.

Are willing to provide one of the soups for the Maundy Thursday simple supper?

Click here to sign up: [SimpleSupper](#)





Easter Day, Sunday, March 31

10:00 a.m. Festival Easter Worship Service in sanctuary
The service will be both in-person and online.

Message by Rev Maren Tirabassi;

Music by First Parish Choir and First Parish Ringers.

*Join us for this service filled with the joy
and hope of Jesus's resurrection.*

Palm Sunday Potluck Brunch

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Please know that you don't have to do anything,
just bring yourself.

BUT if you would like to donate your time for
setting up OR if you would like to help with the
clean up OR if you would like to bring your
favorite Easter Entree, Side Dish or Dessert for this annual event we'd appreciate it
very much.



This Breeze link is really simple and easy to fill out:

[PalmSundayBrunch](#)

You may also sign up in the White Book in the atrium or contact the office.
Thank you Everyone!



**because of
YOU, our church
changes lives**



*What you do makes a difference, and you have to
decide what kind of difference you want to make –
Jane Goodall*

To me, this quotation is the essence of
stewardship. We all have the same resources: time,
talents, and treasures. Stewardship is determining
how we want to allocate our resources. Stewardship
is discerning how our faith is calling us to use our
resources and then acting on it.

The result of our stewardship is life changing. We
give of our time to visit shut-ins, help with the
Friendly Kitchen, paint little houses and much
more. Among other things, our talented members act
in pageants, sing, and ring bells. And our treasures
are used for scholarships and to support the Dover Children's Home, Neighbors
in Need, and many others.

About 40 years ago then First Parish minister Rev Will Conway said, "Don't give
until it hurts; give until it feels good." So, my challenge is to determine how I will

use my time, my talents, and my treasures to help my church change lives.
For the Stewardship Committee, *John Russell*

Secrets from the Arc*

Did you know there are four COVID-19 stories in the archives for future reference? What was your experience? How did it affect your life - job, home, school, faith? We would love to have yours before you forget what it was like. Send to oldbass113@gmail.com or drop off at the office.

*Archives



Hello Artists!

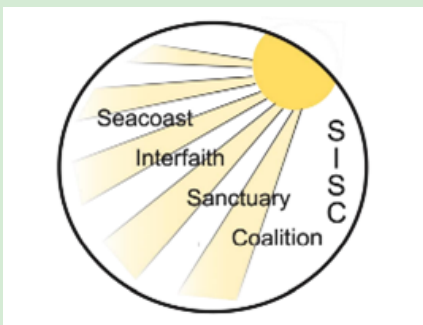
ART CLUB meets every Sunday from 12-1 pm in the Art Studio Room#6 on the lower level.

We will be meeting this Sunday, March 17th.

*Everyone is Welcome! Parents too!
And, it's FREE.*

We will NOT be meeting for Art Club on **Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday.**

Art Club will resume on Sunday April 7th at 12pm.



UPDATE FROM THE SEACOAST INTERFAITH SANCTUARY COALITION

Greetings, all! Our refugee family has moved into their 'tiny home' cottage, and are greatly appreciative of the furniture, clothing, and supplies that so many of you provided.

We still have some short-term needs as they continue to establish themselves in Dover:

- 1) One member of the family is currently working part-time for a cleaning company in Portsmouth, and needs rides to and from work. The other member will likely be starting work soon, too. If you would be interested in helping to provide rides, contact Joyce Tugel: jtugel@gmail.com and you will be connected to the Signup Genius link so you can see the time slots available. The schedule also includes signups for rides to run errands, go to appointments as the need arises.
- 2) The team is still working to raise funds for the rent and other household costs for the next few months until they are working and able to cover their own expenses. Your contributions are tax deductible.

Make an online gift here to support Team SISC:

<https://www.classy.org/campaign/team-sisc-ifs-i/c557814>

To contribute by check: Make check payable to Welcome NST and put 'Team SISC' on the memo line. Send to: 225 Cedar Hill Street, Suite 200, Marlborough, MA 01752.

The First Parish Church congregation continues to inspire us. Your response to our requests has been such a blessing, and we are humbled by your generosity. Thank you, friends!

If you have questions about Team SISC, please contact Joyce Tugel: jtugel@gmail.com or Carolyn Ricker: cllicker@comcast.net

Some bits of our Church History...

Over the past several months, the Historical Committee has acquired some First Parish Church treasures from the past, which will be stored in our archives. At present they are featured in our display cabinet in the Atrium. Of special interest is a 5-piece set of souvenir china which was commissioned by local merchants in Dover around 1890-1910. These pieces were sold in the local stores as souvenirs. This set was made in England; the separate cup was made in Germany and all pieces were commissioned by W. A. Morrill, one of Dover's prominent businessmen. Thom Hindle, a local photographer and history buff, brought this set of souvenir china to our attention. We were able to purchase it through a memorial gift to the church.

On the fourth shelf of the display case is a beautiful, embroidered Bible bookmark which was sent to us by the family of Fred E. Perkins, whose ancestors were members of FPC beginning in 1780: Benjamin Peirce, Andrew Peirce (first Mayor of Dover), and Mary Elizabeth Peirce, as well as the Perkins family. The bookmark was used in the 1800s in our large Bible on the lectern, from which the Scriptures were read on Sunday mornings. I'm not sure how this bookmark came into the possession of the Perkins family, but we are glad to have it returned to us.

Next time you are at the church, take a look at all the items displayed with these special souvenirs.

Diane Fiske, Church Historian



**American
Heart
Association®**

CPR/AED TRAINING

MONDAY MARCH 25TH AT 5:30 PM

Ages 13 and older

Nazareth Hall - lower level of First Parish Church.

Please let me know if you are interested, I need a # of individuals being certified for the Instructor at the Dover Fire Department.

Ingrid Roeder, Program Director
IngridFPCDover@gmail.com

We will have these trainings twice a year if you are unable to make this training.

ALTAR FLOWER MINISTRY

There are upcoming opportunities for you to sponsor the altar flowers for our sanctuary for the following Sundays:

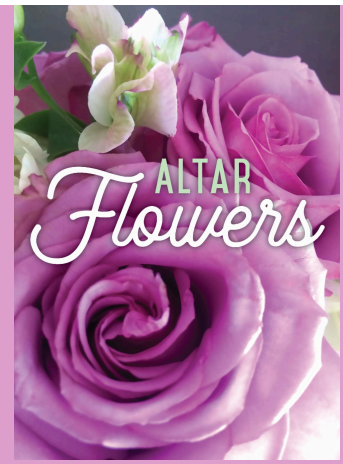
April 14th thru May 26th.

EACH SUNDAY IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

All Sundays on the above dates are currently open and available for sponsoring of the flowers. The cost for sponsoring the flowers is \$83 per week. This includes two arrangements that are delivered to homebound church members after Sunday service.

This is a great program to take part in as it brings both joy to our service but also to our church family that is presented with them.

If you are interested in taking part in this ministry of flowers, please contact Colin at the church office Monday thru Friday from 8am until 3:30pm at 603-742-5664, or email the office at **firstparish@comcast.net**





WWW.HORTONCENTER.ORG

HORTON CENTER

NH UCC Camp & Retreat Center



Come to camp (Yes, YOU!)

Horton Center is located on top of Pine Mountain in Gorham, NH. Campers of all ages are welcome each week of the summer to come for a chance to try new things, meet new friends, explore their faith, and grow as leaders in today's world! Time at camp is transformative. Come see for yourself!



Our Mission

At Horton Center we welcome **all God's people** and provide life changing outdoor encounters with God and Christian community to grow passionate "Servant Leaders" who are stewards of all God's creation.



Volunteer with us

Each week of the summer Horton Center runs three camps, each for different age groups. Volunteer counselors are a key to making these programs a success! If you love being outdoors and working with kids, consider helping us change lives this summer! This is a great time to give back while also enjoying time in community, unplugged from the "real world".

Contact Us

I'd love the chance to connect with you and share more about camp!

Tivvi Pare (she/her)
Horton Center Executive Director

603-545-9660

tpare@nhcucc.org

HORTON CENTER
PINE MOUNTAIN TRAIL, GORHAM, NH 03581



Find it at the First Thrift Shop

PLEASE NOTE:

Thrift Shop closure during Holy Week:

In observance of Holy Week, the Thrift Shop will be closed March 28, 29 and 30 for all shifts.

The store will reopen Thursday,



April 4, at 1:00 PM.

The church family is an integral part of supporting the store through donations, volunteerism, and spreading the word about the store. Our uptick in clients is directly a result of spreading the word, having wonderful products to sell, and friendly volunteers who make shopping for all of our customers a pleasant and respectful opportunity. Please continue to spread the word with your friends and neighbors. The more donations that we receive, the better we can serve our community.

Regular Shop hours are Thursdays 1:00-7:00PM, Fridays 1:00-4:00PM and Saturdays 10:00- 1:00 PM. Come visit, come donate, or come to volunteer. We'd love to see you!



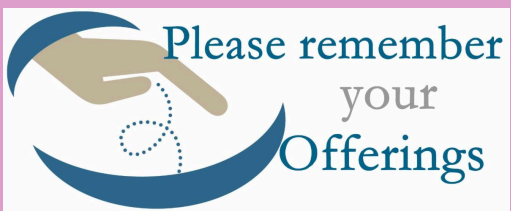
Cochecho Challenge Half Marathon **SATURDAY AUGUST 31, 2024**

Registration for the Cochecho Challenge Half Marathon is LIVE!

Cut + Paste the following link-

[Home - Cochecho Challenge](#)

The Men's Group is currently reading and discussing *So What's the Difference?* by Fritz Ridenour. The book discusses the question, how does orthodox biblical Christianity differ from other faiths? The Men's Group meets 7 PM every Wednesday evening at the Clubhouse at 1 Cielo Drive in Dover (behind Hannaford's off the Durham Road- Route 108). For details about joining Men's Group, or just sitting in for an evening or two, please contact Sam Ronda at 603-337-5258.



YOUR OFFERINGS

For those who are able, we strongly invite ongoing sharing of pledges and offerings. Offerings may be made from through the church webpage here: [Donate](#); or by mail, or through electronic giving.

An additional option for giving to your church is through the QR Code box reproduced here.

To use: Hold your iPhone or iPad camera up to the QR Code box and a link should appear on your screen. Click on that link which will take you to the FPC donate area.



VIDEO Recordings of ONLINE Sunday Services

During this time of live-streamed services, we record the video (and audio) of our Sunday online services. These recordings are now available as mp4 video files through our



Basecamp software program.

If you do not already have access to Basecamp, you may register by filling in the registration form posted on the Breeze program. Here is the link to sign-up:

<https://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/55811a>



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-PERSON or ONLINE!

First Parish Church, Congregational, United Church of Christ

218 Central Ave

Dover, New Hampshire 03820

(603) 742-5664

Visit our website: www.firstparishdover.org

email: firstparish@comcast.net

**Church Office hours:
Monday through Friday 8:00am-3:30pm**



First Parish Church | 218 Central Ave, Dover, NH 03820

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