

Steeple Chat

The weekly update from your church



In our ONLINE Church this Sunday, May 9, 2021 The Sixth Sunday of Easter and Festival of the Christian Home



10:00 a.m.

ONLINE Service

Prelude Music begins at 9:50 a.m.

Festival of the Christian Home:

Message by Pastor

Paige Besse-Rankin

Mothering Justice

Psalm 98; 1st John 5: 1-6

Children's Message by Pastor Paige

Litany for Mother's Day and

Mother's Day Slideshow

OUR Ministry of Music:

The First Parish Virtual Choir:

Sweet Canaan

Text from *Mead's General Collection, 1807*
Music by Elisha J. King, *Sacred Harp, No 87*

Arranged by Stan Pethel

Rick Gremlitz, director

Jeannie Goodwin, piano

Emily Grondin, video editing and production

Please click this link to join the webinar service

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

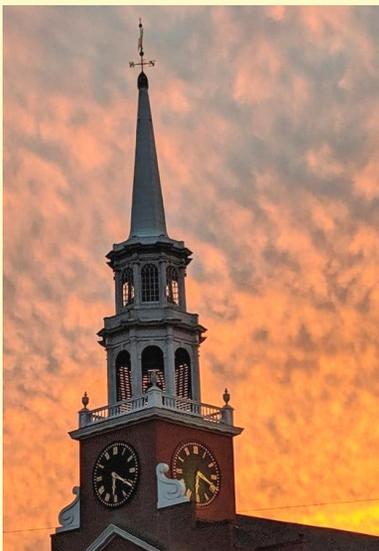
OR: phone in using this number:

1 929 205 6099.

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

**In Steeple Chat
this week:**

- *Sunday Worship
- *Sunday School
- *Zoom Fellowship
- *Pastor Paige's
Corner
- *Our Prayer List
- *It's a Boy!
- *Annual Reports due
Today!
- *Thrift Shop Open
- *Jump Into June Fair
- *Staff News
- *Annual report via
email signup
- *Stewardship video
link available
- *Backpacks needed
- *Racial Justice &
Healing
- *Historical requests
- *Congrats Rev Matiza
- *Help with
Jump into June Fair
- *Vacation Bible
Camp
- *Lunchtime
Devotions
- *Help Wanted
- *Your Offerings
- *Recordings Sign-up
- *Thrift Shop
- *Stephen Ministry
available
- *ONA Covenant



*Our Sunday School is based
on the Living Arts program.*

*Sunday School will open via
Zoom at 9:30 am with
worship music and begin at
9:35 am with prayer.*

*We will meet for 15-20
minutes to touch base, talk
about what we've learned and
to show our art work. We
finish Sunday School by 9:55
am so families can join our
Zoom worship service
together.*

Join Zoom Meeting

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86167967557?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86167967557?pwd=YXZDRolqYUtMbHVidUliWkl2TGxjdzo9)
pwd=YXZDRolqYUtMbHVidUliW
kl2TGxjdzo9**

Meeting ID: 861 6796 7557

Passcode: 222574

Zoom Fellowship Hour

Following our Sunday service.

Fellowship hour will officially begin 5 minutes after the end of the Postlude. In order to get there, you have to sign out from worship and use the link found below or in the Sunday morning email to get into the Fellowship meeting.

Please note: the Fellowship Zoom link is not available until the conclusion of the Postlude and the service Zoom has been closed.

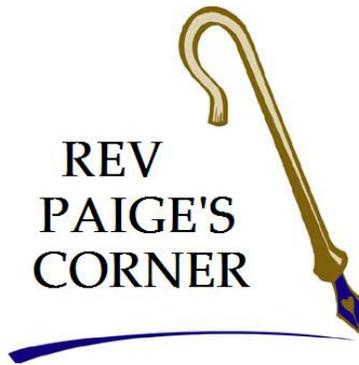
Zoom Fellowship link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82849698877?pwd=N3FyR3BxUmZ3bXVkbUdjRmJ6NzV4UTo9>

Meeting ID: 828 4969 8877 - Passcode: 886063



REV PAIGE'S CORNER



Cracks in the Pavement

I get to have lunch with my mother next week – something we haven't done in well over a year due to the pandemic. It feels at the same time momentous and normal. Others are telling stories of similar small victories. I was thinking that it feels a bit like a crack in the pavement through which is growing a flower. (I am always amazed at the perseverance of small seeds to take root and break through a seemingly impenetrable substance and bring about a change.) And perhaps we treasure these moments having been denied them for an extended time. Life isn't fully back to normal, of course. Case rates in our area are still higher than we hoped and vaccination rates for those choosing to be vaccinated are slowing. A friend of mine recently quipped that we didn't know how to enter into lockdown and we aren't totally sure how to get out of it, either.

Our Conference minister offered these questions for reflection that I hope we can discuss in our various circles in the days ahead:

“Our pandemic experience has changed us and our churches. The ways in which we do ministry are now different and perhaps not all of them will, or should, return to the way they were before the pandemic. I would encourage all our congregations to engage in some intentional reflections on the following questions:

a. What activities did you start during the pandemic that you cannot wait to let go of?

- b. What activities did you start that you definitely want to keep?
- c. What did you let go of during the pandemic that you cannot wait to get back to?
- d. What did you let go of during the pandemic that you won't pick up again?"

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on these questions! Perhaps during fellowship time?

Blessings!

Rev Paige

Our Prayer List is published weekly as a link here in Steeple Chat.

If you have prayer concerns that should be included in our weekly listings, please contact the church office at 742-5664 or by email at: firstparish@comcast.net.



For the latest Prayer List, click here:

[Prayer List.](#)



With joy and thanksgiving we welcome to our church family, **Christian Ray**, born on May 3, son of **Lauren and Bob Carey** and baby brother to **Patrick and Ryan**. Congratulations to the Carey family!

Annual Reports--DUE TODAY!

To all those submitting an annual report on behalf of a board, committee, or program, please submit your report to the church office by TODAY < Friday, May 7.

There will be a presentation and discussion on the proposed 2021-2022 budget via Zoom following the worship service on June 6.

The Annual Meeting of the church will be held via Zoom following the worship service on June 20.



NOW OPEN!

The Find it at the First Thrift Shop will be open on: Thursdays from 1-4 pm



and
Saturdays from 10 am -1 pm

**Donations will be welcome
during business hours.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU ALL!**

**Jump
into June
Festival**

Tables: Plant Sale, Bake Sale, Thrift Store, Artisans & Crafters, Collectables, and Silent Auction.
Lots of Fun, Artists, Festivities & Popcorn!

Saturday June 5th from 10 am - 2 pm
First Parish Church Parking Lot

Jump into June Fair
Saturday June 5th from 10 am - 2 pm
First Parish Church Parking Lot

Tables: Plant Sale in partnership with *Wentworth Greenhouse*, Bake Sale, Thrift Store, Artisans & Crafters, Collectables, Raffle and Silent Auction.
Lots of Fun, Artists, Festivities & Popcorn
**Creative Donations needed for the Silent Auction*



Staff News

It is with sadness that we share the news that Sherri Rheaume will be leaving her position as Receptionist and Office Assistant for family reasons. Her last day in the office will be Friday, May 14. This isn't "goodbye" as she will continue as a member of the church, but we want to acknowledge her faithful service and deep care while serving in these extraordinary times. Take a moment to drop her a note of thanks and

appreciation this week!

We have begun to search for her replacement and already have candidates. We hope to fill the position quickly. We are seeking volunteers to help in the office for the last 2 weeks of May. Speak with Ingrid if you would like to help.

We will be running reduced office hours – Weekdays from 9-Noon – until the position is filled. We ask your patience during this time. There will be staff in the building at other times and available by appointment as needed. Ingrid and Rick both have some overdue vacation time scheduled this month, as well.

Annual Reports available via email:

We hope that a number of folks in the congregation will be willing to receive their copy of the Annual Report in pdf format, and delivered by email. Doing so will greatly reduce the expense to the church of paper, printing, postage, and also be more environmentally friendly

If you are willing to help lower our costs and read your report on your computer or device, or print your own copy if you wish. Here is a sign up link that will let us know that we may remove you from the direct mail list. Thank you for your help!



Sign up for email delivery of Annual Report:

<https://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/d90e4c>



Connecting Through Stewardship:

The Stewardship Team would like to express their appreciation for all who helped out with this year's Season of Generosity – writers, speakers, envelope stuffers, and more. And most especially, we give great thanks to those who have submitted a pledge of time and/or funds for the year to come.

Many have inquired about a chance to see the Consecration video shared in worship last week; you may view it here:

[ConnectingThroughStewardship](#)

If you haven't had the chance to turn in your pledge card yet, we are still joyfully welcoming them through the mail or using our online pledge card which can be found here: <https://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/c7ecd58>

Backpacks, Large and Small

When your Mission and Action Board called for donations of boots, sleeping bags, tents, and winter coats to help our homeless neighbors through the winter, you responded. We have delivered many carloads of winter gear and clothing to the Community Action Partnership of

Strafford County. (CAPSC) Your generosity has helped to protect some of the most vulnerable members of our community from harsh weather this winter.

With spring upon us and summer in sight, CAPSC is asking for *donations of backpacks*. Big backpacks, small backpacks; green backpacks, blue backpacks. If your spring cleaning has uncovered a gently used backpack that you can spare, please drop it off in the Church atrium. We will round them up and deliver them to CAPSC which will put them to good use with those who need them. Thank you for your generosity!



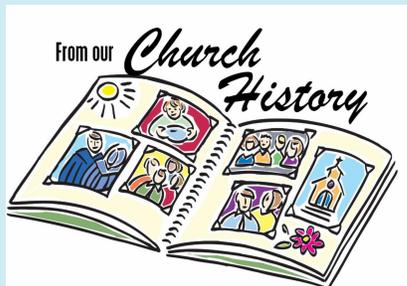
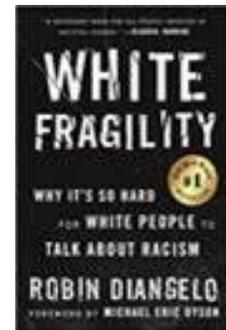
**BACKPACKS
NEEDED**



From your Racial Justice and Healing Team

If you are looking to dive deeper into constructively engaging in issues of racial justice, Allison Friend-Gray recommends the book "White Fragility" Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism by Robin DiAngelo. As the title suggests, this book explores the emotions (anger, fear, and guilt) and behaviors (argumentation, silence, and withdrawal) - what DiAngelo would call "fragility" - that white people experience when addressing race.

At times uncomfortable to read but always thought provoking, Allison says it challenged my thinking and helped me examine how race has shaped my human experience. DiAngelo writes: "My hope is that you may gain insight into why people who identify as white are so difficult in conversations regarding race and/or gain insight into your own racial responses as you navigate the roiling racial waters of daily life." In doing this hard work on ourselves, we will be better equipped to address and dismantle the system of racism.



A Message from the Historical Committee...

Are you curious about some aspect of the history of our church that you would like some information on? Are there ancestors of yours who were members of the church that you would like to know something about? Do you wonder what roles women played and when they were allowed to become "Deacons"?

For this year's celebration of Historical Sunday in October, the Historical Committee would like to give you, our members and friends, the opportunity to "Ask the Historian." You can present any question related to the history of our church, its programs and people, that you are curious about. Our Historian and the Historical Committee will choose 3 or 4 of your questions, and base this

year's historical presentation on the answers that we find. Please submit your questions to "Ask the Historian" and drop them off in the church office, or mail them to FPC, 218 Central Avenue, Dover, NH 03820, by July 1, 2021.

Congratulations Rev Matiza and UCCZ!

The United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe (UCCZ) gathered on April 25th to install its new president, the Rev. John Matiza. Rev. Matiza has been serving as the church's president since January 1, 2021. The New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ offered a collection of blessings for Rev. Matiza and the UCCZ upon this special occasion. Some of you may remember that some years ago Rev Matiza visited FPC, preached for us, and was hosted by the Slaters for some time!



(Watch the blessings video at: <https://youtu.be/z222GG8rTEw>).

Jump into June Fair-- Can You Help?

The Volunteer Opportunities & Donations for The *Jump Into June Festival* on Saturday June 5th are here! I've made it as simple as possible in Breeze.



There is one category for Volunteering, and there are 4 Donation Categories.

Volunteer Roles to make it all happen for The Jump into June Festival
<https://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/223c2e>

Bake Sale Donations for The Jump into June Festival
<https://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/d3f71f>

Artisan/Craft Donations for The Jump Into June Festival
<https://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/7f01f7>

Plant Sale Donations for The Jump Into June Festival
<https://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/7ffa15>

Silent Auction Donations for The Jump Into June Festival
<https://fpcdover.breezechms.com/form/bc461d>

Any questions or issues with volunteering and making a donation, please let me know. I can sign you up over the phone & email as well! Thank you very much for your help & support! I look forward to working & connecting with you all!

Blessings! Ingrid Roeder, Program Director & Volunteer Coordinator, IngridFPCDover@gmail.com/#406.407.4371

Virtual Vacation Bible Camp is a Family affair again this year on August

16 through 20.

We are wondering who is interested in a family oriented virtual summer camp?

Our daily schedule would look like this:

- 10 am - We'll meet for 40 minutes to go over the theme for the day & sing songs,
- 10:40 am - We'll send the kids & families off for the day for fun activities, to explore creation & be creative through living arts.
- 6:30 pm - We'll meet to close out the day to talk about what we did, and sing some fun songs.



If you are interested, please contact me at IngridFPCDover@gmail.com



**Lunch Time Devotions:
Tuesdays and Thursdays at
12:00 noon**

We offer devotions on Tuesdays and Thursday each week. This is open for everyone on a drop-in basis. Come when you feel like it! What will you find when you

join us? We spend a few moments greeting each other and catching up, we hear a scripture reading and a brief reflection on that reading. Then we listen to a song. We share people and situations we want to lift up in prayer and finally we pray together. Please join us Tuesdays and/or Thursdays and ground your day in prayer. You can find us here:

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92409379536?
pwd=RUxZaFFBK3JOUWplRTRLaWFBaVRkQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92409379536?pwd=RUxZaFFBK3JOUWplRTRLaWFBaVRkQT09)

Dial: 1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 924 0937 9536

Password: 835028

This *Help Wanted* Column is a continuing feature in Steeple Chat. We will post Immediate, Future, and Outside in our Community Needs at First Parish Church on a weekly basis.

If you are searching for opportunities to serve in the community or you have found yourself wanting to connect or reconnect with First Parish Church we would appreciate your help.



Ongoing Needs:

Temp Office Help - 9am-12pm

Volunteers needed for the mailing of the Annual Report

Thrift Shop on Saturdays
Capital Projects Team
Cochecho Challenge Race Team & Day of the Race September 4th
Please contact Ingrid Roeder, Program Director & Volunteer Coordinator to see where you're feeling called. IngridFPCDover@gmail.com
Thank you very much. We look forward to hearing from you.



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>





Find it at the First Thrift Shop:

The Thrift Shop is open Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 am to 1 p.m. Donations are welcome during hours of operation.

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 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



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

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