

Steeple Chat

The weekly update from your church



**In our Church this Sunday,
October 2, 2022
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost and
World Communion**

10:00 a.m.

ONE SERVICE---AND YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES:

**We are having in-person worship services in the sanctuary on
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

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



World Communion Sunday



Message by Rev Paige Besse-Rankin
The Need for Family Dinner
2 Timothy 1: 1-7; 1 Corinthians 12: 4-13

Children's Message by Rev Paige

Musical Reflections by Ken Medema

Music Ministry: The First Parish Choir:
With Every Breath
Words and Music by Ken Medema

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.

Zoom Fellowship Time **follows our Sunday service**

Fellowship time will officially begin 5 minutes after the end of the Postlude, and will be combined with the in-person outdoor refreshment time. That way, the folks attending in person will be able to interact with those Zooming into Fellowship time.



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 time.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

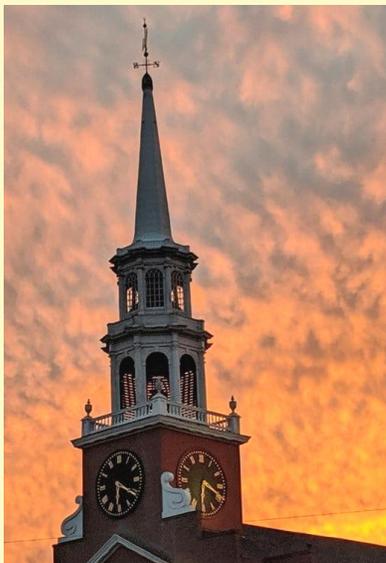
Meeting ID: 885 4754 1022
Passcode: 870497

[Click Here for Church Calendar](#)

[Click Here To Share Photos On DropBox](#)

In Steeple Chat
this week:

- *Sunday Worship
- *Fellowship time
- *Church Calendar
- *Church Pics
- *Hybrid Sunday School
- *Our Prayer List
- *Ken Medema
- *Rev Paige's Corner
- *Neighbors in Need
- *NH Conference
- *Disaster Response
- *Memorial Service
- *Holiday Market
- *Silent Auction
- *Market Planning
- *News From Partner Church
- *Racial Unity Team
- *Team Z
- *Modern Square Dancing
- *ONA Team
- *Lunchtime Devotions
- *Your Offerings
- *Recordings Sign-up
- *Square Dancing
- *Thrift Shop
- *Stephen Ministry Available
- *ONA Covenant



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School has begun!

Your child may attend on **ZOOM** or IN PERSON

9-9:15 am - Zoom will open or you can meet us in the Nazareth Hall for Opening prayer and Music

9:15-9:45 am - Sunday school begins. **It will go for 30 minutes.**

10:00-10:20 am- Worship upstairs with your family + Children's Message

10:20 am - Return to the Nazareth Hall for Games and Art Activities

Sunday School Zoom Link

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84055123414?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84055123414?pwd=MlpxaGtLanRRWUREZ1VTMlRDd2tadz09)

[pwd=MlpxaGtLanRRWUREZ1VTMlRDd2tadz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84055123414?pwd=MlpxaGtLanRRWUREZ1VTMlRDd2tadz09)

Meeting ID: 840 5512 3414

Passcode: 098788

CHILDCARE

- **There is also childcare in the Nursery downstairs on Sunday during Worship.**

Any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me -
Ingrid Roeder
Program Director + Volunteer
Coordinator
IngridFPCDover@gmail.com



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

So that we may keep the list current, please let us know of any additions, edits, or deletions to the Prayer List.

Please notify Kayla in the church office :
firstparish@comcast.net or 603-742-5664
Thank you.

For the latest Prayer List, click here:
[Prayer List](#)



In Concert:

The Music Ministry of Ken Medema
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2 at 6:00 p.m.

Co-Sponsored by
The Mark Thallander Foundation
and
First Parish Church,
Congregational, United Church of
Christ, Dover, NH

About Ken Medema:

Ken is one of the most creative and authentic artists performing today. For five decades, he has used music as a vehicle for creating conversation through storytelling and reflection

From the time he was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan (1943), Ken has been visually impaired. His sight has been limited to distinguishing between light and darkness and seeing fuzzy outlines of large objects.

Across the years, Ken has shared his passion for learning and discovery through storytelling and music with an ever-growing circle of followers around the world. Ken has performed in many different venues, churches, conventions, colleges, for groups of 50 to 5,000 people. Ken sees and hears with his heart and mind, composing and singing stories from his audience, accenting the themes provided by those present. Ken custom designs every musical moment through

improvisation and new compositions to bring individual stories to life.

Ken has recorded over 40 albums and continues to offer virtual concerts through Facebook and YouTube, incorporating many guests and various topics, addressing theological, sociological, and social justice concerns that he has been involved with for all of his career.



Ken Medema and his wife, Jane, have been married since 1965 and live in the San Francisco Bay area of California, close to their two grown married children and four grandchildren.

When at home, he and Jane work together on commissioned projects and the development of material for concert performances. They remain active in a local church, and are invested in good food, good books, good movies, and good friends.

For a video sample of Ken Medema in concert, click here:
[Reflection Song](#)

PLEASE NOTE: The Concert by Ken Medema on Sunday evening at 6:00 will not be available via Zoom and will not be recorded for future playback.

The only way to experience this wonderful event is in-person.

A Fan-Girl Moment

My first year in seminary, a new friend invited me to hear Ken Medema perform at a church in Boston. I was deeply impacted by his music. I think my first sermon may have quoted one of his songs. Others I listened to over and over again on “mixed tapes.” Ken’s sensitive use of language to express faith, hope, and questions made an impact on me. Years later, I took a group of youth to a National Youth Event and was delighted to find Ken as one of the performers. The group of teens I was chaperoning were quite diverse and I wondered what they would think. (My musical tastes are usually not “cool” even when I was a teen!) So, I was delighted at how much they enjoyed him and talked about his musical offerings. Some years later as I was making the



move to having an iPod, I found new music available including an album just for pastors titled "Oasis." The songs on the album spoke very loudly to me during a turbulent time in ministry.

So, I was very excited to have the opportunity to join with some of our choir members to sing a selection in a concert Ken was offering in Maine. (I tried not to gush too much when I had the chance to speak with him.) Once our selection was done, I had the chance to sit and listen to the rest of the concert and found my spirit refreshed and renewed by the music he offered. And then he took the stories of members of the audience and created songs about them on the spot – including one about Grab and Go! I left feeling lifted up and excited.

So, I am deeply excited to welcome Ken Medema to First Parish Church this weekend. He will be joining us in worship on Sunday morning and then offering a concert at 6 pm on Sunday evening. And let me strongly encourage you: "Don't miss it!"

Blessings, from your pastor fan-girl!



Neighbors in Need Offering Received This Sunday

A UCC Wide Special Offering, Neighbors in Need, will be received in worship and through our on-line giving portal this week. Neighbors in Need offering is used to support justice grants for programs across the country. One-third of the offering goes to support the Council of American Indian Ministries (CAIM) which uses it

to support pastors and congregations serving Native American communities – most of which are on reservations.

More information about Neighbors in Need can be found here: <https://www.ucc.org/neighbors-in-need-special-mission-offering/>

NH Conference UCC Announces Candidate for Associate Conference Minister:

New Hampshire Conference
United Church of Christ



The New Hampshire Conference Board of Directors and Conference Minister, the Reverend Gordon Rankin, recommend to the 221st

Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference the election of the Reverend Sara Marean to serve as our next Associate Conference Minister following the retirement of Richard Slater at the end of the year.

Reverend Marean is a graduate of Earlham College and Harvard University Divinity School. She was Ordained in 2001. Reverend Marean has served churches in Minnesota and Massachusetts. For the past eight years, she has served as Pastor at the First Congregational Church (FCC) of Wilmot (NH), UCC.

Reverend Marean has been active in the life of the Conference serving for the past several years on the Wider Church Relations Ministry Team. She has demonstrated passion for the Ukama Partnership and has visited our UCCZ colleagues in Zimbabwe. She also helped lead FCC Wilmot through the process of becoming the New Hampshire Conference's second Racial Justice Church.

The Associate Conference Minister Search Advisory Team noted Reverend Marean's pastoral heart, her commitment to justice of all types, and how her faith shines through all she does. She will bring to her work as part of the Conference Staff a vision and passion for what the church is and what it will be. She writes in her profile: "I am deeply passionate about the church. As I see the world around us crack and certain populations lash out at others, I have come to believe ever more deeply in the necessity of church. Our denomination is a voice in a world of hate calling for love. As our nation and world become ever more divided, and extremist voices become ever more prevalent, the UCC has the ability to speak forcefully and emphatically for a faith based on compassion, justice for all God's children, the sacred nature of the earth on which we live, and systems built on equality."

Delegates and Authorized Ministers will have the opportunity to attend a virtual Meet and Greet with Reverend Marean on Tuesday, October 11 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. She will also be available to greet those who are attending the Annual Meeting in person from 8:00 to 8:45 am on October 15th at the Grappone Center. Reverend Marean will be our preacher for the Annual Meeting opening worship service. The election will take place later in the morning session of the Meeting.

With a favorable election, Reverend Marean is expected to start as our Associate Conference Minister early in 2023.

Disaster Responses

As we are preparing this week's Steeple Chat, we are watching imagines of Hurricane Ian making



SEVERE STORM RELIEF

landfall in Florida. Of course, in recent days we have seen devastation in other places including Puerto Rico and Pakistan. As people of faith, we wonder how we can love our neighbors in the midst of recovery from these sorts of disasters.

The challenge, of course, is getting the right sort of help to the right places. There were stories after Hurricane Andrew many years ago of piles of wet donations pushed to the side of the runways of the airports – unsorted clothing sent down including winter clothes, for instance. Roadways were clogged with trucks and trailers of well-meaning donations of things “people might need” that were sent without coordination. The result was a sort of secondary disaster that kept the right sort of help from getting where it was needed. So, in the earliest days of a disaster, it is most helpful to give financially through trusted channels of first responders such as the Red Cross.

The United Church of Christ has an active program for disaster recovery but likes to be clear that we are not in the first phase of disaster recovery. Instead, support is offered for the long term. Volunteer groups can be sent in years after the disaster to help. Here are two articles with more information.

“How you can help Disaster Survivors”:

“13 Ways UCC Disaster Ministries Support Recovery”:

Memorial Services for Richard Tappan

Church member, Richard Tappan, died just as pandemic lockdowns were going into place in March 2020 so we were unable to have funeral services to celebrate his life. A memorial service is being planned for Sunday, October 16 at 2 pm at the church followed by a reception and interment at the Durham cemetery. All are welcome to join us to celebrate Richard’s life. A Zoom link will also be available for those who would like to join remotely.



Holiday Market and Silent Auction



Calling all First Parish members and friends... it's time to demonstrate your creativity! The First Parish Church Holiday Market takes place Nov. 19th from 9:00AM-3:00PM and one of the main attractions at the fair will be the Silent Auction table. The theme for this table will be winter related, and in particular, Christmas. Think about creating gift baskets that are filled with seasonal items, hobby items, promises

of baked items or any item or items that would be a welcome surprise as a Christmas gift. Create a basket around an age group or gender. Wouldn't a pet basket be adorable? The sky is the limit! Regifts of new or very gently used items can catch a bidder's eye. Homemade certificates for personal services like babysitting while parents are out shopping, housecleaning to help set the stage for a celebration, decorating a home to reflect the Christmas spirit or yardwork/snow-shoveling are also welcome gifts. We are avoiding commercial gift cards for this fair. Put on your thinking caps, be creative and join the effort to support FPC.

Please contact Sandy O'Neill at sandy_oneill@comcast.net if you need help with ideas, need a basket to fill, or would like to contribute a basket or gift item to be used.

Items can be dropped off at the church to be stored in Ingrid's office Nov. 1-11. If you need an item to be picked up, contact Sandy.

Holiday Market Planning

The Holiday Fair Team is anxiously planning for an IN-PERSON Fair after a 2-year Pandemic hiatus. Mark your calendars for

November 19th, 2022 and plan to participate in this congregation wide celebration and fund raiser event. There will be opportunities for everyone to be involved either in person or from home – or both! Stay tuned for more details as the date approaches. **Due to busy schedules and several conflicts the meeting for this Sunday has been**

rescheduled for October 9th at 11:30. There is a link in

Basecamp, and it will be included in the October 7th Steeple Chat if you wish to attend virtually. If you have questions or want to become involved contact: Joe Stieglitz, Fair Coordinator at bertramstieglitz@twc.com , Joyce Tugel



at jtugel@gmail.com or Margie Buckingham at kraftyone@comcast.net.

Zoom Link for October 9th at 11:30 am -

[Click Here for Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 850 6088 1476

Passcode: 877216

News from Our Partner Church

Rev Paige had the chance to Zoom with Rev Muchayi, the pastor of our partner church in Zimbabwe. Rev Muchayi shared news about the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Highfield church and celebrations which welcomed back former pastors and UCCZ members from around the region. He also shared the vision that the church is working on creating an educational center for its community in Harare – though some of that work is delayed due to the economic volatility of Zimbabwe in these days.

Finally, Rev Muchayi shared that he is coming to the end of his second 4 year term as pastor at Highfield. In the UCCZ, two terms is the maximum a pastor can serve in a congregation. He has accepted an assignment to serve a church in Masvingo and will be moving at the end of December. The Highfield church has called a new pastor who will be joining them at that time.

Rev Muchayi expressed great appreciation for our partnership and the ways First Parish has supported his ministry and the Highfield Church. One example he named was a borehole we helped fund – commenting that even in this hot and dry season that borehole is providing water.

Please keep the Highfield church and Rev Muchayi in prayers!

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN ZIMBABWE

Celebrating 50 Years

HIGHFIELD CHURCH
THANKSGIVING DAY
& HARVEST KICKOFF

Give thanks to God for He is Good THEME

Texts: Psalm 107: 1-9;
Eph 5:20, 1 Thes 5:17-18.

Guest Of Honour,
UCCZ President Rev & Mai Matiza
Come and celebrate with us as we give
thanks to our Lord.

Date 31 July @Highfield UCCZ.
1st Established 25 June 1972 as a Church.

10:00am to 2pm

Hosting Pastor
Rev K Muchayi & Amai.

Mark up, Maintain Social Distances, Sanitize, Vaccinate & stay in Prayers.

RSVP: Tinashe Nyowana +263 73 336 5688

**Invitation to Racial Unity
Team Event:**

People Reaching People



The U.S. is experiencing a recent uptick in book challenges adversely impacting our schools and libraries. In an effort to educate the public about this wave of challenges—and what it means for our communities. The Racial Unity Team will be co-hosting a panel discussion with

the Exeter Public Library and Oyster River Equity & Justice on Tuesday, September 20 from 6:30-7:30 pm on the Mezzanine level of the Exeter Public Library.

Topics covered by this dynamic panel will range from the history of book censorship in the U.S. to how recent laws passed in New Hampshire have raised concerns about community access to ideas. In addition, the panel will offer participants thoughtful strategies for how to respond to such challenges. This event is free and open to the public. To learn more visit racialunityteam.com.

Team Z

Hello Everyone! We're in search of a few volunteers to join our Team Z.

We have an extraordinary relationship with Reverend Muchayi at the United Church of Christ in the Zimbabwe.

This relationship thrives because partnered congregations in the NH Conference and devoted persons in the partnered churches make use of creative strategies for sustaining our relationship.

As Team Z we would like to come together to gather ideas in search of looking for ways to continue nourishing this relationship.

Please contact Ingrid Roeder, Program Director + Volunteer Coordinator if you are interested. IngridFPCDover@gmail.com

Thank you!



Modern Square Dancing

Coming to the First Parish Church

218 Central Ave., Dover, NH



Try it...
October
3rd or 17th

These Two Sessions
"FREE"



Only
\$5

An ongoing class will start October 24th

Upbeat Music with Social Interaction

Water and coffee provided; bring a snack to share if you like.

Come early – socialize- be ready to dance when the music starts.

No partner needed- No special clothing - No experience needed.

Even if you think you can't dance, try this form of team dancing. Combine intellectual challenge with *heart healthy* walking exercise - and fun!

Stimulate Heart Health and Brain Health

- One activity that will stimulate both!

- Can't teach an old dog new tricks? Nonsense!

- Actually grow new brain cells by learning dance movements.

Learn the meaning of Circulate, Spin Chain Through, Cross Run, Spin the Top, Relay the Deucey, Load the Boat, and many more calls. These are all part of the vocabulary in MODERN Square Dancing. Once you learn, go out to dance with area clubs.

Learn this "Modern" form of square dancing. Participate in teams of 8. Take lessons right here. It's "thinking on your feet dancing" as you execute the choreography – continuously moving to the beat of the music with 7 other people on your dance team.

Al Rouff (Dance Leader) is a "CALLERLAB trained" caller.

ASCAP/BMI MUSIC LICENSE

Hearing Assist Receivers available – as used in courtrooms, churches, etc.

Soft Soled Shoes should be worn to protect the floor.



Find It At The First Thrift Store

With all the renovations and making the transition after the accident at the Thrift Store, we're in search of new volunteers at the store. We're only looking for help for an hour or more on Thursdays and Saturdays.

The store will be re-opened by the end of September!

We will not be accepting donations until further notice.

If you're interested in being a volunteer, please contact Ingrid at

IngridFPCDover@gmail.com
Thank you!



Open and Affirming Team being Convened

Although the congregation voted to become Open and Affirming several years ago, we have not had a team working to continue to address those commitments. There is interested in getting a working group together. If you are interested, please speak with or email

Rev Paige at pastorpaigebr@gmail.com.

Lunch Time Devotions: Tuesdays and Thursdays each week 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



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://fpcdoover.breezechms.com/form/55811a>



Find it at the First Thrift Shop:

The Thrift Shop is currently closed pending repairs to the Parish House.

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



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

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

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by firstparish@comcast.net powered by



Try email marketing for free today!