

Steeple Chat

The weekly update from your church



In our Church this Sunday, August 25

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. Service in the sanctuary

Message by Pastor Paige Besse-Rankin

A Healing Sabbath

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Luke 13:10-17

Music Ministry

Vocal Quartet: *Bonnie Marshall, Carol Seely, Jean Ellison, Steve Hall*
Come Down, O Love Divine Tune: Ralph Vaughan-Williams
Holy Art Thou (Largo from Xerses) G. F. Handel

Blessing of the Backpacks

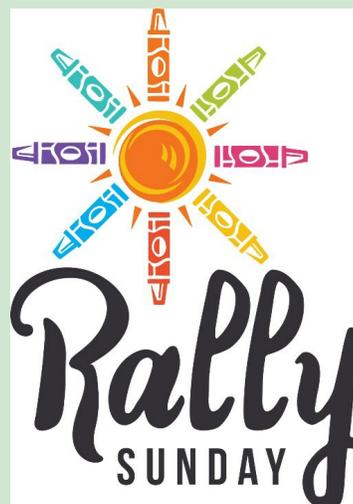


As school gets underway for a new year, we are offering a time of special blessing for our students. Kids are encouraged to bring school backpacks to church this Sunday, August 25 for a special blessing during the service.

**Child care is available during the service.
Refreshments and fellowship follow the service.**

**In Steeple Chat
this week:**

- *Rally Sunday
- *Adult Ed Group
- *Road Race
- *Confirmation
2020
- *Craft Group
- *Neighbors
Helping Neighbors
- *Holiday Fair
Plants
- *Cocheco Road
Race
- *Thrift Shop
- *Stephen Ministry



**Rally
Sunday
is
coming!**

Our
Sunday
School
kickoff
festivities
for the new
church year
will happen
on Sunday,
September

15, beginning at 9:30 a.m. with First
Kids Gathering in Nazareth Hall.

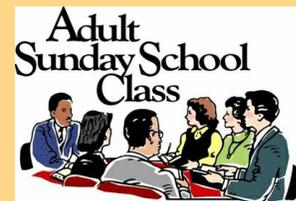
We then all gather at 10:00 in the sanctuary for worship. Our First Parish Choir will return for the fall season that day, and we will celebrate the 200th anniversary of our Sunday School. The theme for the day will be *Exercise Your Faith: Walk With God*. Our new Program Director and Volunteer Coordinator, *Ingrid Roeder*, will be joining us that morning.

Following the service will be a light lunch and ice cream social for all. Plan to join us at the party!



Adult Discussion Group

The Adult Discussion Group will meet this Sunday August 25 in the parlor at 8:50 a.m. All are welcome!



ROAD RACE TIME!



RUN FOR THE FUN! AND THE GREAT CAUSES!



The Cocheco Challenge Half Marathon and 5K is right around the corner next Saturday, August 31st at 8:30 a.m.

This is a family-friendly all-church event and we can still use a few more volunteers. Come on down to run, walk, cheer, or race marshal and receive a volunteer shirt and a commemorative bell. Come for the fun, but stay for the chance to come together as a Christian community and share God's love!

Confirmation 2020

Confirmation is the rite of passage in the church where we recognize that young people need to choose their

Confirmation Class



faith for themselves. It is also the point when they become adult members of the church.

Confirmation Class is designed to give information and experiences to help young people make this decision.

It is intentional and a higher commitment than many church activities. It is a journey that students take in companionship with teachers, mentors and the entire congregation. It is an exciting program that asks a lot of students, families, and the church as a whole. But it is worth it!

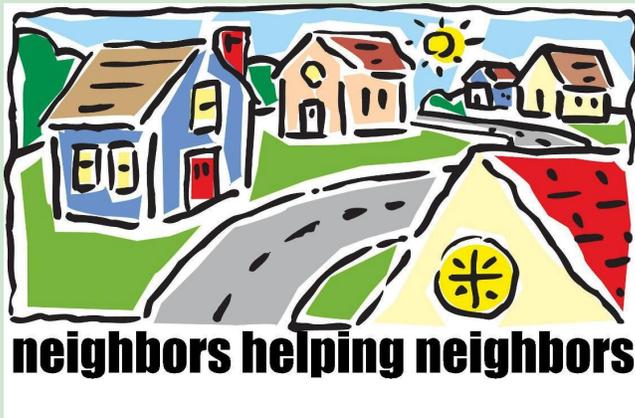
Preparations are underway for Confirmation 2020 to begin on Sunday, September 8. Weekly class will take place on Sundays from 12:30 - 2 pm. Invitations are going out now, but our database is still being updated, so if you know a potential Confirmation Class student (high school aged), please contact Rev Paige. We don't want to miss anyone!

CRAFT GROUP NOTES



The **Craft Group** meets every Tuesday morning from 9:00 until 11:00 in Fellowship Hall. New folks all are always welcome to join in with a craft project or crocheting/knitting project and enjoy the fellowship and fun!

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.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Earlier this week, the First Parish Church Council adopted two proposals that, together, will represent a step in our journey to "Love thy neighbor."

The first action is to loan \$2,500 in Church funds to an immigrant family (and their three children) who are seeking Asylum, to assist them in purchasing a

car. You may recall that over a year ago, the Church loaned money and co-signed a lease to assist a family in providing stable housing for their three kids. The loan to the Church has been paid in full and the Church no longer co-signs their lease. This effort to help the family get back on their feet was a success.

The second vote was to create a new Mission fund to be called "Neighbors Helping Neighbors." The purpose of the fund is to give a "hand up" to families who demonstrate need. The fund will be used to assist each family in becoming self-sufficient; long-term dependence is not healthy for the families or for our Church. The new Neighbors Helping Neighbors fund will be used to support needs recognized by a Mission and Action team that works with a family over a period of time. All expenditures must be approved by the Mission and Action Board.

Both actions are intended to benefit a family of Asylum-seekers by combining the

loan with a gift so they can purchase a second car. Dad works full-time and has a part-time job; he takes the family car to work. Mom works part-time on weekends when Dad is home to care for the kids. We propose to add the \$2,500 loan to a Neighbors Helping Neighbors gift so the family can purchase a second car so they can take the kids to medical appointments and Mom to work.

We hope to raise at least \$3,000 in the Neighbors Helping Neighbors fund at this time. Coupled with the loan, this will provide \$5,500 for the purchase of a used car. As stated above, the goal is to assist them in becoming self-sufficient. We believe their strong work ethic, aversion to debt, and devotion to their three kids will soon propel this family to self-sufficiency.

Please consider making a donation to the new fund by writing "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" in the memo line of your check. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of this young family of refugees. Love they neighbor!

PLANTS for HOLIDAY FAIR



It is time to start thinking about how you can help us for the Holiday Fair this November. That's right. We who are doing the Plant Table this year need YOUR help now. Please begin your cuttings for the plant table now. We can use any kind of plants you would like to donate and you think you can donate. We would like them already rooted and growing in pots/containers that you don't want back. Other things we are looking for are pots, glass jars with or without lids, small birch bark logs, pine cones of various sizes. For more information please contact Carol Seely (koyet@rcn.com), Faith Levesque (dolphinwannabe@comcast.net) or Donna Sgrignuoli (gdsgrignuoli@comcast.net). We are looking forward to a Plant Room with some spectacular and different plants and crafts!



**RUN FOR
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AND THE
GREAT
CAUSES!**



**REGISTRATION
FEES BENEFIT:**

The Dover Food Pantry
Red Cross Blood Drives
Dover's Friendly Kitchen
End 68 Hours of Hunger
The Cochecho Valley
Humane Society
Alcoholics Anonymous
Girl & Boy Scouts
of America
Plus many more!

**August 31, 2019
8:30AM**

FIND OUT MORE AT

www.CochcechoChallenge.com

First Parish Congregational Church
218 Central Avenue, Dover, NH

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. **Please note: The Thrift Shop will be closed on Saturday, August 31 due to the Cochecho Road Race.**

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
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Dover, New Hampshire 03820
(603) 742-5664
Visit our website: www.firstparishdover.org

