



# STEEPLE CHAT

*the weekly updates from  
your church*

**June 21 , 2024**

**In our Church this Sunday Morning**

**June 23, 2024  
10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

**All our Sunday services are in-person in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings.  
For those who prefer online worship, you can join us live through Zoom.  
(please see link below)**



**The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Message by Pastor Dana Mann  
Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; Mark 4:35-41**

**Music Ministry:  
The First Parish Choir  
With Every Breath-Ken Medema**

**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.**

**NO ZOOM FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY  
DUE TO THE ANNUAL MEETING**

**Zoom Fellowship Time will follow our Sunday service and will begin 5 minutes after the end of the Postlude.**

**In order to get there, you have to first sign out from worship Zoom and then use the link found below to get into the Fellowship time.**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83047674642?  
pwd=VzRUSkxMY0JkdGI0TWN2aUN5YUNvdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83047674642?pwd=VzRUSkxMY0JkdGI0TWN2aUN5YUNvdz09)

Meeting ID: 830 4767 4642

Passcode: 185813

**LINK TO 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

Click here for pdf of complete Annual Report document: [Annual Report 2024](#)



**Notice of Annual Meeting:**

**The Annual Meeting of First Parish Church will be held this Sunday, June 23, immediately following the worship service in the sanctuary. The meeting will be in-person and also available via Zoom.**

Click here for complete Call to Meeting & Agenda: [Annual Meeting Call 2024](#)

**Attention all current and incoming Board and Committee members!**

**This Saturday morning, June 22nd, we'll gather in Fellowship Hall for our Leadership Summit.**

**From 9-11am we'll have the opportunity to engage with Paul Nickerson to explore:**

Where First Parish is on the Church Life Cycle

The dynamics of growth and change

How to avoid unhelpful communication and listen well

The makings of a communication covenant



The vision/discernment process

**From 11-12pm Boards and Committees will meet for conversation.  
Lunch will be provided.**

**Hello Christian Education Committee!**

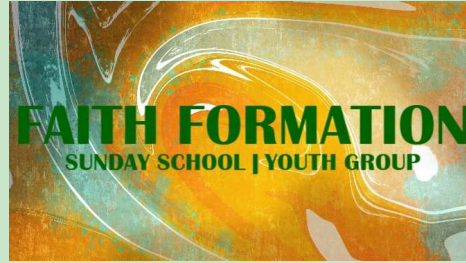
We're looking forward to seeing you all this Saturday at the Leadership Summit.

We're so excited to connect, and to get to know you, and to talk about the coming year.

Blessings to you all!

Ingrid Roeder

Program Director + Volunteer Coordinator



**Thrift Shop Updates**

**NOTE: Thrift Store is closed  
Saturday June 22nd.**

The shop continues to welcome new shoppers and in-season donations are welcome. We cannot accept winter clothing at this time. We ask that all clothing be in good condition and clean.



Keep an eye out for sale posters. A bag sale for clothing will be coming soon.

Small working appliances, pots and pans, and dishware are welcome. If you have recently read a good book and are willing to donate, please do so. The shop could also use summer placemats, and kitchen linens.

Come visit the shop! You will be amazed by the variety of items and our reasonable prices.

Shop hours are Thursdays 1-7PM, Fridays 1-4 PM, and Saturdays 10AM-1PM. Volunteers are still needed.

Contact Sandy O'Neill if you are interested in volunteering or stop by the shop during the open hours.

**Thrift Shop hours are  
Thursdays 1:00-7:00PM  
Fridays 1:00-4:00 PM**

**Saturdays 10:00 AM-1:00 PM**

**If you have any questions, please contact Sandy O'Neill.**



**It's Grab and Go time...**

It is estimated that 20% of New Hampshire's children are food insecure, they don't have enough nutritious food or might not even know where their next meal is coming from. One out of every five kids is hungry. **Grab and Go, a program of the Dover Cooperative Ministries**, provides bags of food to hungry children in Dover from the end of the school year until the week of Labor Day.

Each bag contains enough non-perishable food to feed one child for a weekend. Each week we need 45 volunteers to pack bags (in the church) and distribute them to one of twenty-two locations throughout Dover. If you can help for a day, a week, a month, or all 11 weeks for this summer, please contact us at [dovertgrabandgo@gmail.com](mailto:dovertgrabandgo@gmail.com) Thank you for helping feed Dover's hungry children.

**Habitat for Humanity** On June 15, our church was invited to help on a *Habitat For Humanity* duplex build in Rochester after a fire. Our team included Gary Imbrie, Sandi Potter, Phil Read, Joe Stieglitz, and Allen and Janet Williams. The team was tasked with inspecting, adjusting, and reinforcing frames for a farmer's porch and moving plywood sheets aloft to be installed on the roof.

The homeowner, Julie, has four children and was very enthusiastic about her involvement in this building process. She was very appreciative of the many diverse groups who were actively moving her dream forward of home ownership. Last Saturday's weather was stellar, and First Parish finished the day with full hearts. A great example of mission in action!

**Portsmouth PRIDE Day on June 22**

**June 22** brings another celebration of pride for our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters on the grounds of Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth. First Parish Church will have a booth to show our support.



When our nation seems so divided, this is a perfect event to demonstrate unity and care. As in years past, we will have a water station, and we will provide a craft for passers-by as well as hand designed stickers and magnets featuring a message of solidarity from the church.

Stop by the First Parish Church booth and say hello! Portsmouth PRIDE is a great day of celebration and connection.

Imagine being an enslaved person living in Texas in 1865, finding out on June, 19th that you were freed by the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln. But that Proclamation actually went into effect nearly two and a half years prior on January, 1 1863! The westernmost Confederate state of Texas was still under Confederate control until Union soldiers liberated Galveston, Texas, as the Union was slowly brought back together. The Black Heritage Trail NH is offering commemorative events as always. Check out their website for this year's events. <https://blackheritagetrailnh.org/juneteenth-celebration-2024/>

This happy news for those people was preserved in the Juneteenth holiday and is now a national holiday. FPC's Racial Justice and Healing group meets monthly to discuss ways of being anti-racists and encourages folks who are interested in learning more to attend! The meetings are remote via Zoom and the link can be gotten by calling the Church office.

### **Readers are wanted!**

The Dover Public Library is again hosting this year's reading of Frederick Douglass' speech "What to the Slave is Your Fourth of July?" to be held at the library, either on the lawn or inside on Saturday, June 29th starting at noon. Folks who are interested in reading a section or sections of the speech during this event that is held in several locations statewide, can sign up using this link [tinyurl.com/DoverFDRead](https://tinyurl.com/DoverFDRead) or scanning the QR code. Some First Parish folks have already signed up! This event is truly moving and powerful, so even if you aren't comfortable reading a section in front of the crowd, a crowd is needed to watch! Please join us!



**The Men's Group** is currently reading and discussing "*The Lost History of Christianity*" by Philip Jenkins. . 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.

## **Secrets of the Arc\***

### **Durfee Part 4**

Sarah Durfee served as Sunday School Superintendent and president of the First Parish Women's Union. She was also the final chairperson of the Mizpah Club, one of Dover's earliest and oldest private philanthropies. (More will be said about the Mizpah Club in the future). Sarah started the annual Girl Scout cookie sale in Dover and served for six years as the Girl Scout Council Commissioner. She was the recipient of the Thanks Badge, Girl Scout's highest honor for adult service. (No wonder her daughter became so important in the organization!)





Sarah was also a member of the FPC Friendly Club and Dover Women's Club. Sarah M. Durfee passed away in Providence, RI in 1985 at the age of 98.

This concludes the Durfee saga. I think it needs to be said that along with the long history of many men who have made notable (and highly documented) contributions to this church, there are probably just as many (maybe more?) women who were just as important to the ministries of First Parish Church. (Amen! End of sermon!)

\*Archives

**COCHECHO CHALLENGE HALF MARATHON**



**SATURDAY  
AUGUST 31, 2024  
8:15am Start Time**  
**Register at**  
[Cochechochallenge.com](http://Cochechochallenge.com)



**First Parish Church - 218 Central Ave, Dover, NH**

**Volunteers needed for Race Day!**

We are looking for volunteers to be road marshals, to hand out water at water stations and at the finish line, and to serve food and hand out medals at the church during the half marathon.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Vickie Chase at 603-781-5346 or send her an email at [vickiejean513@gmail.com](mailto:vickiejean513@gmail.com).

**Art Camp in the Park**

**August 19-23**

**9am-12pm**

**Cost per Child/Youth \$10**

**Ages: 6-18**

Parents or guardians are encouraged to be there to create as well.

**Donations are welcome for art supplies, snacks, sunblock, bug spray + a portable wagon for taking supplies to the park!**

Please Contact Ingrid if you're interested [IngridFPCDover@gmail.com](mailto:IngridFPCDover@gmail.com)



**ART IN THE PARK**  
**AUGUST 19-23 9am-12pm**  
**Children/Youth Ages 6-18**  
FIRST PARISH CHURCH, DOVER, NH  
603-742-5664  
[INGRIDFPCDOVER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:INGRIDFPCDOVER@GMAIL.COM)



**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.

## **Steeple Chat Most visited Links:**

**Current Prayer List**

**Church Calendar**

**Worship Zoom Link**

**Sunday Morning Zoom Fellowship**

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



### **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 Church is an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ.**

We welcome 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](http://www.firstparishdover.org)  
email: [firstparish@comcast.net](mailto:firstparish@comcast.net)  
Church Office hours:  
Monday through Friday 8:00am-3:30pm**



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

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