PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Eternal God, You have called Your people from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank You for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's life given for us. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to Your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen

***CLOSING HYMN** "LORD, DISMISS US WITH YOUR BLESSING" No. 748

THE BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN Pastor Anna V. Copeland

POSTLUDE "FAITH OF OUR FATHERS" by H. Hemy, arr. C. Berry

Communion flowers are provided by the Esther W. Hungerford Fund.

WELCOME GUESTS! We are grateful you joined us in worship today at First Parish Church. Please fill in the "Invitation" card in our pew pocket, especially if you would like to receive our mid-week e-mail devotional message the "Pastor's Pen." Just drop it in the collection plate. If you have any questions, please introduce yourselves to the pastors as you leave the sanctuary or to a member of our Hospitality Team (wearing yellow name tags). Please join us in Fellowship Hall after worship for coffee and refreshments and meet our friendly fellow parishioners.

CHURCH SCHOOL: All children will remain in church today. Nursery care provided downstairs for children 4 years old and under. Summer Bags available in the back of the church. Church School will resume in early September.

TODAY'S GREETERS: Greeting you this morning are the Diaconate.

COFFEE HOUR: Please join us for coffee in Fellowship Hall after worship.

PASTORAL CARE: We want to provide care for you always, and in particular we hope you will let us know if you or a family member are or will be hospitalized, so we can give you our care. York Hospital, if a patient requests, will call us directly. Due to hospital confidentiality regulations, we will know of your hospitalization only if you ask your family member or hospital staff to call us and let us know.

EXITING THE SANCTUARY IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. The front half of the sanctuary will exit to the front of the church through the two side doors. The back half of the sanctuary will exit to the back of the sanctuary and either out the side ramp, or the front doors of the church. The Deacons will help anyone in the lower level of the church exit out the back doors of the lower level.

180 York Street, York, Maine 03909 ◆ 207-363-3758
office@firstparishyork.net ◆ www.firstparishyork.net

First Parish Church
Congregational
United Church of Christ

Welcome

Vision

Following the way of Jesus, we aspire to *authentically invite*, *courageously include*, and *generously serve* all with compassion and grace.

Mission

Following the way of Jesus, we celebrate *inspirational worship*; create *life-changing experiences* for children, youth, families, and individuals; and practice *meaningful congregational care.*

While *respecting our diversity*, we *courageously advocate* for *justice and mercy*, and *intentionally respond to the needs* of our *community and the world.*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018 ~ 9:30AM WORSHIP
COMMUNION

** Please stand if you are able. All people are invited to read bold face liturgy.*

PRELUDE "MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE" by L. Mason, arr. C. Berry

THE INVITATION God's grace, mercy, and peace be with you.
And also with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Anna V. Copeland

CHIMES FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Pastor Dan Hollis
We gather to serve and worship God.
What do we give to God?
What has God given to you?
What do we do in God's name?
What has God done for you?
How can we serve God?
The power has been within us all along.

***OPENING HYMN** "CHRIST, YOU CALL US ALL TO SERVICE" No. 571

***HOSPITALITY MOMENT**
"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."
(Please greet one another with a sign of God's peace.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor Anna V. Copeland
We have promised to live as your people, God of our life. Yet we confess that we still fail you and one another. Forgive us when we ignore your calls and reject those who need us. Even when we fall into sin, your Spirit invites us to remember that you chose us to be your servant people. Awaken us to the power and gifts you pour into us for the good of creation, and grant that we may be trustworthy in all things, producing abundantly as we work to build your realm, in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray…

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "debts")
Our Father…forgive us our debts…Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC "GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS" by W. Runyon, arr. J Schrader
Nathan Cox, Terrie Ilaria, Kathy Mason, Bonnie Periale, quartet
accompanied by Shawn McCartee

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN "WHEN THE POOR ONES" *(verses 1 and 2 only)* No. 624

SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:14-30 N.T. 24 Julie Alexander

SERMON Pastor Dan Hollis

INSTRUMENTAL RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "GOD WILL MAKE A WAY" by E. Moen
Shawn McCartee, soloist

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF COMMITMENT** No. 34
As we commit our lives and our resources to your service, so place before us this day the people you would have us serve. Open our eyes to see you in them, and to offer freely what you have given us, to ease their burdens and bring them joy for your glory. Amen

CELEBRATING COMMUNION
This communion table is open to all who seek the presence of the Risen Christ. We eat the bread together, as a symbol of our divinely intended unity. We drink the cup individually as a symbol of our divinely intended uniqueness.
(Gluten free crackers are in the middle of the tray)

THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, September 2nd	9:30am Worship/Communion/Special Music-Terrie Ilaria, bonnie Periale, Kathy Mason, Nathan Cox and Shawn McCartee
Monday, September 3rd	8am Zumba
Tuesday, September 4th	8:30am Yoga
	5-7pm Table of Plenty
	7pm Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 5th	8:30am Zumba
Thursday, September 6th	8:30am Aerobics
	2pm-4pm YCSA-Thrift Store Volunteer
	6pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
	7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday, September 7th	8:30am Aerobics
Sunday, September 9th	9:15am Hymn Sing
	9:30am Worship/Rally Day
	10am Christian Education Breakfast
	5pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Ministers
All the Members of the Congregation
Leading Worship Today:
Rev. Dr. Anna V. Copeland
Rev. Dan Hollis
Staff
Wendell S. Purrington, Director of Music Ministries
Terrie Ilaria, Music Associate
Janet Cassidy, Church School Coordinator
First Parish Church Lay Leaders
Jan Jonas, Moderator
Thom Kearns, Vice Moderator
Ray Hamlin, Treasurer
Susan Mancinelli, Clerk

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SUMMER FAITH FEATURES

SAVE THE DATE
RALLY DAY
Sunday, September 9

First day of church school. Begin with worship at 9:30 followed by a light breakfast. Reconnect with friends and make new ones. Come & learn about "The Life of Jesus" through Bible discovery, games, crafts, videos.
Bring a friend!

Sunday, September 16, 2018

Godspeed Gathering for Pastor Anna and Ellis
Open House from 2 PM to 5 PM
Check your email or mail for your invitation.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
Women of all ages
Wednesday, September 12,
a Women's pot-luck Bible study breakfast
Fellowship Hall from 9am-10:30am

If you haven't come before, we'll read the scripture lesson for the upcoming Sunday, pray together, and share prayer concerns and joys over muffins, fruit, yogurt, eggs, or whatever you decide to bring.
Pastor Anna will join us for the start of this season. Welcome.

VOLUNTEER – YCSA Thrift Store

Janet Segroves will be our First Parish volunteer on Thursday, September 6 from 2-3PM. Thank you, Janet. We are in need of 1 or 2 volunteers for October 4 and December 6. They are so grateful for our involvement.
Sign up sheet is at the Opportunity Table in Fellowship Hall
or call the Parish Office at 207-363-3758.

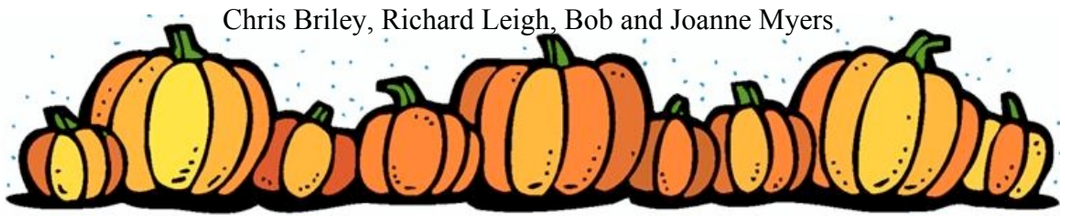
Great Bay Boardwalk Hike
Scamman Farm Corn Maze
Sunday, September 9

Hike the ½ mile boardwalk through the hardwood forest and along the saltmarsh of the Great Bay Discovery Center in Greenland, NH. Pack a picnic lunch to enjoy along the way. Learn about the diverse habitats found along Great Bay. No admission charge. FMI:https://www.greatbay.org/

Then head over to Scamman Farm on Rte. 108 in Stratham explore 6 acres of twists and turns in their corn maze. Maze admission: Adults (13+) $9.00; Children (5-12) $7.00; Military and Senior (65+) $7.00; Children under 5 free with paid adult.
FMI: https://www.scammanfarm.com/corn-maze
Meet at 10:45am (right after worship) at Fellowship Hall to carpool, sharing the cost of gas.
All are invited (men, women, youth)! Invite a friend! For more information, and to sign up for this trip organized by Women on the Move, please contact Kathy McQueeney at kathymcqueeney@hotmail.com or 603-580-1184.

The pumpkins are coming! The pumpkins are coming!
They will arrive on Saturday, September 29.
Volunteers needed to unload the truck at 9am.

The 5th Annual Pumpkin Patch will be open 7 days a week, for four weeks or until the pumpkins are sold. Any and all volunteers will be gratefully accepted.
No experience necessary.
Plan to make it a family affair. What could be more fun than spending a beautiful fall day outdoors making everyone happy?
And who knows, perhaps the Great Pumpkin will rise out of our pumpkin patch?
As Linus would say, "I don't see how a pumpkin patch can be more sincere."
Check your calendars now!
Chris Briley, Richard Leigh, Bob and Joanne Myers



Three Centuries of First Parish History
displayed and presented by James Kences
Sunday, September 16
during Coffee Hour

For anyone who is interested a tour of the Old Burial Ground is offered to provide background prior to the program on September 16. Please see James Kences if you would like a tour.

From the Java Mamas and Papas

The Java Mamas and Papas have had a busy summer! Thank you to our friends who supplied goodies for all to enjoy. With the summer ending (sniff!) we are hoping you and your neighbors will want to choose a Sunday and supply the snack our folks always enjoy with their cup of coffee. We often have trays of fruit or vegetable snacks, cheese and crackers, or store bought or homemade baked goods. We make and serve the coffee. Please consider helping on a Sunday this fall. If you are unable to do that, we enjoy Folgers coffee and would be happy to accept donations.
Linda Hart

Become Part of Our Church Family

Open Membership to All
is being celebrated on
Sunday, September 23rd
during worship.
Please come and join us in covenant with Christ.

Wherever you are on life's journey, wherever you are on your faith path, whatever your questions, welcome. First Parish Church supports your journey wherever your future may lead. When I joined our church six years ago, I invited all those who had not yet become members to join with my husband Ellis and me. If you have been coming for a short time and find comfort, friendship, renewed faith or just more questions, we invite you to join us now in membership. If you've been coming for years and never joined, perhaps this is your time. We invite you to join our crew during this transition time: all hands on deck, all oars in the water as this wonderful church moves forward into the future. Open membership to all is being celebrated on Sunday, September 16th during worship. Please come and join us in covenant with Christ.

Please contact the Parish Office at 207-363-3758 or office@firstparishyork.net
Sue Wierzba at 207-361-4541 or susanwierzba@gmail.com