



**First Parish Church
on the Village Green
Manchester-by-the-Sea**

Pastor [Rev. John Hughes](#)



2016

Preparing Valentine's Day

Would you like to prepare for *Valentine's Day*? **Sunday, February 14th** is *Valentine's Day* and we are preparing a special worship. We will, of course, make reference to the saint for whom the day is named, read the scriptures which the Bible references for relationships (*of all kinds!*), sing beautiful, meaningful hymns, and hear a sermon entitled, "*R-Rated Love Affairs*". A special duet will be sung, "*The Prayer*", by *Rebecca Shrimpton and Paul Knox* (*one of my favorite pieces of 'soft classical' music*).

Would you like to prepare for the sermon? Our Friday afternoon Bible study reviews the scriptures, looks over the anthems, reviews the hymnody of each worship, yet, I have never asked them to read in preparation for a sermon.

Perhaps everyone would like to prepare for Valentine's Day! My sermon will look at how relationships are formed and why the Bible sets down certain "*rules?*"; the sermon will be based on **C.S. Lewis' The Four Loves** ©1960.

C.S. Lewis is probably best known as the author of **The Screwtape Letters**, a collection of letters exchanged between Satan in Hell and his Nephew on earth. **The Four Loves** is another known classic, "*a modern mirror of souls, a mirror of virtues and failings of human loving*" (*Martin D'Arcy, New York Book Review*) and is used in seminary curriculums all over the world.

The book should be readily available in public libraries. If not, you could contact **Pam Price** at *The Book Shop of Beverly Farms, 40 West Street (978) 927-2122* or www.realbookshop.com or info@realbookshop.com as she has copies on hand or can order copies within one day's time with ISBN 0-15-632930-1

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Whether you are preparing a valentine for the boy or girl who delivers your newspaper, the person who has done you a kindness, a spouse, or loved one, C.S. Lewis gives wonderful reflections to sort out, “*how do loving relationships work?*”? Why not prepare for *Valentine’s Day* by reading The Four Loves and then come to worship for a true celebration.

Yours in Christ, Rev. John Hughes <}>< <}}><< <}}}}

Vespers



At the sign of the rose, we’re happy to announce that our new season of *Vespers* quiet time for prayerful meditation and peace, wonderful reflections from the Reverend John Hughes, candle-lighting at the altar, and perfect music, resumes in February.

All are welcome. The Sanctuary opens at 6:30 for meditation & prayer; our service is from 7 – 7:30 PM, followed by ten minutes of music. For further information, call 978-526-7661.

Wednesday, February 10th – **Ash Wednesday**
Wednesday, February 24th – **Vespers:** ‘*shall I fear?*’ **psalm 27**
Wednesday, March 9th – **Vespers:** ‘*sins are covered*’ **psalm 32**
Thursday, March 24th – **Maundy Thursday** 7:30 PM

Bible Study

Friday afternoon 4:00 PM in the Conference Room of the Chapel
led by Rev. John Hughes

Christian Ministry Coordinator

[Priscilla Duda](#)

Adult Ed

First Parish Church Book Group continues to grow and become more fun with each meeting. The next time we will meet is Monday February 29th 7pm at the home of Nancy Peterson. The book we are reading this month is “The Little Paris Book Shop” by Nina George. Our book group continues to change but is always wonderful fellowship, laughter, great food and yes wine! You are welcome to jump in and come at any time – if you need a ride let me know and I will arrange one for you!

We open our sanctuary doors on Wednesday evenings for **An Hour of Tranquility** starting at 6:30 – I have mentioned it to so many that it is a wonderful experience. Come for the time that you have and I promise you will leave refreshed and ready to face any challenges.



Soup and Conversation kicked off in January when Barbara and Richard Smith presented “Courage and Light” Exploring Passion, Renewal and Creativity. The program was very interesting and was a wonderful afternoon. On March 13th Rev. Lelly Smith will present to us Pilgrimages: Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, and African American. It will take a closer look at this historical theme that for the first time in many years is once again on the rise. Please join us immediately following worship for this special presentation. I am currently working to set dates for two additional programs and will keep you updated.

Rev. Hughes offers his **Bible Study** on Friday afternoons from 4:00 – 5:30. I highly recommend that if you have not participated that you ask one of those attendees what it is like. You will find that it is open, friendly, and very educational and is a Bible study that leaves you waiting for the next time you will meet.

I am always looking for more programs for adult education so I welcome and appreciate all suggestions.

Looking forward to far less snow and more sun during the month ahead!

Priscilla

Confirmation 2016

The 14 students involved with our Confirmation program continue to meet bimonthly to study and strengthen their faith in preparation for church membership. The students this past month planned and presented a wonderful Epiphany service on January 6th. They did a remarkable job reading and sharing the story of this special time with several who attended the service.

On January 24th Rev. Lelley Smith presented “Who was Jesus” which was an exciting and interesting overview of his life. Each student learned what their name meant, learned more about Jesus through fun facts, looked over a variety of pieces of artwork that showed Jesus through different eyes and each did a wonderful job writing a prayer to Jesus.

Looking forward the group will be visiting several church’s in our area and will compare the different ways each group worships. We continue with the classes until June 5th and welcome anyone who would like to participate, just let me know.

Priscilla Duda

Sunday School

What a wonderful start to the year we had in January – it has been fun seeing everyone on Sundays and welcoming a few new families. We always encourage you to bring a friend to Sunday school and share your experience in an effort to find new participants.

In February we will meet on the 7th and the 28th and will look at the “Parable of the Great Pearl” one of my favorite stories and “The Holy Family”.

We will begin to look forward to the Heifer International Talent Show so put on your thinking caps and decide what you would like to do in the show this year! In the past we have had magicians, tap dancers, vocalist, piano players, dancers, poetry readers and more – we accept any talent!! This is an important mission program that reaches so many in need so be sure to save the date March 6th!

Starting this month I will offer a Wednesday night program for those of you who ski or have winter sport conflicts on Sunday mornings. We will meet on Wednesday, February 24th, March 9th, March 23rd and April 6th at 5:00 pm. This will allow your children to stay current with what we are sharing during our Sunday program.

I am currently trying to plan a special event for the SS children - I am looking into having a skating party, going to a movie, bowling or perhaps sledding. If you have any suggestions please reach out to me and I will see what I can do.

I thank you for continuing to support our program, I am aware that there are many conflicts and waking early on Sunday isn’t always easy but without your support we would not be able to continue. I look forward to an exciting February!



Happy Valentine’s Day!! Priscilla Duda

Youth Director

[Jessica Skidmore](#)

The New Year is here and the snow has finally come! Crazy to think we thought we were going to get away with a warm snow-less winter this year.

Last weekend the middle school youth group and myself went to the Lynnfield Market Street Plaza for a night of Burgers and Bowling! Check out our group to the right



The next big holiday is one of my favorites; Valentine's Day! Hearts, flowers, cute hand-made cards, and a reminder that we are SO loved by the Almighty Creator. John 3:16 says "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" God loves us and because of Him, we also love. And love needs to be celebrated! The middle school youth group with some help from a few high school students will be hosting a Valentine's Party for the Sunday school families on Tuesday February 2nd @4pm. We will have cookies, decorations, pizza, and some games to play as well as valentines for the kids to make. We would love to see you all there!

On Saturday February 20th the middle school youth group will be going over to Dexter Pond for some ice skating with a bonfire and s'mores to follow.

Our numbers have been steadily growing in youth group and I love seeing more and more faces on Sunday morning and also at our events.

Thank you so much to all the parents who volunteer to help drive, bring kids to these events and also for encouraging me every step of the way! I couldn't do this job without your support!

Daily Lectionary



Mon., Feb. 1 Psalm 56 1 Kings 17:8-16 1 Corinthians 2:6-16	Fri., Feb. 12 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Exodus 6:1-13 Acts 7:35-42	Wed., Feb. 24 Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42 2 Chronicles 20:1-22 Luke 13:22-31
Tues., Feb. 2 Psalm 56 2 Kings 5:1-14 1 Corinthians 14:13-25	Sat., Feb. 13 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 John 12:27-36	Thurs., Feb. 25 Psalm 63:1-8 Daniel 3:19-30 Revelation 2:8-11
Wed., Feb. 3 Psalm 56 Jeremiah 1:11-19 Luke 19:41-44	Sun., Feb. 14 First Sunday in Lent Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13	Fri., Feb. 26 Psalm 63:1-8 Daniel 12:1-4 Revelation 3:1-6
Thurs., Feb. 4 Psalm 99 Deuteronomy 9:1-5 Acts 3:11-16	Mon., Feb. 15 Psalm 17 1 Chronicles 21:1-17 1 John 2:1-6	Sat., Feb. 27 Psalm 63:1-8 Isaiah 5:1-7 Luke 6:43-45 Sun., Feb. 28 Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9
Fri., Feb. 5 Psalm 99 Deuteronomy 9:6-14 Acts 10:1-8	Tues., Feb. 16 Psalm 17 Zechariah 3:1-10 2 Peter 2:4-21	Mon., Feb. 29 Psalm 39 Jeremiah 11:1-17 Romans 2:1-11
Sat., Feb. 6 Psalm 99 Deuteronomy 9:15-24 Luke 10:21-24	Wed., Feb. 17 Psalm 17 Job 1:1-22 Luke 21:34—22:6	
Sun., Feb. 7 Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2 Luke 9:28-36 [37-43]	Thurs., Feb. 18 Psalm 27 Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18 Philippians 3:2-12	
Mon., Feb. 8 Psalm 35:11-28 Exodus 35:1-29 Acts 10:9-23a	Fri., Feb. 19 Psalm 27 Genesis 14:17-24 Philippians 3:17-20	
Tues., Feb. 9 Psalm 35:11-28 Ezekiel 1:1—2:1 Acts 10:23b-33	Sat., Feb. 20 Psalm 27 Psalm 118:26-29 Matthew 23:37-39	
Wed., Feb. 10 Ash Wednesday Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Sun., Feb. 21 Second Sunday in Lent Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17—4:1 Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36	
Thurs., Feb. 11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Exodus 5:10-23 Acts 7:30-34	Mon., Feb. 22 Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42 Exodus 33:1-6 Romans 4:1-12	
	Tues., Feb. 23 Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42 Numbers 14:10b-24 1 Corinthians 10:1-13	

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Worship Schedule



Wednesday, February 3rd – **Vesper Planning** 7 p.m.

Sunday, February 7th – Transfiguration

Scripture: Exodus 34:29-35, 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-36

Sermon: “**Does God have a Clue?**”

Hymns: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Wednesday, February 10th – **Ash Wednesday 7:00 p.m.**

Sunday, February 14th – Valentine’s Day

Scripture: Genesis 2:18-25, Song of Songs 2:1-7, 1 John 4:10-12, 16-17

Sermon: “**R-Rated Love Affairs**”

Hymns: For the Beauty of the Earth
The Lord’s My Shepherd
When Love is Found

Sunday, February 21st

Scriptures: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27

Sermon: “**Count the Stars?**”

Hymns: We Praise Thee, O God
Lord, I Want to Be a Christian
In the Midst of New Dimensions

Wednesday, February 24th – **Vespers: ‘shall I fear?’ psalm 27**

Sunday, February 28th

Scripture: Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8, Luke 13:1-9

Sermon: “**Free Food ... Good God, let’s eat!**”

Hymns: In the Cross of Christ I Glory
God of Grace and God of Glory
Here I Am, Lord



02/02	POWERS, JENNIFER	8 STORY ROAD MAGNOLIA MA 01930 danajen@verizon.net
02/02	SCARAFONI, BEN	5 ALLEN AVE MANCHESTER bscarafoni@gmail.com
02/04	HUGHES, MARILYN	28 ROCKWOOD HEIGHTS ROAD MANCHESTER mfhughes4@comcast.net
02/04	STANTON, JEANNE	1 HIGHWOOD ROAD MANCHESTER jeannemargaret@comcast.net
02/09	COLES, JENNIFER	63 NORWOOD AVE MANCHESTER jen.coles@comcast.net
02/21	DECKER, JONATHAN	11 PICKERING ST #2 ESSEX MA 01938 thedeckers3@verizon.net
02/23	BENINCASA, BONNIE	25 HICKORY HILL ROAD MANCHESTER bonnie.benincasa@gmail.com
02/24	HESLOP, ANN	34 NORWOOD AVENUE MANCHESTER ann@heslopfamily.com

***Would you like to donate flowers for the altar to commemorate
an event or a loved one?***

Please call [Penny Lapham](mailto:Penny.Lapham@verizon.net) at 978-526-7128,
by Monday to be included in the following Sunday's bulletin.

FIRST PARISH CHURCH, CONGREGATIONAL
United Church of Christ, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts
WARRANT FOR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
February 7, 2016

TO: Active Members of the First Parish Church, Congregational, United Church of Christ, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts
You are hereby notified to meet in the Church on Sunday, February 7, 2016 immediately following the Worship Service, for the following purposes:

To wit:

ARTICLE I: To accept the report of the Annual Business Meeting held on February 8, 2015

ARTICLE II: To see what action the Church will take in regard to the budget proposal for 2016 as submitted by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE III: To hear and act upon the reports of the Financial Secretary, the Board of Trustees, the Investment Committee, the Christian Education Committee, the Diaconate Board, the Missions Committee, the Music Committee, the Stewardship Committee, and the Vitality Committee.

ARTICLE IV: To authorize the Board of Trustees to borrow up to \$10,000 from the Endowment Fund if needed to support the operations of the church and not as a permanent withdrawal if it becomes necessary during 2016 and until the 2017 Annual Business Meeting.

Article V: To authorize the Board of Trustees to allocate donations not received during church services and for which no purpose is specified to church operations or to one of the church endowments as they deem to be in the best interests of the church.

ARTICLE VI: To hear and act upon any other business of a financial nature that may come before the meeting.

George A. Nickless, Clerk

Have you shared the experience?

We support FPC families with meals, rides, & visits through times of illness and loss. If you would like to become involved with this wonderful team contact;

Sheila Kafer 978-525-3253, smkafer@comcast.net

Janet Groth at 978-526-8408, janbythesea244@gmail.com



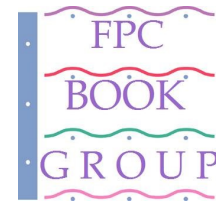
Hour of Tranquility

***Each Wednesday Evening
An Hour of Tranquility
in our sanctuary 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM***

As a way of giving back to the community, we open our candlelit sanctuary for anyone seeking a place of tranquility to enjoy peaceful music and private meditation.

All faiths are welcome to join in this space.

Book Group continues with a new selection for January; “The Little Paris Book Shop” by Nina George, “*The settings are ideal for a summer-romance read...Who can resist floating on a barge through France surrounded by books, wine, love, and great conversation?*” (Christian Science Monitor)



***We hope you will join us on Monday, February 29 at 7 PM
at Nancy Peterson's house. All are welcome!***



Seaside Parish
Knitters

Looking for Knitting Needles and Yarn

The Seaside Parish Knitters are looking for knitting needles and yarn that you might be considering "casting" aside. We continue to knit blankets, shawls, and scarves; and for our military troops: helmet liners, neck gators, and scarves.

We use both 100% wool and synthetic fibers for yarn, and straight and round knitting needles....all sizes. Contact Penny Lapham at 978-526-7128 or laphenpen@live.com

***Meeting February 4th and 18th this month,
we welcome anyone wishing to join us.***

Vitality

Vitality is celebrating Love on **Valentine's Sunday** with music, flowers, cake, and a ringing of the bell.



This will be a service you will not want to miss. See you on the 14th. Couples that did not have a chance to ring the bell when it was out of commission are being invited back. Let's celebrate Love. Mary Ellen and Allison

New Member Sunday will be the first Sunday in April. Please talk to Allison Moir-Smith, Mary Ellen Cook, Rev. John Hughes, or the Church Office with questions if you would like more information on our church.

ACOLYTE-BELL RINGERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED

The Candle Lighting Ritual remembers Jesus' words, "**Wherever 2 or 3 gather in my name, there I am in the midst of you.**" As we gather to worship, our faith becomes our "**burning**" reality. The bell is struck 3 times for the Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. At the end of the service, the "**flame**" does not remain on the altar, but goes back out into the world, into our very lives. Only when what we have read, what we have sung, what we have reflected upon becomes acted out is our faith a true reality.

Annual Business Meeting

February 7, 2016

Read the report [online](#)

*First Parish Church, Congregational
1 Chapel Lane, P.O. Box 187
Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA 01944
Address Correction Requested*



**Annual Business
Meeting
Sunday, February 7
following worship**



Children and Youth invited!
To a Valentine's Day Party hosted by
The First Parish Youth Groups
on Monday, February 8th @ 4pm in the Chapel,
We hope you will come and participate.
Contact Jessica at youthdirector.fpchurch@verizon.net for information.

