

First Parish Church, Congregational
On the Village Green
Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts

Rev. John G. Hughes, II, Senior Pastor
Donald R. Dunn, Director of Music-Organist
Jessica Skidmore, Christian Ministry Coordinator
Tori Potter, Sexton
Nancy Klebart, Office Manager

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www.firstparishchurch.org

EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE
Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service
December 24, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS PRELUDE: “*Greensleeves*”
Richard Purvis (1913-1994)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Let us go to Bethlehem
to see this birth.

**Let us go and see
what God has done.**

CHRISTMAS CAROL: “*O Come, All Ye Faithful*” *PH #132 blue*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: **The Croft Family**

INVOCATION (*unison*)

If the truth be told,
I worry I will not get to Bethlehem.

**There is so much to be done,
I have a living to make!**

Yes, I too fear, the world is too much with us.

Yet, wealth is the ability to fully experience life.

Let us pursue a new path,
however crooked or straight - -

Let us walk with love and reverence.

Let us get lost so that we may begin
to understand ourselves.

**Let us find ourselves in a barn
where we can be reborn.**

Let us bring our gift of longing - -

Let us bring our hearts with joy.

For Jesus is born this night - -

Jesus is born indeed!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 9:2-7 pg. 1072

CHRISTMAS CAROL: *“The First Nowell”* PH #141 (1-3) blue

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY DUET: *“O Holy Night” (Cantique de Noël)*
Music by Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)
Rebecca Shrimpton, soprano
Paul Knox, baritone

O holy night! The stars re brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand;
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend;
He knows our need, our weakness is no stranger;
Behold your King! before him lowly bend!

Truly he taught us to love one another;
His law is love and his Gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our
brother.
And in his Name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise his holy Name.
Christ is the Lord, Then ever, ever praise we,
His power and glory ever more proclaim.

***DOXOLOGY**

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below, Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.”

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:1-20

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION: *“Who Sent You?”*

CHRISTMAS CAROL: *“O Little Town of Bethlehem” PH #134 blue*

OUR CHRISTMAS PRAYER *(in Unison)*

God of angels and shepherds,

We thank you for taking care of Mary and Joseph.

We thank you for the warm stable and the soft hay.

We thank you that Jesus, your Son, came to live on earth,

He needed to be fed, burped, and cradled in his mother’s arms.

We remember that he sometimes cried and needed consoling.

Jesus was like us in every way

and Jesus was also your Son.

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to God’s people on earth.

God of glory,

we thank you for Christmas, for laughter and singing,

for family and friends, for presents and good food.

Help us remember:

the people who are hungry,

the people who are sick or sad,

the people who are afraid.

Help us to remember all year long,

that Jesus is the Prince of peace, so,

help us pound swords into plowshares.

Glory to God in the highest

and peace to God’s people on earth. Amen.

CHRISTMAS CAROL: *“Away in a Manger”*

PH #137 blue

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CHRISTMAS CAROL: *“Silent Night, Holy Night”* PH #138 blue

BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE: *“Swiss Noël, with Variations”*
Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

* * * * *

The lay reader is Rev. John Hughes.

The Croft Family is lighting the Advent Candles, John, Susan, Jarrett and Carson.

The flowers are given in Celebration of the birth of the Christ Child and in loving memory of our parents, Dr. Wilson E. and Janet Hughes and Ernest W. and Gladys Mander, by the Rev. John and Marilyn Hughes and their family.

The Poinsettia gracing our Sanctuary through the Christmas season is given by Doris Milne, in loving memory of her husband, Forrest, and their families.

The Deacons are John Feuerbach and Susan Parker.

Listening devices are available for those in need; they are at the back of the Sanctuary. Feel free to address a Deacon should you need help using them.

Welcome to all who are new to our worship. To join our mailing list -fill out a “Welcome Card” to place in the collection plate or contact office.fpchurch@verizon.net , 978-526-7661 ext 1.

Seaside Parish Knitters meets alternating Thursday afternoons in the Conference Room of the Chapel, 3-5 PM. Join us!



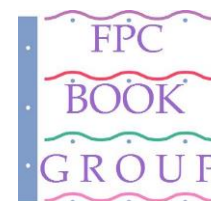


There are so many new visitors to our church services. Vitality hopes to answer any of your questions. We will have a get together in the new year but feel free to call Mary Ellen 526-717, Allison 526-1904, or Jane 526-7137. Welcome to our church family.



Bible Study resumes on Thursday, January 5 at 4 PM at 37 Beach St.

Book Group continues with a new selection for December/January; “A Man Called Ove” by Fredrik Backman. *A grumpy yet loveable man finds his solitary world turned on its head when a boisterous young family moves in next door. Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon, the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him the bitter neighbor from hell, but must Ove be bitter just because he doesn't walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time?*” from goodreads



We are going to meet next on January 23rd @ 7 pm at 37 Beach St (the snow date is January 30th). All are welcome!

The Stewardship Committee thanks everyone for getting their 2017 pledges in by the end of the year. We are all so blessed!

Monday - Office Closed

6:30 PM Diaconate

Tuesday

4:30 PM Friends of the COA

Wednesday

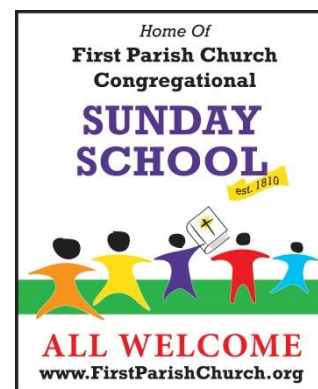
10:00 AM COA Yoga

Friday

8:00 AM Yoga

Sunday - New Year's Day, 10:00 AM Worship
NO Nursery, Sunday School or Youth Group

Sunday school and Youth Group resumes Sunday, January 8, join us at 10 AM at the Chapel building. *“Engaging the whole child: heart, mind, hands, senses, intuition.”* Godly Play is a Montessori-related approach to learning which enables children to experience the presence of a loving God.



NURSERY

Sundays 9:45 am. to 11:30 a.m. In the Chapel for children from infancy through age 3 in our dedicated Nursery during the worship service.

YOUTH

Middle School Youth Group Grades 6-8 Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and other times for fun events.

High School Youth attend Confirmation, play an active role in our Sunday School as volunteers and Mission projects and trips are offered.



Brown Bag Lunches

Friday, December 30 [sign up online](#)
or contact Lelly or Nancy (info. below)

Still needed- kitchen help and a volunteer to drop off the lunches

Beginning in January there will be containers in the Chapel and Narthex for **grocery donations**, it is the hope of the Mission Committee that these will be reminders that one item from each family's routine grocery shopping trip will go a long way towards fulfilling the mission of our local food pantries.

January 27 Brown Bag Lunches for Action Shelter [Donate online now](#)

February 12 Grace Center at the Open Door, noon-4 PM. Help to serve and clean up lunch, visit with the guests. Bring cards, a craft project, games or musical instruments to enjoy with the guests are welcomed. Contact Lelly Smith to sign up or for more information.

Interested in helping out with missions projects?

Contact Lelly Smith lellysmith@verizon.net 978-526-9717
or Nancy Peterson nancypete1@gmail.com 508-284-0883



*Thank you to all who donated poinsettias to our Church for
the Christmas season, if you donated a plant
you may take your plant after this service.*

In Celebration of:

Our children, Mara, Laney & Naomi! Barry & Cynthia Franklin
The Shrimpton and Houghton families, near and far
Merry Christmas to my family and friends Jeffrey & Rebecca Shrimpton
Merry Christmas Liz Loomis
The Aulds

In Loving Memory of

*Guy & Doris Willmonton, George Willmonton, Emily & Dick Greenleaf, &
Cynthia Greenleaf Annie & Dick Greenleaf and Family*
Glenn J. Loucks His son Glenn
Annie and Bill Emslie Sheila Carrassi
Wayne Marshall Jan Marshall
Donald and Dorothy Reid The Reid Family
Our fathers, Robert Munroe Wilkinson and Robert Sanborn Parker
Robert Sanborn Parker Susan & Jeffrey Parker
Marian & Emory Eaton and Bob Wilkinson Muriel Parker
Larry Larsen Shirley Wilkinson
Jolene & Kate Larsen
Ralph W. Drinkwater Jr. Judy, Jeff, Andy and Families
All Our Loved Ones The Lumsden Family
*Henrietta Taylor Burnett, Frederick & Lee Peterson, Robert, Gloria &
Marion Driscoll The Peterson Driscoll Family*
Mother and Grandmother, Virginia Hug Linda Crosby
Our Grandparents The Klebart Marcaurette Family