

First Parish Church, Congregational

On the Village Green

Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts

Rev. Dr. Marlayna Schmidt, Interim Pastor

Donald R. Dunn, Director of Music-Organist

Jessica Skidmore, Christian Ministry Coordinator

Tori Potter, Sexton

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MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, April 22, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

ORGAN PRELUDE: *“The Good Shepherd” Dale Wood (1934-2003)*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (from *Bread for the Journey*)

Leader: See what love has been given to us, that we should be called children of God.

People: By this we know love, that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, and lived and died, that God’s love might be made plain among us.

Leader: Therefore, beloved, let us not love in word or in speech but in deed and in truth.

People: Because we love one another, we know that we have passed from death into life.

ALL: This is the victory that overcomes the world, through Jesus our risen Christ. Amen

***HYMN:** *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”* PH #228 blue

OPENING PRAYER (from *Touch Holiness*)

God of grace, you have come to us in Jesus Christ so we might have a new life—here on earth with each other. You seek that we surrender to your grace and completely change our lives—so we might know new strength in you, so we might love beyond frustrations, so we might help and serve others as a witness to your power and grace. Be in all our days, for we pray in the name of the Risen Christ...

***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

MORNING PRAYER

Joys and Concerns Pastoral Prayer Silent Prayer

If/when you decide to share joys/concerns please be mindful of people's privacy when mentioning personal details.

ANTHEM: *“Good Shepherd” Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)*

The King of Love my Shepherd is whose goodness fails me never.
I nothing lack, since I am His, and He is mine forever.
God before me. God beside me. God behind me. God above me.

Where streams of living waters flow, my troubled soul is healing.
And quietly the pastures grow the voice of God revealing,
God before me. God beside me. God behind me. God above me.

In darkest hours I fear no ill, with my dear Lord beside me.
Your strength and mercy comfort still, your hand is there to guide me.
God before me. God beside me. God behind me. God above me.

And so through all the length of days we never shall grow apart.
Good Shepherd, I will sing your praise for living in my heart.
God before me. God beside me. God behind me. God above me.
God with in me. O King of Love! O Prince of Peace! O Child of Hope!
Good Shepherd I will sing your praise for living in my heart.

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

***HYMN:** *“I Thank You, Jesus”*

NCH #41 black

SERMON: *“Love in Truth and Action”*

MOMENT OF MEDITATION

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”*
 Music based on “St. Columba” an Irish melody
 Setting by Michael McCarthy (b. 1966)

The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
And he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing, brought me

In death’s dark vale I fear no ill
With thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy Cross before to guide me.

Thou spread’st a table in my sight,
Thy unction grace bestoweth:
And O what transport of delight
From thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house for ever.

(H.W. Baker, based on Psalm 23)

***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.

***HYMN:** *“O for a World”*

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*[The “Removal of the Flame”, which symbolizes the Spirit of God accompanying us out into the world]

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

ORGAN POSTLUDE: *“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”*
 Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

* * * * *

After the service join us in the front of the church for hospitality.

The greeter and lay reader is Lynda Griffiths.

The Deacons are John Feuerbach and Mark Heslop.

Notes on Today's Anthem:

Good Shepherd was composed for William and Curt Sorensen, brothers and tenor soloists with the choir of the First Congregational Church of North Guilford, CT. Bill Sorensen raises sheep. Thus, the topic of the "Good Shepherd" seemed most appropriate.

This anthem is based on the traditional hymn, "The King of Love My Shepherd Is", "with music and lyrics adapted by the composer.

Interspersed with the preexisting material are short phrases, musical settings of lines from the Saint Patrick breastplate: God before me. God beside me. God behind me. God above me.

The intent in combining these sources is to speak of God's presence guiding (as a "Good Shepherd"), surrounding (as in the St. Patrick lines), infusing the spirit (living in my heart) and even manifested in our beloved livestock. Program notes by composer.

Notes on Today's Offertory Anthem:

The anthem "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" was written by Michael McCarthy, Director of Music at the Washington National Cathedral. It was arranged for the funeral of President Gerald R. Ford, held at the Washington National Cathedral on January 2, 2007.

To donate Altar Flowers; please call [Penny Lapham](tel:978-526-7128) at 978-526-7128.

Readers and Greeters are always needed, to volunteer speak to the Deacons, or you can also sign up [online](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0444aca629a5f94-diaconate).

(<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0444aca629a5f94-diaconate>)

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@gmail.com , 978-526-7661 ext 1.

FPCC CARE TEAM *Have you shared the experience?*

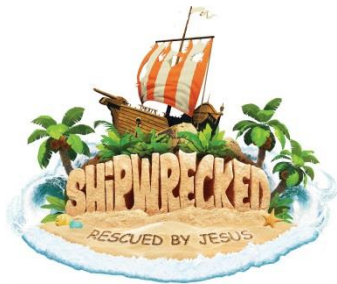
We support FPC families with meals, rides, & visits through times of illness and loss. Please contact Sue Pick (suepick1@me.com or 978-548-0145) if you would like to share your ideas, time, and talents with the FPC Care Team.



SEASIDE PARISH KNITTERS We would love to have you join us on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays (**May 3 & 17**) of the month in the Conference Room of the Chapel, 3-5 PM. Read more about us [here](#).



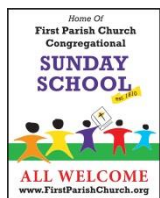
BIBLE STUDY Bible Study Thursdays 4-5:30 PM (for adults) at 37 Beach St (home of Vin Terrill). Join us for a weekly study of our scriptures led by Rev. Marlayna. (Each week we study the Scripture reading(s) on which the sermon for the coming Sunday is based.)



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

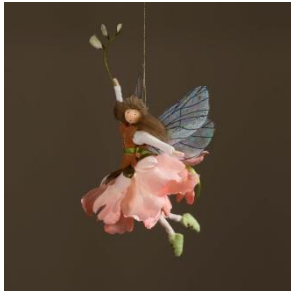
Save the dates! June 25-29

First Parish Manchester hosts a fun filled week of stories, crafts, games and learning about Jesus and his love! Children K-6 grade welcome. 1 PM-3 PM at 1 Chapel Lane. Contact Jessica at 978-526-7661 ext. 3 or cedirector.fpchurch@gmail.com to sign up or [register for VBS online](#).



Would you like to be more involved with our Sunday school program? Check out all the opportunities to help [online](#). Contact [Jessica](#) 978-526-7661 X3.

MY STORY Vitality would like to bring back the “My Story” segment during our church service. If you have a short 3-5 minute story about your faith journey, please see Mary Ellen or call at 978-526-7178 and we will talk. This is a really great event when added to our Sunday worship. Thank you in advance for considering doing this. If you have already shared a story and have another, this would be a great time.



FAIR WORKSHOP: Join us for fun and fellowship, **Tuesday April 24th at 6:30 in the chapel**, to make little Flower Faeries for the annual Church Christmas Fair. There will be some simple as well as some less simple tasks. Hand sewing skills a plus but not required. Not a crafter? Then come and

kibitz! Refreshments will be served.

The Christmas Fair will be on Saturday, November 10 from 9 to 1. An enthusiastic and happy group of more than a dozen met in January to set a date for this year's Fair, set goals and share new ideas (garnered from some scouting trips to other Christmas fairs).

Our goals are to increase our income from the Fair, increase involvement of young families and children, and try a new couple of new things, while keeping all the favorites. How can you help now? By remembering the Fair as you declutter this winter. Contact Allison (617-935-3362) to arrange a convenient drop-off.



Vitality

IS MEMBERSHIP FOR ME? Sunday, April 29, an informational gathering for those who wish to explore what it means to be a member of First Parish Church

Congregational. We will talk a little bit about the church and have the opportunity to share with each other our own life and faith experiences. This gathering will be held in front of the church after the service----about 11:15ish.

NEW MEMBER'S Sunday, May 13. Please let Rev. Marlayna, Allison or Mary Ellen that you are interested in membership to our church.



Weekly Food Donations When you go to church Sunday mornings remember to take one item that can be donated to Open Door through the food basket placed in the Narthex. It is easy to forget, but you can think ahead

and bring one food item that will be much appreciated by folks who really need our help.

Brown Bag Lunch on Friday, April 27, sign-up to [help online](#) or see Lelly Smith or Muriel Parker.



BOOK GROUP “*The Girl with Seven Names: A North Korean Defector’s Story*” by Hyeonseo Lee. An extraordinary insight into life under one of the world’s most ruthless and secretive dictatorships and the story of one woman’s terrifying struggle to avoid capture/repatriation and guide her family to freedom. ^{Amazon} Next gathering, **April 30, 2018**, 7 PM at the home of Bonnie Benincasa, 25 Hickory Hill Road. Please RSVP to the hostess bonnie.benincasa@gmail.com or 617-529-9327 so she knows how much food and drink to provide. Please come, even if you haven’t read the book. It’s always fun and many don’t find time to read the book or all of it.

Upcoming events can be found on our website (www.firstparishchurch.org) under “News” and “Calendar” and on our [Facebook page \(First Parish Manchester-by-the-Sea\)](#) under “Events”

Monday

6:30 PM CE Committee

7:30 PM Manchester Singers

Tuesday

10:00 AM COA Zumba

11:30 AM COA Lunch of the Month

6:30 PM Craft Workshop for Fair

Wednesday

10:00 AM COA Yoga

6:30 PM Diaconate

7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

4:00 PM Bible Study

Friday

8:00 AM Yoga

10:00 AM Brown Bag Lunches

Sunday

10:00 AM Worship, Nursery, Sunday School, Youth Group

11:30 AM Confirmation Class

INTERIM VISION PROCESS On December 10th, we had a very thoughtful, inspiring, and respectful conversation about **VALUES**, that is, the principles or standards of behavior that are most important to us, that drive the ministry and mission of our church. We looked at both “current” values (values we currently reflect by our actions as a congregation) and “aspirational” values (values we would like to live into in the future.) The draft “Values Statement” that came out of that meeting is in our February newsletter and can be found on the church website. Printed copies are available in the chapel and the narthex. On January 21st, we had our third congregational meeting in this process, and, working in small groups, we came up with several drafts of a One-Sentence **MISSION/PURPOSE** Statement (which is like a slogan or motto that describes, in a memorable way, the primary work of our church.) Looking at those drafts, we (the Transition Team) realized that all of them described the same dynamic: we come together as a church to find inspiration from God/Christ/Spirit, and then we go out into the world to live and serve and share what we’ve found. Using wording from the various statements you drafted, we’ve come up with a statement we feel reflects the “sense” of the meeting and the previous drafts:

**Awaken to the Light and Love of God
Be a Joyful Beacon to our World**

Please think and pray about the draft statement above, and let us know your reflections! (FYI: We chose to use the word “beacon,” which was listed as a small note on one of the statements, because we thought it was a powerful image of what God is calling us to be and do, as our steeple is not only a landmark, but a symbol of God’s light in the darkness, and we can be that light as well.)

In the meantime, please keep our VISION process in your prayers, as the Transition Team begins to put together a Vision Statement.

Thank you for your participation in the process!

Your Transition Team (Paul Driscoll, Lauren Gudonis, Mary Lumsden, Jeff Parker, Jason Smith, Lelly Smith) **Church Council minutes, Congregational Meeting minutes and documents can be found [online](#).**