

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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www.firstparishchurch.org

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, August 19, 2018, 9:00 a.m.

ORGAN PRELUDE: *“Praeludium” Gordon Young (1919-1998)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: (adapted from Touch Holiness)

Let us worship the eternal God, the Source of Love and Life, who creates us.

Let us worship Jesus Christ, the Risen One, who lives among us.

Let us worship the Spirit, the Holy Fire, who renews us.

Let us come with heart and soul and mind and strength, and let us worship God.

***HYMN:** *“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty” PH #251 blue*

PRAYER OF APPROACH: (adapted from Touch Holiness)

O God, there is a dark and lonesome gulf in worship, a cavern of the awesome into which we rarely go. We prefer catchy tunes, bright vestments, and holiday prayers. We would rather exchange fellowship than touch holiness. Enable us in this precious time to venture into the depths of worship which can never be found totally in individual spirituality but which open slowly before the shared pain, struggle, and love of the communion of the saints. We pray in the name of Jesus...

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

SCRIPTURE READING: John 3:1-17 (from *The Message: A Bible Paraphrase*, by Rev. Eugene Peterson)

1-2 There was a man of the Pharisee sect, Nicodemus, a prominent leader among the Jews. Late one night he visited Jesus and said, “Rabbi, we all know you’re a teacher straight from God. No one could do all the God-pointing, God-revealing acts you do if God weren’t in on it.”

3 Jesus said, “You’re absolutely right. Take it from me: Unless a person is born from above, it’s not possible to see what I’m pointing to—to God’s kingdom.”

4 “How can anyone,” said Nicodemus, “be born who has already been born and grown up? You can’t re-enter your mother’s womb and be born again. What are you saying with this ‘born-from-above’ talk?”

5-6 Jesus said, “You’re not listening. Let me say it again. Unless a person submits to this original creation—the ‘wind-hovering-over-the-water’ creation, the invisible moving the visible, a baptism into a new life—it’s not possible to enter God’s kingdom. When you look at a baby, it’s just that: a body you can look at and touch. But the person who takes shape within is formed by something you can’t see and touch—the Spirit—and becomes a living spirit.

7-8 “So don’t be so surprised when I tell you that you have to be ‘born from above’—out of this world, so to speak. You know well enough how the wind blows this way and that. You hear it rustling through the trees, but you have no idea where it comes from or where it’s headed next. That’s the way it is with everyone ‘born from above’ by the wind of God, the Spirit of God.”

9 Nicodemus asked, “What do you mean by this? How does this happen?”

10-12 Jesus said, “You’re a respected teacher of Israel and you don’t know these basics? Listen carefully. I’m speaking sober truth to you. I speak only of what I know by experience; I give witness only to what I have seen with my own eyes. There is nothing secondhand here, no hearsay. Yet instead of facing the evidence and accepting it, you procrastinate with questions. If I tell you things that are plain as the hand before your face and you don’t believe me, what use is there in telling you of things you can’t see, the things of God?”

13-15 “No one has ever gone up into the presence of God except the One who came down from that Presence, the Son of Man. In the same way that Moses lifted the serpent in the desert so people could have something to see and then believe, it is necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up—and everyone who looks up to him, trusting and expectant, will gain a real life, eternal life.

16-17 “This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn’t go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again.

***HYMN:** “*Just as I Am*”

NCH #207 black

STORY SERMON: “*Born from Above*”

MOMENT OF MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY: *“Morning Hymn” Gordon Young (1919-1998)*

***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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***HYMN:** *“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”* *NCH #403 black*

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

***BENEDICTION**

ORGAN POSTLUDE: *“Postludium” Gordon Young (1919-1998)*

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After the service join us for hospitality.

The greeter and lay reader is Bethany Woods.

The Deacons are Barbara and Richard Smith.

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>

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.

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



CHURCH FAIR

Ladies, gentlemen, teenagers and children, Jewelry needed for the Church Fair coming in November! Please leave in a bag labeled for me on the piano in the Chapel Conference Room or call 978-526-7036 for pick up at your house, thank you, Martha Elder

SUNDAY SCHOOL Save the date for our Kick Off/Open House on Sunday September 9th! Would you like to be more involved with our Sunday school program? You can sign up to help on Sunday mornings by going here- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4caba822a1f49-sunday1> or by clicking this [link](#) if you are reading this online. Contact [Jessica](#) at cedirector.fpchurch@gmail.com or 978-526-7661 ext. 3 with questions.



Cut flowers from your garden would be most welcome this summer for the church altar on Sunday mornings. The arrangement does not need to be large. Call [Penny](#) to donate, 978-526-7128.



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.



MISSIONS Weekly Food Donations When you go to church or Sunday School 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. Maybe you are attending a meeting or event at the Chapel- we have a basket there too!

Brown Bag Lunch First Parish Church runs an ongoing monthly *Brown Bag Lunch Mission for Action, Inc.* an Emergency Homeless Shelter in Gloucester. Volunteers are welcome to participate in making, donating

ingredients for and delivering the lunches on the last Friday of each month. Go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CABA822A1F49-brown6> to see what is needed. Action, Inc.'s mission is to improve the lives of disadvantaged individuals and families by minimizing the effects of poverty, promoting economic security, and advocating for social change.

This Green Church on the Green knows

Our Missions Include RECYCLING ...

When we are done with something - Recycle - Redeem at Redemption Center - Re-use - Compost in the Good Earth

Grace Center needs volunteer help! Our friend Rev. Rona Tyndall has put out the word that folks are needed to help with preparing and serving meals, cleaning up, extending hospitality with the guests. You could commit to volunteer Monday – Friday once a week from 8 a.m. to Noon or Noon to 4:00 pm. Contact RonaTyndall@aol.com or 978- 857-9305.

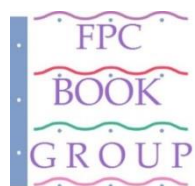
Let's support this great organization! Lelly Smith

Please notice the wonderful DISPLAY in our Narthex. You will see many important organizations we are helping.

South Down Church in Zimbabwe has been a partner for several years and we continue to share photographs, news and our children have pen pals there. We are sad to let you know that we are not sending a shipment this year as the new Zimbabwe government has prevented containers from being delivered. Dan DeOreo says we hope to resume that support in the future. Thanks to everyone who keeps them in prayer.

And thanks to all who support our Missions. Lelly Smith

lellysmith@verizon.net



BOOK GROUP We continue with a summer read “Leaving Before the Rain Comes” by Alexandra Fuller. Mary Ellen Cook will be hosting the next book group, **Monday, Sept. 24**, 6:30 pm at 23 Harold St. Manchester. Please RSVP to Mary Ellen at 978-526-7178 so she can plan accordingly. All are welcome!



Vitality

MY STORY We each have unique journeys of faith. One way to deepen our understanding of them is to share our stories with each other.

Once per month, the Vitality Committee welcomes one of you to share your faith journey during Sunday service in brief 2 to 3 minute remarks. We hope you will consider sharing yours. A simple way to organize your thoughts is to answer these 3 questions:

1. What is your early faith history? (1 minute)
2. How did you come to First Parish Church? What is meaningful to you about your participation? (1 minute)
3. Can you share a specific moment of faith, an experience of divine intervention or God's or Jesus' presence in your life? (1 minute)

We are eager to hear your faith stories! Please talk with Mary Ellen Cook 978-526-7178 or Allison Moir-Smith 978-526-1904 to learn more.



BIBLE STUDY Beginning again September 13! 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.

Upcoming events can be found on our website (www.firstparishchurch.org) under "Calendar"

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday

10:00 AM COA Yoga

Saturday

11:00 AM Service for Drew Forsley

Sunday

9:00 AM Worship

**You can find more information about First Parish Church
Congregational, Manchester by the Sea @**

Website



firstparishchurch.org

 Instagram



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