



May 2020

Minister  
Rev. Dr. Mark Boyea



The Newsletter of the First Parish Church Congregational

# The Church Bell

Friends...

As I was leaving the Sanctuary after our Easter Sunday online Worship celebration, I remembered them. The orange cards.

It seems so long ago, especially under the circumstances of the last several weeks, but on the night before the official start of Lent - "Ash Wednesday" - we held our second annual "Fat Tuesday" celebration. There were masks and beads; pancakes for eating and ones for a "flipping" contest; a picture booth; members, friends and guests laughing, talking and praying.

And orange cards on every table.

For distribution the night of the Fat Tuesday celebration and throughout Lent, our Vitality committee had printed up a full supply of orange-colored cards which listed all of the Sunday and special Worship occasions through Easter Sunday; all of the classes being offered during that timeframe, such as "The Walk" and the Jordan Peterson series; our Wednesday evening Prayer and Meditation sessions; and the special events and social groups scheduled, such as the monthly Book Group and a "Spring by the Sea" Craft Fair.

As I left the Sanctuary Easter morning, I remembered those orange cards were still on the small table in the Narthex you pass as you enter the Sanctuary. So I took them. And since Easter Sunday they have sat on the meeting table in my office, where they will stay for awhile. Maybe even until the start of Lent next year.

They will stay there as a reminder - not of what *could have been*, but of what *was*.

A couple of days after Easter, when I read one of them again, it occurred to me. that of all the things listed on those orange cards, there were only *two* we weren't able to fulfill in the midst of this pandemic - neither of which was in our control. One was the *Early Risers* concert scheduled for late March,

*Continued next page...*

which we needed to postpone because of necessary restrictions on public gatherings, and the other was the annual MBTS *Easter Sunrise Service* at Singing Beach, cancelled for that very same reason.

Everything else on those cards - everything - we fulfilled. We came together to figure out when, where and how. And then we did it. We did it even though it wasn't how we preferred to do it. We did it even though it was out of our comfort zone. We did it even though it wasn't without glitches at times.

We did it. Together. For each other's sake. And for God's sake.

In that, we carried on the commitment of those who have come before us throughout the life of the Christian spiritual path - those who found a way to express, strengthen, and live out God's call for our lives individually and as a spiritual community, in a variety of circumstances that were less than ideal.

I am sure it is not the first time this spiritual community has done that. And it will likely not be the last. But as God raised Jesus, God will continue to help us rise to the occasion. Whatever color the cards are.

Blessings,

Mark

## **Worship Notes**

At our most recent Council meeting on April 21, we confirmed that we will continue providing "virtual Worship celebrations" of prayer, music, Scripture and Message, on Sunday mornings until such time as state and local authorities affirm that it is no longer necessary. As much as we all miss being together, the only priority at this time is the well being of our members and friends. We are not in any way being less faithful by gathering online. We are simply reflecting our commitment to being the people of a God who, as embodied in Jesus, calls to care for one another and bring healing to the world.

We continue to offer our enormous gratitude to Dr. Herman Weiss, Rebecca Shrimpton, Paul Knox, Richard Smith, Cindy Boyea and Nancy Klebart for making this possible. It is also an added blessing to know that our Sunday Worship times have been viewed on Facebook and YouTube over 400 times each of the last few weeks, meaning we are reaching people near and far, as well as many who had not been familiar with us before.

Therefore, we will likely continue to livestream, or at the very least post the recordings of these Worship celebrations online in some form even after we are able to be together again.

## Adult Studies and Spirituality

As with Worship, we will continue to hold our Tuesday evening classes, Thursday Bible Study, Prayer and Meditation sessions, and Committee meetings online through Zoom as long as necessary.

You will continue to receive details on times and how to participate in these from the Church Office on the day of each gathering.

## New Spiritual Studies Unit In May

Beginning sometime in May, we will offer another new opportunity for spiritual exploration and growth. The schedule and the topic for this new four to five-week “unit” are still being determined.



The May/June edition of the Daily Word has arrived- You can pick up an edition in the mailbox in front of the office (individually packaged in Ziploc bags) or we can mail 1 to you.

Email [office.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.fpchurch@gmail.com) for the mailing option.

## **FPCC CARE TEAM** *Have you shared the experience?*

We support FPC families with meals, rides, & visits through times of illness and loss. Please contact Janet Groth at [janbythesea244@gmail.com](mailto:janbythesea244@gmail.com) if you would like to share your ideas, time, and talents with the FPC Care Team.



## **Missions**

Action, Inc. has split the residents of the Emergency Shelter into two groups, 24 living at the Gloucester YMCA and 16 at the shelter. The Grace Center has also shifted to the YMCA, serving people daytime Monday to Friday. With the Sheltering in Place at those places full time, by necessity, Action added 24/7 staffing for both places. Keeping our April commitment the Mission Committee provided ingredients for the Brown Bag Lunch project at the Y. There will be changes in our plans for our May commitment to fit in with the temporary needs of both the Grace Center and the Action Emergency Shelter.

**First Parish Church Congregational  
Manchester-by-the-Sea  
Office: 1 Chapel Lane  
Mail to: P.O. Box 187**



## Vitality

We miss being together....and we're sure we're not alone in this feeling. :)

In hopes of creating a greater feeling of connection and community, we thought it would be meaningful to share with each other how we are living our faith during these challenging days by sharing images and Scripture on our Facebook page.

We're curious...

What Scripture passages are you turning to? Share them on our Facebook page and see what others find sustaining.

Have you created an altar or sacred space in your home? Snap a photo on your phone and upload it to our Facebook page

How are you helping out? Are you donating money? Sewing masks? Baking cookies for first-responders? Upload pictures of your activities or links to the organizations you're donating to our Facebook page.

Thank you in advance for sharing -- this will be meaningful ... and fun!

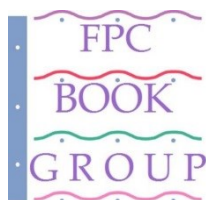
**Prayer Rocks and Herbs on Church Steps:** We will begin painting prayer rocks soon and will figure out a way to get us involved -- safely socially distant, of course. We are looking forward to a Memorial Day start with Snip What You Need herbs on the church steps. Donations from your gardens welcome!



## May Birthdays



05/01	<b>GUDONIS, LAUREN</b>	56 MASCONOMO ST MANCHESTER	lbgudonis@gmail.com
05/01	<b>WILKINSON, SHIRLEY</b>	THE LINDEN 220 CONANT ST APT 224	DANVERS MA 01923
05/07	<b>LAWRENCE, TUCKER</b>	3 MARK ST MANCHESTER	
05/08	<b>BACHMAN, FRAN</b>	13A THE PLAINS MANCHESTER	
05/12	<b>WARNOCK, LYNANNE</b>	5 RUNNING RIDGE ROAD MANCHESTER	lswarnock@aol.com
05/13	<b>GENDRON, CHARLIE</b>	112 SUMMER ST MANCHESTER	
05/13	<b>TOSI, SANTANA</b>	3 BUTLER AVE MANCHESTER	
05/20	<b>FRANKLIN, LANEY</b>	17 NORWOOD AVE MANCHESTER	
05/21	<b>CURRY, SALLY</b>	12 HIDDEN LEDGE RD MANCHESTER	smcurry@gmail.com
05/21	<b>DEOREO, SARA</b>	6 BROOK ST MANCHESTER	sara@deoreo.com
05/21	<b>GRAYDEN, WILLIAM</b>	266 W SEAVIEW DR MARATHON FL 33050	
05/25	<b>POWERS, ABIGAIL</b>	8 STORY ROAD MAGNOLIA MA 01930	
05/26	<b>LEARAGER, STACEY</b>	2 MACHAIN WAY MANCHESTER	schuhler@comcast.net
05/26	<b>PRICE JR, ROBERT</b>	38 EVERETT ST BEVERLY FARMS	cprice@vpg.com
05/29	<b>KOOPMAN, NATALIE</b>	31 CENTRAL ST UNIT 1 MANCHESTER	nataliek29@live.com
05/31	<b>LUMSDEN, DAVID</b>	18 WOODCREST ROAD MANCHESTER	dklumsd@gmail.com



### Monday, May 25 meeting via Zoom Conferencing

The book for our May discussion is *"We Must Be Brave"* by Frances Liardet: *Spanning the sweep of the twentieth century, We Must Be Brave explores the fierce love that we feel for our children and the power of that love to endure. Beyond distance, beyond time, beyond life itself.*

*"A powerful story that proves how love itself requires courage." –Delia Owens, author of Where the Crawdads Sing. A woman. A war. The child who changed everything.*

**About the author:** Frances Liardet is a child of children of the Second World War. She has an MA in creative writing from the University of East Anglia and studied Arabic at Oxford before traveling to Cairo, where she translated modern Egyptian novelists including Nobel-prize winner Naguib Mahfouz and Edwar al-Kharrat. She currently lives in Somerset, England, with her husband and daughter, and helps to run a summer writing session called Bootcamp. *We Must Be Brave* is her American debut.

This is a time for church members as well as non-church members to come together and engage with one another, build relationships, and share in discussion of books that are of interest to people of various backgrounds.

We have fun visiting, discussing the book and sharing stories.

### Upcoming Books:

June 29-*Leaving Lucy Pear* by Anna Solomon

## Jordan Peterson Discussion

The next meeting of the Jordan Peterson Discussion Group will meet by Video on **Monday, May 4 at 7:30 pm.**

The topic will be Lecture XIV: *Jacob: Wrestling with God*. As always, the presentation will be self-contained and no preparation is necessary, but you can of course view the full lecture here in advance at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRJKwDfDbco>

You can also google Jordan Peterson Biblical XIV transcript if you would prefer to read the lecture.

The meeting will be held by Zoom. If you are not already on the email list for the group, please request an invitation from Steve Carhart at [scarh10428@aol.com](mailto:scarh10428@aol.com). We are very pleased that some folks that had difficulty attending earlier in person are now able to attend virtually. If you have wondered what the group has been about but found it difficult to attend in person, please join us now! If you have any questions, call Steve Carhart at 978-407-8454, or Richard Smith at 978-590-7497.

### Diaconate

“Deacon Fund” Support and Assistance – the “Deacon Fund” remains a vital means of assistance to FPC members in need, especially in this difficult and uncertain time. Contributions can be made “First Parish Church” with “Deacon Fund” in the memo section, and mailed to First Parish Church P.O. Box 187 Manchester, MA 01944. In addition, if a member of our spiritual community is in need, please contact Rev. Mark to discuss available support.

### Manchester Affordable Housing Trust Announces Emergency

**Rental Housing Payment Assistance** The Manchester Affordable Housing Trust (MAHT), in collaboration with Action, Inc., a Gloucester-based human and social services agency, is offering short-term rental housing payment assistance to income eligible Manchester residents in response to job and income loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Consistent with its mission to support and promote community affordable housing, the MAHT is reaching out to income eligible residents who are experiencing housing rent payment issues. The MAHT can and wants to help during this difficult and uncertain time. For further information please contact Action, Inc. at 978-282-1000 or live chat at [www.actioninc.org](http://www.actioninc.org)

Website

[firstparishchurch.org](http://firstparishchurch.org)



Instagram [fpcmanchesterbythesea](https://www.instagram.com/fpcmanchesterbythesea)

facebook

[firstparishchurchmanchesterma](https://www.facebook.com/firstparishchurchmanchesterma)



## Daily Lectionary

Mon., June 1 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Joel 2:18-29 Romans 8:18-24

Tues., June 2 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Ezekiel 39:7-8, 21-29 Romans 8:26-27

Wed., June 3 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Numbers 11:24-30 John 7:37-39

Thurs., June 4 Psalm 8 Job 38:1-11 2 Timothy 1:8-12a

Fri., June 5 Psalm 8 Job 38:12-21 2 Timothy 1:12b-14

Sat., June 6 Psalm 8 Job 38:22-38 John 14:15-17

Sun., June 7 Trinity Sunday Genesis 1:1—2:4a Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

Mon., June 8 Psalm 29 Job 38:39—39:12 1 Corinthians 12:1-3

Tues., June 9 Psalm 29 Job 39:13-25 1 Corinthians 12:4-13

Wed., June 10 Psalm 29 Job 39:26—40:5 John 14:25-26

Thurs., June 11 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 Genesis 21:1-7 Hebrews 3:1-6

Fri., June 12 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 Genesis 24:1-9 Acts 7:35-43

Sat., June 13 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 Genesis 24:10-52 Mark 7:1-13

Sun., June 14 Second Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 18:1-15 [21:1-7 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

Mon., June 15 Psalm 126 Genesis 23:1-19 1

Thessalonians 3:1-5

Tues., June 16 Psalm 126 Genesis 25:7-11 2

Thessalonians 2:13—3:5

Wed., June 17 Psalm 126 Nehemiah 9:1-8 Luke 6:12-19

Thurs., June 18 Psalm 86:1-10 Exodus 12:43-49 Hebrews 2:5-9

Fri., June 19 Psalm 86:1-10 Genesis 35:1-4 Acts 5:17-26

Sat., June 20 Psalm 86:1-10 Ezekiel 29:3-7 Luke 11:53—12:3

Sun., June 21 Third Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 21:8-21 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39

Mon., June 22 Psalm 86:11-17 Genesis 16:1-15 Revelation 2:1-7

Tues., June 23 Psalm 86:11-17 Genesis 25:12-18 Revelation 2:8-11

Wed., June 24 Psalm 86:11-17 Jeremiah 42:18-22 Matthew 10:5-23



Thurs., June 25 Psalm 13 Micah 7:18-20 Galatians 5:2-6

Fri., June 26 Psalm 13 2 Chronicles 20:5-12 Galatians 5:7-12

Sat., June 27 Psalm 13 Genesis 26:23-25 Luke 17:1-4

Sun., June 28 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13 Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42

Mon., June 29 Psalm 47 Genesis 22:15-18 1

Thessalonians 4:9-12

Tues., June 30 Psalm 47 1 Kings 18:36-39 1 John 4:1-6

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Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA 01944  
Address Correction Requested*



We will continue broadcasting our Worship Celebrations  
Sundays on Facebook

**Sunday mornings, at 10 AM**

[Click](#) to watch

(Or go here- [facebook.com/firstparishchurchmanchesterma](https://facebook.com/firstparishchurchmanchesterma))

(If you don't see the service showing when you click on the link  
be sure to refresh your screen)

You can send your ***Joys and Concerns*** to Mark by email,  
at [mark.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:mark.fpchurch@gmail.com)  
or text to 908-477-5426  
by 9 AM Sunday morning.

Previous Worship celebrations will be available [here](#)  
(On YouTube search First Parish Manchester by the Sea)