



June 2022

Minister's Message

Rev. Dr. Mark Boyea



FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

During the 10 days I was away from you in May, there were three mass shootings in our nation. They took place in a church, a supermarket, and an elementary school. Three ordinary, everyday spaces in which our children, our elderly and everyone in between attempts to simply carry out their lives. And yet, once again here we are, with those spaces invaded by brutal, senseless gun violence.

So while, as a Christian minister, it is appropriate for me to ask that you join in holding the families, friends and loved ones of the dead and injured in your hearts, minds and spirits. But at the same time, there is a part of me that has grown weary of that “ask”, and fully understands why so many outside and inside the Christian community have come to find it completely hollow.

Because while we and our nation's leaders are quick to call for “thoughts and prayers” in the aftermath of this kind of carnage, we are far, far slower at attempting to do anything about it. The response to considerations related to gun safety is far too often, “That won't work”, “We can't do that”, or “It wouldn't have prevented this or that specific shooting”.

As for the first, there are in fact, things which research involving multiple countries with a wide range of populations and regulations indicate *do* make a difference, such as universal background checks and bans on large capacity magazines – steps, it is important to note, that the vast majority of our nation's law enforcement officers fully support. In addition, one need only recall the quote generally, but likely incorrectly attributed to Albert Einstein that, “*Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result*”.

As for the second, “We can't do that”, well, yes we can. It is a matter of political and moral will. Rather than, “We *can't* do that”, it is more correctly, I think, a matter of “We can't afford *not to*”, or at least, “We can't afford *not to try*”.

The Newsletter of the First Parish Church Congregational

The Church Bell

And as for the third, “It wouldn’t have prevented this or that specific shooting”, that may very well be true in a given instance. But at the same time, if something were to prevent even *one* of those tragedies, isn’t that enough to at least consider it? We do not reject using countless medical interventions and attempting experimental procedures even though they don’t - and can’t - promise to prevent or cure all ills. Why is this particular public health crisis different?

Let me be clear. I am not an advocate for the banning of all guns. I grew up in a home with a rifle that was used for hunting game that we ate and for target shooting. But we own significantly more guns than there are people in this nation, and something about that seems highly “off”. And it certainly seems “off” for those of us who claim to be the followers of a Jesus who rejected the use of violence in all its forms and who calls us to care for the most vulnerable among us - like the elderly, children, and those who wish to simply worship in peace.

Thoughts and prayers - absolutely. But there must be more from us. As Rabbi Mark Asher Goodman wrote this past week:

“In Judaism, if you say a prayer over something, then fail to do the requisite action that follows, it’s a *“bracha levatia”* - a sinful act.

Blessings,
Mark

WORSHIP NOTES

Sunday, June 5 marks **Pentecost Sunday**, considered to be the “birthday” of the Christian Church. Therefore it seems only fitting that on that morning we will engage in three of the foundational “pillars” of our spiritual tradition – the Baptism of Cassandra Ruth Weaver, the Sacrament of Communion, and then, after our Worship time, the June Annual Meeting. What a day of being the Church!

On Sunday, June 12, please join us at 10am for our **Annual Tuck’s Point Service!** What a joy that was last year after not being able to hold it in 2020.

On Sunday, June 19, we will honor fathers, grandfathers and all men who have served as father figures to others. Our own Rev. Dr. Lelly Smith will lead Worship that day.

Later this summer, while we are away for our son's wedding, Rev. Dr. Dave VanArsdale will return to preach and lead Worship on Sunday, August 14, with Rev. Rick Spalding returning to our pulpit on Sunday, August 21.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH and EXPLORATION

Bible Study will be held on the following dates at 4pm on Zoom through the summer months:

Thursdays, June 2, 9, 23 and 30

Thursdays, July 7, 14, 21 and 28

There will be no *Bible Study* during the month of August.

Prayer and Meditation will be offered on Zoom at 7pm on the following dates through the summer:

Thursdays, June 9 and 23

Thursdays, July 7 and 21

There will be no *Prayer and Meditation* in August.

Our current ***Spiritual Exploration*** unit continues in June:

“These Things”: Considering Your Life Testament

Tuesdays: June 7, 14 and 28 (additional weeks as needed)

7:00pm – 8:30pm on Zoom

Based on a spiritual exercise crafted by Jesuit priest and author Father Anthony de Mello, during these weeks we will consider and share our responses and insights regarding a number of “*these things*” statements – for example: “*These things I have loved in life:*” and “*These experience I have cherished:*”

It continues to be a time that offers the opportunity for deep spiritual reflection, challenge, clarity and growth.

FIRST PARISH CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL
United Church of Christ
Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts
WARRANT FOR ANNUAL MEETING
June 5, 2022

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 or Zoom Conferencing** immediately
following Worship Service on Sunday, June 5, 2022 for the following purposes:

To wit:

ARTICLE I: To accept the report of the Annual Meeting held on June 20, 2021.

ARTICLE II: To hear the recommendations of the Nominating Committee and to elect officers, board and committee members of the Church.

ARTICLE III: To hear and act upon the reports of officers, boards, committees, and organizations connected with the church.

ARTICLE IV: To hear and act upon the recommendation of the Church Council that the regular Sunday Service from July 3 to September 4 inclusive, shall start at 9:00 a.m.

ARTICLE V: To hear and act upon the Council's recommended changes to the Church by-laws.

Due to the many changes, please refer to the proposed by-law changes for specific language.

ARTICLE V: To hear and act upon any other business that may come before the meeting.

Respectfully submitted;

George A Nickless, Clerk

Diaconate

Traditional Communion was served on April 3rd, a nice change from the individual communion packets we have been using. Offerings also resumed in April.

We were blessed with the AMAZING performance by the Choir on Palm Sunday of "Once Upon a Tree," a cantata with words and music by Pepper Choplin. The Choir worked on this piece for months and it showed.

The Maundy Thursday and Easter services were lovely and appreciated by all. On Easter we enjoyed special music that included the Hallelujah chorus (sung by all), trumpets and drums.

The May 1 service was a busy one with Communion and a Baptism.

Fellowship after church has been lively and well attended. The Mother's Day service on May 8th was hosted by the Vitality committee who provided a full layout of special treats.

Submitted by Nancy Peterson

Music Committee

Music for the summer:

In the month of June the choir and soloists will be singing as usual, accompanied by Dr. Herman Weiss, with the notable exception that on June 12th we will enjoy our annual Tuck's Point service and the Choir will sing a capella. Y'all come! (And remember to bring a picnic!)

From July 3 through September 4 the choir will be on hiatus. There will be special music - vocal and instrumental - during that time. Our soloists, Rebecca Shrimpton and Paul Knox, will be singing. Also we will welcome guest musician Bonnie Anderson, who will play during August when Herman will be taking vacation time. Bonnie will also appear on July 31 with Herman as duo-pianists and as flute soloist. Soprano Erin Merceruio Nelsen will appear in August as well.

Summer Birthdays

06/02	TOSI, COLTON	3 BUTLER AVE MANCHESTER	coltontos@gmail.com
06/07	PARKER, MURIEL	6 UNION ST, #1 MANCHESTER	rspnh35@gmail.com
06/10	DRISCOLL, PAUL	111 CHEBACCO ROAD S HAMILTON 01982	dsravenew@gmail.com
06/13	CHRZANOWSKI, LUKE	21 HAROLD ST MANCHESTER	
06/20	BARTLETT, SYDNEY	60 BEACH ST MANCHESTER	
06/20	BRUNS, ALISON	612 ESSEX AVE APT 6 GLOUCESTER 01930	alisonbruns@comcast.net
06/20	BUDDENHAGEN, MILES	102 HESPERUS AVE MAGNOLIA MA 01930	
06/21	KIRBY, LAWRENCE	#1110 50 ENDICOTT ST DANVERS 01923	lfkirby@gmail.com
06/23	ERDMANN, TYLER	41 WALKER RD MANCHESTER	
06/29	HALGREN, NANCY	35 CENTRAL ST MANCHESTER	nanwh@hotmail.com
06/29	WARREN, NICHOLAS	16 BROOK ST MANCHESTER	indywarren@gmail.com
06/30	DEOREO, MICHAEL	6 BROOK ST MANCHESTER	
06/30	KNOX, JEANNE	12B PICKETT STREET BEVERLY MA 01915	jeanneknox1@comcast.net
06/30	NICKLESS, JUNE	124 BRIDGE ST MANCHESTER	georgejune@comcast.net
07/09	WILKINSON, ALEXANDER	47 FOREST ST MANCHESTER	
07/09	WILKINSON, CHARLES	47 FOREST ST MANCHESTER	
07/12	PARKER, SUE	41 CENTRAL ST MANCHESTER	sueparker33@aol.com
07/21	WARNOCK, ELLA	5 RUNNING RIDGE ROAD MANCHESTER	
07/23	DAVIES, EDEN	23 BLYNMAN CIRCLE MANCHESTER	egudonis@gmail.com
07/29	DEOREO, MATTHEW	6 BROOK ST MANCHESTER	
07/30	GREENLEAF Jr, DICK	14 OCEAN ST MANCHESTER	dickgreenleaf1@gmail.com
07/31	MILNE, DORIS	27-6 NORWOOD AVE MANCHESTER	
08/03	WILSON, GLENN	27 NORWOOD #1 MANCHESTER	glenn@bluewater-benefits.com
08/06	BARTLETT, JACKSON	60 BEACH ST MANCHESTER	
08/11	COOK, JERRIS	23 HAROLD ST MANCHESTER	jerris01@comcast.net
08/12	PETERSON, NANCY	111 CHEBACCO RD S. HAMILTON MA 01982	nancypete1@gmail.com

Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 5 following Worship in person and via Zoom.

**The Zoom link will be sent by email and participants online can
join in with a computer, tablet,
smart phone or phone.**

[Read the reports.](#)

[Check out by-law changes.](#)

Service and Outreach

The Outreach and Service collection continues for The Open Door and The Grace Center And Operation Troop Support

Needed:

Baking Mixes - Cake, Brownie, Cookie, Muffin, Pancake

Peanut Butter

Canned Tuna, Chicken, and Turkey

Healthy Snack Items

100% Juice/Juice Boxes

Breakfast Cereal

Hearty Soups

Canned Vegetables and Fruits

Spaghetti Sauce

Macaroni and Cheese

Rice, Noodles, Pasta

Pet Food

Gift Cards from local grocery markets

(Shaw's, Stop & Shop, Market Basket, etc.)

so they can purchase butter, cream and other perishables

Troop items for June, July & August are

Powdered drink mixes- Gatorade, iced tea, lemonade

Dry fruits & nuts

Hard candy

Beef Jerky

Flip Flops, Shower wash

Razors and toiletries

Drop at the Church before Worship or at the Chapel



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From the Open Door and the Service and Outreach Committee

The Open Door is looking for volunteers to feed our community.

Consider registering for the following:

Fulfillment Center, 11-1pm

Fulfillment Center, 1-3pm

Pick-Up Assistant, 3-5pm

No Contact Deliveries, 3-5pm

There will also be another SORTING EXTRAVAGANZA on Friday, 10-12pm. We're looking for 6-8 volunteers to help us sort donations from our generous community.

This opportunity is available to all fully vaccinated volunteers (full onboarding not required).

Visit VolunteerHub to claim your spot now: <http://foodpantry.volunteerhub.com/>



A couple of recent altar arrangements.

If you would like to donate flowers for the altar, please contact
Penny Lapham 978-526-7128.

Fresh flowers from your garden are always welcome, through the summer.

Director of Youth and Children's Ministry Jeanne Westcott

As Director of Youth and Children's Ministries, I would like to thank Paul Lengeiza, Mary Lumsden, George Nickless and Bethany Woods for all their hard work and expertise in drafting, compiling, editing and updating the Safe Church Policy Addendum, which directly serves to address issues parents are currently concerned over. I have never had the pleasure of working with a more dedicated and professional team. Bless you all on your commitment to ensure the safety and peace of mind for future families of this church and of the community. Bravo!

The Summer Programming is rolling out so please keep a lookout for opportunities to spread the word! A kick off family movie event will take place in our Chapel Hall on an upcoming Sunday evening. In keeping with the Earth Stewardship theme for 2022, the movie(s) will embrace Mother Earth in all her wonder with snacks, and activities for all participants. This is a free event. Look for more announcements in flock emails and on social media!

If you have donations for the Ukrainian Refugee drive, please feel free to contact Jeanne at jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com and I will arrange a pick up. There will also be a small collection box in the Sanctuary for this purpose.

If you know of a teen over age 12 and not yet graduated from high school, you might want to tell them about a great opportunity to win a \$100.00 gift card! Plant a Pizza will launch at the close of May and run until June 15. Kids accept the responsibility to raise and nurture a food plant with containers and soil provided and return it on a specific date to offer fresh produce to folks who would like free freshly grown veggies! A successful plant with food to harvest offers three chances in the drawing! How cool is that? To close the event pizza will be offered. It just makes sense!

First Parish uses candid photos of church activities in its publicity from time to time. Any photos of children used will not contain personally identifiable information. Members of the community not wanting their or their children's photos depicted should inform the Church Office.

Book Group

June 27- “Meet Me at the Museum” by Anne Youngson - to be held at 6:30 PM at Liz Loomis’ home at 34 Bennett St. Manchester.

When the curator of a Danish museum responds to a query about ancient exhibits, he doesn’t expect a reply.

When Tina Hopgood first wrote it, nor did she ...

Professor Anders Larsen, an urbane man of facts, has lost his wife, along with his hopes and dreams for the future. He does not know that a query from a Mrs Tina Hopgood about a world-famous antiquity in his museum is about to alter the course of his life.

Oceans apart, an unexpected correspondence flourishes as they discover shared passions: for history and nature; for useless objects left behind by loved ones; for the ancient and modern world, what is lost in time, what is gained and what has stayed the same. Through intimate stories of joy, anguish, and discovery, each one bares their soul to the other. But when Tina's letters suddenly cease, Anders is thrown into despair. Can this unlikely friendship survive? goodreads

July is a free month, enjoy your summer reads!

August 29, 6:30 PM- “Mad About the Boy” by Helen Fielding - location TBA.

Move over, Bridget Jones’s diary: She’s back, and this time she’s texting and tweeting. . . Fourteen years after landing Mark Darcy, Bridget’s life has taken her places she never expected. But despite the new challenges of single parenting, online dating, wildly morphing dress sizes, and bafflingly complex remote controls, she is the same irrepressible and endearing soul we all remember—though her talent for embarrassing herself in hilarious ways has become dangerously amplified now that she has 752 Twitter followers. As Bridget navigates head lice epidemics, school-picnic humiliations, and cross-generational sex, she learns that life isn’t over when you start needing reading glasses—and why one should never, ever text while drunk.

Studded with witty observations about the perils and absurdities of our times, Mad About the Boy is both outrageously comic and genuinely moving. As we watch her dealing with heartbreaking loss and rediscovering love and joy, Bridget invites us to fall for her all over again. goodreads



Breakfast Buddies: Ocean Stories At First Parish Church

July 11-15, Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

A program especially designed for 2–4-year-old children
and an adult at no cost

Breakfast Buddies introduces a Bible character to our youngest seekers with a short presentation, an activity, and a craft over breakfast.

Each day will introduce a different character so sign up for one day or all five!

Pre-registration is required and food allergies/ sensitivities will be accommodated.

***Tell your friends and family and join us for some fun, some laughter,
some learning, and some food!***

[Register here](#)

or by contacting Jeanne Westcott, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries,
at Jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com



ART SHOW SUBMISSIONS WANTED!

The Christian Education Committee of First Parish Church is seeking art submissions for a judged Art Exhibit themed – “Our Earthly Home”

Art will be displayed From July 23 - July 29, 2022

Art will be judged, and winners announced July 26.

Winners will be awarded prizes in 1st and 2nd place in the following age range categories:

- The Matisse Group: Ages 3-6 years
- The Van Gogh Group: Ages 7-10 years
- The Picasso Group: Ages 11-14 years
- The Renoir Group: Ages 15- 18 years
- The DaVinci Group: Ages 19- and over

Painting, drawing, mixed media, collage, sculpture, and nature items art are sought.

Submissions will be accepted daily outside the First Parish Chapel building at 1 Chapel Lane, MBTS
beginning July 6 and closing July 19.

Look for specially marked drop bins.

For questions or more information, contact Jeanne @jeanne.fpchurch@gmail



**Mother Earth Sings
Bible Experiences Week
At First Parish Church
August 15-19, 2022
4-7pm Ages 6-12**

Join us as we experience interactive storytelling, music, song, imaginative movement, yoga and meditation, games, visual art (in a variety of mediums), food creations and group creative writing in 5, three-hour sessions.

This experience will integrate 5 different Bible stories with creative expression and fellowship for children ages 4-12.

Youth ages 14-16 are invited to apply as a junior counselor and parents are encouraged to volunteer.

There is no cost for this experience and all materials are included.

Space is limited to 15 participants.

Please [pre-register here](#) by July 16
or by contacting Jeanne Westcott, Director of Youth and Children's
Ministries, at Jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 11:00 AM-Minister's Virtual Off Hr 07:30 PM-Choir Rehearsal	2 10:00 AM-VNA Health Clinic 01:00 PM-Seaside Parish Knitters 04:00 PM-Bible Study	3 12:00 PM-Al-Anon	4 09:00 AM-Church Cleaning Deacons
5 10:00 AM-Worship 10:00 AM- Communion 11:15 AM-Annual Meeting	6 10:00 AM-Collation	7 07:00 PM-Spiritual Studies	8 11:00 AM-Minister's Virtual Off Hr 07:30 PM-Choir Rehearsal	9 08:30 AM-MY's Stepping Up Day 04:00 PM-Bible Study 07:00 PM-Prayer & Meditation	10 12:00 PM-Al-Anon	11
12 10:00 AM-Worship at Tuck's Point 12:00 PM-Nickless' Event	13 07:00 PM-Board of Trustees	14 07:00 PM-Spiritual Studies	15 11:00 AM-Minister's Virtual Off Hr 06:15 PM-Outreach and Service 07:30 PM-Choir Rehearsal	16 10:00 AM-VNA Health Clinic 01:00 PM-Seaside Parish Knitters 04:00 PM-Bible Study	17 12:00 PM-Al-Anon	18
19 10:00 AM-Worship Father's Day	20	21 08:00 AM-Chepkirwok's Birthday 06:30 PM-Church Council	22 11:00 AM-Minister's Virtual Off Hr 07:30 PM-Choir Rehearsal	23 04:00 PM-Bible Study 07:00 PM-Prayer & Meditation	24 12:00 PM-Al-Anon	25 11:00 AM-Jermain Event
26 10:00 AM-Worship	27 08:30 AM- BreakfastBuddiestentative 06:30 PM-Book Group	28 08:30 AM- BreakfastBuddiestentative 02:30 PM-Friends of COA 07:00 PM-Spiritual Studies	29 08:30 AM- BreakfastBuddiestentative 11:00 AM-Minister's Virtual Off Hr 07:30 PM-Choir Rehearsal	30 08:30 AM- BreakfastBuddiestentative 04:00 PM-Bible Study 06:00 PM-Deacon Meeting		

First Parish Church, Congregational
P.O. Box 187
Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA 01944



Save the date for our Annual Tuck's Point Worship service, June 12th.

