



May 2022

Minister's Message

Rev. Dr. Mark Boyea



FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

A few years ago the book, *“The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up”*, by Marie Kondo, became a worldwide phenomenon. Since its first printing that book has sold over eight million copies. And while its subject matter - simplifying and uncluttering our lives - isn't exactly a novel one, Kondo's book does bring a more spiritual approach to that topic than most. It seeks to help the reader discern what really matters as the foundation for determining how to reorder the material *“mess”* in their lives.

That also happens to be the primary challenge that Jesus' disciples faced in the aftermath of his death and their resurrection experiences of him. Their lives, and the spiritual movement that had become the center of those lives, had been left a *“mess”*. Their leader, while very much alive to them, but in a new and different way, was still physically no longer there each day. As a result, they had largely disbanded, most returning to their original homes and attempting to find their way back into old lifestyles. On top of that, they were still in harm's way if the Roman authorities decided the execution of Jesus hadn't gone far enough.

In time though, the disciples gathered themselves, and as Kondo puts it, *“tidied up the mess”*. They discerned that the work Jesus had begun with and in them was too essential for their sake and the sake of the world to give up. They recognized the truth of what Jesus had taught and showed them - that there were very few things that truly mattered in life – and that those things were living in community; serving each other and all God's people; and embodying the One they had followed. All the rest could be – needed to be - let go of.

And through that *“tidying up”*, the same frightened, scattered, fractured disciples at the end of the Gospels become the bold, committed, effective leaders who in the decades after Jesus death and resurrection would lay a foundation strong enough to last and include us over two thousand years later. It truly was, as Kondo refers to it in her title, *“life changing magic”*. Or, in the language of spirituality, *transformed*.

As we continue through this Easter season, perhaps there is no better time for us, as the spiritual descendants of those disciples, to consider a little “*tidying up*” ourselves.

If so, what can we – what do we *need* to let go of in our lives right now, for that to happen?

Eastertide Blessings,
Mark

WORSHIP NOTES

From the first strains of the cantata “*Once Upon a Tree*” to the last notes of the “*Hallelujah Chorus*” and “*Go Out With Joy*” on Easter Sunday, it was a deeply meaningful Holy Week and Easter for our spiritual community.

Enormous gratitude to Dr. Herman Weiss; soloists Rebecca Shrimpton, Paul Knox and Jim Brennan; Good Friday musician Kelsey Boyea; our Easter Sunday guest musicians; our Deacons; and all our participants in the Maundy Thursday commemoration for blessing us with their time and gifts to help make it so.

As we enter the month of May and continue our time of Easter celebration:

We will celebrate both the Sacrament of Communion and the Sacrament of Baptism for William Vickery, son of Tom and Lindsey (Ferm) Vickery on Sunday, May 1. We celebrated the Baptism of William’s brother Charlie in our Sanctuary back in early March of 2020.

On Sunday, May 8, we will give thanks for and honor Mothers near and far.

On Sunday, May 15 and Sunday, May 22, Rev. Mark will be away. Rev. Dr. Dave VanArsdale will return to serve as Worship Leader and Preacher on May 15, while our own Jeanne Westcott will serve in that role on May 22.

Lastly, on Sunday, May 29, we will host the Legion for a Memorial Day weekend Worship time at 10am. Details are still being determined.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH and EXPLORATION

Bible Study will be held on the following dates in May at 4pm on Zoom:

Thursday, May 5

Thursday, May 26

There will be no Bible Study on Thursday, May 12 or 19

Prayer and Meditation will be offered on Zoom twice in May at 7pm:

Thursday, May 5

Thursday, May 26

Our next ***Spiritual Exploration*** unit begins in May:

“These Things”: Considering Your Life Testament

Tuesdays: May 3, 10, 24, 31; June 7 and 14 (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, this unit will involve considering and sharing our responses and insights regarding a number of “*these things*” statements – for example: “*These things I have loved in life:*” and “*These experiences I have cherished:*”

It promises to be a time of deep spiritual reflection, challenge, clarity and growth.

After the first session, one or more “*these things*” prompts will be provided as “homework” in preparation for the following session.

Join us Monday, May 1, 6:30 PM at Mary Ellen Cook's home, 23 Harold St. Manchester, to discuss “The Henna Artist” by Aika Joshi. (This is the April gathering rescheduled from April 25th.)

Book Group is open to everyone! Consider joining us. Questions can be directed to Mary Ellen Cook at 978-500-0018.

We next meet on Monday, May 30 at 6:30 PM at Lauren Gudonis’ home, 56 Masconomo St. Manchester. We will be discussing “Wish You Were Here” by Jodi Picoult.

Diana O'Toole is perfectly on track. She will be married by thirty, done having kids by thirty-five, and move out to the New York City suburbs, all while climbing the professional ladder in the cutthroat art auction world. She's not engaged just yet, but she knows her boyfriend, Finn, a surgical resident, is about to propose on their romantic getaway to the Galápagos—days before her thirtieth birthday. Right on time.

But then a virus that felt worlds away has appeared in the city, and on the eve of their departure, Finn breaks the news: It's all hands on deck at the hospital. He has to stay behind. You should still go, he assures her, since it would be a shame for all of their nonrefundable trip to go to waste. And so, reluctantly, she goes.

Almost immediately, Diana's dream vacation goes awry. The whole island is now under quarantine, and she is stranded until the borders reopen. Completely isolated, she must venture beyond her comfort zone. Slowly, she carves out a connection with a local family when a teenager with a secret opens up to Diana, despite her father's suspicion of outsiders.

Diana finds herself examining her relationships, her choices, and herself—and wondering if when she goes home, she too will have evolved into someone completely different. goodreads

Use the links below to learn more about First Parish Church online:

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/) www.facebook.com/FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/

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

[Website](https://www.firstparishchurch.org/) www.firstparishchurch.org/

[YouTube Worship Services](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUvfURhmsH8lfE13FLaRtWcw-pOTC9T2h)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUvfURhmsH8lfE13FLaRtWcw-pOTC9T2h>

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 AM-Worship 10:00 AM- Communion 10:00 AM-Baptism 11:30 AM-Soup & Conversation	2	3 07:00 PM-Spiritual Studies	4 11:00 AM-Minister's Virtual Off Hr 05:30 PM- Summerstage Meeting 07:30 PM-Choir Rehearsal	5 10:00 AM-VNA Health Clinic 01:00 PM-Seaside Parish Knitlers 04:00 PM-Bible Study 07:00 PM-Prayer & Meditation	6 12:00 PM-Al-Anon	7
8 10:00 AM-Worship Mother's Day	9 07:00 PM-Board of Trustees	10 07:00 PM-Spiritual Studies	11 11:00 AM-Minister's Virtual Off Hr 06:30 PM-Outreach and Service 07:30 PM-Choir Rehearsal	12	13 12:00 PM-Al-Anon	14
15 10:00 AM-Worship	16	17 11:00 AM-Woman's Club Luncheon 06:30 PM-Church Council	18 07:30 PM-Choir Rehearsal	19 10:00 AM-VNA Health Clinic 01:00 PM-Seaside Parish Knitlers	20 08:00 AM-Montessori NE 12:00 PM-Al-Anon	21 08:00 AM-Montessori NE
22 08:00 AM-Montessori NE 10:00 AM-Worship	23 12:00 PM-Annual Reports Due 02:30 PM-Manchester Summerstage	24 11:00 AM-COA Luncheon 02:30 PM-Friends of COA 02:30 PM-Manchester Summerstage 07:00 PM-Spiritual Studies	25 11:00 AM-Minister's Virtual Off Hr 03:30 PM-Manchester Summerstage 07:30 PM-Choir Rehearsal	26 04:00 PM-Bible Study 06:00 PM-Deacon Meeting 07:00 PM-Prayer & Meditation	27 12:00 PM-Al-Anon	28
29 10:00 AM-Worship	30 06:30 PM-Book Group	31 07:00 PM-Spiritual Studies				

Seaside Parish Knitters



May Birthdays

05/01	GUDONIS, LAUREN	56 MASCONOMO ST MANCHESTER	lbgonis@gmail.com
05/08	BACHMAN, FRAN	13A THE PLAINS MANCHESTER	
05/21	CURRY, SALLY	12 HIDDEN LEDGE RD MANCHESTER	smcurry@gmail.com
05/21	DEOREO, SARA	6 BROOK ST MANCHESTER	sara@deoreo.com
05/21	GRAYDEN, WILLIAM	266 W SEAVIEW DR MARATHON FL 33050	
05/25	POWERS, ABIGAIL	8 STORY ROAD MAGNOLIA MA 01930	
05/26	PRICE JR, ROBERT	38 EVERETT ST BEVERLY FARMS MA	cprice@westoakllc.com
05/31	LUMSDEN, DAVID	18 WOODCREST ROAD MANCHESTER	dklumsd@gmail.com

Easter Sunrise Community Service



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.

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



The First Parish Church Choir performed the Cantata, “Once Upon a Tree” by Pepper Choplin, on Palm Sunday. If you missed it you can watch it on our YouTube channel

<https://youtu.be/rPnXfK7CK8s>



Announcing a new Service & Outreach opportunity!

Each month the American Legion in Manchester collects items for *Operation Troop Support*, an organization that focuses efforts on helping our deployed troops as well as their loved ones back home. The Service & Outreach committee has agreed to help by collecting requested items. Each month we will let you know what the items are and have a collection bin outside the Chapel Office door and in the Church for donations. This collection is in addition to the mission for The Grace Center and The Open Door (which is ongoing, see next page for those items) to give another opportunity to participate in hands on service and outreach.

The troop items requested for May and June are highlighted below -

Soldier Donation Items of the Month		
JANUARY Cookies Candies Sweets	FEBRUARY Crossword • Puzzles • Books Playing Cards Electronic Games	MARCH DVD Videos Microwave Popcorn
APRIL For Hospitals: Twin Sheets Blankets Sweat-suits	MAY Sunscreen Foot Powder Deodorant	JUNE Powdered Drink Mixes (Gatorade, Ice Tea, Lemonade)
JULY Dry Fruits & Nuts Hard Candy Beef Jerky	AUGUST Flip Flops Shower Wash Razors & Toiletries	SEPTEMBER Instant Breakfast Cereal & Oatmeal Soup
OCTOBER Disposable Cameras Writing Material Calling Cards	NOVEMBER For Hospitals: Blankets • Pillows T-shirts & Underwear	DECEMBER Coffee & Tea Sugar • Creamer Crackers
Thank You for Your Support - Post 113 Auxiliary www.operationtroopsupport.org		

Service and Outreach

The Outreach and Service collection continues for The Open Door and The Grace Center

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
Drop at the Church before Worship or at the Chapel

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/>

**Director of Youth and
Children's Ministry Jeanne Westcott**

UKRAINE DONATIONS

Collecting the following for Ukrainian Refugees

- Clothing**
- Blankets**
- Personal hygiene kits: soap, toothbrush,
Toothpaste, combs**
- Medical supplies: Bandages, Band-Aids,
Antiseptic cream, Tylenol**
- Art Supplies: Paper, Colored Pencils, Paste,
Scissors**

Donations collected March, April, May, & June

This mission is a part of the Syrian Refugee Mission of New England at St. John's Episcopal Church, Beverly Farms. **Donations can be dropped off at St. John's Episcopal Church 705 Hale Street, Beverly Farms.** Donations will be sent to Ukraine with the help of NuDay Syria based in New Hampshire. Any questions contact Gail Campbell at gpcamp47@gmail.com or Pam Morss at pamelamorss@comcast.net or Terry Jennings at terrilljennings@yahoo.com

Thank you for your generosity for Ukraine

Syrian Refugee Mission of New England at St. John's Church, 705 Hale St. Beverly Farms, MA 01915

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

