



The Newsletter of the First Parish Church Congregational

The Church Bell

Church Council

September 2022

The Interim Search Team, comprised of Paul Gudonis (Diaconate), Paul Driscoll (Trustees) and Bethany Woods (Moderator), are in ongoing conversations with 2 candidates, either of whom would be a blessing to FPCC during our time of interim. The Search Team will keep us apprised of their ongoing efforts.

Church Council have been working on securing guest pastors who will spiritually nurture and inspire us through the “gap” time as we continue with the Interim search process. We have drawn from available UCC Pulpit Supply and other sources to take advantage of this opportunity to experience a variety of preaching styles and perspectives. We are excited about this opportunity and know that it will be a great help as we consider the gifts and talents we are seeking in our next Settled Pastor. We encourage you to make note of how the Holy Spirit touches your heart and mind through each Pastor’s messages.

We are also coordinating with our dear friend, Rev. Rona Tynsdal, who has graciously offered to be our “on-call” Minister during this gap time, available for crisis pastoral care and to officiate weddings, baptisms or funerals, should there be a need. We will continue to keep you posted as these details firm up.

Looking ahead, we are hoping to schedule a Soup and Conversation gathering one Sunday in September. It will be good to reconnect after the summer months!!!

The members of Church Council continue to encourage you to reach out to us with questions or concerns, and we ask for your prayers, support and encouragement as we journey together through this time of transition guided by the Holy Spirit and our steadfast call to awaken to the light and love of God and be joyful beacons to the world!

Worship September -

On **Sept. 4, 9 AM** Dr. Herman Weiss and Rebecca Shrimpton will lead a Music Worship Celebration. We return to a **10 AM** worship time on **Sept. 11** with Rev. Cindy Maybeck and the First Parish Choir. **Sept. 18** Rev. Dave VanArsdale will join us once again and we end the month with Rev. Brian Frederick-Gray on **Sept. 25**.

Stewardship

Laura is Showing Us the Way

She could be seen in the balcony on Sunday mornings, singing with the Altos who enjoyed her fine voice with its Perfect Pitch. Laura Richards Ells participated in church life, including a study group and the Seaside Knitters. She was a loyal friend with a caring presence and a devoted mother to her three sons, Dave, Nate, and John and their families. Her experience offering Home Health Care gave her special understanding of personal hard times, and she faced her own health decline with composure and gentle humor. Laura enjoyed travels with her partner Bob Germain and cared for him in his illness with compassionate devotion. As a sign of affection, she would paint lovely little scenes of nature which were received with mutual affection.

Laura passed away on January 31, 2022. Those of us who knew her graceful spirit are deeply grateful for her generous contribution to the ongoing life of First Parish Church, Congregational. Laura created the Laura R. Ells Charitable Remainder Trust so that she would decide to whom she would distribute her estate. First Parish is a recipient of \$126,515.

You can do the same. Each generation serves the Church in its own time and leaves a legacy for the future. Every generation should be moved to make planned gifts to the Church to assure its continued strength and ministry. Contact your attorney to make your plans today.

Thank You Get Together

Stewardship is inviting everyone to a thank you get together at Tuck's Point, Sunday, September 11.

We want to thank all who supported our Church with finances, donations, and time in 2022.

Join us for pizza and First Parish Fizzies, 5-7 PM.

We hope to see you there!

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 September -

Instant Breakfast
Cereal & Oatmeal
Soup

Drop at the Church before Worship or at the Chapel

Manchester Seniors - Drop in for Coffee and Conversation

Starting September 12th and continuing every Monday 10 AM-12:30 PM
(except holidays) at the First Parish Chapel Hall located behind Santander Bank

Hospitality provided by *The Friends of The Manchester Council on Aging*

Come sit down and talk!

Director of Youth and Children's Ministry [Jeanne Westcott](#)

September, October Events 2022, Christian Education and Outreach

September

The school supplies drive will launch Sunday, September 11 and run through October 9 with a *Blessing of the Supplies*. This benefits Beeman in Gloucester. See the list of needs on the next page.

Sunday, September 11: The first of two Sunday School open houses 11:30 AM - 1 PM. Including tours, snacks, a mission opportunity for younger kids (Fall cards for Seniors), and the opportunity to register for Sunday School.

Sunday, September 18: The second Sunday School open house, 3-5 PM with the above agenda.

Sunday, September 25: A registration event with games, snacks, registration, and an opportunity to add to the school supplies drive. This will take place after worship from 11:15 AM - 1 PM.

October

Sunday, October 2: Sunday School begins with a Family Sunday. The plan is that every Communion Sunday will be a Family Sunday wherein the children remain in the worship service.

Sunday, October 9: Sunday School classes begin.

Saturday, October 8: CE will host a *Hoops for School Supplies* event. More details on this and Youth Fellowship registration will be coming in the October newsletter. Look for 2 meetings a month with 1 a dinner included topic meeting with discussion, games and a group mission hands on project and the 2nd being a special event - movie, paint night, escape room, trampoline park visit, ropes day, etc.

School Supplies Drive Needs

September 11 - October 9

There will be a bin to collect assorted school supplies outside of the Chapel Hall

The following items are sought.

- Backpacks
- Number 2 Pencils
- Sharpeners
- Washable Markers
- Composition Books
- Colored Construction Paper
- Two Pocket Folders
- School Glue
- Ballpoint Pens
- Thin Dry Erase and Sharpies
- Colored Pencils
- Pencil Cases

If you are shopping and come across a sale of epic proportions, please consider one or more of the items above.

Blessings!

Jeanne Westcott, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

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.



Plant a Pizza



“Our Earthly Home” Art Show

Seaside Parish Knitters

Below are photos of knitted articles for the veterans, delivered this summer.
There were 14 helmet liners, 7 scarves, 2 neck gators, and 2 hats
all knitted by the Seaside Parish Knitters.



First Parish at Concert in the Park



September Birthdays

| | | | |
|-------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 09/01 | WARREN, ELIZABETH | 16 BROOK ST MANCHESTER | |
| 09/06 | WARNOCK, SAMUEL | 5 RUNNING RIDGE ROAD MANCHESTER | |
| 09/08 | HARDWICK, AUSTIN | 68 SCHOOL ST MANCHESTER | |
| 09/08 | HESLOP, MARK | 34 NORWOOD AVE MANCHESTER | mark@heslopfamily.com |
| 09/12 | PARKER, JEFFREY | 41 CENTRAL ST MANCHESTER | jpbradfordme@aol.com |
| 09/13 | ELDER, MARTHA | 94 OLD ESSEX ROAD MANCHESTER | lilacvally238@gmail.com |
| 09/13 | FEUERBACH, JOHN | 5 HAROLD ST MANCHESTER | jwfeuerbach@gmail.com |
| 09/14 | CHRZANOWSKI, CAROLINE | 21 HAROLD ST MANCHESTER | |
| 09/14 | KLEBART, ELIZABETH | 15 GROVE ST ESSEX MA | |
| 09/18 | STEINHOFF, LOUISA | 2711 NAVARRE DR CHEVY CHASE MD 20815 | |
| 09/24 | ALSOP, IAN | 675C HALE ST BEVERLY MA 01915 | |
| 09/26 | LATIONS, CHARLES | 16 WASHINGTON ST MANCHESTER | |
| 09/30 | BOYEA, MARK | 28 ROCKWOOD HEIGHTS MANCHESTE | mark.fpchurch@gmail.com |

To Our Readers:

We hope that you find your reading of *The Church Bell Newsletter* informative about happenings at First Parish.

We mailed a paper copy of the newsletter to everyone, this month, because it contains important information about our church. We're entering a transition phase to an Interim Minister which we expect will take a couple of months or so.

We usually email The Bell each month (except July/August), but we have found that not everyone reads their emails- we all get so many that the First Parish email sometimes gets lost in the clutter. A paper copy increases readership.

But mailing is expensive, so we will email most months and mail only 2-3 times a year.

In the coming months, please be sure to keep an eye out for emails from First Parish (for the newsletter and other church information) as we expect that there will be news to share frequently.

Your Church Council

Music Committee

JAZZ SUNDAY is back on October 2nd!

Once again we'll raise the roof in the Sanctuary, worshiping through jazz and gospel music.

Featuring the First Parish Choir and soloist Rebecca Shrimpton, with favorite guest musicians Brian Price (tenor sax), Carolyn Wilkins (piano), Tom Palance (trumpet), Russell Lane (drums), and more.

Come raise a joyful voice with us!



**Dr. Bonnie Anderson and Dr. Herman Weiss
August 21, Worship Celebration.**

Diaconate June was an extremely busy month for First Parish Church.

We began the month with in-person communion, a baptism and the Annual Meeting which was preceded by a delicious lunch organized by Sue Parker and supported by contributions by the rest of the Diaconate. Sue also provided a birthday cake celebrating Muriel Parker's birthday. The meeting was well attended and all necessary business was accomplished in quick order.

The following Sunday was a perfect day for our Annual Tuck's Point Service. It was highlighted by bagpiper, Charlotte Chane, and an impromptu solo by Herman Weiss during an especially lively choir anthem. Cookies and lemonade were served after the service and some stayed for picnic lunches. Again, we had a strong showing and filled the Chowder House.

The following Sunday was Father's Day and Vitality celebrated by providing fancy pastries for Fellowship after the service.

The month ended with a surprise Choir Appreciation Sunday where various members of the congregation gave tributes to the Choir and thanked them for the joy they bring to our services. The music was especially lively and very well received. The Choir then took a well-deserved break for the summer months and services were moved to the 9 AM starting time through September 4th.

The Deacons joined in their annual delicious pot-luck dinner hosted by Paul Gudonis. This dinner marked the beginning of the Deacon's summer break, but we continued to support the Sunday services, Fellowship, and outreach to those in need through our corresponding secretary and Care Team.

Vitality

Announcing The Prayer Wall!

Our new website has a PRAYER WALL, and it is open for business.

What's a Prayer Wall, you ask? It's a page on our website where you, we, anyone in the Community, can request prayers and pray for others.

Here's how it works: You click on the "Prayer Request" button on the bottom of our homepage, and you'll be taken to a form to fill in. Write your prayer request, using your name, initials, or anonymously.

Before each request appears on the Prayer Wall, Vitality members vet it, to protect our Prayer Wall from spam or inappropriate content. Within 24 hours, your prayer request will appear on our site.

A few of us have been posting on the Prayer Wall as a "test-drive" for the congregation for a few days now, and we're already finding it to be a spiritually deepening and enlivening addition to our days.

Here are some of the ways we've found the Prayer Wall to be meaningful:

1. It's touching, in the midst of a busy day, to receive an email indicating someone has prayed for your situation. A moving surprise.
2. We feel more connected to the joys and concerns of our congregation, and we don't have to wait until Sunday service to hear what's on each other's hearts.
3. It's a great use of online time (less Facebook, more prayer!)
4. Our prayer lives feel more active and alive on a daily basis.

Give the Prayer Wall a try - both praying for others and requesting prayers and tell us what you think. We hope it's a meaningful addition to our lives, our community, and yes, our website. Click here to go to the Prayer Wall.

We are still figuring out whether to and/or how to include the Prayer Wall in the Sunday Service. Stay tuned.

In other news...

We look forward to welcoming an interesting lineup of ministers this fall, and we look forward to welcoming us all back to 10am Worship and activities.

We anticipate being involved with community activities, be it the Halloween Wobblin' Goblin or the Bark Festival for dogs at Masconomo Park.

Calendar

September 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|--|--------|----------|
| | | | | 1 10:00 AM-VNA Health Clinic | 2 | 3 |
| 4 09:00 AM-Summer Worship | 5 08:00 AM-Labor Day | 6 | 7 06:15 PM-Outreach Service 07:30 PM-Choir Rehearsal | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 10:00 AM-Communion 10:00 AM-Worship Rev D VanArsdale 11:30 AM-Sunday School Open House | 12 10:00 AM-Drop In for Seniors 04:00 PM-Woman's Club Executive Co 06:30 PM-Trustees Meeting | 13 06:30 PM-Church Council | 14 10:00 AM-Tentative Yoga 07:30 PM-Choir Rehearsal | 15 10:00 AM-VNA Health Clinic 01:00 PM-Seaside Parish Knitters | 16 | 17 |
| 18 10:00 AM-Worship Rev Cindy Maybeck 03:00 PM-Sunday School Open House | 19 10:00 AM-Drop In for Seniors | 20 10:00 AM-Tentative Zumba 11:00 AM-Woman's Club Luncheon | 21 10:00 AM-Tentative Yoga 07:30 PM-Choir Rehearsal | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 10:00 AM-Worship R. Frederick Gray 11:15 AM-Sunday School Registratio | 26 10:00 AM-Drop In for Seniors 06:30 PM-Book Group | 27 10:00 AM-Tentative Zumba 11:00 AM-COA Luncheon 02:30 PM-Friends of the COA | 28 10:00 AM-Tentative Yoga 07:30 PM-Choir Rehearsal | 29 06:30 PM-Diaconate Meeting | 30 | |

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Book Group

Next meeting **September 26, 6:30 PM** at Meredith Tuft's home, 3 Woodholm Circle, Manchester. We will discuss ***"The Remarkably Bright Creatures"* by Shelby Van Pelt**. If you haven't seen the video *"The Octopus Teacher"* on TV this would compliment the book. Please call Meredith at 978-500-5439 to RSVP if you are attending.

The October gathering will be on **October 24th** (not the 31st which is Halloween), at Mary Lumsden's home, 18 Woodcrest Rd. Manchester. We will discuss ***"The Alice Network"* by Kate Quinn**. RSVP to Mary at 978-712-0047.