



First Parish Church
Congregational, Manchester-by-the-Sea • MA

March 2023

The Church Bell Newsletter



**Seaside
Parish
Knitters**

The Seaside Parish Knitters meet each 1st and 3rd Thursday (March 2 & 16) of the month at the Chapel, from 1-5 pm. We welcome all to stop by anytime during that time.

Over the years we have enjoyed our time knitting and crocheting items for baptismal events at the church, shawls and blankets for friends at home, scarves, neck gators, and helmet liners for our veterans in combat, and mittens and hats for Cape Ann children.

We are always looking for knitting needles and yarn that you might be considering “casting” aside, especially wool. Contact Penny Lapham at 978-526-7128.

Book Group

Book Group is a time for church members as well as non-church friends to come together and engage with one another, build relationships, and share in a discussion of books that are of interest to people of various backgrounds. We have fun visiting, conversing about the book and sharing stories and would love to have you join us! Book Group meets on the last Monday of the month and hosting is shared among members.

Monday, March 27, 6 PM, at Jill Auld’s home, 53H Trask St. Beverly. RSVP to Jill for planning purpose at dsajill1@yahoo.com. “Mad Honey” by Jodi Picoult will be discussed.

Olivia McAfee knows what it feels like to start over. Her picture-perfect life—living in Boston, married to a brilliant cardiothoracic surgeon, raising a beautiful son, Asher—was upended when her husband revealed a darker side. She never imagined she would end up back in her sleepy New Hampshire hometown, living in the house she grew up in, and taking over her father’s beekeeping business. Lily Campanello is familiar with do-overs, too. When she and her mom relocate to Adams, New Hampshire, for her final year of high school, they both hope it will be a fresh start. And for just a short while, these new beginnings are exactly what Olivia and Lily need. Their paths cross when Asher falls for the new girl in school, and Lily can’t help but fall for him, too. With Ash, she feels happy for the first time. Yet at times, she wonders if she can she trust him completely . . . Then one day, Olivia receives a phone call: Lily is dead, and Asher is being questioned by the police. Olivia is adamant that her son is innocent. But she would be lying if she didn’t acknowledge the flashes of his father’s temper in him, and as the case against him unfolds, she realizes he’s hidden more than he’s shared with her. Mad Honey is a riveting novel of suspense, an unforgettable love story, and a moving and powerful exploration of the secrets we keep and the risks we take in order to become ourselves. goodreads

Director of Youth and Children's Ministry Jeanne Westcott

Sunday School is really an experience of joy.

All children have a deep and profound relationship with the Divine. They are born with it. As teachers and guides, our job is to provide them with experiences that allow them to explore this depth of feeling and connect it to real life applications. For instance, when children are in conflict and one yells in frustration, "that's not fair", what they are experiencing is more akin to, "I am not satisfied because I have a feeling of justice, and this does not match." Situations like this allow guides to use examples and stories (depending on the child's developmental stage) to illustrate how justice, as a Biblical principle, is less about what is fair, and more about what is right.

The joy we feel in the Sunday School environment is found in not getting what we want, but in a greater understanding of what makes God smile.

Join us as a teacher or guide, tell your neighbors and friends about the wonders of sharing God's word with children, or just pray for the ever-expanding miraculous adventure that is feeling the Holy Spirit in the everyday!

Youth Fellowship created some very lovely Valentines for Council On Aging.

We layered torn paper in bold colors over heavy-weight card stock with glue stick. Black and silver accents were added, and a message finished the project. The experience, intended as an "over-dinner" activity, became so meditative and inviting, it lasted two plus hours!

Youth Fellowship will meet again for dinner and doings on Sunday, March 12, 2023, at 6:00 -7:30 pm. We will meet in the Chapel Hall. Our next project will be the planning for a Kids Fair to launch in Spring. Posters to advertise this event will be created at our next meeting. Games, and planning discussions are also planned. As we had no takers for our proposed outing to the Ice Castles for February, I would like to extend the invitation for interested youth to attend a screening of Jesus Revolution, now playing in area cinemas!

Summer Programming is underway. If you know of a family that could benefit from a dinner date, our Bible Experiences week, held in July this year, offers kids ages 4-12 the chance to eat, play, make, act, write and move to the power and promise of The Armor Of God. Capes optional! Keep your eyes peeled for more info!

A special thank you to Cheryl L. for a large donation of retro toys and dolls to enhance not only our children's programming but to support two other area programs for children and families!

Wanted: two adults or older teens, who have had training and experience in infant and toddler care, to man our Nursey during the Sunday Service. This is a paid position to begin ASAP. If you are interested or know of someone who is, please contact Jeanne Westcott at jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com

If you are interested in a Labyrinth Meditation, adapted from resources by Illustrated Ministries, to help support your Lenten practice, please contact Jeanne.

March Birthdays

03/01	KNOX, PAUL	12B PICKETT STREET BEVERLY MA 01915	paulknox1@comcast.net
03/06	CICALA, PHILIP	114 PINE ST MANCHESTER	
03/07	SMITH, RICHARD	13 WASHINGTON STREET MANCHESTER	richard.w.smith@gmail.com
03/11	IROSE, ALDEN	10 LOADING PLACE RD MANCHESTER	
03/12	GRAYDEN, LOIS	266 W SEAVIEW DR MARATHON FL 33050	lgrayden@comcast.net
03/15	HARRIS, ELEANOR	P.O. BOX 383 MANCHESTER	ekeharris@gmail.com
03/18	BOTHWELL, TUCKER	121 PLEASANT ST MANCHESTER	
03/19	MICHAEL, MARGARET	12 FULLER ST MAGNOLIA MA 01930	mills_margaret@yahoo.com
03/21	DUNN, DONALD	6 TREETOP LANE MAGNOLIA MA 01930	dondunn@verizon.net
03/29	CROFT, CARSON	44 PINE ST MANCHESTER	
03/29	CROFT, JARRETT	44 PINE ST MANCHESTER	

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/watch?v=PLUvfURhmsH8lfeE13FLaRtWcw-pOTC9T2h)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLUvfURhmsH8lfeE13FLaRtWcw-pOTC9T2h>

Service and Outreach

**The Outreach and Service collections continue for
The Open Door, The Grace Center and Operation Troop Support**

The Open Door Needs

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

The Grace Center Needs

Gift Cards from local grocery markets
(Shaw's, Stop & Shop, Market Basket, etc.)
so they can purchase butter, cream and other perishables

Troop Needs for March

DVDs and Microwave Popcorn

Drop at the Church before Worship or at the Chapel

Misc.

Contribute to the work of First Parish Church by going to <http://www.PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester> and clicking the “send” button.

Readers and Greeters are always needed. To volunteer speak to the Deacons, or you can also sign up [online](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4caba822a1f49-diaconate). <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4caba822a1f49-diaconate>

First Parish is looking for help with streaming. Full training is provided! Not sure? Sign up to be an assistant to the volunteer who is streaming. We need your help to continue to provide online access to Worship services. Sign up [here](#) or contact Richard Smith at richard.w.smith@gmail.com.

Our Online Prayer Wall Give it a try! Request prayers and pray for others through the Prayer Wall on our website. Feel more connected to the Joys and Concerns of our congregation, and hear what's on each other's hearts. You will be touched to receive notifications every time someone prays for you.

<https://www.firstparishchurch.org/prayer-wall/>

If you would like to donate **flowers for the altar**, please contact Penny Lapham 978-526-7128. It is a great way to honor an event or remember a family member.

**Manchester Seniors - Drop in for
Coffee and Conversation**

Every Monday (except holidays) 10 AM-12 PM
at the First Parish Chapel Hall

Hospitality provided by *The Friends of The Manchester Council on Aging*
Come sit down and talk!

Visiting Nurses Health Clinic

Held the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month, 10 - 11:45 AM at First Parish Chapel Hall.
Services offered include: health assessments, blood pressure screenings, B12 administration, pulse, heart and lung monitoring, blood sugar screenings for diabetics, medication and diet consults. Drop in. Free.

Stephen Ministry

The Stephen Ministry at First Parish Approaches Informal Launch

Organization of the Stephen Ministry at First Parish continues to grow and has begun to informally assist people as they come to our attention. By the end of March two of us will have completed the 25 hour online training courses with the headquarters in St. Louis, and a broader group is meeting regularly. We are also in touch with other Stephen Ministries at other churches in the area to gain advice, counsel, and support in our group's development.

As we hope the congregation is aware, the Stephen Ministry—named for Stephen, who in Acts 6 was appointed to assist members of the community suffering acute hardships—is a 50-year-old interdenominational Christian tradition. The service trains lay members of the congregation in psychology and theology to be a Christian presence with any in the community suffering acute challenges. Typical examples would include bereavement, divorce, terminal illness, substance abuse, or mental illness. Fully details of the program are here: [Stephen Ministries](#)

A Stephen Minister's objective is not to “solve” the challenge but rather to ensure that none feel alone in their struggles. (Jesus, after all, did not come to “fix” all of our challenges, but rather to be *with* us in our struggles.) At the same time, the Stephen Ministry in a congregation develops a network of specialized services suitable to assist individuals with specific problems. For example, someone struggling with alcoholism would be introduced to a local AA group, while the Stephen Minister would continue to meet with that individual as a friend and witness.

The team is currently working closely with the Outreach & Service Committee and the Care Team on this project. Outreach and Service has made a generous financial contribution to cover startup costs. For the near term, as the leadership is trained and the program develops, our intention is to augment the work of the Care Team, support Rev. Kurt, and develop our network of local services to which we can refer people for specialized support.

Currently the group meets virtually at 5 pm the first and third Tuesdays of each month to develop the program. In person training and social events will follow! There are many ways to participate depending upon your gifts and availability, so if you think you might be interested, email scarh10428@aol.com to receive and email Zoom invitation. If you would like to discuss the program in greater detail, call Linda Crosby at 978-314-1526 or Steve Carhart at 978-407-8454.

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



Become a Member of First Parish!

If you participate in the life of this church, we'd love you to join us as members of our spiritual community!
Live-streamers and Zoomers are most welcome.

Want to know more about what membership at FPCC entails?

On Sunday, March 19, Vitality is hosting a "New Members' Q & A." This is a brief meeting immediately following the service in the sanctuary. Come, have a cup of coffee with us and learn more.

On Sunday, April 2, we will welcome New Members -- in-person AND online -- with a brief ritual during the Worship Service. And celebrate afterwards with cake, of course..

