



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

**April 2023**

*The Church Bell Newsletter*



“Woman at the Well” Participants - Bethany Woods, Betsy Nickless, Rebecca Shrimpton, Allison Moir-Smith, and Ava Argento



**Book Group**

## Notes from the Moderator and Church Council

As previously reported, our recently called Interim Pastor, Rev. Kurt Herber, encountered some challenging medical setbacks not long after joining us on January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year which, much to his and our disappointment, required that he be released from his contract with us to focus on restoring his health. We are grateful that our paths crossed, even for a short while, and we pray that he will return to his previous vim and vigor in the weeks and months ahead.

Our dear friends, Rev. Judy Brain and Rev. Dave Van Arsdale, and a new friend, Rev. Ellie Richardson, graciously stepped up to see us through Lent and Easter, including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Further, we will be represented by Deacon Liz Loomis at the ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service. It is truly extraordinary to watch the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit at work in FPCC. Think about it – we don't have a pastor, yet we will share in a glorious and meaningful Easter season as fully as we have always done.

Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023, will also be a New Member Sunday! (Think about *that* sentence. We haven't had a pastor in nearly 7 months – and we are having a New Member Sunday?!?! The spirit of welcome and faithfulness at FPCC is so strong and resilient!!)

The Settled Pastor Search Committee has been working very hard and very well together. If all goes as planned, we hope to have our updated Church Profile to our SNEUCC Area Conference Minister, Rev. Alex Shea Will, for his review by mid-April. Word of our resilience and positivity has spread and we are prayerfully optimistic that God will soon lead us to our new Settled Pastor.

In the meantime, we will continue to be blessed on Sundays with guest pastors and speakers, along with our uplifting and joyful choir, under Herman's direction, our weekly dose of warm and creative messages from Jeanne and the care and attention of our Deacons.

And we are looking forward to a myriad of upcoming church-led events and opportunities to interact and connect with our wider community, many of which you will read about in this edition of the Bell.

This has been – and continues to be – a time of testing for FPCC. As Galatians 6:9 encourages "...let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." Together we are strong. We'll get through this.

Continued

As always, the members of Church Council 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 ongoing time of transition guided by the Holy Spirit and our call to awaken to the light and love of God and be joyful beacons to the world!

## April Birthdays

04/01	GUDONIS, PAUL	56 MASCONOMO ST MANCHESTER	pgudonis@gmail.com
04/01	PETERSON, SAM	111 CHEBACCO RD S HAMILTON MA 01982	
04/01	ZELLER, PAT	15 TAPPAN ST MANCHESTER	pattrimmerZeller@gmail.com
04/03	SCARAFONI, PAM	5 ALLEN AVE MANCHESTER	pscarafoni@comcast.net
04/05	FRANKLIN, CYNTHIA	17 NORWOOD AVE MANCHESTER	cpfranklin@comcast.net
04/05	O'BRIEN, MARY-LOU	6 HIGHLAND AVE MANCHESTER	
04/11	SMITH, LLEWELLYN	8 MASCONOMO ST MANCHESTER	smithlelly07@gmail.com
04/15	SHRIMPTON, BEN	1 DOUGLAS DRIVE ROCKPORT MA 01966	
04/16	GREENLEAF, ANN	14 OCEAN ST MANCHESTER	dickgreenleaf1@gmail.com
04/16	ROUND, MARIANNE	3 GREENBRIER ROAD MANCHESTER	marianne.round@nemooves.com
04/27	WESTCOTT, JEANNE	15 IVES ST. APT. 9 BEVERLY MA 01915	jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com
04/28	KLEBART, NANCY	15 GROVE ST ESSEX, MA	office.fpchurch@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

**The Seaside Parish Knitters meet each 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday (April 6 & 20) 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.

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

Summer Program announcements:

### **Breakfast Buddies: Heroic Women of Faith**

Designed for a team of an adult and toddler, Breakfast Buddies meets from 8-9:30 each day for one week, **July 17 -21**. This year we will meet 5 heroic and iconic women from the Bible who played a vital role in the Christian story. Each session features a themed breakfast, three or more activities, an art experience, and a special surprise! The program is free of charge and preregistration is required. For more information contact Jeanne Westcott, Dir. of Youth and Childrens Ministries, First Parish  
Jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com

The First Parish Third **Annual Art Show, "Simplicity, Serenity and Sanctuary"**, will be open for visitors **July 23-29** with art being accepted in five age categories, beginning July,15. Submissions can be of any medium and any size. Artists aged 3-199 are encouraged to submit. Art will be judged, and prizes awarded in First and Second place in each category! Get out your crayons and explore the joy creating art can provide!

**Our Bible Experiences week**, (otherwise known as VBS) will run **August 14-18** from 4-7 pm. Dinner will be served to participants ages 6-12, when they register for "Safe and Secure: Dressed In Armor". Each session will offer story, music, movement, art, mindfulness exercises, games and creative writing. Youth ages 14-16 may apply to attend as junior counselors and adult volunteers are needed. Preregistration is required by July 30 to reserve your spot.

**April 22, Saturday afternoon between 1-3:30**, area children under the age of 10 are invited to participate in **Fun and Games, a children's fair!** Games and prizes, art, and food, and even a ride or two will be offered to our community families in celebration of Manchester's sensational summertime! No money is needed but a food donation for Open Door is requested for admission to the fair, located at 1 Chapel Ln. Join us for a few hours of pure fun!

**Youth are invited to an outing to the Museum of Science, Boston on April 2** after church. If you are interested in an afternoon of museum exploration confirm your intent to attend by contacting Jeanne Westcott ASAP!

The second round of Tied Fleece Blankets is now complete with ten blankets being donated to Wellspring Family Center! Well done to the four youths who worked so expertly for the comfort of others!

## **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 April**

For hospitals - Sheets, Blankets and Sweat Suits

Drop at the Church before Worship or at the Chapel

**The Spring Drive of The Global Refugee Mission of New England  
(Runs until June 24)**

### **Assorted Sewing Fabrics & Yarn**

#### **Sewing-Knitting Notions:**

Needles	Thread	Embroidery thread	Measuring tape
Scissors	Thimble	Straight and Safety pins	
Marking pencils		Seam ripper	Etc.

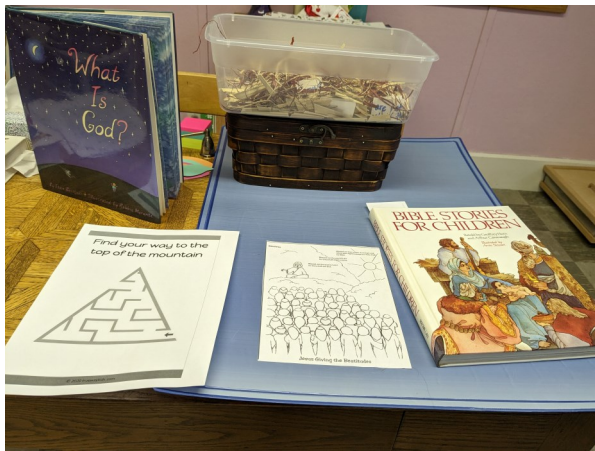
More...

**Art and Educational Supplies:**

Paper - Lined and Colored      Scissors      Glue  
Pencils, Erasers, Pens      Crayons and Markers  
Hole punchers and Staplers      Post-its  
Envelopes      Creative art packets  
Etc.

**More:**

New-Gently used Stuffed Animals and Toys New and Used  
Tents New and Used  
Sleeping Bags New and Used  
Shoes New  
Bedding and Blankets

**Do you remember Sunday school?**

Well we are still here, still teaching bible stories, still providing fun activities, still in our sunny Chapel building for your children and grandchildren!

#sundayschool #sundayschoolcrafts  
#sundayschoolfun

#sundayschoollessons #sundaymorning  
#sundaymornings #childrensbible  
#biblestories #sundayschoolfriends  
#sundayschoolkids #firstparish  
#firstparishchurch #manchester  
#manchesterbythesea

**First Parish Church is seeking two adults (18 years or older) to staff our Nursery room during our worship services on Sunday mornings.**

Applicants must have infant/toddler experience, be willing to secure appropriate CPR certification, and agree to a Criminal Offender Record Information check. The hours are 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM each Sunday and pay is commensurate with experience. For more information, please contact Jeanne Westcott, Director of Youth and Childrens Ministries, First Parish Church, MBTS, at [jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com).



## 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](mailto: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-12:30 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 - Noon 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. Open to all.

## Stephen Ministry

### The Stephen Ministry at First Parish Launches April 17

We are pleased to announce that the Stephen Ministry at First Parish will have its organizational meeting on Monday, April 17, at the church. Two of us will have completed the 25-hour online leadership training courses with the headquarters in St. Louis, and a broader group has been 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 might be introduced to a local AA group, while the Stephen Minister would continue to meet with that individual as a friend and witness. One of the most important roles of the Stephen Ministry is to be a "one stop shop" which can refer members of the community to agencies which can provide needed practical support, as well as providing Christian companionship.

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 program develops, our intention is to augment the work of the Care Team, and develop our network of local services to which we can refer people for specialized support.

There are many ways to participate depending upon your gifts and availability, so if you think you might be interested, email [scarh10428@aol.com](mailto: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.



## 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, April 24, 6:30 PM** at Wendy Hiller Clark's home, 18A Kennedy Road Magnolia. RSVP to Wendy for planning purposes at 978-500-9039. **"Black Cake" by Charmaine Wilkerson** will be discussed.

**Monday, May 26, 6:30 PM** at Mary Ellen Cook's home, 23 Harold St. Manchester. RSVP to Mary Ellen, for planning purposes, at 978-500-0018. **"Lesson in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus** will be discussed.

## Diaconate

The Deacons are grateful for Reverend Herber's services and pray for his good health and the next steps in his future plans. We very much appreciate the extra efforts by our Moderator, Bethany Woods, and Office Manager, Nancy Klebart. It's a joy and honor for this Congregation to work so well together and adapt to changing needs. The FPCC family is committed to meeting the worship and support needs to all. Please contact a Deacon for any needs. We are here for you.

The latest correspondence from Chepkirwok is on the next page. Please pray for Chepkirwok and his family. Thanks to you, all sponsorship slots are full for 2023; you are very welcome to sign up for 2024. Please use the SignUpGenius (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4caba822a1f49-compassion#/>) or contact Sue Parker (987-704-9798).

Deacon corresponding secretaries, Ann Heslop and Jan Marshall, continue to send cards. Care Team leader, Janet Groth, continues to respond to those in need with the help of volunteers. If you would like to help make meals, provide transportation, etc... please contact her at [janbythesea244@gmail.com](mailto:janbythesea244@gmail.com)

Please continue to read the Friday FPCC flock emails that announce what's happening. Wonderful Lenten and Easter worship services will be announced.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Parker

# My Holiday/ School Break

Date 31/01/2023



Dear Friends

1. There are Three school holidays/ breaks in a year.
2. They are in the months of: April, August and December

3. My holiday/school break normally lasts for Three days/weeks.

4. During my holiday/school break I often Look after our siblings  
Somehine, Look after our goats

5. I love to Project activities visit my friends  
during my school break.

6. My favorite activity during my school breaks is Play football with friends

7. My favorite person to spend time with during my school break is My Parents

8. One thing I would like to do during school  
break in the future is visit the old  
People

9. One person I would like to visit during school  
break in the future is My grandmother

10. In future I would like to visit Mombasa  
beach during school break.

Translation



1. A message to my sponsor

Dear Friends

Receive warm greetings from your dear friend  
ChapKwok. He is fine and he really hope you fine  
too dear friends Friends? ChapKwok says he  
really love the story of Joseph in the bible and  
that of Lazarus that stories really teach him alot  
to be humble always and pray always God is always  
hear people prayers. bye good friend my God bless  
you alot

Person writing if not child

Assisted by: Remmi Carla (Reliever)



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



**Looking ahead to Holy Week –**



**Palm Sunday, April 2, 10 AM**

Rev. Ellie Richardson

**Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7 PM**

Rev. Judy Brain

**Good Friday, April 7, 12 Noon**

Rev. Judy Brain

**Easter Sunrise at Singing Beach**

April 9, 6:10 AM, Rev. Luther Zeigler, Rev.

Ryan Ackerman and Deacon, Liz Loomis

**Easter Sunday, April 9, 10 AM, Rev. Dave**

VanArsdale. Dr. Herman Weiss leads a

Celebration Choir with trumpets and  
timpani.

**Order an Easter Lily** to help decorate our Church for Easter morning!

Order [online](#) or look for the order form in the bulletin.