



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

# *The Church Bell Newsletter*

**May 2023**



Sunday School Easter Flowers



Celebrating Miss Jeanne's birthday with a thoughtful gift



April Book Group



## Notes from the Moderator and Church Council

What a glorious and meaningful Holy Week at FPCC!! Thank you again to all who made it possible, from guest pastors, to Deacons, to Herman and the choir, to Paul Driscoll for livestreaming every service and to Nancy for keeping it all running smoothly!!!!

The Settled Pastor Search Committee had a very productive meeting with our SNEUCC Area Conference Minister, Rev. Alex Shea Will, and is now attending to some final details before submitting our Church Profile for posting. It is hoped that interviews will begin the first week of June. Please keep the Search Committee in your prayers!!!

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. Be sure to check them out!!

And congratulations to graduates – within our FPCC family and everywhere!!!! Such an exciting and joyful time in a young life – God be with them all!!!

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!



Join us for online Bible Study via Zoom each Thursday afternoon at 4:00 PM.  
This is a lively discussion led by Elsa Marshall.  
You can join us with your computer, laptop, tablet, phone or you dial in with your landline.  
To give us a try - just look for the e-mail with the zoom link on Thursday mornings or contact the Church Office for the phone number to dial in!

## May Birthdays

05/01	GUDONIS, LAUREN	56 MASCONOMO ST MANCHESTER	lbgonis@gmail.com
05/08	BACHMAN, FRAN	13A THE PLAINS MANCHESTER	
05/12	WARNOCK, LYNANNE	5 RUNNING RIDGE ROAD MANCHESTER	lswarnock@aol.com
05/13	TOSI, SANTANA	3 BUTLER AVE MANCHESTER	
05/21	CURRY, SALLY	7 RIVERWOOD DR APT P101 EXETER NH 03833	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	LEARAGER, STACEY	2 MACHAIN WAY MANCHESTER	schuhler@comcast.net
05/26	PRICE JR, ROBERT	38 EVERETT ST BEVERLY FARMS MA 01915	cprice@westoakllc.com
05/31	LUMSDEN, DAVID	18 WOODCREST ROAD MANCHESTER	dklumsd@gmail.com

## Seaside Parish Knitters

**The Seaside Parish Knitters meet each 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday (May 4 & 18) 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.

**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>

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

### **Kids' Fun Fair!**

May 13, Saturday afternoon between 1-3:30, children, under the age of 10 are invited to participate in a Kids' Fun 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 summer-time! No money is needed but a food donation for The Open Door is requested for admission to the fair, located at 1 Chapel Ln. Join us for a few hours of pure fun!

**Tell your neighbors and friends, bring your kids and grandkids!**

### **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](mailto: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.

Questions email [jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com)



# KIDS' FUN FAIR

**SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1 - 3:30 PM**

**Admission = Donation for The Open Door**

**Children, under the age of 10 are invited for 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!**

**Join us for a few hours of pure fun!**

**Tell your neighbors and friends, bring your kids and grandkids!**

**1 CHAPEL LANE**

**CONTACT [JEANNE.FPCHURCH@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JEANNE.FPCHURCH@GMAIL.COM) WITH QUESTIONS**

# 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



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 is Underway: next meeting May 22**

We are pleased to announce that Stephen Ministry held its first general, in person meeting on Monday April 17. Our near term goals are threefold: 1. To support and augment the ongoing work of the Care Team in any way we can; 2. Develop an informal Stephen Ministry of confidential one on one support within the Congregation (as distinguished from the more “public” work of the Care Team) and 3. Develop our Community Resource Network of local agencies which can provide specialized tangible support to care receivers such as temporary housing, medical assistance, or similar services. Our longer term (2-4 year) goal is to train interested members of the Congregation to be Stephen Ministers to the broader community outside the church. In this endeavor we are in close touch with the Stephen Ministry programs in other area churches and expect to benefit from their experience, advice, and support.

Our next general meeting will be on Monday, May 22, at 7 pm in the Conference Room. We intend to be in HYBRID mode, but we hope many folks will come in person and enjoy the fellowship and refreshments. Please be assured that there is NO OBLIGATION to do anything in particular if you come to the meeting. We are in the very early stages of a multi-year program, so it is perfectly fine to just come and find out what this is all about. If you feel called to undertake one of the various service opportunities, just participate at the time that is right for you.

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: [Ministries](#) 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.

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. If you think you might be interested, email [scarh10428@aol.com](mailto:scarh10428@aol.com) to receive an 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, May 29, 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. *Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results. But like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show Supper at Six. Elizabeth's unusual approach to cooking ("combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride") proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn't just teaching women to cook. She's daring them to change the status quo. Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant, and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, Lessons in Chemistry is as original and vibrant as its protagonist.* goodreads

**Monday, June 26, 6:30 PM** at Liz Loomis' home, 34 Bennett St. Manchester. RSVP to Liz for planning purposes at loomisliz@hotmail.com "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks will be discussed. *A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history. Kentucky, 1850. An enslaved groom named Jarret and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that will carry the horse to record-setting victories across the South. When the nation erupts in civil war, an itinerant young artist who has made his name on paintings of the racehorse takes up arms for the Union. On a perilous night, he reunites with the stallion and his groom, very far from the glamor of any racetrack. New York City, 1954, Martha Jackson, a gallery owner celebrated for taking risks on edgy contemporary painters, becomes obsessed with a nineteenth-century equestrian oil painting of mysterious provenance. Washington, DC, 2019. Jess, a Smithsonian scientist from Australia, and Theo, a Nigerian-American art historian, find themselves unexpectedly connected through their shared interest in the horse. One studying the stallion's bones for clues to his power and endurance, the other uncovering the lost history of the unsung Black horsemen who were critical to his racing success. Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, Horse is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism.* goodreads

## Diaconate

As we continue to move through our transition period, we are pleased to report that through the efforts of Bethany, Herman, Nancy, the Diaconate, and a host of others we continue to manage the weekly services without a hitch. It makes it very easy for the Deacons as many people are always willing to step up and support whatever is needed.

Rev. David Van Arsdale, Rev Judy Brain, The FPCC (Women of the Well), and our own Rev. Lelly Smith have recently provided us with the grace, spirit, and humor we all need to stay engaged with God and each other during this difficult time. We look forward to seeing many of them again as well as some new faces in the upcoming weeks. We also were able to enjoy Ann Heslop's famous chocolate chip cookies during the month of March!

As Sue reported last month, all slots to support Chepkirwok are gratefully filled for 2023. However, If you would like to support 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 to members of the congregation that need their spirits lifted. 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).

We continue to pray for Reverend Herber's good health and all others that are facing challenges. As always, please contact a Deacon for any needs or suggestions. We are here for you.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Heslop



Thanks to everyone who bought  
Lilies to decorate the Sanctuary  
for Easter!

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



## **Easter Sunrise**

Photo credit  
Wendy Dixon  
Facebook

