



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

June 2023

The Church Bell Newsletter



Celebrating Mother's Day

Notes from the Moderator and Church Council

“And what is so rare as a day in June?

Then, if ever, come perfect days; ...

Now the heart is so full that a drop overfills it,

We are happy now because God so wills it;

No matter how barren the past may have been,

'T is enough for us now that the leaves are green...”

excerpted from the Vision of Sir Launfal by James Russell Lowell

We head into these Summer months with energy and optimism as the Holy Spirit continues to work in and through First Parish Church!

Our Local Church Profile was posted to the UCC Ministry Opportunity website at the beginning of May and can also be found on the FPCC website. The Search Committee worked hard and thoughtfully to present a warm and authentic picture of who we are and what we are seeking in our next Pastor. We encourage you to read through it – and to tell all of your friends about it, too! The Committee has begun to receive and review candidate Profiles and expects to begin interviewing early in June. Please continue to pray for the Committee and for the one whom God is calling to join and walk alongside us as we seek to live out our purpose to awaken to the light and love of God and be joyful beacons to the world!

FPCC will once again sponsor the Music in Masconomo Park Summer Concert Series as a collaboration of the Christian Education, Vitality, Music and Outreach & Service committees.

Plans are coming together for a “Church Fair Lite” to be held in conjunction with this year’s annual Festival-by-the-Sea event. This Fair will have a different format and vision than the Christmas Fairs of the past and will include outside vendors and other local group participation. An organizational meeting will be scheduled for the first or second Saturday of June to gear up for what we know will be a joyful and meaningful community event!! Please see Nancy Klebart or Bethany Woods if you have questions – and stay tuned!!!

Our intrepid Christian Education Director, Jeanne Westcott, has a number of creative events scheduled over the Summer months. Volunteers are always welcome at these events – please see Jeanne if you are able to help out.

Our annual Sunday Worship at Tuck's Point is scheduled for June 25th (Rev. Judy Brain will be our guest preacher) and will mark the Choir's last Sunday until after Labor Day.

Sunday Worship will be at 9:00 am beginning Sunday, July 2nd and will continue to offer a gentle pause in the swirl of life's activities – an opportunity to be with God and each other and to give thanks for the blessed lives we have been given.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Summer!

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!



Tuck's Point Sunday, June 25th

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

May 13 was a sunny , breezy day in Manchester and fun was had by all those who attended the Kids Fun Fair. One of our volunteers, Simone, took the children on Dave The Donkey rides and the children won prizes at Ring It! Pick-A-Duck and Ship Shape as well as Clown Target, Tip the Cans and Spin Art!

Our volunteers served ice cream and freeze pops and gave out popcorn!
There was a photo booth for silly pictures and two bags of non-perishables for Open Door were collected.

Make sure you bring the littles next year!

Our last Youth Fellowship meeting for the season will take place June 11. There will be dinner, games, a special art opportunity and music. All teens 12 and over are invited but must RSVP by June 8th by contacting Jeanne Westcott at Jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com

Our last Sunday School class will be June 11. Children will join Miss Jeanne and Miss Andrea after the Message for All at the beginning of the service and walk over to the Chapel building for our last class of the 2022/23 season. Sunday School will resume September 17, 2023!

Summer programing includes a great opportunity for moms and tots called Breakfast Buddies. This year we will focus on Heroic Women of the Bible with a new character introduced each morning at 8:30 am for 5 consecutive days. Food, activities, and story are all part of the 1 ½ hour program. If you are interested in learning more about Breakfast Buddies, our Third annual Intergenerational Art Show or our Bible Experiences program for kids ages 4-12, please contact Jeanne at Jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com



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 June, July, August

Powdered drink mixes- Gatorade, iced tea, lemonade
Dry fruits & nuts
Hard candy
Beef Jerky
Flip Flops, Shower wash
Razors and toiletries

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.

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.

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 from your garden**, 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

Stephen Ministry Working Luncheon Sunday June 4

The Stephen Ministry team has been working hard to develop a robust and practical plan to provide care to members of the community facing challenging life circumstances both within the Congregation and, in the longer term, the broader community. These will be presented and discussed at a luncheon for interested members of the Congregation following the church service on June 4. Following the guidance and experience of the Stephen Ministry movement, we intend to implement the following elements:

- One on one, longer term confidential Christian companionship as requested for members of the Congregation dealing with difficult life situations. This will be guided by the Stephen Ministry tradition that the role of the Stephen Minister is to be *with* people in their struggles rather than to attempt to solve the care receiver's challenges.
- Shorter term, tangible supportive activities such as meals delivered to the homebound, hospital visits, or the like building on the excellent ongoing work of the Care Team, hopefully with a deeper pool of volunteers.
- Identification of individuals and offices within the Congregation who will look out for situations in which a Stephen Minister might be helpful.
- Engagement of a Community Resource Network, a set of ongoing and carefully maintained relationships with area organizations well equipped to provide specific types of support to Stephen Ministry care receivers. Examples of this might include the Manchester Council on Aging, which provides a variety of services to meet special needs of seniors; Lifebridge, providing emergency housing support and many related services; Beverly Bootstraps, offering a broad range of social programs; and area 12 Step programs supporting recovery from addictive behaviors.
- Support for our new minister. In anticipation of the arrival of our new minister, we are aware that whoever she or he might be, that person will need some time to get to know us and may be concerned about how best to provide pastoral care. Part of the Stephen Ministry program is that the minister is an integral part of that process. Our goal is to ensure that our new minister will be able to engage with us in pastoral care as easily and effectively as possible.

- Longer term, equip Stephen Ministers to serve in the broad community outside our Congregation. The full Stephen Minister training prepares us to work with people we don't know and includes elements such as how to deal with instances of abuse or neglect; when to engage mental health professionals; understanding when to engage theological understandings and when not to; and many other challenging situations. We are hopeful that our initial in depth training can be done in conjunction with a nearby well-established Stephen Ministry Program.

Please come to the luncheon to learn more about all these program elements, whether or not you are currently motivated to volunteer. There will be many different opportunities over time to participate, for folks with many different types of commitment or talents. 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.

June, July, August Birthdays

06/02	TOSI, COLTON	3 BUTLER AVE MANCHESTER	coltontos@gmail.com
06/07	PARKER, MURIEL	6 UNION ST, #1 MANCHESTER	rsph35@gmail.com
06/10	DRISCOLL, PAUL	111 CHEBACCO RD S HAMILTON 01982	dsravenew@gmail.com
06/20	BARTLETT, SYDNEY	60 BEACH ST MANCHESTER	
06/21	KIRBY, LAWRENCE	#1110 50 ENDICOTT ST DANVERS 01923	lfkirby@gmail.com
06/29	HALGREN, NANCY	35 CENTRAL ST MANCHESTER	nanwh@hotmail.com
06/30	KNOX, JEANNE	12B PICKETT ST BEVERLY MA 01915	jeanneknox1@comcast.net
07/01	GARVEY, NANCY	17 BRIDGE ST MANCHESTER	nancy_garvey@hotmail.com
07/12	PARKER, SUE	41 CENTRAL ST MANCHESTER	sueparker33@aol.com
07/21	WARNOCK, ELLA	5 RUNNING RIDGE RD MANCHESTER	
07/23	DAVIES, EDEN	23 BLYNMAN CIRCLE MANCHESTER	egudonis@gmail.com
07/30	GREENLEAF, DICK	14 OCEAN ST MANCHESTER	dickgreenleaf1@gmail.com
07/31	MILNE, DORIS	27-6 NORWOOD AVE MANCHESTER	
08/03	WILSON, GLENN	27 NORWOOD #1 MANCHESTER	glenn@bluewater-benefits.com
08/06	BARTLETT, JACKSON	60 BEACH ST MANCHESTER	
08/07	WEISS, HERMAN	31 FRANKLIN ST CHELSEA MA 02150	hweiss05@comcast.net
08/11	COOK, JERRIS	23 HAROLD ST MANCHESTER	jerris01@comcast.net
08/12	PETERSON, NANCY	111 CHEBACCO RD S. HAMILTON 01982	npeterson@jbarrettrealty.com
08/25	SHRIMPTON, REBECCA	1 DOUGLAS DR ROCKPORT 01966	rhshrimpton@gmail.com

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, 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

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](http://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>

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.

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



First Parish Church will be holding a *Fair by the Sea* this summer during Festival by the Sea.

We will have a rummage sale, a treat table featuring homemade goods and locally grown vegetables, handmade crafts, a Christmas table and our famous jewelry table will be BACK.

Look for more news this summer and be sure to save the date,
Saturday, August 5, 10 AM – 2 PM

Would you like to help? Look for an email about an early June meeting -

