



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

September 2023

Summer 2023 at First Parish

The Church Bell Newsletter



Notes from the Moderator and Church Council

Praise God!!!! By now you will have received a letter in the mail and an email in your In-Box introducing our new Pastor candidate, Rev. Katherine Schofield!!! (Copies of the letter are available at the church office and in the Sanctuary narthex. Online Bell readers can click [here](#) to see a video hello from Rev. Katherine.) What an exciting moment for FPCC! Rev. Katherine is so looking forward to meeting us over the Candidate Weekend scheduled for September 15-17 (details to come!) culminating in her preaching on Sunday, September 17, 2023, followed immediately by a Special Meeting to consider and vote on accepting her as our new pastor. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to participate in the Candidate Weekend events and to attend Worship and the Special Meeting on the 17th. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments – or want to share your excitement! – please feel free to reach out to any member of the Search Committee; Adrian Argento, Sandy Bodmer-Turner, Paul Knox, Mary Lumsden or Susan Parker.

What a great summer of community outreach and engagement it was for FPCC! Among the highlights were opening the church during both the July 4th Parade and the Festival-by-the-Sea, providing tours and shelter from the rain (and use of the bathrooms!!!) to the community. A Prayer Wall was provided during the Festival-by-the-Sea and two large sheets of prayer requests were lifted up by the congregation during Sunday worship. The Fair-by-the-Sea was a blast! Thank you to all who gave their time sorting and setting up in the weeks leading up to the Fair, who baked (during a heat wave!) and who helped out the day of the Fair! Very special thanks to Martha Elder and her team for the world-class, elegant jewelry tables!!! So much love and attention went into every detail of the Fair and the pay-off was heartwarming!!! Such a great turn-out of old and new friends! The Third Annual Art Show coordinated by Jeanne Westcott was a hit! Such talent! The summer was capped by FPCC's sponsorship of the last Music in Masconomo Park Summer Concert (a Beatles cover band!!!) Pictures and stories are contained within these pages.

Attendance at Sunday Worship remained strong during the summer, and we shared Worship with wonderful guest pastors and musicians, providing Herman, Rebecca and Paul with well-deserved breaks. And there were 3 baptisms in July, adding joy to our gatherings!

All of this and more occurred as we reach the one-year mark of being without a settled pastor. We know that we are not alone in saying how proud we are to be members of FPCC, and how grateful we are for God's steadfast presence during these challenging times.

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!

Diaconate

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. With their help we have been blessed with a wonderful selection of fill in ministers this summer. Even though the choir is taking a well earned vacation, we have been treated to a summer of beautiful worship music.

Deacon corresponding secretary, Jan Marshall, continues 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.

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.



Special thanks to everyone who made Fair by the Sea happen!

Director of Youth and Children's Ministry Jeanne Westcott

On behalf of Faith Formation and in response to the very successful Third Annual Art Show, I would like to thank all the artists who participated and all those who rejoiced with the artists courageously showing their work. Children as young as 2 years old made art to display and accomplished artists of all ages shared their talents with the Manchester community. Many of the visitors commented on the unique and vibrant content of an intergenerational Art Show. One woman even mentioned that although she and her family only visit Manchester in the month of July, they look forward to visiting the Art show (and have for the last three years) because it reminds them of the spark of creative inspiration that lives in each person. She said it has given her and her children courage to try their hand at multiple art projects. She added her husbands willingness to give it a go, is her next project!

The launch of the 2023-24 Program Year will begin with a Family Movie Night on Sunday, September 10 from 6-8 pm in our chapel Hall. Comfy spots, a craft for all ages and snacks will round out the evening. Both Youth Fellowship and Sunday School registration materials will be available. Youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult unless previously registered for YF.

A School Supplies drive will officially be underway with the launch of the program year to benefit the Beeman School of Gloucester. For a list of needed supplies contact Jeanne, and remember, the sales are happening now, so why not pick up a few extra for families who are struggling and teachers who use their pay to supplement their classroom needs? Together we can help make the school year a blessing!

Sunday School classes resume on September 17 for children ages 3 through Grade 5. Children will walk over to the chapel location after the Message for all Ages part of the Sunday worship Service in the Sanctuary. Adult volunteers are needed for this important ministry.

Youth Fellowship will meet for the first Dinner Meeting of the Program Year In Chapel Hall on October 1 from 6-7:30 pm. Registered Youth (Grades 6-12) may bring a friend to this meeting, but a head count will be required for planning purposes so please contact Jeanne to RSVP

Faith Formation and First Parish are seeking two people 18 years old or over to provide care in our Nursery room during worship on Sundays. The hours are 9:30-11:30 and the pay is commensurate with experience and training. If you know of someone who is looking for joyful employment, please have them contact Jeanne at Jeanne.fpchurch@gamil.com



Summer Art Show



Book Group

We are skipping our August 28th meeting and giving everyone the summer to read all those books that are in your pile. Please come back in September with some suggestions for books in the coming year. We will choose for the year! Happy reading! Our next book group will be on **September 25th** at 6:30 PM at Mary Lumsden's home at 18 Woodcrest Road, Manchester. "Rough Sleepers" by Tracy Kidder will be discussed.

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.

Seaside Parish Knitters

The Seaside Parish Knitters meets each 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at the Chapel, from 1-5 pm. Sept. 7 & 21. We welcome all to stop by anytime during that time and join in. 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.



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With gardens and yards still in bloom, please consider creating an arrangement for the FPCC altar. It does not need to be large or tall, and can be as simple as you wish, from your yard, a beautiful gift to share. Call Penny Lapham 978-526-7128.

Service and Outreach

The Outreach and Service collections continue for The Open Door, The Grace Center and Operation Troop Support - Drop at the Church before Worship or at the Chapel

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.



Items for Care Packages

FOOD

- Cup of soup, ramen noodles, mac & cheese cups, individual cereal
- Individual containers of apple sauce, oranges, peaches, etc.
- Tuna packages, individual cans of tuna, chicken, deviled ham
- Power bars, beef jerky, granola bars, raisins
- Cookies, crackers, peanut butter crackers, pretzels, nuts
- Popcorn, cheez-its, candy, fruit snacks, pop tarts

TOILETRIES

- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, body wash
- Sunscreen, insect repellent, skin cream, baby powder, foot powder
- Cotton swabs, individual tissues, sanitizer wipes, band aids
- Disposable razors, deodorant, shaving cream (not aerosol)
- Chapstick, Vaseline

MISCELLANEOUS

- Men and women socks, fleece blankets
- Playing cards, travel games, frisbees
- Word puzzle books, crossword puzzle books, brain teasers
- Current magazines, paperback books, stationary, pens, DVDs

MONETARY DONATIONS

- Please go to our website for more information

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>

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/>

Manchester Seniors - Drop in for Coffee and Conversation! Every Monday (except holidays) 10 AM-12:30 PM at the First Parish Community 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.

September Birthdays

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
09/24	ALSOP, IAN	675C HALE ST BEVERLY MA 01915	

Stephen Ministry

The Stephen Ministry at First Parish Goes Live the Fall

We are pleased to announce that the Stephen Ministry at First Parish has initiated the training of this first cohort of Stephen Ministers over the summer. The training is planned to be completed early in the fall, at which time they will be available to confidentially support any members of the congregation experiencing life challenges. This care will be carefully planned to become an extension of our new minister's pastoral care efforts upon that person's arrival. The Stephen Ministry will also work with all elements of the lay leadership to identify any among us who may be facing life challenges such as bereavement, divorce, or terminal illness and could use additional emotional and spiritual support from the Church.

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; or someone temporarily displaced from a home could be referred to an agency qualified to assist in finding temporary housing. 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.

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 life challenges. To date, the movement includes about 13,000 congregations and has trained 75,000 Stephen Leaders who have in turn trained 600,000 Stephen Ministers. Fuller details on the movement can be found here: [Stephen Ministries](#)

There are many ways to participate depending upon your gifts and availability. Additional cohorts of Stephen Ministers will be trained from time to time. In addition, there is much work to do developing the network of community resources and staying in touch with our service partners. 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.



Fair by the Sea



**Please come to a gathering to
thank you for supporting our
Church in 2023**

Join us on the lawn
at Tuck's Point
Sunday, Sept. 17
5 - 7 PM



For Pizza & First Parish Fizzes
We hope to see you there!
(If it rains we will move to the Chapel Hall)



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!