



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

**March 2024**

## *The Church Bell Newsletter*

Dear First Parish Church,

March is the month of the warming and greening of the earth. We get our seed catalogs back in December, and lose ourselves in the colors and textures that paint a beautiful picture of a hopeful Spring garden. It's March when we start to turn the earth and prepare for the planting. And when the perennials that have slept dormant in the soil begin to stir and grow. It is a season of anticipation. And in our church life it is also a time of anticipation and preparation for the new life found in Easter.

Soon we will journey through Holy Week together, from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to the meal of love shared in an upper room on Maundy Thursday, to the heartbreak of Good Friday and - finally - the glory of the resurrection. May our hearts be open to receive the gifts of this season.

Our theme for March is "service." (We've gone from relationship → worship → service.) This month we're going to look beyond our church walls and consider the ways in which Christ calls us to serve others. In mid-March we will have a Soup and Conversation about Outreach and Service, during which we will not only highlight the ways in which we're already serving the community, but also brainstorm together about where we'd most like to make an impact and what new opportunities we might explore. In March we will also participate in a hands-on service project at the Open Door. We are meant to live our faith out in the world, helping to build up one another as we build up God's realm of mercy and hope.

\*\*\* Something you probably didn't know about Rev. Katherine \*\*\*

My favorite TV show, since I was a very young kid, is "Murder She Wrote". I've seen each episode more times than I can count and we even visited Mendocino, CA (where fictional Cabot Cove, ME was located).

*continued*

*Pastor continued*

One of the first letters I ever wrote, as a precocious 2nd grader, was to Angela Lansbury, telling her how much I loved the show. She sent me back a very nice note and even used my name for a character in Season 10 (spoiler alert - Katherine Schofield murdered a character played by Alan Thicke).

### **NOTE FROM THE MODERATOR**

At its most recent meeting, Church Council and Rev. Katherine appointed Adrian Argento, Sandy Bodmer-Turner and Paul Knox to the Pastor Parish Relations Committee (the “PPRC”).

The PPRC exists to promote a healthy, faithful, shared ministry between pastor and congregants. To that end, the committee will meet regularly with Rev. Katherine and is available as a confidential resource to the congregation offering a discrete sounding board for concerns. The PPRC will provide input to the Executive Committee as part of their annual Pastor evaluation.

We are excited to be moving together into the future that God has called us, and we are committed to honoring that call by encouraging open, spiritually mature communication.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like further details.

Thank you!  
Bethany

PPRC's contact information:

Adrian Argento [adrian.argento@gmail.com](mailto:adrian.argento@gmail.com)

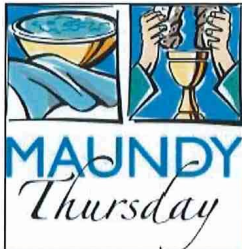
Sandy Bodmer-Turner [sandyjbt37@comcast.net](mailto:sandyjbt37@comcast.net)

Paul Knox [paulknox1@comcast.net](mailto:paulknox1@comcast.net)

Bethany M. Woods, Moderator  
781-308-2791  
[bethany@bmwoodsllc.com](mailto:bethany@bmwoodsllc.com)

# HOLY WEEK

First Parish Church, Manchester by the Sea



March 28 - 7pm



March 22 - 10am

**Good**  
**Friday**



March 29 - Noon

**Sunrise Service**  
(with area churches)  
March 31 - 6:26am  
at Singing Beach



# EASTER

**Easter Worship**  
March 31 - 10am

10 Central Street, Manchester by the Sea ☼ [firstparishchurch.org](http://firstparishchurch.org)

## More on Lenten Activities

### **Sunday Worship Series: Living Our Faith in Worship** Feb.18 – Mar. 17, 10am

Lent is a season of preparation, when we strive to strengthen our discipleship skills, grow in our spiritual lives, and renew our connection to God and one another. During these six weeks we will explore a different spiritual discipline, Worship, Study, Service, Giving and Witness and how it informs and shapes our worship. Everything we do in worship is done for a purpose, and has a deep meaning rooted in scripture and tradition. Our worship is more meaningful, and we can participate more fully when these intentions are clear.

### **Weekly Lenten Group Study Series, Spiritual Practices to Deepen Our Faith, Mondays,**

5 - 6pm on Zoom. Meeting ID: 836 0243 2476 Passcode: 221681 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83602432476?pwd=YkorMzNPbVQ0ZzU2NVVhc25vVS9UU09>

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,83602432476#,,,,\*221681# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968,,83602432476#,,,,\*221681# US

Focusing on five central spiritual practices: Worship, Study, Serve, Give, and Witness. Each week we will explore a scripture passage related to the topic and highlight practical suggestions for ways to grow in these disciplines. This study draws on resources from "The Walk" by Adam Hamilton. No preparation is required, but there is an accompanying book that is available to those who are interested.

### **Vespers Evening Prayer Service, Wednesdays, 6:30pm**

Meditation, candlelight and prayer. Based upon the traditional evening liturgy of scripture, music, prayers, and silence, this thirty-minute candlelit service is open to all.

### **Weekly At-Home Devotional: "Wendell Berry and the Sabbath Poetry of Lent"**

Available in the Narthex and in the Weekly E-News The word "Lent" comes from the old English word for "lengthen," and refers to the lengthening days of spring. Anticipating Easter, the church prepares with forty days of prayer and reflection. We are called to set time apart, to observe a sabbath each week, when we pause from the busyness of our lives and clear space to reconnect - with ourselves, with nature, with beauty, and with God. The poet Wendell Berry calls "the idea of sabbath...as rich and demanding an idea as any I know" – and over the decades, Berry has devoted many Sundays to writing "sabbath poems" that explore the depths of this rich, demanding idea. In this Lenten devotional, biblical texts walk hand-in-hand with Berry's sabbath vision of the natural world, and together they suggest simple, accessible practices you can try yourself, with your family or friends, in your workplace, or even at church. Week by week, as the light continues to lengthen, we'll walk through the woods together toward Easter morning, keeping sabbath as we go. This devotional is produced by the SAL/T Project.



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.

**March 25, 7 PM** at Lauren Gudonis' home, 56 Masconomo St. Manchester. We will discuss "Hang the Moon" by Jeanette Walls. RSVP to Lauren at [lbgudonis@gmail.com](mailto:lbgudonis@gmail.com).

*A riveting new novel about an indomitable young woman in Virginia during Prohibition. Most folk thought Sallie Kincaid was a nobody who'd amount to nothing. Sallie had other plans.*

*Sallie Kincaid is the daughter of the biggest man in a small town, the charismatic Duke Kincaid. Born at the turn of the 20th century into a life of comfort and privilege, Sallie remembers little about her mother who died in a violent argument with the Duke. By the time she is just eight years old, the Duke has remarried and had a son, Eddie. While Sallie is her father's daughter, sharp-witted and resourceful, Eddie is his mother's son, timid and cerebral. When Sallie tries to teach young Eddie to be more like their father, her daredevil coaching leads to an accident, and Sallie is cast out.*

*Nine years later, she returns, determined to reclaim her place in the family. That's a lot more complicated than Sallie expected, and she enters a world of conflict and lawlessness. Sallie confronts the secrets and scandals that hide in the shadows of the Big House, navigates the factions in the family and town, and finally comes into her own as a bold, sometimes reckless bootlegger. You will fall in love with Sallie Kincaid, a feisty and fearless, terrified and damaged young woman who refuses to be corralled. goodreads*

**April 29, 6:30 PM**, we will discuss the book of Genesis at Liz Loomis' home, 34 Bennett St. Manchester. RSVP to Liz at [loomisliz@hotmail.com](mailto:loomisliz@hotmail.com).

## Holy Week

**Palm Sunday**, March 24th at 10am

**Maundy Thursday**, March 28th at 7pm “Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me.”

“Maundy” is an old English term meaning commandment. And it comes from Jesus’ commandment to us to “love one another even as I have loved you.” It is his giving and forgiving, as he would have us do, that is celebrated in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. “Tenebrae” is a Latin term for “shadow.” The name becomes meaningful as the candles are extinguished following each series of readings. The readings illustrate events from the dark days of Holy Week.

**Good Friday**, March 29th at Noon “It is finished.”

On the most somber day of the Christian year, we gather in prayer and song to mourn the death that changed the world.

**Easter, March 31**

Ecumenical Sunrise Service, 6:26am at Singing Beach

Easter at First Parish at 10am

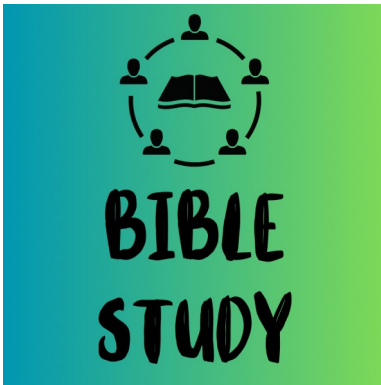


## Seaside Parish Knitters

**The Seaside Parish Knitters meet each 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Chapel, from 1-3 pm, (March 7 & 21).** 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.



Each Thursday we look at the  
Sunday Scripture via Zoom,  
led by Rev. Katherine -

Join us from any location on your computer,  
tablet, smart phone or dial in on your home  
phone.

Here's the schedule:

3:30p-3:45p Joys and Concerns  
3:45p - Devotional and brief Check-in  
3:50p - Bible Study begins

## Soup and Conversation: Service

**Sunday, March 17th, Following Worship in the Chapel Hall**

Christ calls us to look beyond our church walls and consider the ways in which we can serve others. As a church we have articulated a commitment to reach out into the community and help those in need. Let's celebrate the ways in which we're doing this, and dream together about where we'd most like to make an impact, and what new opportunities we might explore. Warm your body with delicious soup. Warm your heart with a vision of service in the wider world.

Want to help?

We need volunteers to bring soup and cookies, or to help with setup/clean up.

Sign up [here](#).



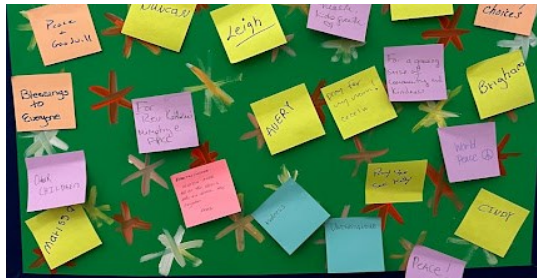
## March Birthdays

03/01	<b>KNOX, PAUL</b>	12B PICKETT STREET BEVERLY MA 01915	paulknox1@comcast.net
03/06	<b>CICALA, PHILIP</b>	114 PINE ST MANCHESTER	
03/07	<b>SMITH, RICHARD</b>	13 WASHINGTON STREET MANCHESTER	richard.w.smith@gmail.com
03/11	<b>IROSE, ALDEN</b>	10 LOADING PLACE RD MANCHESTER	
03/12	<b>GRAYDEN, LOIS</b>	1340 S OCEAN BLVD POMPANO BEACH FL 33062	lois.grayden@gmail.com
03/15	<b>HARRIS, ELEANOR</b>	P.O. BOX 383 MANCHESTER	ekeharris@gmail.com
03/19	<b>MICHAEL, MARGARET</b>	12 FULLER ST MAGNOLIA MA 01930	mills_margaret@yahoo.com
03/21	<b>DUNN, DONALD</b>	6 TREETOP LANE MAGNOLIA MA 01930	dondunn@verizon.net

## 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/>

## Faith Formation News [Jeanne Westcott](#)

**Faith Formation** Sunday School is available every Sunday except for Communion Sunday. Know of a family that might like to join us? Invite them to come and try out a Sunday School session. It's fun in a faith-filled fantastic way!



Faith Formation Valentines

**Kindness Rocks Project** Come one! Come all! Join the Youth Fellowship Kindness Movement! No, you don't have to make an oath or pay a fee, just come paint a rock or two and leave them in the community for someone else to find! Imagine a person who might be having a tough day, turn their frown upside down, because you left a gem for them to find! The Kindness Rocks Project is a movement of grace and joy. From their official web page, "Our goal is simple, connect many, inspire & empower others to join us in creating a kinder world!" You can find out more at [The Kindness Rocks Project®](#).

Join us for rocks, fun and inspiration, as well as a couple snack options, on March 3, 2024.

YF members are invited to come at 6:00 pm for a brief dinner meeting and all inspired artists of any age can join us at 6:30-7:30 for rock painting. Chapel Hall. Let's Rock!



You are invited to purchase a traditional Easter Lily, \$15, to decorate our sanctuary for the Easter morning Worship Celebration.

The Diaconate also offers the option of making a donation to *The Diaconate Fund* to assist people in our worship community, who are in need.

Following the Easter service, the plant may be taken home or left to be given to our members and friends who are ill or unable to leave their home.

A complete list of donors and those remembered will be included in the Easter bulletin.

I (we) wish to donate a plant(s) *please circle one*:

**In Memory of**

**In Celebration of**

**In Honor of**

*Name(s) of Remembered*

*Name(s) of Donor*

Please check:            \_\_\_\_\_ I will take plant(s) home  
                                 \_\_\_\_\_ Please give my plant(s)  
                                 \_\_\_\_\_ A donation to the Diaconate Fund

# of Lily(s) desired: \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please order by Friday March 22*

Order online [here](#)



## Misc.

**Contribute to the work of First Parish Church** by going to <http://www.PayPal.Me/FPCChurchManchester> 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>

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).

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

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

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

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

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 Fair by the Sea*** will be happening again this summer during Festival by the Sea,

**Saturday, August 3, 2024**

**Details to come - save the date!**

First Parish Church  
P.O. Box 187  
Manchester, MA 01944



**Hands on Community Service, all items can be dropped at the Chapel or Church –**

**Operation Troop Support** Socks, any size any color. Small board and card games.

**The Open Door** the need is great so please donate what you can. Pantry items welcome. Coffee & tea, granola bars, oatmeal, pancake & waffle mix, maple syrup, 100% fruit juice. They are also grateful for bake mixes including muffin mixes

**The Grace Center** welcomes gift cards from local grocery markets to help the center provide cream, butter and other perishables.

