



Dear First Parish Church,

After a quiet (at times too quiet) February, March is filling up with lots of Holy activity at First Parish Church. First, I am so excited to be officially Installed as your Pastor by the SNEUCC on Sunday, March 2nd at 3pm. I hope you can all be there - and tell your friends. We will be joined by my family, mentors, colleagues and friends from across the span of my ministry and life, and our preacher is the amazing Rev. Dr. Nancy S. Taylor, former Senior Minister of Old South Church in Boston, and former Minister and President of the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC. You won't want to miss it.

The Season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday (March 5th) and we will mark the day with a service of Repentance and Imposition of Ashes at 6pm. Throughout Lent we will have weekly Vespers Services on Wednesday evenings at 6pm. These 30 minute services of prayer and candlelight help us to find our center in the midst of a chaotic world. Also during Lent we will take up a seasonal study, this year focused on the book "Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again," by [Rachel Held Evans](#). We will meet each week to discuss the themes of the book and our own evolving relationships to sacred scripture. In Sunday Worship through the season of Lent we will take a fresh look at Jesus' most powerful parables, the stories that enlivened his teaching and preaching.

As I will share more fully at Annual Meeting (Note the Change of Date due to Snow - Annual Meeting will now be held on March 9th after worship!), our theme for this year is all about telling our story. Telling our story as a congregation, and telling our faith stories as individuals. Through the spring there will be many opportunities to engage in discussion and reflection about our commitments as a faith community, about our own evolving sense of self, and about how the stories we tell shape our identity and the legacy we leave to the future. You are a part of FPCC's story, that we are all writing together.

continued

Pastor continued

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love;
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true,
It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

...

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest;
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

Blessings,
Rev. Katherine



Please join us as we celebrate the

Pastoral Installation

of

Rev. Katherine A. Schofield

Sunday, March 2 at 3:00 pm

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

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Nancy S. Taylor

Reception to Follow

Outreach & Service

First Parish resumed serving at The Open Door in January. We will serve the 2nd Wednesday of each month (Mar 12, Apr 9...) 2 volunteers are needed from 3:30-6:30 on each of those dates. You can sign up on our Sign Up Genius online (link below) or by speaking to Jim Brennan after worship or at 978-580-9623.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CABA822A1F49-54306850-open>

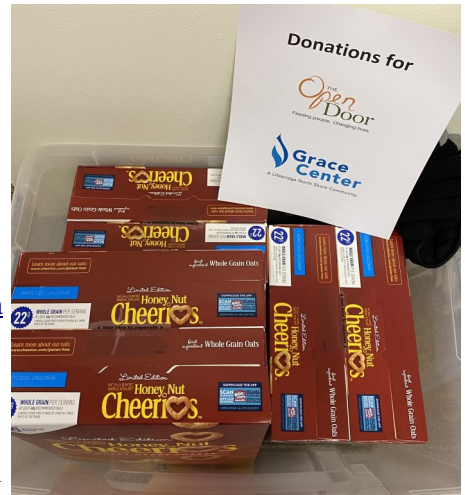
First Parish has continuing collections for –

The Open Door Most needed items – canned chicken & tuna, peanut butter, healthy snacks, 100% juice boxes, cereal, hearty soups, canned fruits & veggies.

Operation Troop Support Socks, and small board and card games.

The Grace Center Gift Cards from local grocery markets for perishables like cream, butter, milk.

Drop items at the Chapel (inside and outside bins) and at the Church



March Birthdays

03/01	KNOX, PAUL	12B PICKETT STREET BEVERLY MA 01915	paulknox1@comcast.net
03/04	BELL, WILLIAM	4 RAYMOND STREET #8 MAGNOLIA MA 01930	
03/06	CICALA, PHILIP	114 PINE ST MANCHESTER	
03/07	SMITH, RICHARD	13 WASHINGTON STREET MANCHESTER4	richard.w.smith@gmail.com
03/12	GRAYDEN, LOIS	1340 S. OCEAN BLVD. POMPANO BEACH FL 33062	lois.grayden@gmail.com
03/15	HARRIS, ELEANOR	P.O. BOX 383 MANCHESTER	ekeharris@gmail.com
03/15	PARKER, BRIAN	40 PINE ST MANCHESTER	brianparker30@gmail.com
03/19	MICHAEL, MARGARET	12 FULLER ST MAGNOLIA MA 01930	mills_margaret@yahoo.com
03/21	DUNN, DONALD	6 TREETOP LANE MAGNOLIA MA 01930	dondunn@verizon.net
03/22	GRANT, ERIC	44 MILL ST DORCHESTER MA 02122	ahab55@icloud.com
03/30	DIGIOVANNI, CHRISTINA	9 JEFFREY COURT MANCHESTER	christinadigio@gmail.com

We plan to produce a new Church Directory edition this Spring 2025.

Updated photos are always welcome send them along to office.fpchurch@gmail.com. Thank you to all who sent us updated information so we could update our church directory last Fall! Paper copies of the Fall directory are available at the Church and in the Church Office.



Deacons

The Deacons were busy in February, helping with 2 weddings. However 2 worship services were also cancelled. Winter is definitely have an impact this year. We look forward to supporting plans for Katherine installation on March 2nd. A large crowd is expected. Deacon Janet Groth announced that she wanted to step down as Care team chair – next steps will be discussed at the Council meeting. We are most grateful to our Corresponding Secretary, Jan Marshall, who graciously sends notes to people in the congregation who are struggling with health issues or just need prayers.

We look forward to the Lenten season, starting with Ash Wednesday on March 5th.

Submitted by Nancy Peterson, Diaconate Chair

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 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.

Lenten Vespers Service



Wednesdays at 6pm

In prayer and candlelight may we find our center in the midst of a chaotic world. Beginning 3/10.

Our Chapel building at 1 Chapel Lane is a buzz of activity any day of the week...

Manchester Seniors - Drop in for Coffee & Conversation - Every Monday (except holidays) 10 AM-12:00 PM at the First Parish Community Hall. Hospitality provided by The Friends of The Manchester Council on Aging. Come sit down, talk and play some games!

On Sunday, Feb. 9 First Parish Church was proud to host **Cub Scout Pack 30's, 70th annual Pine Wood Derby** in our community hall. The scouts as well as all the adults had a fantastic time!



On Fridays local artists meet in the hall for a figure drawing class led by Pat Alto, of Rockport, be sure to see the invite to a reception honoring their work (next page).



Celebrate the Artists

Saturday, March 8th 4-6pm

Beat the winter doldrums and meet members of the Friday Figure Group, which meets weekly in the FPCC Community Hall. Enjoy a wine and cheese reception, art show and sale, and watch the artists in action as they create 20-minute portraits of FPC members - clothed, of course :)



Our Online Prayer Wall - Give it a try! Request prayers and pray for others through the Prayer Wall on our website. <https://www.firstparishchurch.org/prayer-wall/>

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.

Faith Formation

Love? What's that?

A Poem by Jeanne Westcott

I have a boo boo on my knee
My kite is stuck up in a tree
I don't understand this math homework
My best friend is acting like a jerk

I really want to be a star
I'll never save up to buy that car
I want to leave and I want to stay
I can't work this job one more day

Ahh. I remember the moment I saw your face
A smell of sweetness filled the place
Thoughts changed and hope flowered
All joys and happiness upon us showered

No human can tell what life will bring
Though each of us a child of a King
Through the ups and through the downs
His love prevails: a manger, a temple, a cross and nails

From the moment a tiny face is met
A forever commitment is silently set
Love that will do all it can
To walk through a life hand in hand

Love? What's that?

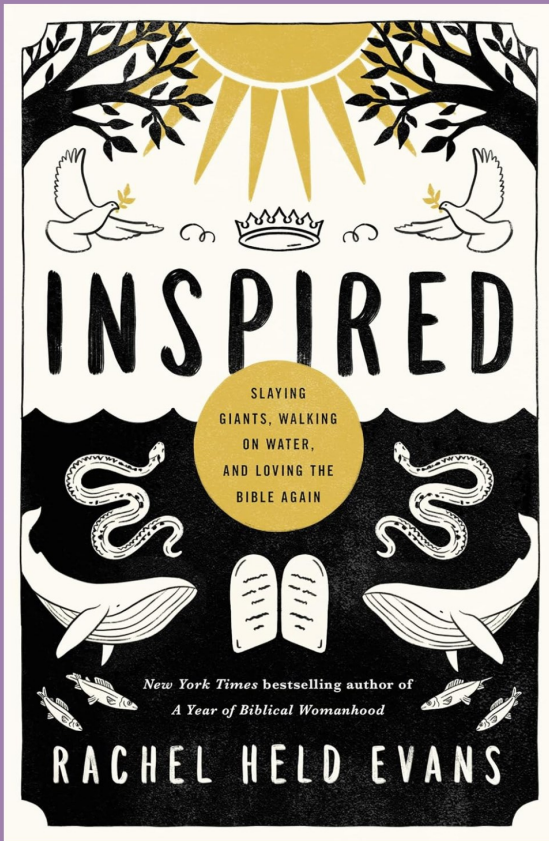
What can it be?

The ultimate gift given for free
From the Father of Creation: who asks you to share
In the hills and the valleys, in ways that show care.

So, love up the baby, the kid, the teen
From birth to death and all that's in-between
That's what our God does, no matter what we do
And if you mess up, Love gives us a redo.

Although it doesn't feel like it, Spring will arrive and our feathered friends will need affordable housing. If you would like a birdhouse for your home or apartment outdoor area, please contact Jeanne at jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com.

Lenten Study Series



If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is inspired? When New York Times bestselling author Rachel Held Evans found herself asking these questions, she embarked on a journey to better understand what the Bible is and how it's meant to be read. What she discovered changed her--and it can change you, too.

Join us for discussion each week, beginning 2/10.

Faith Formation Opportunities for All Ages

Through study and prayer and service, we aspire to love God “with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.” From the youngest toddlers, to the wisest Elders, we each are called to grow in our faith and understanding. Family Worship (first Sunday of the month) children of all ages stay in worship for these special intergenerational services. Church School (all other Sundays) children depart from worship around 10:15a for their own time of learning, crafting, sharing and playing.

Weekly Bible Study (meets on Tuesdays, 3:30-4:45p via Zoom). We study scripture together, utilizing resources from a variety of traditions, and seeking meaning for our daily lives.

First Parish Stephen Ministers are highly trained lay volunteers who stand ready to provide confidential, one on one presence and counsel for anyone facing a life challenge such as divorce, job loss, major illness, or bereavement, under the direction of our Minister. This service also provides referrals to local agencies which can provide tangible assistance for needs such as housing, energy, or medical care. This program is part of the national interdenominational Christian movement described here: stephenministries.org. If you or anyone you know might benefit from this service, please contact Rev. Katherine or Stephen Leaders Linda Crosby (978-314-1526) and Steve Carhart (978-407-8454).

The Seaside Parish Knitters meet each 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at the Chapel, from 1-3 pm, Fe 6 and 20. 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.

Book Group is open to everyone! 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! March 31, 6:30 PM we meet to discuss “Exodus” at Carol Spence’s home, 4 Overledge Rd, Manchester. RSVP to Carol (for planning purposes only) at (240) 305-5520 or cdspence@gmail.com. Book Group meets on the last Monday of the month, at 6:30 PM, and hosting is shared among members.

First Parish T-Shirts, Sweatshirts



We are once again offering beautiful FPC t-shirts for the whole family – and adult sweatshirts (see the link below!) Whether wearing them as you run errands, do housework or attend one of the many church-organized community outreach events that we have during the year you are sure to be a stylish “joyful beacon to the world!”

DEADLINE MARCH 2ND!!

[Here is the link to order](#)

Note - sizes run small!

All orders will be delivered to the church office, and we will let you know when they arrive! Please see Rev. Katherine, Bethany or Nancy if you have any questions!

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



NOTE THE CHANGE
OF DATE
ANNUAL
MEETING

FIRST PARISH CHURCH
CONGREGETATIONAL

 **MARCH 9, 2025**
FOLLOWING WORSHIP

A smartphone displaying a photograph of the First Parish Church building. The church is a white, two-story structure with a prominent steeple and a clock tower. The photo is taken from a low angle, looking up at the building against a clear blue sky. The phone's screen is framed by a black border.