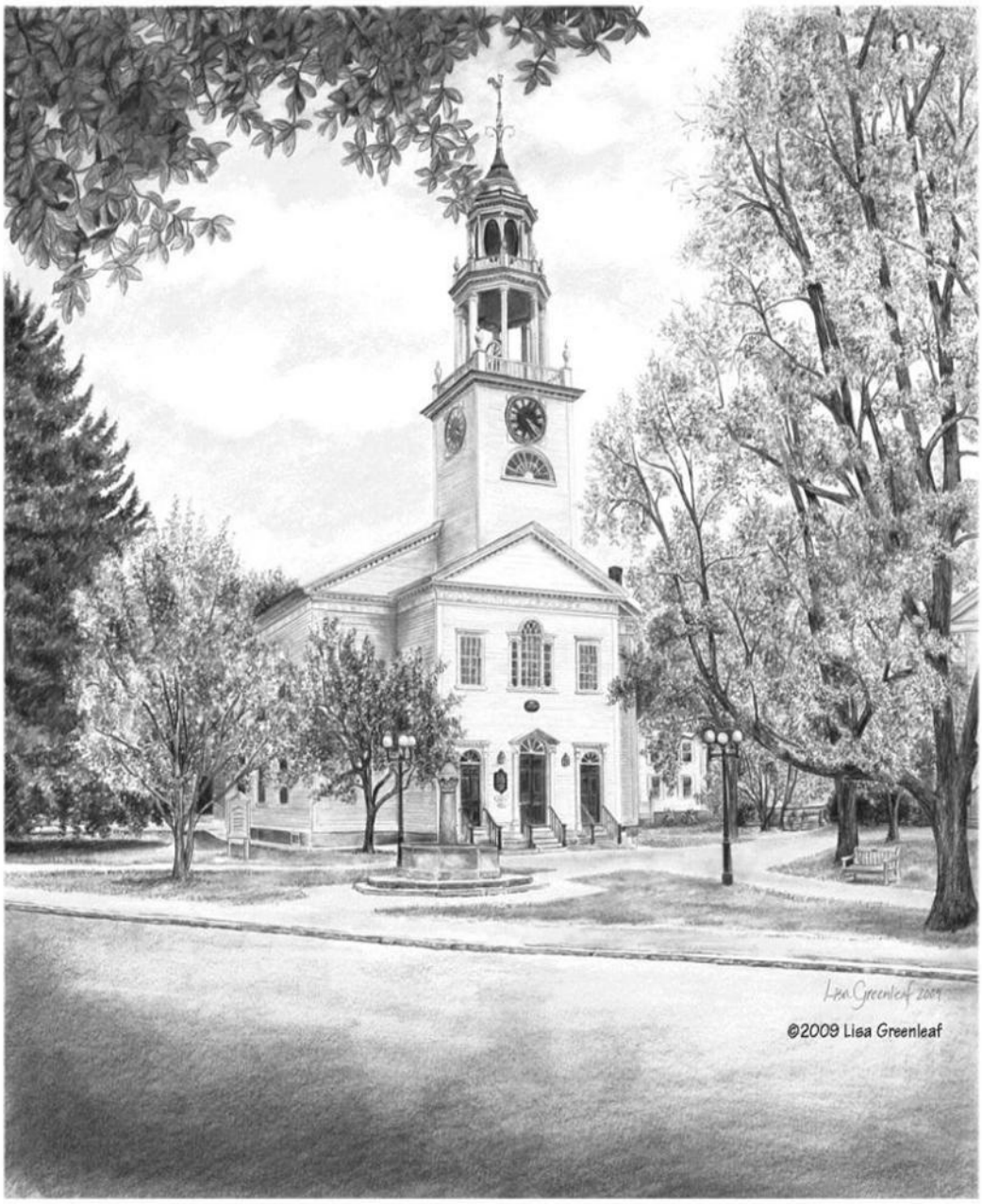

First Parish Church, Congregational
On the Village Green
Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts

Awaken to the Light and Love of God;
Be a Joyful Beacon to the World

First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Worship, 10 AM, Sunday
Oct 18, 2026

Ringing of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude 3 Part Invention in G Minor – J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

*** Call to Worship**
One: God of the prophets, call to us today
Many: Call us into Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.
One: God of the poets, remind us again how much You love us
Many: Sing to us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.
One: God of the disciples, teach us how to follow You
Many: Teach us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.
One: God of all creation, help us to know Your ways
All: We gather to hear Your call, to sing Your praise,
to teach and to learn,
to pray and to worship as the Body of Christ.

Welcome

Hymn How Firm a Foundation - #407, NCH

***Prayer of Invocation**

Baptism

Larson James Doucette
Child of Willliam and Christina Doucette
Godchild of Hillary Arsis and Nicholas Arsis

Blessing of the Water

The Litany of Baptism
One: We are gathered to present Larson to the Church and to dedicate him to God. What can we affirm about him?
Many: He is a child of God, made in God's image.
One: As Larson grows and matures, how will he know he is a child of God and how will he learn of the Christian story?
Many: We will tell him about Abraham and Sarah, the parents of our faith; about Moses and Miriam who led our ancestors out of bondage;

about Mary and Joseph's openness to mystery; about the Savior, Jesus.
One: In turn, what will we expect of Larson?
Many: We look forward to sitting with him at the Lord's Table, sharing with him the costs and joys of discipleship, learning and growing with him in the Christian pilgrimage, and declaring with one voice our faith in God and God's son, Jesus.
One: Do you, Willlliam and Christina, parents, assume your primary responsibility for fulfilling these expectations by growing with Larson in the Christian faith, helping him to become a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, and by offering him the nurture and support of the Christian church? And do you, Hillary and Nicholas, godparents, agree to guide Larson into becoming an engaged and complete human being, teaching him about personal sacrifice for a greater good, about grace and reconciliation at times of human weakness, and the power of unconditional love for all people?
Parents and Godparents: We happily and genuinely accept this serious duty.
One: And First Parish Church, do you pledge to maintain a nurturing and challenging Christian environment for Larson?
Many: We do, for he belongs to us as well.
One: Then, may God be with us.
Many: God help us. Amen.

Baptism

Congregational Welcome (Unison)
We rejoice in God's empowering love, freely given to each and all. We welcome you, newly baptized, into the circle of love in Christ's church. We promise to pray for you, to seek the depths of faith with you, to support you, and to love you. We covenant with you to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Choir Anthem Blessed Is the Man – Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)
Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in the law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree that is planted by the rivers of waters, that bringeth forth his fruit in due season. His leaf shall not wither, and what he doeth shall prosper, shall prosper. And what he doeth shall prosper.

Prayer Intentions

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Meditation I Stood on the River of Jordan – spiritual, arr. H. T. Burleigh (1866-1949)
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo
I stood on the river of Jordan, to see that that ship come sailing over; stood on the river of Jordan, to see that ship sail by. Oh mourner, don't you weep when you see that ship come sailing over! Oh mourner, don't you weep when you see that ship sail by. O sister, you better be ready to see that ship come sailing over; brother, you better be ready to see that ship sail by. Oh mourner, don't you weep when you see that ship come sailing over! Shout 'Glory Hallelujah' when you see that ship sail by. I stood on the river of Jordan.

Scripture Reading Judges 4:1-16 Arnold Ayola
1 The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud
died. 2 So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who
reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in
Harosheth-ha-goiim. 3 Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help,
for he had nine hundred chariots of iron and had oppressed the Israelites
cruelly twenty years.

4 At that time Deborah, a prophet, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. 5
She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in
the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came up to her for judgment.
6 She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali
and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Position
yourself at Mount Tabor, taking ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and
the tribe of Zebulun. 7 I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to
meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will
give him into your hand.' " 8 Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will
go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go." 9 And she said, "I will surely
go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to
your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then
Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. 10 Barak summoned
Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh, and ten thousand warriors went up
behind him, and Deborah went up with him.

11 Now Heber the Kenite had separated from the other Kenites,[a] that is, the descendants of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, and had encamped as far away as Elon-bezaanannim, which is near Kedesh.

12 When Sisera was told that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, 13 Sisera called out all his chariots, nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the troops who were with him, from Harosheth-ha-goiim to the Wadi Kishon. 14 Then Deborah said to Barak, “Up! For this is the day on which the LORD has given Sisera into your hand. Has not the LORD gone out before you?” So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand warriors following him. 15 And the LORD threw Sisera and all his chariots and all his army into a panic before Barak; Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot, 16 while Barak pursued the chariots and the army to Harosheth-ha-goiim. All the army of Sisera fell by the sword; not one was left.

Judges 5:1-9

1 Then Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang on that day,

2 “When locks are long in Israel,
when the people offer themselves willingly —
bless the LORD!

3 Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes;
to the LORD I will sing;
I will make melody to the LORD, the God of Israel.

4 LORD, when you went out from Seir,
when you marched from the region of Edom,
the earth trembled,
and the heavens poured;
the clouds indeed poured water.

5 The mountains quaked before the LORD, the One of Sinai,
before the LORD, the God of Israel.

6 In the days of Shamgar son of Anath,
in the days of Jael, caravans ceased,
and travelers kept to the byways.

7 The peasantry prospered in Israel;
they grew fat on plunder,
because you arose, Deborah,
arose as a mother in Israel.

8 When new gods were chosen,
then war was in the gates.
Was shield or spear to be seen
among forty thousand in Israel?

9 My heart goes out to the commanders of Israel
who offered themselves willingly among the people.
Bless the LORD.

Message "Surprising Leadership" Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem Steal Away – spiritual, arr. Nicholas White
Chorus: Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus, steal away, steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here.
Verse: My Lord, He calls me, He calls me by the thunder; the trumpet sounds within my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.
Chorus:
Verse: Green trees are bendin', poor sinners stand a-tremblin'; the trumpet sounds within my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.
Chorus:

*** Doxology #780 NCH**
Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn Sweet, Sweet Spirit - #293, NCH

*** Blessing**

Closing Song God Bless You and Keep You – Jay Althouse (1951)
God bless you and keep you wherever you may go; His love be a constant companion. God lead you and guide you and be at your side. God bless you and keep you forever.

Our Deacon is Nancy Peterson.

Our Greeter is Arnold Oyola.

Join us, following worship, for coffee and conversation.

Welcome to all who are new to our Worship time. To join our mailing list please fill out a "Welcome Card" to place in the collection plate or contact office.fpchurch@gmail.com, 978-526-7661 x 1

You can contribute to the good work of First Parish Church or pay your pledge by Venmo to @FirstParish-Church (Church cell phone 978-907-3781). You can also use @PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester.

Outreach and Service Partner for October - Beverly Bootstraps

BeverlyBootstraps
EMBRACE · EDUCATE · EMPOWER

For more than a decade, First Parish Church has supported Beverly Bootstraps. Their work reaches far beyond groceries. Along with their food pantry and mobile market, the organization offers free tax preparation, financial coaching, English classes, help earning a high school diploma, and more. Our gifts will strengthen neighbors not just in Beverly, but Manchester, Hamilton, Wenham and Essex.

Stephen Ministry 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).

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. We also have traveling prayers walls throughout the year. Look for us at the 4th of July Parade, Festival by the Sea, Burgers & Bingo and other community events!

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

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.
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.

The Seaside Parish Knitters meet September through June, on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 1PM-3PM, in the FPCC Chapel Conference Room. We will meet again on Nov. 5 & 19. We welcome all to stop by. 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 gaiters, helmet liners and hats 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 has begun! We would love to have you join us!
Monday, Oct 26, at Marianne Round’s home, 3 Greenbrier Rd MBTS. We will gather to discuss Whistler by Ann Patchett. RSVP to Marianne at 978-902-5452 or marianne.round@gmail.com for planning purposes.

Book Group meets on the last Monday of the month, 6:30 PM, and hosting is shared among members. It is a time for church members as well as non-church friends to come together and share in a discussion of books that are of interest to people of various backgrounds.

Books and Dates

October 26th Whistler by Ann Patchett
November 30th Man's Search for Meaning by Viktor Frankl
December TBD The Book Club for Troublesome Women by Marie Bostick
January 25th Daughters of the Sun and Moon Lisa See
February 22nd The Race Underground by Doug Most
March 29th The Measure by Nikki Ehrlich
April 26th The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles
May 31st The Salt Stones by Helen Whybrow
June 28th Broken Country by Clare Leslie Hall
July summer break
August 30th The Calamity Club by Kathryn Stocket