



**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
May 3, 2026**

Ringling of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Heliotrope Bouquet – Louis Chauvin (1881-1908) and Scott Joplin (1868-1917)

Please maintain a prayerful quiet during the prelude as we prepare our hearts for worship.

*** Call to Worship**

One: Beloved ones, we gather together to worship in unity.

Many: God has called us into God's own family and calls us "beloved".

One: In his teaching and in his living, Jesus helped us feel the closeness of God.

Many: Lord, help us to remember that your love sustains all of our lives.

One: Rooted in God's eternal love; blessed by Christ's life and witness; given guidance and support by the Holy Spirit,

Many: May we continue to find strength, peace and inspiration as we draw close to God through prayer and worship.

Welcome

First Parish Church is rooted in the Congregational tradition of democratic governance and the full inclusion and participation of all who call this their spiritual home. We take seriously the responsibility to make the Christian faith our own in this time and place, and seek to live lives of generous service.

***Hymn** Glorious Things of You Are Spoken - #307, NCH

Baptism

Mack Edwin Bothwick

Child of Jordan and Victoria Bothwick
Godchild of James Bothwick
Nicola Bothwick

Charles Bothwick

Child of James and Gianinna Bothwick
Godchild of Nicola Bothwick
Alejandro Paniagua Rojas

Blessing of the Water

The Litany of Baptism

One: We are gathered to present Mack and Charles to the Church and to dedicate them to God. What can we affirm about them?

Many: They are children of God, made in God's image.

One: As Mack and Charles grow and mature, how will they know they are children of God and how will they learn of the Christian story?

Many: We will tell them 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 Mack and Charles?

Many: We look forward to sitting with them at the Lord's Table, sharing with them the costs and joys of discipleship, learning and growing with them in the Christian pilgrimage, and declaring with one voice our faith in God and God's son, Jesus.

One: Do you, Jordan and Victoria, James and Gianinna, parents, assume your primary responsibility for fulfilling these expectations by growing with Mack and Charles in the Christian faith, helping them to become faithful members of the church of Jesus Christ, and by offering them the nurture and support of the Christian church? And do you, James, Nicola and Alejandro, godparents, agree to guide Mack and Charles into becoming engaged and complete human beings, teaching them 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 Mack and Charles?

Many: We do, for they belong 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

Anthem As Torrents in Summer – Edward Elgar (1857 - 1934)

As Torrents in summer, half dried in their channels, suddenly rise though the sky is still cloudless; for rain has been falling far off at their fountains. So hearts that are fainting grow full to o'erflowing; and they that behold it marvel and know not; that God at their fountains far off, has been raining!

Presentation of New Members

Pam Spencer

Paula Bzdula

Gail Goodell

Litany of Intent

One: Friends in Christ, these people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. They have been led by the Spirit to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the Christian church.

Many: They are here, as we are here, to endeavor to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and our neighbors as ourselves. God help us.

One: Friends who are joining, we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith which has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith. Do you promise, by the grace of God, to continue in your pilgrimage of faith, to be Christ's disciple, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Those joining: We do.

One: Do you promise to walk with us in faithfulness and in Christian love? And do you promise, that so far as able, you will participate in the life of this church, by worshiping God with us, and offering your time, talent and means for the ministry of this church and for the larger church of which this is a part?

Those joining: We do.

One: Friends, we then welcome you as partners in the common life of this church and join our voices to share our covenant of mission with you.

***All: We pledge to give ourselves to the one whom Jesus called "Abba, Father," as the God in whose love we are grounded, and to**

Jesus Christ, God incarnate, our salvation and strength. We give ourselves to God the Holy Spirit, our comforter and guide, and trust in the Good News of the Holy Scriptures as the rule of our faith and practice. We promise to walk in covenant with one another, with the wider church, and with the First Parish Church, Congregational. We promise to walk secure in God's grace, prepared in gratitude to live by our promises and to serve by the word of the Gospel.

Congregational Greeting

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 Fur Elise – L. van Beethoven (1770 – 1827)

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Scripture Reading Acts 1:1-11 Peter Eschauzier

¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men

in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Sermon “How We Become Church” Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit – William L. Dawson (1899-1990)

John Round, solo

Ev’ry time I feel the spirit, moving in my heart, I will pray.

Upon the mountain my Lord spoke, out of His mouth came fire and smoke;

Looked all around me, it looked so fine, till I asked my Lord if all was mine.

Jordan river is chilly and cold, it chills the body, but not the soul;

There ain’t but one train upon this track, it runs to heaven and right back.

Ev’ry time I feel the spirit, moving in my heart, I will pray.

*** 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.

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Welcome to Christ's table.

All: We are glad to be here!

One: Lift up your hunger.

All: We do not hide our needs before God.

One: Prepare yourself to be hosted and fed.

All: The Bread of Life is our joy and satisfaction.

The Breaking, Pouring, and Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn Forward Through the Ages - #377, NCH

* Blessing

Closing Song Total Praise – Richard Smallwood (1948-2025) – text based on Psalm 121

Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills, knowing my help is coming from you. Your peace You give me in time of the storm. You are the source of my strength. You are the strength of my life. I lift my hands in total praise to you. Amen

* Indicates the congregation is invited to rise in body or in spirit

Our Deacons are Paul Gudonis and Nancy Peterson.

Our Greeters are Peter and Jan Eschauzier.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given by David and Suzie Turnbull in loving memory of his mother, Priscilla Dickson Turnbull (1927-2026).

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

Welcome our New Members

GAIL GOODELL was born and raised in Beverly. She graduated from Connecticut College in 1959. She married in 1960 then had a daughter, Cary, in 1966, and a son, Ted (Edward) IN 1969. They lived in several other states before moving back to Beverly in 1977 after being divorced. Gail worked for Addison-Wesley Publishing Co. doing marketing and event planning, retiring in 2004. She loves to travel and by 2023 had visited 34 countries on 5 continents. She now enjoys being with her 5 grandchildren, playing cards and Mexican Train (dominoes), listens to audio books, and gets her exercise doing water aerobics 5 days a week at the Y.

PAULA BZDULA is originally from the town of Taunton, MA. She moved to Manchester in 1996. She is a retired speech language therapist who worked in a private practice and several educational collaboratives. She likes the outdoors especially walking, playing in the garden and learning to play golf. She is looking forward to joining FPC.

PAM SPENCER has lived on both coasts but lived in Manchester since 1973. Retirement has given her time to focus on service to family and volunteering in the community. She came to this church one Jazz Sunday and liked it so much she joined the choir that same week. She finds this congregation welcoming and accepting and looks forward to becoming a member.

Church Directory, Spring Available at the Church and in the Church Office. Are you missing from this Directory?

Do we have your information correct?

Do we have your birthday?

Do you have a current picture that we can include?

Email office.fpchurch@gmail.com so we can update your info!

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](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&from=paypal-merchant-directory&to=FPChurchManchester).



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.

Family Worship (second 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.

The Seaside Parish Knitters meet each 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, **May 7 & 21, 1-3 PM**. 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 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 Have you considered joining us?

Our **May 25th** meeting will be at Lauren Gudonis' home, 56 Masconomo St. MBTS. We will gather to discuss “Finding Margaret Fuller” by Allison Pataki. RSVP to Lauren at 617-633-5333 or lbgudonis@gmail.com

Our **June 29th** group will be at Mary Lumsden's home, 18 Woodcrest Rd, MBTS. We will gather to discuss “Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption” by Bryan Stevenson. RSVP to Mary at (978) 500-4571 or rasc84@hotmail.com for planning purposes.

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. Book Group usually meets on the last Monday of the month, at 6:30 PM, and hosting is shared among members.

Below is our Book Group Supplemental Reading List - these books didn't make the cut but are good reading -

Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen
Shy Creatures, Claire Chambers
The House is on Fire, Rachel Beanland
Beneath Scarlet Sky, Mark Sullivan
The Orchard, Adelle Kitty Roberts
A Piece of the World, Christina Baker Kline
The Nickel Boys, Colson Whitehead
The Rowans, Beverly Cooper Pierce
The Mirror Cracked, Agatha Christie
Don't Let Him In, Lisa Jewel



Looking for a space for your upcoming event?

Our community hall is a lovely spot, with a sound system and projector available. Members pay a discounted rate. Check availability by call 978-526-7661 x1 or email office.fpchurch@gmail.com.

Events going on in our hall during the week –

Manchester Seniors - Drop in for Coffee & Conversation - Every Monday (except holidays) 9:45 - 11:45 AM 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!

Strong Women Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 AM Sponsored by the Council on Aging

Mindfulness Meditation Wednesdays 11AM, sponsored by the MBTS Library

Figure Drawing Fridays noon



Stephen's 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).

Fair by the Sea during Festival by the Sea, a chance for our church community to come together for a community event while having fun and giving back to others! Saturday, August 1, 10- 2 during The Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce's Festival by the Sea. Our fair is a Community Yard Sale & more.

What can you do now?

Look around your home for the following items -

Handbags

Accessories

Home décor, including all holidays

Housewares

Art

Bric-a-brac

Linens

We begin accepting these items in July every Weds and Sunday. Please NO appliances, footwear, furniture, or stuffed toys.

We are accepting these items now-

Jewelry! Our famous Jewelry Table (that people line up before doors open to buy from) needs some replenishing. Do you have some jewelry you can donate?



Items for our themed Auction Baskets, as well as large, empty baskets. You can be creative in your basket theme or choose one of the following-

Basket ideas –

- Beach Reads
- Summer Fun
- Children's Books
- Summer Cook Out
- Summer Picnic
- Beach Fun
- Refresh Your Spirit
- Doggie Love
- Kitty Love
- What's your idea?

Closer to the date we will need help with set-up, clean-up, donations of baked goods, working the day of the Fair and more.

Proceeds from this year's Fair will go to -

- **Bambino Basket** Beverly - A non-profit program providing essential items for children in critical need.
- bambinobasket.com
- **River House** Beverly - A haven for vulnerable women in need of assistance. Women who are unhoused face many challenges, including behavioral health issues, deep trauma, domestic violence, sex trafficking. The first female-only shelter on the North Shore. lifebridgenorthshore.org/locations/river-house/

Questions? See Bethany or Nancy K