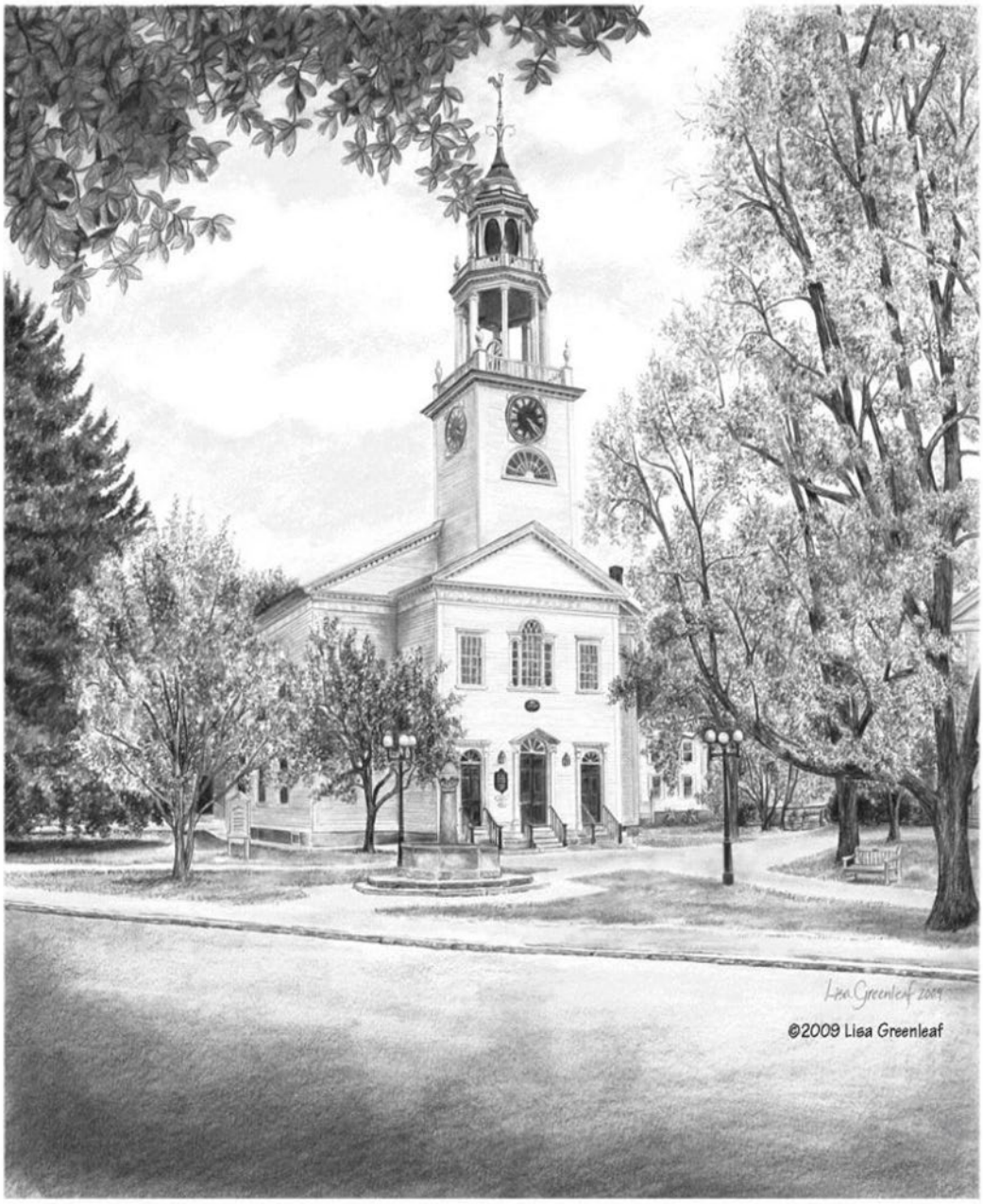

First Parish Church, Congregational
On the Village Green
Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts

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 11, 2026

Ringing of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Draw Us to Thee – Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1718)

*** Call to Worship**
One: We are pulled in many directions.
Many: Many duties, and tasks, and desires seek to lay claim on our lives.
One: This day, in this place, let service to God be your choice.
Many: This day, in this place, we open our hearts and spirits to God.
One: Blessed be the God of creation who has called us here.
Many: Praise be to God who sustains and nurtures our lives.

Welcome

Hymn Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve – #491, NCH

***Prayer of Invocation**

Message for All Ages

Passing of the Peace

Choir Anthem Harvest Song – Austin C. Lovelace (1919-2010)
Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise;
With joyful hearts and voices Your alleluia raise!
By Him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;
Sing to the Lord of harvest a joyous song of love.

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 Toccata in D Minor, BWV 565 – J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Scripture Reading Bethany Woods

Joshua 24:1-3A

1 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned
the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel, and they
presented themselves before God. 2 And Joshua said to all the people,
"Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah
and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served
other gods. 3 Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and
led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

Joshua 24:14-28

14 "Now, therefore, revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in
faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the
River and in Egypt and serve the Lord. 15 Now if you are unwilling to serve
the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your
ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the
Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, we
will serve the Lord."

16 Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the
Lord to serve other gods, 17 for it is the Lord our God who brought us and
our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and
who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way
that we went and among all the peoples through whom we passed, 18 and
the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the
land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

19 But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a
holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or
your sins. 20 If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn
and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good." 21 And
the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" 22 Then Joshua said
to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen
the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." 23 He said,
"Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your
hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." 24 The people said to Joshua, "The
Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." 25 So Joshua made a
covenant with the people that day and made statutes and ordinances for
them at Shechem. 26 Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of
God, and he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak in the
sanctuary of the Lord. 27 Joshua said to all the people, "See, this stone shall

be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of the Lord that he spoke to us; therefore it shall be a witness against you if you deal falsely with your God." [28] So Joshua sent the people away to their inheritances.

Message "Choose This Day" Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem Built on a Rock the Church Shall Stand – Dale Wood (1934 – 2003)
Built on a Rock the Church shall stand, even when steeples are falling. Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land, bells still are chiming and calling - calling the young and old to rest, calling the souls of those distressed, longing for life everlasting. Not in our temples made with hands God, the almighty, is dwelling. High in the heav'ns His temple stands, all earthly temples excelling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n above deigns to abide with us in love, making our bodies His temple. We are God's house of living stones, built for His own habitation. He lifts our hearts, His humble thrones, granting us life and salvation. Were two or three to seek His face, He in their midst would show His grace, blessings upon them be stowing. Through all the passing years, o Lord, grant that, when church bells are ringing. Many may come to hear God's word where He this promise is bringing. I know my own, my own know me:
You, not the world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you, Amen.

*** 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 Called as Partners in Christ's Service - #495, 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 Deacons are Nancy Peterson and Jason Smith.
Our Greeter is Bethany Woods

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 Oct. 1 & 15. 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

FIND GRIEF SUPPORT

A drop-in support group, open to everyone, dedicated to providing help and comfort to those going through a time of loss. Facilitated by Jenn Guiry, LICSW.

FRIDAYS
1 TO 2 PM
Beginning Oct 30th

First Parish Conference Room
2 Chapel Lane, Mancheter-by-the-Sea
For More Info: Mary Miner 978-526-7500

A partnership of the MBTS
Council on Aging and FPC

GLOBAL REFUGEE MISSION OF NEW ENGLAND

FALL DONATION DRIVE

The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.
Leviticus 19:34

First Parish Church is again working with the Global Refugee Mission of New England to collect new or like new outerwear and bedding.

Refugees and Immigrants are facing growing challenges in this country. The Global Refugee Mission of New England is committed to providing necessary support and assistance to these individuals who are God's children and our brothers and sisters.

This fall we are collecting the following winterwear in all sizes.
Winter Coats, Snow Pants and Boots
Hats, Gloves, Mittens and Scarves
Quilts, Comforters and Blankets (Twin and Queen Sizes only)

If you have items you wish to donate you may bring them to the Church Narthex or the Church Office prior to November 1, 2026. Or Marianne Round, of our church, will be happy to deliver them to St. John's (978-902-5452) Marianne.round@nemoves.com. Financial contributions to the Global Refugee Mission of New England also appreciated.