



 **The Messenger**  
*First Parish Congregational Church, Saco*  
*The Church with Love and Hope to Share*

**April, 2022**



*Installation Service*

On April 24, 2022 we will be celebrating Pastor Scott's Installation as Pastor and Teacher of First Parish Congregational Church – Saco. We hope you will be able to join us at First Parish on April 24, 2022 at 3:00 pm.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



The **Good News Team** is looking for folks to join the team. The GNT is the group of folks behind the scenes at First Parish. See our Team Focus section of this edition of "The Messenger". They meet via Zoom on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in joining this very important team or have any questions, please contact Wylie Herzberg at [wylie.herzberg@firstparishsaco.org](mailto:wylie.herzberg@firstparishsaco.org), Tim Guerrette at [tim.guerrette@firstparishsaco.org](mailto:tim.guerrette@firstparishsaco.org) or any member of the GNT.

**Attention Team Chairs**

The Good News Team is looking for help in updating our website. Some of the content hasn't been changed in years. Please take time in your next meeting to come up with a plan to create new information for your portion of the website. All you need to do is provide the information and photos to be posted. The GNT will add the content to the website!



**Save the Date!!**

Sunday, July 31  
7:00 PM

First Parish Church  
Welcomes

**Roland Merullo**

Mr. Merullo has authored over twenty books including:

- Golfing with God
- Breakfast with Buddah
- Talk Funny Girl
- and
- American Savior

His most recent novel is Driving Jesus to Little Rock

We will be offering a book discussion of his latest novel this spring and summer.

**Copies of the book are available in the church office and can be signed out.**

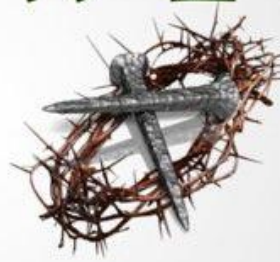
Scott Cousineau, Senior Minister  
 Kristine Galasyn, Director of Christian Education  
 Jacqueline Savage, Music Director  
 Nadeen DeSilva, Office Manager  
 Guy Rochefort, Sexton



12 Beach Street,  
Saco, Me 04072  
207-283-3771

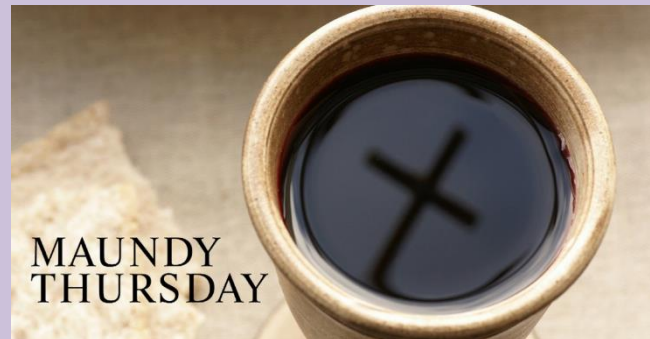
[www.firstparishsaco.org](http://www.firstparishsaco.org)

# HOLY WEEK



*Palm Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am Service*

*Maundy Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 pm Service*



*Good Friday  
Sanctuary will be open  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm*



*Easter Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am Service*





## Pastor Scott's Message...



### The Pastor's Perspective ...

It was three years ago this month that our journey together became official. On April 28, 2019, the Sunday after Easter, I led you in worship for my candidating weekend. Yes ... the Sunday that many people typically take a little worship "vacation" ... was the Sunday that you came out to meet me and vote to decide whether or not I would be called to serve as your Senior Minister. Obviously, the vote went well, and we are about to mark three years together.

Needless to say ... it has been quite an interesting three years.

COVID-19 entered into our communal life just eight months into my ministry with you, and we had to hunker down and social distance. However, COVID did not interrupt the ebbs and flows of life. During this time that we were forced apart, we also drew closer together. We celebrated weddings and baptisms in new and innovative ways. We also celebrated the lives of many of our members and family members that were precious to us. We leapt for joy, and we wept in grief. We found ways to worship "together" and learn "together." We found ways to remain engaged in meaningful ways, and our outreach ministries never stopped loving or serving our neighbors. I am so very grateful for the passion, faithfulness and dedication of this church family.

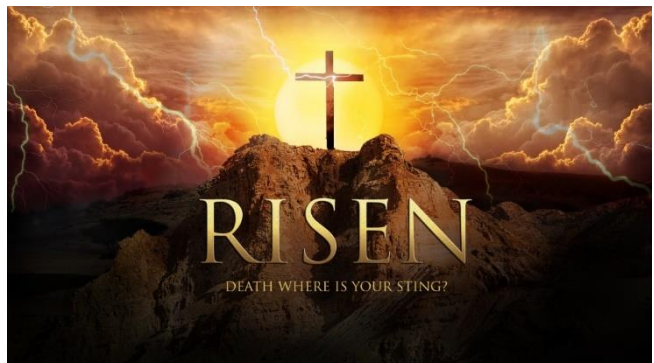
This month we get to take one more meaningful step together. Because I like symmetry, I selected the Sunday after Easter as the date for my Installation Service. Yes ... once again, I am asking you to turn out on the Sunday after Easter! (How selfish of me!) At three o'clock in the afternoon, on April 24th, I will be installed as your Senior Minister. Representatives of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ and the York Association will officiate the service. Then it will be officially official! I cannot wait!

I have joked that this has simply been my probationary period allowing you the necessary time to decide if you actually like me. I know that technically nothing will really change in our relationship with one another, but there is a milestone feeling to this event. We will commit to worship together, learn together, pray together and service together. And along the way we will eat, and sing, and laugh, and play together. We will seek new ways to engage and serve our community. We will continue to deepen our relationships with God and with one another, as well as ways to live faithfully as God's children.

I look forward to our years together. I can hardly wait to see what tomorrow brings!

Grace and Peace to you all!

Scott





Dear family and friends of First Parish,

Last month, we told you about two of our five wonderful new deacons, Pam Campbell and Jean Johnson. For April, we are pleased to introduce two of the other three.

Aldene Walters has been a very active and well-loved member of First Parish since 1977. She grew up in Brookline, MA, but spent her teen summers visiting and working at her grandparents' tourist business on Route One in Saco. (Some of you may remember Boothby's cabins and restaurant!) After living in many parts of the country, she eventually returned to Saco to live permanently. Aldene has two children, John and Susan, who both live in the area, three grandchildren who are well known to FPC parishioners: Josh, Abby and Ella. And Aldene just became a great-grandmother...to Oliver, born March 2!

Russell Tremblay is a new church member, coming to us from Circle of Hope Metropolitan Community church, which he served as a local pastor, renting a space at the Old Orchard Methodist Church, until that became unsustainable and the group disbanded. Russ joined FPC with his partner of 22 years, Jesse Boynton, and they have found a loving, accepting family here at First Parish. Russell works at Corning Life Sciences in Kennebunk (previously Morningstar Co.) and holds the record for longest- term employee there...47 years! He and Jesse live in Waterboro.

Aldene and Russell have both started their diaconate service in recent weeks, helping with the offering and greeting parishioners. We are so happy to have them and grateful for their service.

We will tell you about new deacon #5 in the May issue of the Messenger. Meanwhile, enjoy the coming of Spring, and Happy Easter!

Love and blessings,  
Nadine Russell and Dan Carter,  
Co-chairpersons



# Christian Education update from Kris...



I'm sure people have started noticing all the Sunflowers around our church. Sunflowers in the windows, on the wonder wall, pictures around the atrium and narthex and even vases of

Sunflowers in our sanctuary. Yes it is spring, however, the Sunflowers are our way of showing solidarity with Ukraine and all the sadness and destruction happening in that country and to its people. If you haven't already made some Sunflowers to hang up in the windows there is a table in the atrium to do so. Or make them at home and drop them off in the bin on the



"Operation Sunflowers" table. We have a lot of windows to cover. Keep an eye out for more Sunflowers sprouting up everywhere.

In Church school, our Wonder Word for April is **Holy Week**.



We have already started to learn about the different events that happened during the week of Palm Sunday to Easter. With all the somberness of Lent it is nice to know that **Jesus has Risen Indeed**.

See you at Church,

*Kris*



## Pilgrim Lodge

We celebrated Pilgrim Lodge with stories around the campfire and camp songs, on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Our Junior and Youth choirs sang some of our favorite PL songs. We heard a video welcoming from our new camp director, Liz Charles McGough. Liz grew up around PL so is a very familiar face there. Other stories were shared by Allison DiMatteo- Family Camp, Cam Roberge- Destination Hogwarts, Dale Sulinski- daughters went to Middler Spirit and Senior High and Merle Steva- Senior High Counselor. Thank you to all for these heart warming stories.

**The Christian Education Team** is offering very generous camperships this year. You can pick up an application at church. Camperships are due into the church office by April 10<sup>th</sup>. As always there are many camping opportunities for all ages. Please register with Pilgrim Lodge before applying for a campership.

FMI: [www.pilgrimlodge.org](http://www.pilgrimlodge.org)

Pilgrim Lodge is where Community, Nature and God meet. It is where the ordinary meets the extraordinary and those "thin-places" form. It is where we glimpse a little bit of heaven on earth.





## Fellowship

This year we will be putting together our College Care Packages for our college kids. If you have a youth at college please email: [kris@firstparishsaco.org](mailto:kris@firstparishsaco.org) and let me know name, address of your student and year, (ie. freshmen, sophomore etc.). We would like to ask our church family for contributions of items for these care packages. We are specifically looking for items that are individually wrapped, small, and light in weight (we mail these care packages). Some examples: candy, popcorn, small packets of kleenex, band aids, small packets of hand wipes (no liquid please). These packages will be sent out mid-April. There will be a special laundry basket in a shopping cart that will be in the atrium beginning **April 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Thank you for supporting this fun way of connecting our college students with our church.



On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> we took an offering for the Souper Bowl of Caring.



This is an offering that stays in our community and supports Hunger relief. This year our offering went to Seeds of Hope and the wonderful ministry they provide for the Hungry and Homeless in our community and surrounding neighborhood.



**Shirley Bowen** receiving the Souper Bowl of Caring check for \$561.00. Many thanks to Heather Nolette for making a BIG check for us.

Our next Youth Fellowship event will be Blanket Sunday on Mother's Day.

## SAVE THE DATE



**Children's  
Easter Activities  
and  
Egg Hunt**

**Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>  
10:30-Noon**

## SAVE THE DATE



### Vacation Bible School

July 5-8, 2022 Tuesday – Friday

9-11:30 AM

Children 4 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Our theme for this year is **Food Truck Party: On A Roll With God.**

Our Bible verse is:

**“Give us this day our daily bread”**

— **Matthew 6:1**

More information and online registration will be available next month.

On Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> we had an Online Training for summer 2022 VBS. Thank you Team for an awesome gathering.



VBS Online Training/ Saturday, March 5th

## March



- March 6 **Cam Roberge**
- March 13 **Cameron Wiggins-Mehlman**
- March 20 **Connor Remillard**
- March 27 **Chloe Remillard**



*Jesus says:  
“Let the little  
Children come  
to me”*

-Matthew 19:14

Helping **Lisa** in the Nursery for the month of **March** was:

- 6th **Mary Coyne**
- 13th **Glenys Salvas**
- 20th **Heather Hanscom**
- 27<sup>th</sup> **Glenys Salvas**

*“Its Only One Sunday!”*

First Parish Christian Education Team appreciates your time. **Thank you**





# Music Ministry

From Our Music Director

[jacqui@firstparishsaco.org](mailto:jacqui@firstparishsaco.org)



## "Were you There"

by Raymond Haan

Cello~Linda McVety  
Solo~Peggy Blood  
Timpani~Sarah Heath







This new article in "The Messenger" will focus on our different teams and groups here at First Parish. We hope this will bring more understanding to you and provide information as to what each team does, when they meet and the current members of the team. Perhaps it may pique your interest enough to join a team and help First Parish keep the light shining for all to see.



### **The Good News Team**

The Good News Team, also known as GNT, manages, supports and implements information technology as a secure, efficient, cost effective and time saving tool. This includes website, network, hardware, software, telecommunications, disaster recovery, business systems and consulting support services.

Now that we're returning to a more "normal" state of being this team will be working on upcoming community events such as parades where we can highlight First Parish, setting up a booth at a festival and volunteering at church events such as Martin Luther King, Jr. day.

In the past this team was responsible for creating First Parish t-shirts, providing water and watermelon at the Saco Sidewalk Art Festival, having a presence at the Halloween event put on by Saco Main Street.

The GNT meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

If you're interesting in becoming a team member of the GNT please contact Wylie Herzberg at [wylie.herzberg@firstparishsaco.org](mailto:wylie.herzberg@firstparishsaco.org) or any member of the GNT.

- Wylie Herzberg, Chair – [wylie.Herzberg@firstparishsaco.org](mailto:wylie.Herzberg@firstparishsaco.org)
- Tim Guerrette – [tim.guerrette@firstparishsaco.org](mailto:tim.guerrette@firstparishsaco.org)
- Jon Edstrom – [ctx25@yahoo.com](mailto:ctx25@yahoo.com)
- Sue Neumyer – [sue5173@gmail.com](mailto:sue5173@gmail.com)
- Jack Neumyer – [rneumyer@yahoo.com](mailto:rneumyer@yahoo.com)
- Marc Roberge – [mdroberge@yahoo.com](mailto:mdroberge@yahoo.com)
- Al Sicard – [asicard@maine.rr.com](mailto:asicard@maine.rr.com)

# Flower and Altar Update



## Easter Flowers

Palm Sunday is April 10. We have ordered palms to be given out before the church service.

**Easter flowers have been ordered.** We will have a nice display of Easter lilies and colorful tulips. Thanks to all of you who ordered plants in honor or in memory of loved ones. We have sold out of tulips, but if you missed ordering lilies, we can still add to our order. Please contact Marcia Lord at 207-768-1699 or [mvlord@aol.com](mailto:mvlord@aol.com).



## Sunday Flowers



If you would like to provide altar flowers, the signup sheet is outside the church office or you can contact Marcia Lord at 207-768-1699 or [mvlord@aol.com](mailto:mvlord@aol.com).  
April 3 and 24 are open.

### Altar Flowers given for the Month of March

March 6<sup>th</sup> flowers were given by Mary Johnson, Jane McKechnie and Nancy Brookshire in memory of their mother, Hellen Mitchell Atkinson.

March 13<sup>th</sup> flowers were given by The Hewes Family Flower Fund in memory of Virginia Hewes.

March 20<sup>th</sup> flowers were given by Charles and Debra Clark Memorial Flower Fund in memory of Fred Clark

March 27<sup>th</sup> flowers were given by Martha and Bill Conlan in memory of loved ones.



Spring is here. Soon we will want to get out into our fish garden and get that ready for the spring and summer. Gardeners are always welcome to join us.

# Mission Team Update



**FMI – Carol Spencer-Lemay**  
 SpencerLemay2@gmail.com



**Shoe Ministry:** Our supply of shoes is diminishing. We particularly need sneakers for children and other sturdy athletic shoes. We hope to have a back-to-school giveaway in August.

**Saco Food Pantry:** All your contributions have been greatly appreciated. Thank you!



**Bon Appetit:** Thank you to all who donated food and/or time to prepare a meal for Bon Appetit. Usually, about 40 people are served every weeknight.

Thank you for the interest in this local ministry, and for your generous contributions! Parishioners may continue to donate new undergarments for this non-profit.

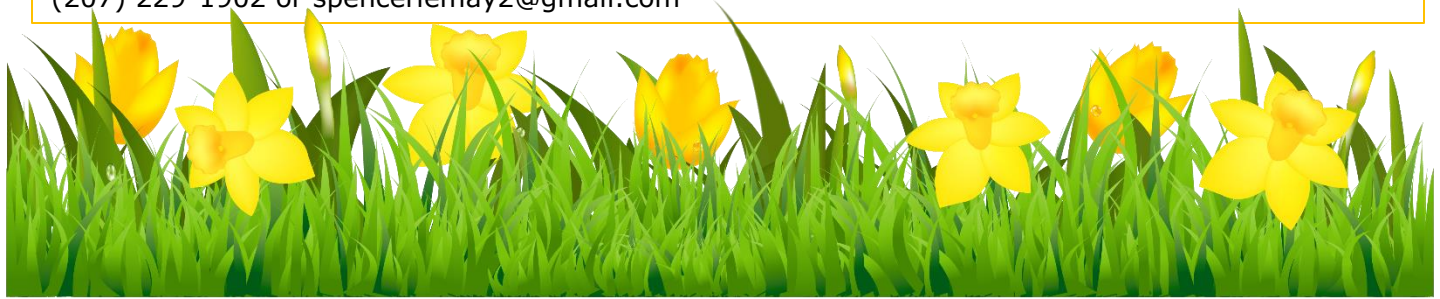


**Diaper Bank:** Thank you to all who helped stuff diapers into bags, and to all who have donated to the diaper bank! Donations continue to be accepted with gratitude.

Below is a sampling of some of the cost of the materials needed for this ministry.

One box of 186 Diapers from Target in <b>size 5</b>	\$29.99
One box of 88 Diapers from Target in <b>size 7</b>	\$22.49
A 12 pack (with 100 baby wipes in each packet) from Target	\$18.99
Five hundred White Lagasse Bags from Amazon in <b>size 12</b>	\$44.05

Our Mission Team would love to welcome new members. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm in the Workshop area. If you have questions, contact Carol Spencer-Lemay at (207) 229-1902 or spencerlemay2@gmail.com



# WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPDATE



## PLEASE SAVE THE DATES

On May 6th, 7th, and 8th, First Parish Church and Women's Fellowship will host Jen Wright, Founder and Executive Director of H.E.A.L. Jen visited Zimbabwe with her UCC choir members when she was in high school, and her experience changed her life. Seeing children as young as 5, living on the streets because their parents had died of AIDS, Jen knew she had to help. We hope you will come hear Jen speak about her Faith Journey and her work in Kenya. Her story is compelling, and she endeared herself to the First Parish women who heard Jen speak at our Women's Spiritual Retreat in January 2019.

If you have questions, or would like to help plan this special weekend, please contact Joan Sonneborn at 494-7154.



## Happy Spring First Parish!

Just a reminder that Women's Fellowship holds a workshop every Tuesday morning from 9:30 until 11ish. You absolutely do not have to work at this workshop! Those who enjoy working on projects bring them and others just come to chat. Please join us and have some fun and fellowship whenever you can.





# Community News



## GOSPEL MUSIC HISTORY COURSE ON ZOOM AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC, SOUTH PORTLAND

This 8-week free offering on Zoom to church members and friends will explore gospel hymns and songs from the Christian tradition, both from white and black gospel perspectives. You'll learn the history of well known pieces as well as ones you've never heard, and experience the music by hearing it on piano and via lots of videos. You can even sing along at home. Song sheets for each session will be provided by email which you can refer to and/or print. Class members will be encouraged to ask questions and to have discussion. If you miss a session, teaching notes and video links will be sent via email so you can stay up to date with others. At least 6 enrollments are necessary for this course to take place.

Everyone who loves gospel music and history are welcome. You must register for this class through the church office by Tuesday, April 26.

Class dates and time: Sundays, May 1 – June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2-3pm on Zoom.

Instructor: Terry Foster, M.Div., Ed.D. Terry has been a teacher as well as a musician almost all of his life. He has taught at Indiana University as well as USM and Bangor Theological Seminary.

Optional text: The Sound of Light, by Don Cusic.  
Bowling Green State University Popular Press, 1990.

NOTE: You can purchase this book online as inexpensive as \$5.79 used, or \$19.95 new.  
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE THE BOOK TO ENROLL!!

For more information, email [Terry@FCCUCC.org](mailto:Terry@FCCUCC.org).

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# APRIL 2022



| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                 | Monday                                    | Tuesday                                                                                                               | Wednesday                                                                                              | Thursday                                                                                         | Friday                                                                                                                                          | Saturday |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
|                                                                                                                                                                        |                                           |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | 1                                                                                                                                               | 2        |
| 3<br>8:50am CE Team<br>10am Service<br>11:30am Youth Choir<br>1pm TV Service                                                                                           | 4<br>9am Counters<br><br>6:30pm Big Book  | 5<br>9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop<br><br>6:30pm Facilities - Teams<br>7:15pm Men's Fellowship - FPCC            | 6<br><br>4pm Diaper Bank<br>6:00pm Girl Scouts<br>6:30pm Lenten Vesper Service                         | 7<br>9am TOHG<br><br>4pm Jr Choir<br>6:30pm Choir                                                | 8<br><br>3:30pm Guiding Eyes                                                                                                                    | 9        |
| 10<br><br><b>Palm Sunday</b><br>10am Service<br>11:30am Youth Choir<br>1pm TV Service | 11<br>9am Counters<br><br>6:30pm Big Book | 12<br>9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop<br><br>7:15pm Men's Fellowship- Zoom                                         | 13<br><br>4pm Diaper Bank<br>6pm Girl Scouts<br>6:30pm Finance Team                                    | 14<br>9am TOHG<br><br>4pm Jr Choir<br>6:30pm Choir<br><b>7pm Maundy Thursday Service</b>         | 15<br>Good Friday - Sanctuary will be open from 9a - 3p<br> | 16       |
| 17<br><br><b>Easter</b><br>10am Service<br>11:30am Youth Choir<br>1pm TV Service    | 18<br><br>6:30pm Big Book                 | 19<br>9am Counters<br>9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop<br><br>6:30pm Mission Team<br>7:15pm Men's Fellowship - Zoom | 20<br>10am So ME Theological Round Table<br><br>4pm Diaper Bank<br>6pm Girl Scouts<br>6:30pm Diaconate | 21<br>9am TOHG<br><br>4pm Jr Choir<br>6:30pm Choir                                               | 22<br><br>Happy Earth day<br><br>3:30pm Guiding Eyes       | 23       |
| 24<br>10am Service<br>11:30am Youth Choir<br>1pm TV Service<br><br>3pm - Pastor Scott's Installation and Reception                                                     | 25<br>9am Counters<br><br>6:00pm Big Book | 26<br>9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop<br><br>6:30pm Personnel Team<br>7:15pm Men's Fellowship - Zoom               | 27<br><br>4pm Diaper Bank<br>6pm Girl Scouts<br>6:30 pm Council                                        | 28<br>9am TOHG<br><br>4pm Jr Choir<br>4:30pm Flower & Altar<br>6:30pm Choir<br>6:30pm GNT - Zoom | 29                                                                                                                                              | 30       |

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Saco, ME 04072

