



The Messenger

First Parish Congregational Church Saco

The Church with Love and Hope to Share

March, 2022

Save the Date!!

After 32 months we look forward to finally 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 **2022 Church Council** is seeking a member to fill the vacant At Large position. If you are interested in being part of the 2022 Council as one of the At Large positions or have questions, please contact Dale Siulinski at dsiulinski001@maine.rr.com for more details.

The **Finance Team** is looking for one more person to join the team. They meet via Zoom on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm for 1 hour. If you are interested in joining this very important team or have any questions, please contact Amy Chute at amy.chute@firstparishsaco.org.

The **2022 Church Council** is seeking a member of First Parish to fill the Clerk position. The Clerk is an officer of the Church Council who attends monthly Council meetings and provides the meeting minutes. If you are interested in being part of the 2022 Council as the Clerk or have questions, please contact Dale Siulinski at dsiulinski001@maine.rr.com for more details.

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 the novel later
this spring and summer.
Copies of the book will be
available in the church office.

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

Prayers for Peace

O, God, hear our prayer as the weight of war pushes against our pull for peace. As we are joined across time and space by the waters of Lake Cobbeseecontee, we are also joined together in this moment of hard times and invaded spaces by the water of tears for Ukraine.

Even as we log to rest and heal by the campfires of the coming summer, we now turn our hearts to the ceasing of fire from missile explosions that scar the lands and scar the people.

We remember with love, our Pilgrim Lodge siblings who are Ukrainian with their roots and rememering in the invaded country.

We root ourselves in the holy community of the PL connection and join forces in hoping for peace, working for peace, praying for peace even as military forces rise up to harm.

Give us courage, O God, to rise up in endless prayer to teach of peace, share peace and sing of peace so that "and let it begin with me" becomes a song of all.



Amen

Prayer offered by Rev. Dr. Beth Follum Hoffman
Pilgrim Lodge Dean and Counselor



hoping for peace, working for peace, praying for peace.



Pastor Scott's Message...



The Pastor's Perspective ...

We like alliteration. Alliteration plays a fun game with our ears and tickles something in our brains. I always enjoy writing announcements about "Super Bowl Sunday Submarine Sandwich Sales!" We see advertisements for "Super Saturday" or "Sunday Spectacular!" The Bangles sang about "Manic Monday," and the college basketball playoff series is called "March Madness." One of my former churches offered a special series during Lent called "Wonderful Wednesdays."

This month ushers in the season of Lent, and I thought that we might embrace our enjoyment of alliteration. For some folks, Lent does not mean much anymore. It is a tiny blip on our radar. It has become the season when we joke about giving up something special as a way to deprive ourselves of some pleasure. Purveyors of sarcasm may joke about something truly terrible and offer that they are going to 'give it up for Lent.' "This snow and ice is my favorite. I guess that I will give it up for Lent." (Ha ha.) So let us make it into something a little more meaningful. Let us experience "Memorable March" or "Meaningful March."

Lenten Vesper Services ... You are invited to gather in the sanctuary on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:00 PM for a time of prayer and reflection. Take a break from the busy and the bother and spend a few moments in stillness and peace. Our sanctuary has a very different look and feel in the evening. The golden tones of the wood are warm and inviting. I invite you to see and feel it for yourselves.

March ... a Month of Mission ... Each Sunday during the month of March will give you an opportunity to hear about some of the programs and ministries that we support: the diaper bank, Seeds of Hope, Saco Food Pantry, Bon Appetit, and Pilgrim Lodge. These are just a few of the many outreach ministries that our church family participates in. Mission Month will also include a number of opportunities to put your faith into hands-on action.

Journey to Jerusalem ... During our Sunday morning worship services, we will join Jesus and the disciples as they make the journey toward the city of Jerusalem. We will experience the questions, doubts and fears of the disciples, and we will hear Jesus' words of comfort and assurance. The music of Lent speaks to our souls in a way that is very different than the other liturgical seasons. The music beautifully expresses the anguish, heartache, and the faith of the disciples, as well as our own.

Lent is so much more than giving up chocolate, or bread, or ice cream. It is often overshadowed by the parties and wonder of the season of Advent leading up the celebration of Christmas. Let us lean into Lent and be intentional about the purpose ... the pause ... and the preparation. Let us find some meaningful moments in which we can contemplate God's love and grace, and what it means to us.

May God bless you all,

Scott





Moderator Update



From the Moderator...

The Church Council is amid performing an organizational review. This critical work will continue throughout the year. As I stated at the Annual Affirmation Meeting the link between the Church Council, the three ministries - Assets, Discipleship/Fellowship and Worship - and the eighteen teams, is not as effective as it should be. Therefore, communication and written procedures regarding how various tasks should be accomplished, which are vital to the smooth operation of any organization, are not optimized to promote completion of our mission. As an initial step, the newly crafted Mission/Purpose statement - "First Parish Church is a Christ-centered inclusive community of faith with love and hope to share", is being forwarded to the team chairs for review and comment. Then, in order to prepare a Vision Statement, the Council will be requesting each team to generate a "wish list" of what the future holds in the year to come. Then we will reexamine our core values and conduct planning sessions with the teams throughout 2022 to align the organization.

The results of the team exercises, as well as the results of the congregational survey received in June 2021, which indicated that communication and written policies and procedures are among the top items you see as opportunities for improvement.

We continue to need assistance at the team level. There is a lot to do in an active church such as First Parish and we would appreciate your assistance. Please feel free to step up and fill a role that is consistent with your passion. At the time of this writing, the Clerk position on Church Council is still vacant. The Clerk records minutes of Church Council meetings and is an Officer of the Church. Please let me know if you are willing to fill this key role.

Blessings and peace, Dale Siulinski





Church DEACONS

Dear family and friends of First Parish,

With teasers of spring in between days of bitter cold and snowstorms, we have faith that spring will come and that we will be moving toward a return to “normal” church activities: think maskless worship services and coffee hours and a full sanctuary again. That is good news! As we told you in last month’s Messenger, we are adding five new deacons to our team. More good news!

One of them is Pam Campbell, who joined First Parish not long ago, with her husband, Geordie, a retired UCC minister. Pam grew up in central Pennsylvania and went to Susquehanna University where she and Geordie met. They have been married for 44 years and have two adult children: son Tim is an artist in NYC; daughter Karen lives and works in the Boston area, where she and her wife Meredith just presented Pam and Geordie with their first grandchild! Pam is a retired Marriage and Family therapist who practiced in Farmington, CT, for 17 years. She is looking forward to becoming actively involved in our church and community.

Another “new” deacon is not really new. Jean Johnson is returning to the diaconate after “retiring” from Maine Medical Center and finding more free time. Originally from Holden, MA, Jean moved in 2002 to Old Orchard Beach, where she is the owner and Innkeeper of High Tide vacation rentals. A member of FPC since about 2012, she is a single mom to Jamie Johnson, our junior deacon. Jean has just naturally slipped back into her deacon role!

Thank you, Pam and Jean, for agreeing to serve as deacons. We are truly blessed to have both of you on our team!

We will tell you about our other new deacons in the April Messenger.

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



Christian Education update from Kris...



The month of March brings new life as the days grow longer and warmer. With March comes a new quarter for our Church school. Spring quarter consists of the next three months March, April and May. We will continue with our stories of Jesus' ministry. We will be putting up new pictures on our Wonder Wall and we will journey through Lent together. **Lent** just happens to be our Wonder Word for this month. The time of Lent begins March 2. Just like Lent brings Easter and new life and hope, Spring does too.



The Pilgrim Lodge schedule is out and looking awesome. So many cool camps, for the week, weekend, and half week adventures. For more information go to

www.pilgrimlodge.org. Pilgrim Lodge camperships will be available soon. PL is also bringing back their Day Passes which were a big hit last year. We have many PL alumni in our church family so if you have any questions, please ask. There are camping opportunities for ALL ages. The Christian Education team is focused on helping everyone, regardless of age, to have the opportunity to attend Pilgrim Lodge. We will have substantial camperships available to all who want to go. **Sunday, March 13**, we will be singing camp songs and learning more about PL through stories from past campers. Please join us in person or virtual. We will have lots of information regarding PL at that time.

See you at Church,
Kris

PILGRIM LODGE Summer 2022

- June 3 - June 5: WOMEN'S SPRING WEEKEND
- June 26 - July 2: ELEMENTARY /ARTS FOR ALL (Grades 4-6, 7-9, 10, Post Grad)
- July 3 - July 5: GRANDPARENTS CAMP I (July 3 - July 6 "EXPEDITION EVERYONE")
- July 10 - July 16: CAMP PRIDE & ISLAND CAMP (Grades 9 - Post Grad, Grades 7-9)
- July 13 - July 16: FIRST TIME CAMPERS (Grades 4-5)
- July 17 - July 23: MIDDLELERS & SENIOR HIGH (Grades 7-9, Grades 10 - Post Grad)
- July 24 - July 30: HOGWARTS & COBBEECON (Grades 4 - 10)
- Aug 3 - Aug 6: ADULTS' WEEKEND
- Aug 21 - Aug 23: GRANDPARENTS CAMP II
- Sept 2 - Sept 5: FAMILY CAMP
- Sept 16 - Sept 18: WOMEN'S FALL WEEKEND

Free Material

There are 3 big boxes full of various kinds and colors of material. Free for the taking. Sewing classes, curtains, doll clothes etc. See Kris if you would like to check it out. Thanks.



February



- February 6 **Connor Remillard**
- February 13 **Cassie Remillard**
- February 20 **Chloe Remillard**
- February 27 **Emily Savage**



**NURSERY
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**
*“Let the little
Children come to me”*

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

-Matthew 19:14

Helping Lisa in the Nursery for the month of February was:

- 6th Mary Coyne
- 13th Glenys Salvas
- 20th Carol Spencer Lemay
- 27th Glenys Salvas

“Its Only One Sunday!”

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



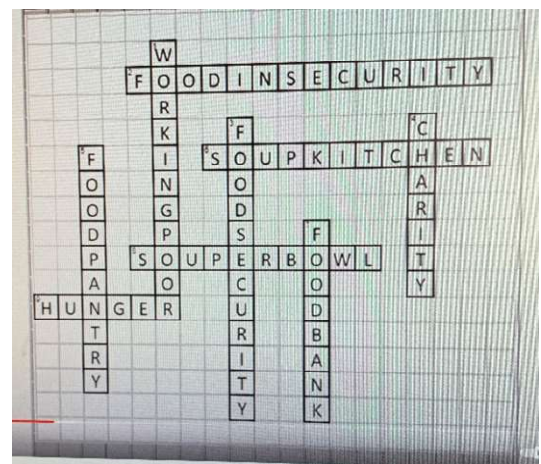
Fellowship

Thank you to all who supported our Super Bowl fundraiser.

We sold 100 subs and handed them out after worship and curbside. Many thanks to all those who helped prep and assemble. We raised \$450.00. Our Souper Bowl offering brought in \$561.00 “I was hungry and you fed me.” ---Matthew 25:35, The Message by Eugene Peters. This money went to **Seeds of Hope**. FMI: www.seedsofhope4me.org



We hope you learned a lot from our Souper Bowl crossword puzzle. Thank you to Freddie for getting the crossword up on the screen and to Heather Nolette for making the signs. The answers are below in case you didn't get a chance to finish.



Valentine Drive Thru

Members of our Christian Education team and others were outside for our Valentine's Drive thru. Our Valentine's Drive thru was much different than last year temperature wise. It was a gorgeous day. Thank you to all who drove through and all who gave Valentines. They will be on our Wonder Wall very soon.

Super Bowl Sub Preparation





Music Ministry

From Our Music Director

jacqui@firstparishsaco.org



"There will be rest, and sure stars shining. Over the rooftops crowned with snow, A reign of rest, serene forgetting. The music of stillness holy and low. I will make this world of my devising. Out of a dream in my lonely mind. I shall find the crystal of peace, above me Stars I shall find"
-Poem by Sara Teasdale

Despite the ongoing challenges the world faces as we enter this season of lent, I often find Lent to be a time of peace, a quiet season. A season of stillness and simplicity. But life is anything but quiet and simple. This season of Lent the Senior Choir is working on a piece by Elaine Hagenberg called "Music of Stillness" which is based off the poem above. I hope the message of the music offers you, the congregation, a sense of peace during such a tumultuous time. We will run this anthem on Sunday March 20th and much of our music will be based on this theme. ~Jacqui



Flower and Altar Update



Easter Flowers

Would you like to remember, honor or recognize loved ones by providing flowers on Easter Sunday? Flower & Altar will be taking orders for lilies (\$10 each) and purple & yellow tulips (limited supply \$5 each). Options for ordering:

- F&A Team members will be taking orders after service on Sunday, March 13th & 20th
- Order sheets will be available outside the church office. Please fill out and place in the F&A mailbox. If paying by check, make out to FPCC and put Easter flowers on the memo line.
- Contact Marcia Lord at 207-768-1699 or mvlord@aol.com



Sunday Flowers

If you'd like to provide flowers during 2022 the new sign up sheets are available outside the Church Office or you can contact:

Patrice Tripp at 207-590-1109 or rtripp@maine.rr.com

or

Marcia Lord at 207-768-1699 or mvlord@aol.com.



Altar Flowers given for the Month of February

February 6th flowers were given by Linda Sprague Lambert in loving memory of Carol Rancourt.

February 13th flowers were given by The Charles and Debra Clark Memorial Flower Fund in memory of Fred Clark, Sr.

February 20th flowers were given by Carol Connelly in celebration of her sister Pamela McPherson's 70th birthday on February 23rd.

February 27th flowers were given by Sue Burgess in honor of Kate Elisabeth.

Mission Team Update

FMI – Carol SpencerLemay
SpencerLemay2@gmail.com

MARCH IS MISSION MONTH

There will be so many opportunities to learn about how to contribute to our community! During March, a member of the Mission Team will be available after Sunday services to answer questions or to listen to ideas you might like to share. Jane Kircher, Martha Perkins, Nancy Twomey, or Carol SpencerLemay are willing to learn from you!

March 6: Please bring in diapers to contribute to our **diaper bank**- especially size 4, 5, & 6. Pam Mohlin will be available after the service to answer questions and to show you the proper way to stuff the diapers into bags.

March 13: Rev. Shirley Bowen will educate us about **Seeds of Hope**. She will be available after the service to answer questions. She welcomes contributions.

March 20 Bring in non-perishable food items or hygiene products for the **Saco Food Pantry** cart. Toni Clarke, a volunteer, suggested we donate *heartly* soups. Since the pandemic, it has been more difficult for the pantry to buy food because of low supplies in the supermarkets. Other items to donate: canned pasta sauce, canned pasta, toothbrushes, bar soap, shampoo, just add water pancake mix, instant pudding mix, rice pilaf, hamburger helper, and syrup for pancakes.

March 27 After the Sunday service, volunteers will be assembling the ingredients for a meal to serve at Bon Appetit, Biddeford on the next day- Monday, March 28. At our church on March 27, we will be preparing American Chop Suey for the main dish. Please sign up to help on the sign up sheet in the Atrium near the office. Or you can contribute by bringing in one or all of the following: (1) a *prepared salad* (hopefully in a large plastic bag) (2) *desserts* that are easily transported and wrapped (3) *dinner rolls*. We hope you can join us! Trina Triggs will be available to answer questions you might have about Bon Appetit.

If you would like to be involved in planning and brainstorming new ideas for the Mission team, please join us on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 6:30 pm in the Atrium. Carol SpencerLemay would love to hear from you even if you are not able to attend a meeting at (207) 284-9088 or spencerlemay2@gmail.com

OneBody Member Directory

From Our
Good News
Team

Now available to all First Parish members



We're happy to announce the availability of a secured online member directory for First Parish Saco. Once a verified active member has setup access to the directory they will be allowed to submit revisions to the information on file in PowerChurch as well as search for available contact information of other members.

How to access OneBody Member Directory

The directory can be accessed from <https://www.firstparishsaco.org/> and select *Offering & Services* and then *OneBody Member Directory* from the site menu. To logon you will need to use your previously confirmed email address and password.

How to Sign up for a OneBody account

Once you access the directory site from <https://www.firstparishsaco.org/> and select *Offering & Services* and then *OneBody Member Directory* from the site menu please click on *Sign Up for an account if you don't have one*.

On the next screen please select *Verify by email* and enter the email address you have previously provided to First Parish Church for your member account. If the email matches what we have in the directory you will receive an email at that same email address shortly after with a link to create a password for your account. Please use a complex password to protect access to the directory.

You will not be able to gain access to the online directory if you are not using the email address the Membership Team has on file.

If you receive an error message when entering your email please contact

membership@firstparishsaco.org and describe the issue you are experiencing so the Membership Team can provide assistance.

[sign out](#)

Search by name



Community News



WILL YOU HELP?

We are hoping you will be involved in helping your neighbor. Age Friendly Saco depends on volunteers like you to help provide services. We are looking for volunteers to assist in our latest program, Friendly Neighbors. We all have something to offer and you can accept or decline any request. You determine how much time you want to volunteer.

Our Friendly Neighbors are kind, friendly people who care about older people in our community. They want people to be able to remain in their homes but want to ensure they are not alone. With COVID many people have been isolated. We want to change that by visiting, calling and/or helping them with light household chores. Please note all Friendly Neighbors must have received both doses of the COVID vaccine and booster shots. Masks are required and you must keep a safe distance from the clients, who are also expected to have received vaccines and wear a mask.

Please help us make a difference in our community by becoming a Friendly Neighbor. Give us a call or email your request. You can call us at 207-710-5029 or email us at agefriendlysaco@gmail.com and Gail Merritt, the coordinator of the program will get back to you.

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With Rev. Bowen visiting us on March 13<sup>th</sup> as part of the Mission Team presentations we have found that there is a need for the following items at Seeds of Hope.

**Men**

boxer shorts, not briefs – sizes Large and X-large

**Women**

Panties – mostly size 6 and some size 7

Sports Bras – various sizes

Let's make March 13<sup>th</sup> "Undie Sunday" for Seeds of Hope. Please consider bringing in some of the items noted above. We'll have a collection place for these items in the Atrium.

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Maine Health / Care Partners



Carol Lofredo, Case Manager for Care Partners, a division of Maine Health, is looking for new or used suitcases for her clients in OOB motels who will be moving soon.

Care Partners assists the uninsured in finding services they need.

You may contact Carol at 207-294-8145 or drop the suitcases off at the Diaper Bank on Wednesdays from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Thank you!

MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 6:30pm Facilities 7:15pm Men's Fellowship	2 4pm Diaper Bank 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Lenten Vesper Service	3 9am TOHG 9:30am Women's Bible Study 4pm Jr Choir 6:30pm Choir	4	5 10am VBS Online Training
6 8:50am CE Team Service 10am Service 11:30am Youth Choir 1pm TV Service	7 9am Counters 7pm Big Book	8 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 7:15pm Men's Fellowship	9 4pm Diaper Bank 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Finance Team 6:30pm Lenten Vesper Service	10 9am TOHG 9:30am Women's Bible Study 4pm Jr Choir 6:30pm Choir	11 3:30pm Guiding Eyes	12
13 10am Service 11:30am Youth Choir 1pm TV Service 	14 9am Counters 7pm Big Book	15 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 6:30pm Mission Team 7:15pm Men's Fellowship	16 10am So ME Theological Round Table 4pm Diaper Bank 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Diaconate 6:30pm Lenten Vesper Service	17 9am TOHG 4pm Jr Choir 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm GNT 	18 	19
20 10am Service 11:30am Youth Choir 1pm TV Service	21 9am Counters 7pm Big Book	22 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 7:15pm Men's Fellowship	23 4pm Diaper Bank 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Council 6:30pm Lenten Vesper Service	24 9am TOHG 4pm Jr Choir 6:30pm Choir	25 3:30pm Guiding Eyes	26
27 10am Service 11:30am Youth Choir 1pm TV Service	28 9am Counters 6pm Big Book	29 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 6:30pm Personnel Team 7:15pm Men's Fellowship	30 4pm Diaper Bank 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Lenten Vesper Service	31 9am TOHG 4pm Jr Choir 6:30pm Choir		

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Saco, ME 04072



well hello,
march