## The Messenger March 2021

# First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ The Church with Love and Hope to Share





March 7, Reverend Bill Donoghue



March 14, Reverend Merle Steva

You are invited to join us at 11:30 AM every Sunday during the season of Lent for a time of reflection and conversation based upon that morning's worship service.

Every week, we will send out an e-blast with the ZOOM link. If you are not currently on the church email list and would like to participate in the Lenten reflections, please contact the church office.



March 21, Reverend Rick Huleatt



March 28, Reverend Doug Nielsen

Palm Sunday, March 28
Maundy Thursday, April 1
Easter Sunday, April 4
Confirmation Sunday, April 11



Scott Cousineau, Senior Minister Kristine Galasyn, Director of Christian Education Jacqueline Savage, Music Director Nadeen DeSilva, Office Manager scott.cousineau@firstparishsaco.org kris@firstparishsaco.org jacqui@firstparishsaco.org office@firstparishsaco.org

#### The Pastor's Perspective ...

Those of us who enjoy the absolute pleasure of living in New England know that we have a number of "seasons" that we experience above and beyond Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. Some of those subseasons occur on the threshold between Winter and Spring. Those subseasons are ice season, mud season, and then black fly season. The backyard of the parsonage is currently experiencing mud season. Mud season is less dangerous than ice season and much less annoying than black fly season. Mud season is especially fun when you have multiple dogs in the house.



Similar to ice season, during mud season one has to carefully consider where they place their feet. We do not stroll casually or carelessly through the world. We look for firm footing ... grassy spots, perhaps even snowy or icy spots that will allow us to remain above the muddy and mucky mire. I usually walk slower during mud season than I do during ice season. I am typically pretty sure and steady on the ice, and it is generally a pretty safe bet that I will not splash ice on my pants or track it into the house.

As I looked at the muddy footprints left behind by Tuffy on the foyer floor, I briefly grumbled to myself about the season. But then I considered the possibility of mud season being a good metaphor for the season of Lent.

We are not intended to race quickly through Lent. It is not a sprint. Lent is a season of reflection as we make our way to Jerusalem, Golgotha, and the cross with Jesus. The walk is slow and steady. We pause along the way to contemplate our journey and what it means to our faith lives.

I am certain that there are those who stride confidently through Lent, observing the steady ground of repeated spiritual practices. However, just like the slate pavers in the walkway, mud can make them shift as well. Our lives get muddy. Circumstances arise that change our experiences of the world. We grow and we struggle in our faith.

My goal for mud season this year is to change my perspective. Rather than see it as a source of complaint and consternation, I will accept it as a challenge ... an opportunity to chart a new course each time I venture into the yard.

Likewise, my goal for Lent is to walk slowly and steadily, contemplating each step along the away. I will seek new and meaningful ways to experience the Lenten discipline.

Lent is more than the forty shopping days that lead up to our Easter celebrations. It is an opportunity to deepen our faith and our relationships with Jesus Christ.

Yes, life is mucky and muddy at times. But the mud is also the sign that the earth is thawing from the winter freeze, and new life will once again spring forth. May God bless you on your Lenten walk. May this time bring you new life in Jesus Christ.

Peace be with you,

Scott

## A Message From the Moderator, Jen Fullmer

Jen and Eddie Fullmer



Thank you all for welcoming me as this term's moderator and I want to send a huge thanks to Bob Mohlin for his exceptional service, leadership, and mentorship. Eddie and I started attending First Parish Church in the summer of 2019, became members in February 2020, and then in March...we all know what happened. I can assure you that I will work on meeting and getting to know you as best we can given the current COVID environment. In the meantime, I'll take this opportunity to provide a brief personal background since you're probably wondering, "who is this person who is our moderator?"

Eddie and I believe in service to our country, to our communities, and most importantly to God. I grew up in CT and Eddie grew up in NJ and we are grateful to have found our way to Maine after living around the country and traveling around the world for more than 24 years. We love Maine, we love to be active, we love the outdoors, and we love to socialize.

In the Air Force, I flew B-1 Bomber aircraft and was blessed to serve in a variety of leadership roles. After retiring from the Air Force in 2015, I built and ran a Maine nonprofit organization called Boots2Roots for four years and currently serve as Board Chair. I'm also a member of Biddeford-Saco Rotary, the Maine State Workforce Board, and I'm humbled to serve as FPC moderator.

Our journey took us beyond physical places by providing experiences and opportunities that continue to shape our desire to serve, and ultimately led us back to a relationship with Jesus Christ in 2013. Since then, we've been on an amazing journey, we know that we finally found the right church family, and we're looking forward to the opportunity to grow and serve together.



#### **Christian Education**



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. As we begin our new quarter we are still virtual with age level activity books. We will be putting up new pictures on our Wonder Wall and we will celebrate Easter together. As we all stay diligent in wearing masks, social distancing and getting the vaccine as soon as we are eligible for it, things will get better. Spring brings hope.

Here is the schedule for our Spring quarter curriculum.

Unit 1: Remember

March 7 Jesus Washes Feet

John 13:1-17

March 14 The Last Supper

Luke 22:14-20

March 21 Praying in the Garden

Luke 22:39-46

March 28 Jesus enters Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-11

Unit 2: Share

April 4 Resurrection

Matthew 28:1-10

April 11 The Great Commission

Matthew 28:16-20

April 18 Peter and John

Acts 3:1-10

April 25 Believers Share

Acts 4:32-37

Unit 3: Love

May 2 Choosing the Seven

Acts 6:1-7

May 9 Peter and Tabitha

Acts 9:36-43

May 16 The Church Grows

Acts 9:26-31

May 23 Pentecost

Acts 2:1-12

May 30 Love in Action

Romans 12:9-18

Members of our Christian Education team and others were outside for our Valentine's Drive thru, where our Spring quarter age level activity books were handed out. If you were unable to drive thru and would like your activity books please let me know and we will make sure you get yours. Our Valentine's Drive thru was quite cold but our hearts were warmed by seeing so many of our Church school families and receiving Valentines from them. Those Valentines along with other pictures are now on our Wonder Wall in the sanctuary. Twelve families came by with a total of 40 people with another 12 people handing out Valentines cards, treats and other fun stuff. Thank you to all who came by. It was wonderful to see everyone.





With March comes Vacation Bible School planning. Last year we were virtual with packets sent home. At this time we are not sure how are VBS will look but, recently, seven of us did have an online training. This training was through Cokesbury, the



publishing house, which is based in Nashville,
TN. It was a fun way to learn about this year's theme. Many thanks to Freddie
Connelly who did all the tech work.

Attending were: Scott Cousineau, Judy and Peter Gray, Susan Marston, Danielle Roberge, Aldene Walters and Kris Galasyn.

Stay safe and Stay well,

Kris









# Fellowship

Thank you to all who supported our

Super Bowl fundraiser. We sold 100



subs and handed them out curbside. Many thanks to all those who helped prep and assemble. We raised \$450.00. Our Souper Bowl offering brought in \$677.50. "I was

hungry and you fed me." --- Matthew 25:35,



<u>The Message</u> by Eugene Peters. This money went to Stone Soup in Biddeford. Stone Soup helps anyone who comes to them regardless of residency. FMI:

www.stonesouppantry.org









# Music Ministry

Jacqui Savage: Music Director



#### **Upcoming Special Music:**

- ♦ Jacqui Savage and Christopher Pelonzi playing Piano/Organ Duets which will be included in service music during Lent Services and Easter
- ♦ Edited Recordings from 2019 and 2020 revitalized for services throughout Lent this year.
- ♦ Special Music will be provided by Cellist, Daniel Dickson during the Maundy Thursday Service alongside a small group of our Choir.
- ♦ Violinist, Evan Cuddy and Soprano, Molly Harmon will be adding their talent in a couple pieces in our Easter Service

#### Virtual Anthems:

- ◆ **Sunday March 14**<sup>th</sup>: "You Do Not Walk Alone" by Elaine Hagenburg Virtual Choir Collaboration Project
  - We will be singing alongside South Portland UCC, Westbrook Warren Congregational Church, Yarmouth UCC, Gorham Congregational Church and Hampden UCC singers.
- ♦ Sunday March 21st: Junior Choir will be singing "I Am the Church" as a virtual Choir anthem
- ♦ Sunday March 28<sup>th</sup>: Choir will be singing "Ride On King Jesus" with Peter Gray as soloist
- ♦ Sunday April 4<sup>th</sup> EASTER
  - All Choirs will sing a contemporary worship piece called "Wondrous Cross" arranged by Cliff Duren with Sarah Heath on drums and Ella Walters as soloist
  - Senior Choir and Brass instrumentalists from the Ocean Park Alumni Band will be doing a virtual anthem together called "Worthy is the Lamb" by Allen Pote
  - Senior and Youth Choir are working on the "Hallelujah Chorus" by Handel for the congregation to sing along to at home. Some of our guest musicians will appear in this piece!

## Meet the Musicians:

We have had some special music in the past couple months and will have more in upcoming months so we will spotlight them all this month and next month.

#### **Molly Harmon**

Molly has performed numerous times as a soloist and chorister in the Southern Maine area. While she enjoys solo work, her main passion lies in ensemble singing. She is a member of ChoralArt, and also sings with the Early Music group The St. Mary Schola. In addition to classical singing, Molly occasionally dips her toes in musical theater and has played the roles of Kate Monster in Avenue Q and Pirelli in Sweeney Todd, both at Lyric Music Theater. She also enjoys karaoke, and can do a mean Mariah Carey impression. Molly resides in Portland with her best friend Evan and their cats Chiquita and Halloween.



#### **Christopher Pelonzi**

Chris has been working with Jacqui giving her lessons on the organ for the past 4 years while at First Parish.

Music has been a life-long journey for Chris. Starting with piano at three, growing into the pipe organ by five, and conducting by thirteen, notes and staves have always been a part of his life. Currently, Chris serves as Artist Faculty at the University of Southern Maine and Director of Music for the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and the Portland Peninsula & Island Parishes where he oversees the music for five parishes. As organist, he has performed with the Portland Symphony Orchestra, ChoralArt, Oratorio Chorale, the USM Chamber Singers, and many others in addition to solo recitals all across the East Coast



and Canada. He regularly performs on harpsichord with St. Mary's Schola and is a founding member of the *Sul Cappello Ensemble*. As a conductor, he has directed many workshops and conducted numerous choirs over the past fifteen years. Currently, he is the artistic director and a founding member of *Dirigo Ensemble*, an elite *a cappella* ensemble of and for Maine. Chris is also the conductor of the Cathedral Consort, a board member for the Friends of the Kotzschmar Organ, and Past-Dean of the Portland Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Chris holds a bachelor's degree from McGill University in Organ and a Masters degree from the University of Southern Maine in Choral Conducting. While at the University of Southern Maine, Chris developed a particular interest in the pedagogy of music education and continues to research methods of musical instruction.

His organ pedigree includes Michael Joseph, Dr. John Grew, Dr. Hans-Ola Ericcson, and Dr. William Porter. His harpsichord and early music passion were born from Hank Knox, Vallerie Kinslow, and Dr. Lena Weiman Ericcson. As a baritone, he owes much to Bruce Fithian and Scott Wheatly for their immeasurable coaching and support. Outside of music, Chris enjoys home building projects, woodworking, hiking, swimming, and listening to audiobooks.

#### **DEACONS' CORNER**



Dear Family and Friends of First Parish,

Happy March, everyone!

These are the days of waiting...waiting for spring (March 20), waiting for Easter (April 4), and waiting for a return to some version of "normal," (like a return to in-person church!) Some of us are waiting patiently (or not so patiently) for our COVID-19 vaccine. The good news is that these things will happen. We just need to remind us ourselves of the comfortable old mantra, "This too shall pass." Let us count our blessings as we wait.

We've mentioned before that some of us (Pastor Scott and five deacons) are taking advantage of this unusual stay-at-home time to get involved to some extent in the Black Lives Matter movement. We have been informally reading various books and watching videos on the subject. We have become very sure that the path to action involves educating ourselves on the history of race relations in the United States and trying to understand the way racism is experienced by people of color. Deacon Margery Condon has graciously taken on the role of facilitator of our little group, and we are now meeting regularly, via Zoom, with a specific agenda. At this time, we are all reading "White Fragility," an incredible book by Robin DiAngelo. We urge you to read it if you haven't, with an eye to future in-person presentations and workshops. We look forward to sharing our experience with you.

Meanwhile, we hope March brings us all a sense of re-awakening, a strong feeling of hope. Stay well, everyone!

Love and blessings,

Nadine Russell and Dan Carter Co-chairs, FPC Diaconate





#### Flower & Altar

We are blessed to have donations for altar flowers in honor or memory of loved ones. Sundays through Easter (April 4<sup>th</sup>) are filled. Most Sundays after April 4<sup>th</sup> are open. If you would like to provide flowers for the altar, contact Patrice Tripp at 590-1109 or <a href="maintenance.rr.com">rtripp@maine.rr.com</a> or Marcia Lord at 768-1699 or <a href="maintenance.rr.com">mvlord@aol.com</a>.

February Altar Flowers:

February 7th given by Martha & Bill Conlan in memory of our parents

February 14<sup>th</sup> given by Maureen O'Donnell in memory of Linda Marie Bascombe & Ruth Blakeslee

February 21st given by the Clark Flower Fund in memory of Fred Clark, Sr.

February 28th given by Judi Klingensmith in memory of her brother, Bruce Porter



Pastor Scott and members of the Flower & Altar Team will be available after Palm Sunday service (March 28th) to handout palms.

Flowers for Easter Sunday will be provided by Flower & Altar again this year.

We are all looking forward to the time when we will be together again for worship and fellowship.

As flowers bloom, so does hope.

Patrice & Marcia



#### **Missions**



The Saco Food Pantry continues to gladly accept donations of non perishable food and non-food items, especially as listed below:

#### **FOOD**

- Complete Pancake Mix and Syrup
- Can Stew, Chili, Hearty Soups and Chowders (NO tomato or cream of mushroom)
- Spaghetti (regular spaghetti, not elbows, etc.)
- Rice Pilaf, Rice-a-Roni, Ramen Noodles
- Mac & Cheese

#### **HYGIENE PRODUCTS**

- Shampoo
- Toothbrushes
- Bath Tissue
- Bar Soap
- Toothpaste

Daisy's Children Update The people of Honduras continue the slow process of repairing roads and rebuilding structures after the 2 devastating hurricanes in Nov. 2020. Because of the monetary help from York County UCC, Daisy's Children has been able to continue to feed the children and their families in their remote village. In addition, the Daisy's Children's building has been updated with new plumbing. The charity needs \$5000.00 to complete their Nutrition Center. Visit Daisyschildren.org or Daisy's Children on facebook for information, or contact Judi Klingensmith at judikling1@gmail.com.





#### What is One Great Hour of Sharing®?

One Great Hour of Sharing, part of Our Church's Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis.

The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation.

One Great Hour of Sharing also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. Visit <a href="https://www.ucc.org/oghs">www.ucc.org/oghs</a> for more information.

**How can I contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing?** You may send a check made out to First Parish Congregational Church-UCC with OGHS in the memo line. Or text OGHS to 41444 and follow the prompts to give securely, or you may donate at <a href="https://www.ucc.org/oghs">www.ucc.org/oghs</a>.



#### ATTENTION: MEMBERS OF FPC

Our Church Pays Annual Fellowship Dues to the Maine Conference UCC and the York Association

The Combined Cost of the Above for Each of 294 Active Members at FPC = \$17 per person From the FPC budget this means a total of \$4998

#### Active Members can help defray that cost

\$17 for one member \$34 for two members



to Pay Your Personal Dues

by

Writing a Check Payable to <u>First Parish Saco</u> with the word DUES in the Memo Line



# Women's Fellowship

Hello to everyone.

Wishing you all good health and a return to normalcy soon. I have been hopeful that we could plan on having a fair of some sort during the summer of 2021. However, unless public events, like LaKermesse and Saco Sidewalk Art Festival are happening, we probably will not be able to have one. I also am hoping that when the weather becomes warmer, probably at the beginning of May, we can have a Women's Fellowship meeting outside the church.

I also wanted everyone to know that during this pandemic, WF has become wealthy with yarn! We have so much yarn we are bursting at the seams.... soooo, if any of you lovely ladies would like to come help yourself to some, please let me know and I'll meet you at church to help you get some since much of it is in the storage closet in the Atrium. You can reach me at 207-229-3196 or email me at droth@maine.rr.com

I also thought you might find it interesting that during this pandemic, I joined several knitting groups on Facebook. Through one of these groups, I met a woman in Edwardsville, Kansas who posted that the ladies of her church were trying to start a prayer shawl ministry, but due to Covid and not a lot of funds, they were having a hard time getting yarn. So, I decided to jump in and offer First Parish's assistance. Several weeks ago I sent a large box of yarn with directions for the pattern we use for making prayer shawls and a prayer shawl pattern book. They were thrilled with the gift of yarn and patterns. I will be continuing our friendship in the future, and will keep you posted when I hear from them.

Please take care, be safe and pray for the day we can all be together again.

Blessings,

Glen Ellen Roth, President Women's Fellowship



# fetter to First Parish



#### Dear Friends,

As Covid has been a difficult year for all of us, for some of us it has prompted looking beyond our comfort zone and wondering what change might look like. Having said that, we were offered an opportunity to purchase an oceanfront home on a dead end parcel of land with unobstructed views of Muscongus Bay. We put our Biddeford home on the market and sold it within one week. We truly never know what God has in store for us and in mid February we moved to Round Pond, ME.

We will miss our First Parish Family and all of the friends we have made, this is one of the most amazing churches we have ever belonged to. You are good people and you do good work to minister to others. We have been Blessed to know all of you.

Our new mailing address and phone numbers will be in the church office. Please feel free to stay in touch and if you ever feel like a ride up the coast look us up. There are terrific lobster rolls to be had in the harbor and penny candy and ice cream at The Granite Hall Store.

Blessings and Love to you all,

Kathleen and Rev Jeff Larsen



# fetter to first Parish



Carolyn Milley



2/5/2021

Dear Friends of the First Parish Congregational Church,

In memory of our deceased mother, Carolyn Milley, our family wishes to gift a donation of \$2000.00 to be allocated to your Martin Luther King Day of Service. Throughout the years our mother expressed great joy when she volunteered her time for the events of the MLK Day of Service.

She always stressed how important she thought it was to give back to the community and help those less fortunate and in need. She loved to tell stories about her experiences of the events from that day and the weeks of preparation from countless church members. She talked about the love and support the day provided for both the recipients and volunteers.

We are confident that this donation is something that is bringing a smile to Carolyn's face in Heaven! This is certainly a place where she would have wanted her money to go. Thank you for honoring our request in remembrance of Carolyn.

Fondly,

The Milley Family







### **History of First Parish Meal Ministry**

After the new building was completed and we had "moved in" Lynn Johnson got a group of parishioners together in 2006 to see what we could do to make use of the fantastic industrial kitchen that we now had. From there we started finding our way with meals we could provide to the community.

Lynn, along with Dick and Jackie Lavoie lead the charge and we started with spaghetti suppers. Those were ok for a while, but as one patron mentioned "anyone can cook a spaghetti supper at home". That was a clue that we were not on the right path yet. One summer we tried BBQ Chicken dinners. Again, they worked for that time but was not where we were supposed to be. Dick and Jackie suggested having an old-fashioned New England Bean Suppah. We tried that and found this was the path we should be on.

We held these suppahs February through June and September through November in the beginning. At some point we decided to hold these suppahs during the summer as well. We found that folks "from away" were searching for something New England while they were visiting. These suppahs have been amazing. We have had visitors from all over the country come in and enjoy food and fellowship as only First Parish can provide.

Dick and Jackie have since moved on and Sue Burgess stepped in, or was hornswoggled, to lead the team. We now provide monthly Bean Suppahs from February through November on the second Saturday of each month. We have our regulars, who we have grown very fond of, attend each month and we catch up with each of them. First Parish fellowship shines brightly at each of these meals. "We enter as strangers and leave as friends."

We sold lobster roll lunches once. Those require a lot of pre-work and can be expensive. The folks who did purchase a lunch were incredibly pleased with what was provided.

We provided the food for the reception that was given to Rev. Doug Nielsen upon his retirement.

We provide a reception with finger foods for the annual ChIME (Chaplaincy Institute of Maine) commencement. This is an incredible event where we witness the joy of blessed individuals who go on to their calling. Depending on the number of graduates we have served a variety of number of people at any one event.

At the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference that was held at First Parish we provided lunches and a dinner for the attendees. This was a large undertaking and was well received by all who attended.

We have provided food for other events at church as well, just can't remember them all at this point.

As mentioned before, the proceeds from each of these events goes back into the communities around us. This is particularly important to each of us who volunteers their time to make these events such a success. As noted in the past Annual Reports for First Parish some of the organizations we have supported are as follows:

Saco Food Pantry
Bon Appetit – Biddeford
Seeds of Hope – Christ Episcopal Church – Biddeford
Good Shepherd Food Bank – Maine
Church Community Food Pantry – Kennebunk
The First Parish 9 – Trip to FL for National Youth Event
United Church of Christ Emergency Fund
Pastor's Discretionary Fund – First Parish Saco
General Fund – First Parish Saco
Food for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service



#### Books of the Bible

PD F E B R C W F O K T M Y K D C V O N W I L P C N M A Z R YVASUCGDOSRGGOYBDIYFLWLXIVRCCR V T B Z B W U A Y R K W T V R M H S G Y S E C C C I I W L U J M D E Z N D O U F E S T H E R U L I G N Y M L I Z J P N Q ZZWAUDKUNKRPWUXTCXLQHXKSOCMKTV CILGRKGNIEYSTJIXLYFURHGGFNQVXX F J N P Z T D M B L E V I T I C U S O B G N N O N G T S R L HNPFAHBMALACHIZEPHANIAHABAKKUK GYFTSFUXCVJPSZQXKEHKYSLMYQDHTU K P Y I R N G I Z C P B Q P F L S O I Z E C H A R I A H H X F X S M A B N A Z R J Q Y D R O J X F G A D T B T I P H M M H C E O U O N X O V O F M O H O C S D C S Z W J M I A Y Z F A C T T R S W B L N E Q Q X H Z Y U R M E P H E S I A N S R ZKBHUCOVOKDOHDTJJELVURRNDHRNNS J R C Y X J I N U I K S S G S X U A R O L E A A J A M E S O H F P O M K W L G L N T Y B B N S N W B J I B I Q S F N D C WIYMRYETVOPHILIPPIANSOMNXTAJCW LXKAIIDIIUFEYEOBTRSSPGNVHMATIH WHMDK CNTXMV SA CAOZWOETIXAOUV OA S BBBEGUATOITSOCREPLHECNIRHEIICK HTZUETRHHK YAULLIOOFSOMB SEMABTX TEKTNXPMLIBLNEOCLMMIEXODUSROSI O F O E E T W E A S A O I S U M V B T H W J U H I P K K X F J Y M R S W O G T S M N K I A P O A E E X J A O C B W U G P BAROIJGWJEAISALMLNHBONVNCXTBCX LGMNSAKVLDRAPSWEUTVRFLLRBUSRTI F A W O H G A I W Z D N U T V W T E K E L T R W D V L I E U X F R M S N H Q K M T S I E D A M P L W H P Q N O C V V Q Y GRBYWPFSVFGTRSMKFNXSVKXNHBRCOR V Z Y L C T J Y G S A I R H B E V Y B O A Y V X E A U V D Z

Acts
Amos
Chronicles
Colossians
Corinthians
Daniel
Deuteronomy
Ecclesiastes
Ephesians
Esther
Exodus
Ezekiel
Ezra
Galatians
Genesis

Habakkuk Haggai Hebrews Hosea Isaiah James Jeremiah Joel John Jonah Joshua Jude Judges Kings

Lamentations
Leviticus
Luke
Malachi
Mark
Matthew
Micah
Nahum
Nehemiah
Numbers
Obadiah
Peter
Philemon
Philippians
Proverbs

Psalms
Revelation
Romans
Ruth
Samuel
SongofSolomon
Thessalonians
Timothy
Titus
Zechariah
Zephaniah

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