



# The Messenger

## *First Parish Congregational Church Saco*

### *The Church with Love and Hope to Share*

February, 2022

## How YOU can HELP

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](mailto:dsiulinski001@maine.rr.com) for more details.



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](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:amy.chute@firstparishsaco.org).

**Beach and Main  
Coffee House**  
February 26 6:30 pm



**YOU Can Make a Difference!**

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



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

## **Pastor Scott's Message...**

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



At our Annual Affirmation Meeting, the sanctuary and the online gathering radiated a positive energy as we looked at the year ahead. Even as we consider entering year three of COVID restrictions there are still reasons to be optimistic. The members of the staff continue to think creatively and innovatively, and our church family members are faithful and engaged. In addition, there are indications that we might actually emerge from this pandemic later this year. We pray that it will be so!

With that in mind, it does occur to me that after more than two years apart, we will have to be intentional about planning events to help get us reacquainted ... or acquainted in the first place. We have had a good number that have joined the church in the last couple of years that have not really had an opportunity to get to know one another. I include myself among that number. I had been here for a few months when this whole COVID thing began. So ... let us put on our party planner hats. What can we do to promote fellowship and communal life within our church family?

Naturally, we will have to monitor the COVID situation so that we can gather safely. As spring and summer approach, we can consider outdoor activities: picnics, cookouts, garden parties, campfires. We can have vespers on the beach, or go on walks together, or just sit and enjoy each other's company. Perhaps the musically inclined could have jamboree jam sessions, and maybe even invite those of us who are not musically gifted to join in too.

When it is safe to gather inside without masking, we can enjoy church luncheons, potluck suppers, and progressive suppers. We can gather for game nights, movie nights, or craft nights. Maybe coffee hour will be able to make a triumphant and much-anticipated return!

At some point, we will feel comfortable gathering in people's homes. We can plan small group or "neighborhood" gatherings that will enable people to get to know one another better. We could offer the wonderfully fun mystery guest dinners, 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner.'

We will be able to go to ballgames and concerts together. We will be able to introduce new worship opportunities (evening prayers or morning watch) and educational offerings (brown bag Bible study or Bible and bagels). We will be able to host community events ... concerts, speakers, and more.

All it will take is our imagination and a group of individuals that like to plan parties and events. If you would like to be a part of a fellowship event planning group, please let me know. I am looking forward to a wonderful year ahead!

Grace and Peace,  
Scott



## Moderator Update

### From the Moderator...

Another Annual Affirmation Meeting is in the books, where we as a church body review and affirm everything we have accomplished in the previous year, approve the Mission Plan and set goals for the coming year. Thanks to all who participated. We offered a hybrid model where people joined us in the Sanctuary as well as from the comfort of their respective homes. While less than ideal, it reflects one of the necessities of the world in which we currently live. We are grateful for this technology and the expertise of the Media Team who facilitated it.

The Church Council is performing an organizational update. At the Annual Meeting, I mentioned that one of the first steps was to revisit our Mission/Purpose Statement. Many churches are essentially "mission focused" so this statement can seem redundant. But effective organizations benefit from being able to succinctly state their purpose, or mission, to help emphasize the reason they exist. The new proposed Mission statement is "First Parish Church is a Christ-centered inclusive community of faith with love and hope to share". We will be forwarding the statement to the team chairs for review and comment. The Council is also considering a Vision Statement, which is a compelling picture of what First Parish will look like in the years to come. Then we will reexamine our core values and conduct planning sessions with the Teams throughout 2022 to align the organization.

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 vacant as well as one at-large position. Please let me know if you are willing to fill one of these vital roles.

Blessings and peace, Dale Siulinski



# Church DEACONS

Dear family and friends of First Parish,

As we move through the cold winter months and the ever-changing COVID guidelines, we are happy that First Parish is able to offer both in-person and virtual worship to our church family. The deacons, like everyone else, go through varying degrees of comfort with their vulnerability to COVID; most of us feel safe with the enhancements that have been made to our sanctuary and with the mask mandate for in-person attendance, but there are times when we need to stay home, too. Other medical issues and/or exposure to someone who has tested positive play a big part in our comfort level. So we are carrying on as best we can, with fewer of us available to work at different times, and we ask for your patience and understanding if things are not quite up to par.

Our GOOD news is that we are welcoming five new members to our team! They include three of our newest church members: Pam Campbell, Lorie Faubert, and Russell Tremblay. Two long-time members of First Parish will also become deacons: Jean Johnson, who is returning to the diaconate, and Aldene Walters. We are so glad to have them on board and can't wait to introduce them to you. Watch for profiles in future editions of the Messenger.

Meanwhile, stay safe and come to church when you can. We'll be happy to see you!

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



Christian Education update  
from Kris...

February is a month of Valentine's, Souper Bowl and Black History. It is the month that we look in anticipation to the Pilgrim Lodge schedule being announced. Here is what's happening for the month of February at First Parish.

With covid all around us it has been a long time since we have seen some of our Church school families. We are missing you terribly and hope that you will join us for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual

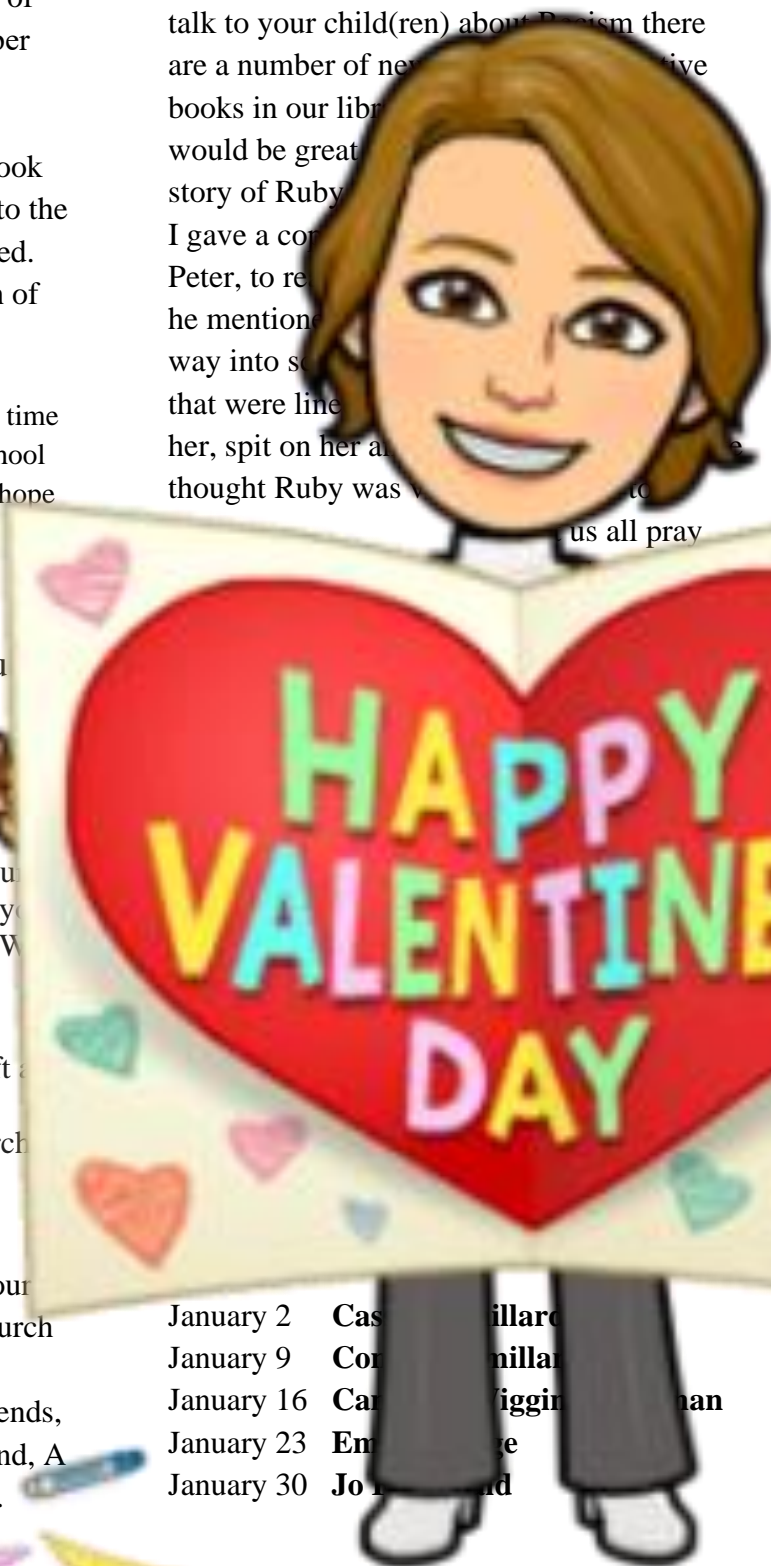
Church School  
Valentine Drive Thru  
February 12, 2022  
Time: TBD

Please make a Valentine, (card, drawing, note), to share with your church family and bring it with you. These will be put on our Wonder Wall. Waiting for you

- Valentine Bag with Treats, Crafts and Fun stuff
- Valentine cards from your Church friends

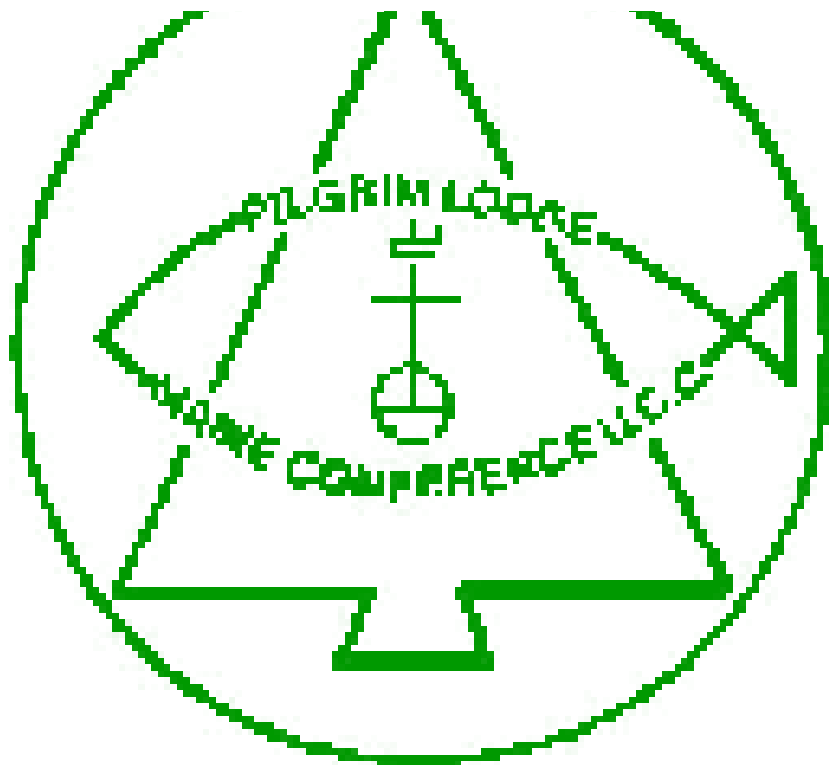
For the month of February our Children's Message and Church school will focus on Jesus' Healing Ministry. Our stories are: The Five Friends, Healing the Man with the Withered Hand, A Servant is Healed and Jairus' Daughter. Our Wonder Word for the month is **Wonder**.

Racism is a very hot topic these days and it should be. If you are trying to find ways to talk to your child(ren) about Racism there are a number of new picture books in our library that would be great. The story of Ruby Bridges is a story of Ruby Bridges. I gave a copy to Peter, to read. He mentioned that he was into something that were like her, spit on her and thought Ruby was a hero. We all pray



- January 2 Cassie Millard
- January 9 Corinne Millard
- January 16 Caroline Higgins
- January 23 Emma Higgins
- January 30 John Higgins





at PL

*Jesus says:  
"Let the little  
children come to me"*

-Matthew 19:14

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

[www.pilgrimlodge.org](http://www.pilgrimlodge.org). Pilgrim Lodge  
camperships will be available in the spring.  
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

2nd	<b>Mary Coyne</b>
9th	<b>Glenys Salvas</b>
16th	<b>Mary Coyne &amp; Glenys Salvas</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Glenys Salvas</b>
30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mary Coyne</b>



Watch for your  
in our bulletins  
Subs will be av

still not attendi  
park in the churc  
you. You can pa  
amount would b  
On Super Bow  
special offering  
our community  
me.”---Matthev  
25:35, The  
Message by  
Eugene Peters



**Day of Service  
January 17, 2022**

**Not A Day Off, But A Day  
On**

Life's most urgent question is?  
**“What are you doing for others?”**  
--Martin Luther King

Our 14th annual MLK Day of Service has come and gone but what a GREAT day it was. The weather worked against us with an icy mix making driving and walking very hazardous. Covid is still amongst us but in spite of that approximately 50 “clients” came through our doors for services offered. This year we were able to bring back our

Esther House, Grace Street Ministries and Goodwill. Another great quote from MLK is this:

**“Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”**  
--Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We did that at MLK Day of Service. We did it in spite of the sleet and rain and covid. We did it and the people came.

**Next MLK Day will be  
January 16, 2023**

Martin Luther  
King, Jr.  
Day of Service at  
First Parish





# Flower and Altar Update

The Christmas decorations are pretty much put away, but our amazing poinsettias are lasting beautifully. They still look so pretty, and we will be able to enjoy them for a few more weeks. We have put some out in the entryway for people to take home. As we settle into the cold weather of January and February, we are already planning ahead for Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday and Music Sunday. The seasons come and go so quickly!

Are you new to the church and looking for a way to get more involved? Join the Flower and Altar Team and make some new friends! Our next meeting is February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30pm.

## 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](mailto:rtripp@maine.rr.com)

or

Marcia Lord at 207-768-1699 or [mvlord@aol.com](mailto:mvlord@aol.com).



## Altar Flowers given for the Month of January

January 2<sup>nd</sup> flowers were given by Edward Olsen.



# Mission Team Update

**FMI – Carol SpencerLemay**  
**SpencerLemay2@gmail.com**

The **RED CROSS** is so appreciative of all those who gave blood and the volunteers who made it happen. Thank you!

The **Saco Food Pantry** is in need of **JAM** and **COFFEE**. **The Food Pantry is still in need of volunteers weekday mornings.** Please call Lynn Steed at (207) 494-8662 or email [lsted203@gmail.com](mailto:lsted203@gmail.com) if you are interested.

**March will be the month to learn about our local MISSIONS!**

For the first Sunday in March: Bring diapers to the church, and after the service, all are invited to help pack the diapers into bags. Stay tuned for more information.

Love one  
♥ ANOTHER ♥  
as I have  
LOVED  
you  
-JOHN 15:12



The **Shoe Ministry** is still accepting donations of sturdy winter shoes or boots in clean, slightly used condition. Please leave the shoes near the display table.

# 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.firstparish.org/> and select *Offering & Services* and then *OneBody Member Directory* from the dropdown menu. You will need to use your previously confirmed email address and password.

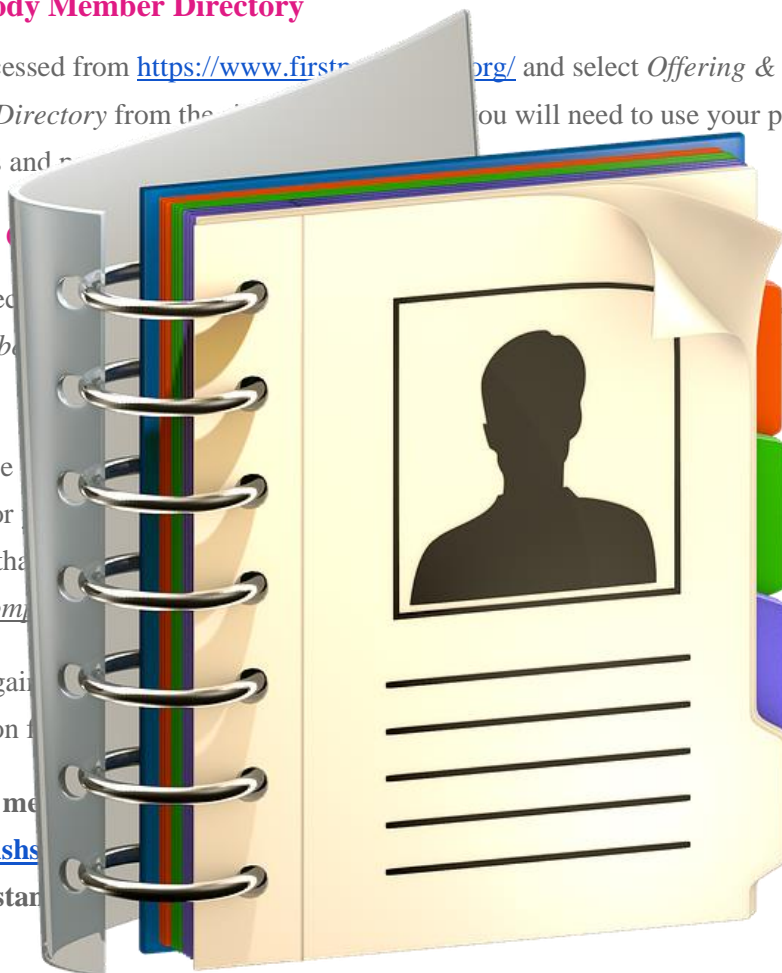
## How to Sign up for a OneBody Account

Once you access the directory you will be prompted to create a OneBody account if you don't have one.

On the next screen please enter your email address and password. If you are already a member of First Parish Church for Saco, you will receive an email at that address to create your account. *Please use a computer to create your account.*

You will not be able to gain access to the directory until the Membership Team has on file your contact information.

If you receive an error message, please email the Membership Team at [membership@firstparish.org](mailto:membership@firstparish.org). The Membership Team can provide assistance.



# FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 7:15pm Men's Fellowship	2 4pm Diaper Bank 6pm Girl Scouts 	3 9am TOHG 4pm Jr Choir 4:30pm F&A Team 6:30pm Choir	4 	5
6 8:50am CE Team 10am Service 1pm TV Service	7 9am Counters  7pm Big Book	8 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 6:30pm Facilities 7:15pm Men's Fellowship	9 4pm Diaper Bank 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Finance Team - Zoom	10 9am TOHG 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	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 Bank Holiday  7pm Big Book	22 9am Counters 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 6:30pm Personnel Team 7:15pm Men's Fellowship	23 4pm Diaper Bank 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Council	24 9am TOHG 4pm Jr Choir 6:30pm Choir	25 3:30pm Guiding Eyes	26 6:30pm Beach & Main Coffee House 
27 10am Service 11:30am Youth Choir 1pm TV Service	28 9am Counters  6pm Big Book		 <b>American Heart Month</b>			



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