



The Messenger



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

July, 2022

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



First Parish Calling Committee

The Calling Committee calls on people who cannot make it to church due to health or mobility issues but have been involved in the life of First Parish. Visits occur when possible, calls are made and cards are sent to let these folks know that they are still thought of and cared about.

If you'd be interested in being part of this caring team, please contact Trina Triggs at tmtriggs@hotmail.com

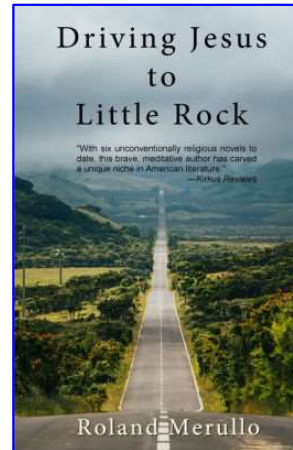
2022 Concert Series

July 24th 7:00 pm

Folk Music with
Bold Riley



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



Roland Merullo

July 31st at 7:00 pm

If you would like to read Driving Jesus to Little Rock, copies of the book are available in the church office.



Vacation Bible School

July 5-8, 2022 Tuesday – Friday

9-11:30 AM

Children 4 years through 5th grade



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

www.firstparishsaco.org



Pastor Scott's Message...

The Pastor's Perspective ...



I did not grow up listening to the music of Raffi. I am far too old for that. But I must have been around people that did, because I awoke this morning with one of his songs in my head. Let us sing it together:

"The more we get together, together, together ... the more we get together the happier we'll be. For your friends are my friends, and my friends are your friends. The more we get together the happier we'll be!" (You can sing the rest of the verses on your own.)

As always, there is wisdom to be discovered in the songs of children. The song is about developing social networks. In the lives of children and youth it is called asset development. But the reality is that the wider and deeper our network of relationships is, the happier we ALL will be. That is true in our families, our schools, our neighborhoods, and our churches.

I have been talking about this for weeks now. As a church family ... the more we get together, the happier we will be! It is the season of summer fun, so let us put some dates on the calendar. Let us plan some "family" gatherings.

Garden Party/Tea Party ... Do you have a lovely garden? Would you be willing to host a garden party or a tea party?

Backyard BBQ ... Are you a grill master? Would you be willing to host a barbeque?

Campfire ... Do you have a yard with a fire pit or a fire circle? Would you be willing to host a campfire?

Pool Party ... Do you have a swimming pool? Would you be willing to host a pool party?

Backyard Games ... Do you have a nice, big backyard? Would you be willing to host an after or evening of yard games? Cornhole ... croquet ... Yolf ... badminton ... or others?

Beach Party ... Do you own a beach house or a lake house? Would you be willing to host a beach party?

Please let me know. Contact me and let me know how many people you can accommodate. Let me know some specific dates that will work for you, and we will put them on the church calendar. I would love to see family gatherings happening throughout the summer into the fall. You can reach out to me at scott.cousineau@firstparishsaco.org.

Looking ahead, we have started putting together some plans for the fall.

- September 11, Homecoming Sunday and Church Picnic
- October 15, Pet Blessing
- November 24, Thanksgiving Dinner
- December, Christmas open house



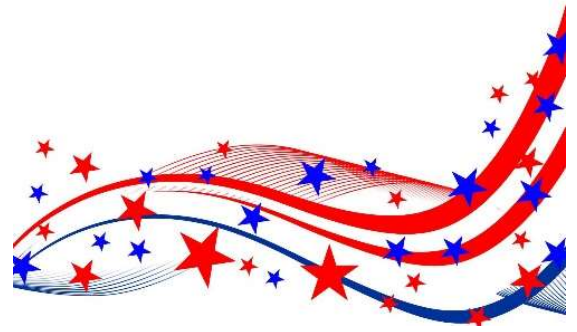
The more we get together the happier we will be! Let me know if you would like to be a part of the fun!

Pastor Scott





Moderator Update



From the Moderator...

It's funny how the unofficial middle of summer is the 4th of July. That's just not fair! It seems like summer just started and that date is now upon us!

Whereas new members may appreciate an improved understanding of how the Church Council operates I started a series of explaining the function of the Church Council in the June issue. I'd like to continue that here. Again, between meetings of the Church Body, the Church Council shall be the governing board of this church. Per our By Laws, the Church Council shall conduct the business of the church through the Ministries, Teams, Task Forces, Groups and other organizations of the church. The Church Council shall oversee the ministries, conduct long range planning, provide approval of new or revised policies, encourage and empower effective communication, identify and act on improvement opportunities, and conduct all personnel matters of the church both Pastoral and other. Additionally, the Church Council shall be responsible for all physical resources of the church including real property, money and securities. Did you know that the church owns a Parsonage where Pastor Scott and Renee reside? More to come in later issues.

You have heard me reference previously that it has been recognized that there are components of the organizational structure of the church that are not working as well as they should; items such as communication between the Council and the ministries, and policy and procedure development. The Council started to consider opportunities for improvement during 2021 and has continued that effort but it became apparent that it's not practical to do at the Council level due to time requirements. So we have broken off a separate team that will focus on considering those opportunities for better aligning with our mission. That team has started their work and will continue throughout the fall. We will provide updates where worthy news needs to be shared.

Blessings and peace, Dale Siulinski





From the **TREASURER...**

At the Annual Affirmation Meeting held on January 23, we as a church body approved the 2022 Mission Plan. As you may remember, this budget projected income of \$340,099 and expenses of \$450,960. We were able to approve a budget with an expected shortfall (or loss) of \$110,861 because the checking account Operating balance had grown to \$207,734 as of December 31, 2021. The Operating balance grew to this amount because we have had several years where income exceeded expenses and the surplus or "carryover" grew that Operating balance account.

We have financial reports through May as of this writing, so let's look at how we are performing against the budget with five months of the year passed.

Budgeted income through May stands at \$123,871. This is actually below our targeted income of \$141,708. Some of this reduced income may be because the e-giving system went down in early March so many pledge payments for March, April and May were not made. Pledges are under budget by \$8,424 through May. Church rentals and loose cash and checks are also under budget, which may reflect that our budgeting for those accounts was optimistic. We hope to see increased rental and loose cash and check income as the year progresses.

Budgeted expenses through May stand at \$162,295. This is fortunately also below our targeted expenses of \$221,214. Many teams are being prudent in their spending to accomplish this, using Legacy and rolling funds when possible. Personnel is underbudget in part because the new IT position has not been filled yet.

Through May, expenses exceed income by \$43,973. The checking account Operating balance has been reduced to cover this shortfall.

What can we do? If your teams can continue to be good stewards, this will help expenses stay below budget. Please spend rolling or Legacy funds when possible and make prudent purchasing decisions. If you are behind on pledge payments and are able to catch-up, thank you! We also have an exciting Concert Series scheduled that may bring in more community members from outside of the church. We may need to explore more future activities that may generate more visibility and income for FPC later in 2022 and future years.

If you have any ideas to help our church finances, please reach out.



Church DEACONS

Dear Family and Friends of First Parish,

We will soon be in the midst of summertime, here in Maine! As sandy beaches and rustic camps beckon, with their allure of fun and fellowship, let us be aware of how we may also be of help to others:

- If you have air conditioning, invite someone over to enjoy a respite from the heat, with a glass of lemonade.
- Take a shut-in for a drive to get an ice cream cone.
- Offer to walk the dog of an elderly person on a rainy or HOT day.
- Pick some flowers and bring to a neighbor.
- Invite someone to attend a church concert with you.

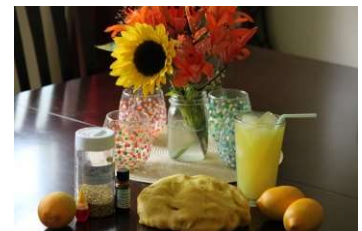
I'm sure you can think of many other possibilities; I'd love to hear of them!

We Deacons continue to plan for the summer months, and look forward to expanding our reach this fall, A Church with love and hope to share! This is also a wonderful time for you to consider becoming a Deacon, since September begins a new program year!

In closing, I'd like to acknowledge all of the hard work and spiritual dedication Nadine Russell has made as a Diaconate Co-Chairperson for the past several years. Her leadership has kept us rock-steady throughout the Pandemic.

Although Nadine will continue as a Deacon, she is happily transitioning her co-chair responsibilities to Margery Condon this summer.

Blessings,
Margery Condon and Dan Carter,
Diaconate Co-Chairpersons





Many years ago, First Parish voted to become an Open and Affirming Church. This means that not only do we welcome everyone of all genders and

sexualities, but we stand true to the Christian ideals of loving everyone equally, just as Jesus asked us to do. All churches say everyone is welcome, but for many, there is an asterisk there, an asterisk especially aimed at those in the LGBTQ+ community. But not here.



Here, at First Parish in Saco, when we say we love and accept everyone, we mean it. We wholeheartedly accept that Jesus calls us to love everyone and we intend to live up to that call. First Parish is a safe place for LGBTQ+ people. A place where you can be loved. A place where you can be accepted. A place where we embrace our differences in celebration that at our core, we are all children of God, the flock of Jesus, and a church family. As we travel together on this journey of acceptance for all, let us open our hearts and minds to learn new things.

- We invite people to wear pronoun buttons. We hope this becomes a regular part of our Sunday mornings together. Please join us in wearing your preferred pronouns. These buttons are to be used during our worship time together and then left here. Just like our name tags.
- We do have a great list of Pride Resources, adult, youth and children books, videos and websites. We encourage our church family to read or watch any of these resources. Let us always remember that just like



God's Doors are open to all, so shall our Church Doors be open to all.

See you at Church,

Kris



Pilgrim Lodge

The Christian Education team is thrilled to announce that we have

nine people registered for Pilgrim Lodge.

Heading to:

Camp PRIDE **July 10-16**

Cam Roberge

First Time Campers: **July 13-16.**

Cassie & Chloe Remillard and Emily Savage

Senior High **July 17-23**

Aidan Fiske

Hogwarts Camp: **July 24-30**

Bailey Fitzgerald, Jo Fitzgerald and Cameron Wiggins-Mehlman

Women's Fall Weekend **Sept. 16-18**

Michelle Fiske

If you are interested in writing to our campers, please use this address:

Name of Camper,

Pilgrim Lodge

103 Pilgrim Lodge Lane

West Gardiner, Maine 04345

The camp schedule and much more information is on the PL website:

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.



Vacation Bible School

July 5-8, 2022 Tuesday – Friday

9-11:30 AM

Children 4 years through 5th grade

Food Truck Party: On A Roll With God.

Our Bible verse is:

“Give us this day our daily bread”

— Matthew 6:1

Registration forms are now available on the website and hard copies may be found on the VBS table in the atrium. Come join us for four days of Bible stories, music, crafts, science experiments, snacks, recreation, Bible reflection and service projects. Friday we have a family celebration and a very special surprise.

If you have not signed up for VBS yet please do so ASAP since we begin on Tuesday, July 5. Again this year VBS will be only 4 days due to the Fourth of July holiday being on a Monday

We have a fabulous VBS team:

Rev. Scott Cousineau, Judy and Peter Gray, Susan Marston, Danielle and Cam Roberge Nadine Russell, Madeline Sylvester, Aldene Walters and Kris Galasyn. Extra hands include: **Peggy Blood and Sue Neumyer** and youth helpers **Jo Fitzgerald, Connor Remillard and Asher Schuenke.**

Our stories for the week are:

Tues: God Provides Manna and Quail (Exodus 16) and Elijah, the Widow and the Endless Oil (1Kings 17:8-16)

Wed. Daniel and Friends Eating the Good Stuff (Daniel 1)

Thurs. Jesus Feeds the 5,000 Plus (John 6:1-13)

Fri. Jesus Cooks the Catch of the Day (John 21:1-17)

We look forward to seeing you at Food Truck Party VBS this month.



Blankets for Church World Service

Just in case you

didn't hear..... Thank you to everyone who contributed to Blanket Sunday, held every year on Mother's Day. This year we brought in \$901.00 which translates to 90 blankets that will be distributed to people in need of help in all types of disasters. First Parish receives these blankets to hand out at our Martin Luther King Day of Service



“Let the little Children come to me” -Mt 19:14

Helping **Lisa** in the Nursery for the month

June was:

5th **Mary Coyne**

12th **Glenys Salas**

19th **Carol Spencer Lemay & Lidia Makengo**

26th **Mary Coyne & Glenys Salas**

“It's Only One Sunday!”

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

Music Ministry



Summer Pick Up Choir

- Pick up Choir starts Sunday July 10th
- Join us at 9AM if you would like to sing with us!!
- All are welcome

Into the Woods JR

- Would you like to be involved in production?
- Would you like to be in the show?
- Would you like to contribute to this financially or make a donation?

Email Jacqui!

Jacqui@firstparishsaco.org

Flower and Altar Update

Most recently, the team met on June 4 and worked in the outdoor gardens. We have a little more to work on at the entry to the church, and then we will hand that project back to Facilities.

The 2022 Altar Flower Sign Up Sheets are available outside the church office. You can also contact Patrice Tripp at 207-509-1109 or rtripp@maine.rr.com or Marcia Lord at 207-768-1699 or mvlord@aol.com.

Open Sundays in July are July 10th and July 31st.

Altar Flowers given for the Month of June

June 5th Flowers were given by Phyllis Hayward in appreciation of Dale Siulinski and Jay Salas

June 12th Flowers were given by Lorie Faubert in loving memory of Winafred Schnarr.

June 19th Flowers were given by the Charles & Debra Clark Memorial Flower Fund in memory of Constance Clark.

June 26th Flowers were given by Mari Warner in memory of Vera & Bob Warner.

Are you new to the church and looking for a way to get more involved?
Join our team and make some new friends!

A very special **Thank You** to Marcia Lord for creating the beautiful Easter Banner that hung in the Sanctuary.



Mission Team Update

FMI – Carol Spencer-Lemay
SpencerLemay2@gmail.com



The **Saco Food Pantry** is requesting donations of the following items:

Canned Beef Stew	Toothpaste
Canned Chili	Shampoo
Rice a Roni	Bar Soap
Complete Pancake Mix	Deodorant



Back to School Giveaway and Ice Cream Social **Friday, August 26th**

How to help: Donate school supplies, clothing, shoes, sort clothing, set up and/or clean up.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact
Carol Spencer-Lemay at spencerlemay2@gmail.com or (207) 229-1902



Bon Appetit (Second Parish Congregational Church, Biddeford, ME) would love to have more volunteers to help prepare and serve food. Donations are also gladly accepted. To volunteer, you may inquire at bonappetitmealprogram.com or contact Jim at jimcort@metrocast.net. You can show up any weeknight to see if more volunteers are needed by arriving around 3 pm to 4:30 pm at Second Parish Congregational Church, 19 Crescent St, Biddeford, Maine.

The Mission Team has purchased take-out containers for Bon Appetit and white Lagasse bags for the Diaper Bank. Come to a meeting to see what else we can do to contribute to the wellbeing of our local community. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 6:30 pm at First Parish. If you have questions, contact Carol Spencer-Lemay at (207) 229-1902 or spencerlemay2@gmail.com

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

ATTENTION KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS!



HAT NOT HATE is an anti-bullying campaign. They ask knitters, crocheters and loomers to make handmade blue hats and donate them to their cause. If you can make a blue hat or two, please bring them to our church by **JULY 15** or the hats may be delivered to Knit Wit, 34 Danforth St, Portland, ME by August 1st. Visit hatnothate.org for more information.

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## ***WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP IS GIVING AWAY YARN!***

We have TOO MUCH YARN! Come Tuesday mornings (9:30 am to 11 am) to pick up your free yarn, or contact Glen Ellen Roth at [droth@mailne.rr.com](mailto:droth@mailne.rr.com) or (207) 229-3196.

We have many different colors, in addition to blue, available.  
Please help us clean out our closet.

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Good News Team Update

Join us for a Patriotic Concert at the Seaside Pavilion in Old Orchard Beach.
Monday, July 4th 6:00 PM

The Don Campbell Band will play a Patriotic Concert for locals and visitors FREE OF CHARGE!!!
It's a wonderful Community event and finishes in plenty of time to see the fireworks!!
Hope to see you there!!!

Save Sunday, **July 24th** for an ALL CHURCH PICNIC after the service.
Weather will determine where our set up will be.

We will also hold a BRAINSTORMING SESSION about The Gingerbread Fair! We have not held this event since 2019. We need to hear everyone's ideas about feasibility, logistics and volunteerism.

PLEASE PACK YOUR PICNIC LUNCH AND JOIN IN FOR THE FUN!!!

First Parish Concert Series 2022

All shows begin at 7:00 pm

Tickets \$10.00 or Season Pass for \$50.00

FMI visit www.firstparishsaco.org
or call 207-283-3771

June 26th
Jazz Night with
Chris Humphrey Quartet



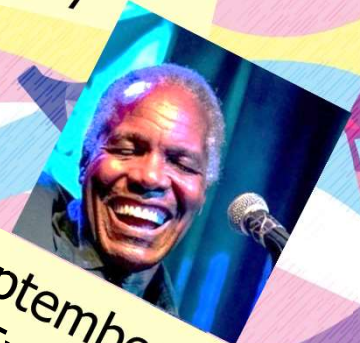
July 24th
Folk Night with
Bold Riley



August 21st
Classical Music
Joel Pierce



September 25th
An Evening with
Rodney Mashia



October 29th
Blue Grass with
Southern Rail



December 11th
Christmas Jazz with
Chris Humphrey
14 piece Jazz Ensemble



Tickets on sale now at the FPCC Office!





JULY 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 VBS Set up
3 10am Service 1pm TV Service	4 Office Closed VBS Set up  6:30pm Big Book	5 9am Vacation Bible School 9am Counters 6:30pm Facilities - Teams 7:15pm Men's Fellowship - FPCC	6 9am Vacation Bible School 4pm Diaper Bank	7 9am Vacation Bible School 3:30pm Guiding Eyes	8 9am Vacation Bible School	9 
10 10am Service 1pm TV Service	11 9am Counters 6:30pm Big Book	12 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 7:15pm Men's Fellowship - Zoom	13 4pm Diaper Bank	14 9am TOHG	15	16
17 10am Service 1pm TV Service	18 9am Counters 6:00pm Big Book	19 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 6:30pm Mission Team 7:15pm Men's Fellowship - Zoom	20 4pm Diaper Bank 6:30pm Diaconate	21 9am TOHG 3:30pm Guiding Eyes 7pm GNT - Zoom	22 	23
24 10am Service 1pm TV Service 7pm - Concert with Bold Riley	25 9am Counters 6:00pm Big Book	26 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 6:30pm Personnel Team 7:15pm Men's Fellowship - Zoom	27 4pm Diaper Bank 6:30 pm Council - Zoom	28 9am TOHG	29	30
31 10am Service 1pm TV Service 7pm - Author Roland Merullo						

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