



# The Messenger



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

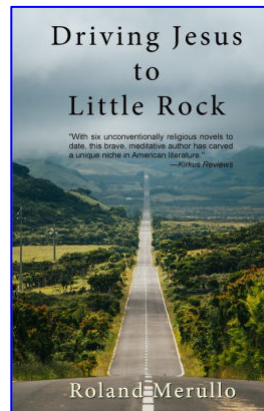
June, 2022

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE



### Have you noticed...

The new bulletin board in the Atrium? On your way into the Sanctuary you'll find the "new" bulletin board. We will be keeping the upcoming week's events posted there. There will be "Save the Date" events, current "Spotlight" articles, etc. posted as well. Check it out...



First Parish Church is excited to welcome Roland Merullo on Sunday, July 31, at 7:00 PM. He will be discussing this book as well as his work on his other novels. Merullo's other titles include: Golfing with God, Breakfast With Buddha (as well as Lunch and Dinner With Buddha), American Savior, and Talk Funny Girl.

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

If you would like to meet prior to Mr. Merullo's visit, we will gather on Sundays, June 12 and June 19, at 7:00 PM to share our thoughts about the book. For more information, please contact Pastor Scott or the church office (207-283-3771).

### 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](mailto:tmtriggs@hotmail.com)



### Rev. James and Paula Fletcher's 50th Wedding Anniversary!!!!

Date: July 2, 2022

Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Place: Elks Lodge  
68 Ocean Park Rd.  
Saco, ME 04072

RSVP to Peggi Vire at  
207-210-1169 by June 25, 2022  
Cards may be sent to 99 Ocean  
Park Rd, Saco, ME 04072



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)



## Pastor Scott's Message...



### The Pastor's Perspective ...

With Memorial Day behind us, we mark the beginning of the summer season. "*Summertime and the livin' is easy.*" I am not sure about the catfish, and we do not have much cotton around these parts. But this is the time when things get easy ... slow down. Right? Well ... not necessarily!

Sure ... we may spend more time at the beach, some of you may visit the Temple in Ocean Park, long-awaited vacations plans will be realized, but we are not taking the summer off here at First Parish Church. We have a variety of exciting things on our church calendar, and I hope that you will be a part of them.

We kick off the Concert Series this month with a night of cool, smooth jazz. The Chris Humphrey Combo will be performing on June 26 at 7:00 PM. Chris is well-known in the jazz community and has been featured on a number of recordings. He will be performing with Otis Redding III prior to his engagement at First Parish. Tickets are just \$10.00 and are available now. Sunday, July 24, we welcome local folk group Bold Riley.

Our worship services this summer will once again feature our pick-up choir. No rehearsals required. Just come down and warm up and sing on Sunday morning! Also, this summer, our messages will include some opportunities for you ... yes, you ... to participate. We will share a few interactive conversations over the course of the summer. (Do not be afraid. There will not be anything scary about this.)

The month of July will also include our Vacation Bible School program, "Food Truck Party: God is on a Roll!" VBS is always an exciting and fun time for our children and our adults. We sing, we dance, we learn and grow together. For more information, please speak with Kris Galasyn. We would love to have you join us!

And, after trying for two years and being frustrated by COVID, we will welcome author Roland Merullo to First Parish Church on Sunday, July 31. Roland writes thought-provoking books that ask us to consider faith-related questions. For example ... what would happen if Jesus ran for President of the United States? ([American Savior](#)) Or ... what would happen if you went golfing with God? Or ... what if the Pope and the Dalai Lama put on disguises and went for a drive through the Italian countryside?! ([The Delight of Being Ordinary](#))

As if that is not enough ... the Good News Team is planning some fellowship events this summer. Because of ongoing COVID concerns, the focus is upon outdoor activities. We are working on dates for a church picnic and a cookout. We will also invite folks to gather for the concerts behind Dyer Library. Stay tuned for the full calendar of events.

*"Summertime and the livin' is easy. First Parish is jumpin', and our spirits are high!"*

Peace and Grace,

Scott





## Moderator Update



### From the Moderator...

Oh how we look forward to those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer. It's a time that evokes a more relaxed feeling. Kids get out of school, families plan vacations, and we can enjoy elements of the great outdoors typically off limits in winter. I hope you are able to get out and enjoy the warmth of the sun and experience God's green earth.

I remain amazed at the fact that First Parish Church continues to gain new members even during a pandemic. This is a testament to Pastor Scott and the wonderful job he and the Staff do at finding an effective way to reach out. But with new members comes unfamiliarity. I want to welcome all and make sure people feel free to become engaged in the life of this wonderful church. We members of the Church Council feel very strongly about making sure no one gets left behind. If there's any way that we can help you understand how the church functions, then please reach out. We will do our best to explain. New members may not understand how the Church Council operates so over the next few issues of The Messenger I will take a stab at explaining. Essentially 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. I will detail some of our responsibilities in subsequent issues.

I distributed a plea to all team chairs in early April to elicit input regarding the newly crafted Mission/Purpose statement and each team's "wish list" of what the future holds for their respective team in the year to come. The Church Council will be compiling this information and sorting through it as soon information is received. I have received information from only a few teams thus far. If you are a team chair, please ensure that you discuss this important issue with your team and submit your information soon. If you missed it, please reference the e-mail from Sue Burgess on April 8 with my request.

Blessings and peace,

Dale Siulinski





# Vice Moderator Update...



All E-Givers should have received a letter from me a week ago letting you know that E-Giving will be turned off in the very near future. The system has been randomly failing which has impacted our financial statements.

In the letter I asked each individual who currently is signed up for e-giving through First Parish and Saco Biddeford Savings Bank to implement Auto-Pay from your bank account where you direct your bank to send a check to First Parish. Some parishioners will know how to do this, but for those that do not, please contact your bank or credit union's customer service agent for assistance. I have spoken to each bank and credit union, and their customer assistance associates are ready and willing to assist.

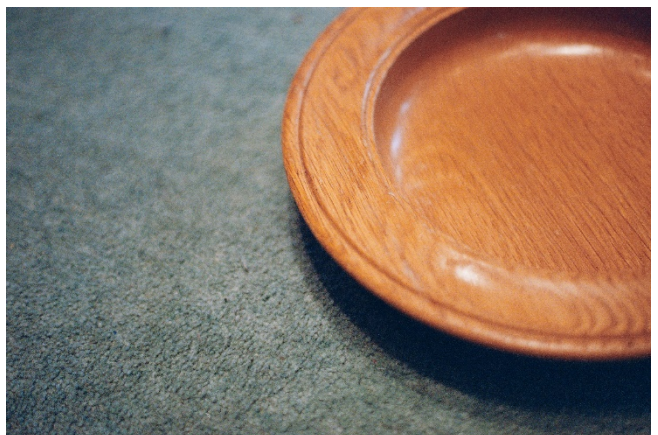
I plan to turn off e-Giving at Saco Biddeford Savings on June 15, 2022.

Many have called the church asking how they catch up. I would recommend simply sending a check to the church with a note that this is a catch-up check and the counters will record the information.

We are very sorry for the challenges this is bringing everyone, but hopefully will be resolved in the next month.

Thank you for your patience!

Bob Condon  
Vice Moderator





## 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 April as of this writing, so with four months behind us let's look at how we are performing against the budget with one-third of the year passed.

Budgeted income through April stands at \$98,879. This is actually below our targeted income of \$113,366. Some of this reduced income may be because the e-giving system went down in early March so many pledge payments for March and April were not made. Pledges are under budget by \$6,429 through April. 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 April stand at \$130,646. This is fortunately also below our targeted expenses of \$150,320. Many teams are being prudent in their spending to accomplish this, using Legacy and rolling funds when possible. Teams are obtaining competitive quotes and finding savings through new vendors (thanks Facilities!). Personnel is underbudget in part because the new IT position has not been filled yet.

Through April, expenses exceed income by \$31,767. 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.



Dear family and friends of First Parish,

We hope you have picked up on the positive "vibes" pervading First Parish in recent weeks. We are in many ways back to "normal" ...even having small coffee hours after worship! Our membership numbers are increasing and we continue to minister to the community as well as our own family.

The Deacons, at the request of the Church Council, have been engaging in discussions around how we can do more to enhance our ministry. Among the things we'd like to do, indeed things we think we should be doing: generating fellowship opportunities and prayer groups, encouraging adult Christian education and study groups, developing sub-committees for home visits, and so much more.

As a team, we are hampered by our very limited numbers. Long-serving deacons have "retired" and we find ourselves struggling to serve in the most basic deacon roles. We recently welcomed five new members, but we would like to add at least five more. If you've ever thought about becoming a deacon, this might be a good time to investigate and consider.

In our church, the deacons' stated mission is to assist the senior minister in the spiritual life of the church. You have probably observed that we regularly help prepare the sanctuary for worship and serve as the welcoming face of First Parish. But our public role is only part of what we would like to do. Thus, the need for a few more deacons!

Who should be a deacon? No special skills are needed, but prospective deacons should have a dedicated commitment to First Parish. Deacons are expected to serve regularly at Sunday services and to attend a monthly meeting (currently held on the third Wednesday evening of each month.) It is hoped that the prospective deacon will have a spiritual mindset; in any event, serving as a deacon often results in significant spiritual growth.

If you feel that this ministry would be a good fit for you as a church member, we encourage you to reach out to Pastor Scott or to one of the current deacons. We would love to talk to you about it!

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





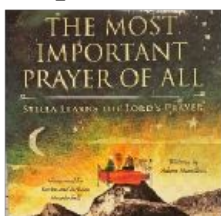


The month of June brings us sunshine and a chance to renew our mind, soul and body. It is a more relaxing and playful time. Church school age level classes are over for the

2021-22 program year but will resume in September. Meanwhile, our nursery will be open and ready for our littlest ones and Children's Messages will continue throughout the summer.

May 22<sup>nd</sup> was our Children's Sunday. We recognized our Acolytes, Christian Education Team, Church school teachers, Children's Music program directors, Media Jedi, all going to Pilgrim Lodge and our VBS team. All children received a plant and the book shown below. We are grateful for all our parents who bring their children to church. We are grateful for all the adults who make our Children's Ministries possible. Thank you so much.

Happening on our Face Book page right now is our second book reading. "The Most Important Prayer of All, Stella learns the Lord's Prayer" by Adam Hamilton. This book helps children learn and understand the prayer Jesus taught us to pray. Through Stella's questions and her grandparents' wise answers, the most important prayer of all



comes to life like never before. Members of our Christian Education Team and our Church school teachers along with a guest reader share

this story with us. All children received this book during our Children's Sunday. If you

have not received a copy please email me. Can you guess who is reading what page? Enjoy the summer. 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** September 16-18

**Michelle Fiske**

There is financial assistance available for anyone that would still like to attend Pilgrim Lodge this summer. Just fill out a campership application and give to Kris. All ages are welcome to attend Pilgrim Lodge. The camp schedule and much more information is on the PL website:

[www.pilgrimlodge.org](http://www.pilgrimlodge.org) Please register with Pilgrim Lodge before applying for a campership.

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 a very special surprise.







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

—Matthew 19:14

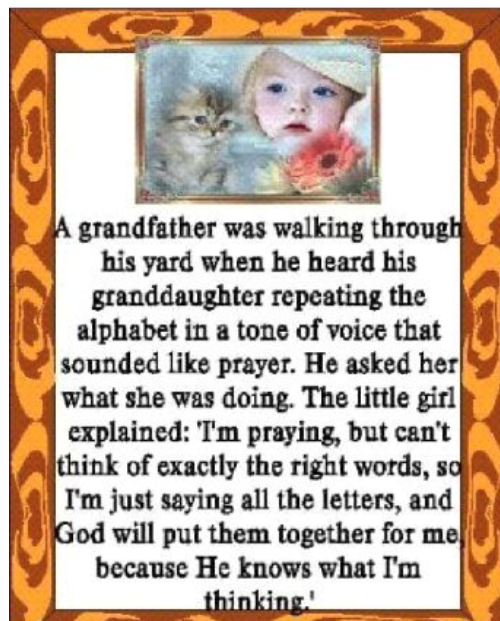
Helping Lisa in the Nursery for the month of May was:

1st Christa Remillard  
8th Glenys Salas  
15th Mary Coyne and Lidia Makengo  
22nd Mary Coyne  
29th Glenys and Jay Salas

Thank you to all who have signed up for helping in our Nursery. Our sign up sheet for the Spring and Summer is up and we hope you will continue your generosity by signing up.

### **"Its Only One Sunday!"**

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



**May**



May 1 Connor Remillard  
May 8 Chloe Remillard  
May 15 Cassie Remillard  
May 22 Emily Savage  
May 29 Cam Roberge



We are fortunate to have a group of young people who, on Sunday mornings, help us to prepare for worship by lighting the altar candles. Then at the end of the service they carry out the light of Christ on our behalf. They are our Acolytes. Thank you to all.

**Connor Remillard  
Chloe Remillard  
Cassie Remillard  
Cam Roberge  
Emily Savage and  
Cameron Wiggins-Mehlman**



## High School Graduations

We have three High School Graduates to honor. They are:

**Simon DiMatteo**

Graduate-Thornton Academy

Future-Colby College

Parents- Allison and Chris DiMatteo

**Grace Doyle**

Graduate-Thornton Academy

Parents-Jen and Brian Doyle

**Marston Poore**

Graduate- Kennebunk High School

Future- Attending KHS next year for a Super Senior Year.

Parents-Jen and Nathan Poore

Grandparents- Susan and Alan Marston

Blanket Sunday/ Mother's Day Breakfast, was a lot of fun and fabulous fellowship.

Thank you to our wonderful cooks, **Karen Brann, Jen Curry, Jon Edstrom and Eric Steva.** Everything was delicious.

Every Mother's Day our youth provide us with the opportunity to buy a **Blanket from Church World**

**Service (CWS)**

These Blankets are \$10 each and provide relief in times of disasters.

All donations from the breakfast went to CWS to buy Blankets.

This year we raised **\$901.00**, the equivalent of 90 blankets. Thank you for your generosity and also your support for our youth.



**Mother's Day/Blanket Sunday Breakfast**



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.

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**The Flower & Altar Team**

The Flower & Altar Team members work together to help create a warm and inviting sanctuary at First Parish Congregational Church. We are thankful for the flowers that are provided by church members and through Legacy Funds for the altar on Sundays, as well as those on Easter and for Poinsettia Sunday in memory, honor or recognition of loved ones and events.

As you look around the church grounds, you will see various gardens. Flower & Altar maintains the Fish Garden. We also have assisted Facilities with cleaning up the other gardens.

One or two members of the team will be responsible for watering, Sunday flowers, and changing the paraments on the altar. We make sure that banners are hung. Thank you to Top of the Hill Gang for your assistance!

Team members meet 3-4 times per year to plan the upcoming church seasons. We share the work that needs to be done. Each of us has our own talents and passions. Some love to be outside, digging in the dirt, others love arranging flowers. A couple of our members are quilters. Marcia Lord created the beautiful Easter Banner and Judi Klingensmith the amazing Music Banner.

Current members on the Flower & Altar Team are Cathy Baillargeon, Martha Conlan, Eleanor Dow, Michelle Fiske, Marcia Lord, Maureen O'Donnell, Patrice Tripp, Mari Warner. We welcome new members.

Contact Patrice Tripp ([rtripp@maine.rr.com](mailto:rtripp@maine.rr.com)) or Marcia Lord ([mvlord@aol.com](mailto:mvlord@aol.com)) for more information.



# Flower and Altar Update



## 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 [mvlord@aol.com](mailto:mvlord@aol.com) or Patrice Tripp at [rtripp@maine.rr.com](mailto:rtripp@maine.rr.com).

### Altar Flowers given for the Month of May

May 1<sup>st</sup> Flowers were given by Cathy, Dan, Adam, Max and Katie Baillargeon in loving memory of Steve Fogg.

May 8<sup>th</sup> Flowers were given by Women's Fellowship in honor of Jen Wright's visit to First Parish.

May 15<sup>th</sup> Flowers were given by Flower and Altar in honor of Music Sunday.

May 22<sup>nd</sup> Flowers were given by Jon and Lisa Edstrom in loving memory of Jonathan Edstrom.

May 29<sup>th</sup> Flowers were given by Flower & Altar in honor of Music Sunday.



# Mission Team Update

FMI – Carol Spencer-Lemay  
SpencerLemay2@gmail.com



The **Saco Food Pantry** is requesting donations of these items: Saltine Crackers, Canned Hash, Complete Pancake Mix (just add water), and Syrup.



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Help us give clothing to those in need! The Mission Team hopes to have a **Back to School Giveaway and Ice Cream Social** one Friday evening in August. You can help! Please donate almost new **shoes** and new clothing for children of all ages-- including high school. New school supplies would also be a helpful donation. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Carol Spencer-Lemay at [spencerlemay2@gmail.com](mailto:spencerlemay2@gmail.com) or (207) 229-1902



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The UCC **Strengthen the Church Offering** is **Sunday, June 5**. The funds raised support UCC leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. In the past, our church has sent some of our youth to special UCC conferences by utilizing some of the STC funds. To learn more, or to donate, visit [ucc.org/stc](http://ucc.org/stc). You may also make checks out to First Parish Congregational Church, Saco, and put STC in the memo line.



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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](mailto: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 1. Visit [hatnothate.org](http://hatnothate.org) for more information.

**What is #HATNOTHATE?** #HATNOTHATE was launched in 2018 as an anti-bullying campaign founded by Shira Blumenthal. We encourage people to make, wear, and post handmade blue hats, adding #HATNOTHATE when sharing on social platforms. Hats are distributed to schools nationwide, educating students about the message of kindness.

**Why do the hats need to be blue?** The color blue represents awareness, peace, and solidarity. Blue is the color to wear in support of anti-bullying.

**What are the requirements for the blue hats I want to donate?** As we are looking to fit a wide range of sizes (for ages 5 to 18), most hat sizes are appropriate, i.e. ranging from 16 inches to 20 inches in circumference. Close-fitting beanie style as well as slouchy style hats are welcome. Hats should be handmade using any blue yarn and should be at least 75% blue.

**Who receives the blue hats that are donated?** We will give the donated blue hats to select schools from around the country, all of which are participating in National Bullying Prevention Month throughout the month of October.

**Can I add a pom-pom?** Yes

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP IS GIVING AWAY 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 plenty of blue yarn in many different hues. We have TOO MUCH YARN! Please help us clean out our closet.





# 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](http://www.firstparishsaco.org)  
or call 207-283-3771

June 26<sup>th</sup>  
Jazz Night with  
Chris Humphrey Quartet



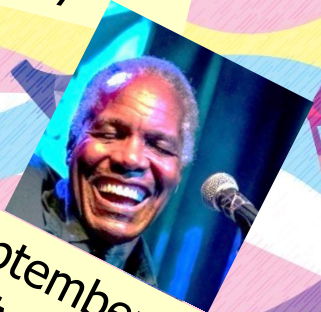
July 24<sup>th</sup>  
Folk Night with  
Bold Riley



August 21<sup>st</sup>  
Classical Music  
Joel Pierce



September 25<sup>th</sup>  
An Evening with  
Rodney Mashia



October 29<sup>th</sup>  
Blue Grass with  
Southern Rail



December 11<sup>th</sup>  
Christmas Jazz with  
Chris Humphrey  
14 piece Jazz Ensemble

Tickets on sale now at the FPCC Office!





# JUNE 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  4pm Diaper Bank	2 9am TOHG  10am – Book Group	3	4
5 8:50 am CE Team 10am Service Pentecost New Members 1pm TV Service	6 9am Counters  6:30pm Big Book	7 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop  6:30pm Facilities - Teams 7:15pm Men's Fellowship - Zoom	8  4pm Diaper Bank 6:30pm Finance Team - Zoom	9 9am TOHG  3:30pm Guiding Eyes	10	11
12 10am Service Pride Sunday 1pm TV Service  7pm – Book Discussion	13 9am Counters  6:30pm Big Book	14 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop  FLAG DAY  7:15pm Men's Fellowship – Zoom	15  4pm Diaper Bank 6:30pm Diaconate	16 9am TOHG  7pm GNT - Zoom	17	18 11am – Recital rehearsal  
19 10am Service 1pm TV Service 7pm Book Discussion  	20 9am Counters  6:00pm Big Book	21 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop   6:00am Fellowship - Zoom	22  4pm Diaper Bank 6:30 pm Council - Zoom	23 9am TOHG  3:30pm Guiding Eyes	24	24am – Celebration of Life for Ed Gardner  Saco Sidewalk Art Festival 4:00pm – Recital
26 10a 1pn Celebrate Freedom!  7pm – Jazz Concert	27 9am Counters  6:00pm Big Book	28 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop  6:30pm Personnel Team 7:15pm Men's Fellowship - Zoom	29  4pm Diaper Bank	30 9am TOHG		

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