

The Messenger

First Parish Congregational Church, Saco

The Church with Love and Hope to Share

May, 2022

MAKE A DIFFERENCE





The **Good News Team** is looking for folks to join the team. The GNT is the group of folks behind the scenes at First Parish. They meet via Zoom on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in joining this very important team or have any questions, please contact Wylie Herzberg at wylie.herzberg@firstparishsaco.org, Tim Guerrette at tim.guerrette@firstparishsaco.org or any member of the GNT.

Pot Luck Supper

May 6th 5:30 pm Gather 6:00 pm Meal

Come meet Jen Wright, founder of H. E. A. L.

ALL are welcome.

A-K - Salads

L-Z - Main Dishes or Casseroles

Attention Team Chairs

The Good News Team is looking for help in updating our website. Some of the content hasn't been changed in years. Please take time in your next meeting to come up with a plan to create new information for your portion of the website. All you need to do is provide the information and photos to be posted. The GNT will add the content to the website!

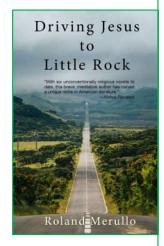
Book Discussion

Interested in a Book
Discussion on Roland
Merulo's "Driving Jesus to
Little Rock"?

This book amuses, illuminates and entertains, ultimately serving as the perfect comfort-food for battered, post-Covid readers.

We have copies of the book available for your reading pleasure. Please come to the office to borrow your copy.

More information will be coming out regarding place and time.





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

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...

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

www.firstparishsaco.org



Pastor Scott's Message...



The Pastor's Perspective ...

I would like to begin by saying, "THANK YOU!!" Last Sunday we celebrated my installation service and what a celebration it was! There are so many people that contributed their time, talents and energy to the day that I cannot possibly name them all individually. I am humbled and grateful beyond words ... but let me try.

Thank you to our amazing staff: Kris, Jacqui, Sue and Guy! I appreciate all of the extra time and attention that you gave to create such a moving and meaningful day. Thank you to the members of the choirs, the Search Committee, and the kitchen crew! Everything was amazing!! I cannot adequately express how grateful I am. Thank you to the leaders of the York Association, and the clergy and members of the member churches for driving up here on the Sunday after Easter to be a part of the celebration. And THANK YOU to all of you that attended in person or online. Thank you for the encouragement and the support that you have offered over the course of the last two and a half years. Thank you for your faithfulness and dedication as we have all navigated the difficulty of the pandemic together! I am truly blessed!

Now that I am officially installed as the Senior Minister ... what do we do now? Where do we go from here?

Last week, a member of another church asked me if we struggled during the pandemic. I answered truthfully when I said, "No, we did really well!" Part of me felt a little guilty saying that. After all, throughout his ministry, Jesus extolled the virtue of humility. But the truth is that you faithfully sustained and maintained our ministries through one of the most difficult times in history.

Of course, like many other churches and organizations, we had to change what we did and how we did it. We had to innovate and create new ways of ministry and service. It also meant that we had to NOT do many of our favorite things for fear of transmission of the virus. As we begin to glimpse at the light near the end of the tunnel, we can roll the stone away and emerge into a new future.

When I met with our Diaconate last month, we spoke about how we will reconnect and recreate relationships. We discussed how we can provide meaningful pastoral care ministries within our church family, as well as how we can engage with the wider community. As we continue our ministry together, I hope that we can all imagine ways in which we can manifest the central message of Jesus Christ: "Let us love God with all of our strength, soul, heart and mind, and let us love our neighbors as ourselves." That is always our call and forever our challenge. Let us love God. Let us love our neighbors. And let us do it together.

Dream with me! Let us create our vision for First Parish Church. How will we love?

Peace be with you,

Scott





Moderator Update



From the Moderator...

Looks like Spring has sprung but we Mainers know not to get our hopes up too quickly. Nevertheless, we are fortunate to be witness to the rebirth that happens all around us at this time of year which makes living in a state with four seasons such a treasure.

As I have mentioned previously, the Church Council is performing an organizational review. This critical work will continue throughout the year. I distributed a message to all team chairs in early April to elicit input regarding the newly crafted Mission/Purpose statement and each teams' "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 as information is received. 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.

We are having issues with electronic pledging otherwise known as e-giving. We will be reaching out to all e-givers with some recommended actions soon.

Additionally, I am thrilled to announce that Marianne Cook has willingly stepped forward to fill the Clerk position. Marianne and I served on the building design committee after the fire. She is a longtime member of the church and a former moderator. Much thanks to Marianne for filling this critical role.

Blessings and peace, Dale Siulinski











Dear family and friends of First Parish,

Happy May! It's so good to see so many of you back in church after the long winter, even if we're still wearing masks. We are looking forward to a busy spring, full of happy reunions and faith-enhancing activities.

We want to introduce to you the last of our five new deacons, Lorie Faubert. Lorie grew up in Amherst, MA, and summered here in Camp Ellis for many years. She graduated from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, with an engineering degree and worked at Wright Patterson AFB before moving to Lockheed Martin Missiles and Space in California where she worked for 13 years. She and her late husband, Ted, adopted two children from Romania, now adults....her son Daniel lives in Florida and daughter Claudia lives in northern Maine. While the children were young, the Fauberts lived in England for 10 years and Lorie feels grateful to have experienced living in various parts of the world, most recently in northern Virginia.

Now living in Saco, she is "figuring out what is next after my retirement" and filling her time with classes, gardening and volunteer opportunities. She is especially happy to have found First Parish as her new church home. She feels honored to have been invited to join the diaconate and blessed to be part of such a caring and active church. In her own words, "It feels very good to be home." We feel very honored and blessed to have Lorie at FPC and to have her as part of our team of deacons.

See you in church!

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



It is May at First Parish and another month of Church school classes, fun programs, service opportunities and fellowship.

In Church school, our Wonder Word for May is

Proclaim. Our Children's Messages and classes focus on Paul or should we say Saul. Paul's story is amazing as he becomes a faithful follower of Jesus'. Paul takes us on many journey's and wrote so many of our books in the New Testament. He is one of my favorite Biblical characters

May 22 is our Children's Sunday. We celebrate our families and all the adults that give so generously of their time and love to support our Children's Ministries at First Parish. Please join us for this joyous occasion.

May 29 is our last Church school class for this program year. Children's Messages will continue throughout the summer, however, age level classes will not resume until September.

See you at Church,

Kris

April



April 3 Cassie Remillard
April 10 Emily Savage
April 17 Cam Roberge
April 24 Connor Remillard

Pilgrim Lodge



The Christian Education team is thrilled to announce that we have seven people

registered for Pilgrim Lodge. Three of them are first time campers. I have heard of a few more that are planning on attending. There is financial assistance through our Pilgrim Lodge Camperships and we hope that people will fill out an application. All ages are welcome to attend Pilgrim Lodge. Please see the schedule below for a camping experience just for YOU!! Much more information is on the PL website:

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.





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

-Matthew 19:14

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

3rd Carol Spencer Lemay

10th Glenys Salas

17th Mary Coyne and Karen Brann

24th Martha Perkins



Fellowship

It's back.....

Blanket Sunday/ Mother's Day Breakfast, May 8th. EVERYONE eats FREE

Blueberry and plain pancakes with sausage along with an egg, cheese





and ham breakfast

sandwich (called "the Blanket")

are on the menu, juice and coffee too. Every Mother's Day our youth give each person 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 will go to CWS to buy Blankets If you are unable to join us for breakfast and would like to donate, please send your check to First Parish UCC, 12 Beach Street, Saco, ME 04072. Please make checks payable to First Parish UCC with Blankets in the memo line. Thank you so much. Please remember that because Saco First Parish donates to CWS Blanket Sunday we are able to receive a shipment of blankets, free of charge, to hand out to our neighbors during our Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. We also share these blankets with Grace Street Ministries in Portland. Since it is Mother's Day, if you would like to give a blanket in honor/memory of your mother or another loved one CWS cards will be available.

College Care Packages were sent to **Kaeley Brann** and **Anna.** Good luck ladies. Hope to see you soon.



High School and College Graduations



Those graduating from High School or College will be honored in our June Messenger.

Parents, please let Kris know,

kris@firstparishsaco.org

if you have a graduate in YOUR family. We need Name, H.S. or College graduating from, future plans (i.e. College attending or job), and parent's names. Thank you



Vacation Bible School

July 5-8, 2022 Tuesday – Friday 9-11:30 AM Children 4 years through 5th grade

Our theme for this year is 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.

Palm Sunday and Easter Extravaganza































Music Ministry

From Our Music Director

jacqui@firstparishsaco.org

If it's May, it's Music Sunday!! It has been such a wonderful year having the choirs singing again, the instrumentalists playing again, and the sanctuary filled with people again! There are so many people to thank including you, the congregation! Thank you for all of your support!
-Jacqui

Thank you!

To all the instrumentalists and soloists, we have had this year including Linda McVety, Ellie Osborn, Sharon Trace, Stephen Shiman, Evan Cuddy, Molly Harmon and anyone that has done solos that are in the choir.

Peggy Blood: Peggy was our Music Librarian for all of 2021. She organized and filed all of our music, put it out when needed and kept track of it all. She has been extremely helpful in organizing our music and updating the library. She also contributes beautiful solo singing whenever asked.

Lynn Beals: Lynn organizes a list of our choir contact information, organizes our robes and has made many of (if not all) the singers masks choristers are currently wearing.

Susan Marston: Junior Choir Director extraordinaire! Susan has continued to direct our fabulous Junior Choir and this year we were able to rehearse downstairs in the choir room.

Audrey Cabral: Bell Choir Director
Audrey has brought the bell choir back together
for rehearsals this year to ring during Advent and
on Music Sunday! It has been such a blessing
having this group ring again after not having
them during the Pandemic.

Delaney Clifford: Delaney has helped Jacqui direct the Youth Choir this year by teaching them our monthly contemporary worship hymn and accompanying as needed. She also sings with them as needed.

Sarah Heath: Sarah has taken on the role as Music Librarian. They play any percussion we may need (drum set, timpani, gjembe, etc.) and takes on the role as cantor when the choir isn't singing. Sarah also helps with the Youth Choir by singing any part they may need.

John Brockington: Beach and Main Producer John runs the Beach and Main Coffee house which has been a fantastic outreach into the community and also gives the youth a way to perform more!

Freddie Connelly: Freddie has worked with me on countless occasions making sure all the levels are correct for streaming and in house sound. So thankful for his expertise.

Jamie Beals: Jamie was our Music and Arts Team Leader until January 1st, 2022 and also has played Sax, recorder and has done solos throughout the year as needed.

Cary Olson

Cary has taken on the role as Music and Arts Team Leader. She was actively involved with the music program by leading the Youth Choir the year after the church burned. We are excited to have her!

Music and Arts:

Jamie Beals, Lynn Beals, Jennifer Poore, Susan Marston, Al Sicard, Ralph Neumyer, Tucker Austin, Jamie Johnson, Hope Poore, Carrie Suchar, Judy Foote, Richard Foote, Catherine Foote, and Delaney Clifford.

Rev. Scott Cousineau: Scott has supported all that we have done throughout the year. It is clear Music is very important to him and I'm truly thankful for his leadership and support.

First Parish Choir and Youth Choir

Peggy Blood, Soprano Lynn Beals, Alto Delaney Clifford, Soprano Sandy Duross, Alto Dolly Curtis, Soprano Suzanne Farley, Alto Jean Duling, Soprano Kathleen Judice, Alto Faith Garnett, Soprano Maya Judice, Alto Judy Gray, Soprano Hope Poore, Alto Carrie Suchar, Soprano Susan Upham, Alto Jamie Johnson, Soprano Peggy Warden, Alto Vanessa Johnston, Soprano Marston Poore, Tenor Judy Foote, Alto

Tucker Austin, Bass Jamie Beals, Bass Phil Blood, Bass Janet Mecca, Soprano Denise Meiler, Soprano Ellie Osborne, Soprano Jennifer Poore, Soprano Gary Howard, Bass Lee Perkins, Bass Sharon Trace, Soprano Ella Walters, Soprano David Johnston, Tenor Kathy Lund, Tenor Judi Klingensmith, Tenor Peter Gray, Tenor Richard Foote, Tenor Connor Remillard, Tenor





Susan Marston, Junior Choir Director

Aiden Karbel, Nora Karbel, Cassie Remillard, Chloe Remillard, Emily Savage, Gunnar Savage, Peter Galasyn

Jacqui and I have had an almost normal year with Junior Choir post pandemic. We have rehearsed every Thursday afternoon (4:00-4:30) since late September with only the month of January off, because of Covid concerns. We have 7 dedicated singers that come every week for rehearsal with boundless energy and joy. I call them **The** Magnificent Seven (Chloe, Cassie, Emily, Gunnar, Peter, Aiden and Nora). They work hard and love to sing. We have sung each month for Thanksgiving, Christmas caroling in the community, The Christmas Pageant, The Family Christmas Eve Service, Pilgrim Lodge Sunday, and Easter. We will be singing on Music Sunday and Children's Sunday. It's been a full year of learning new songs and singing for the congregation.

Some things are still in place for Covid like the masks. The children still wear their singers masks that Lynn Beals made for them. They wear them at all rehearsals and sometimes in church when we sing. The children have learned how to use a hand held microphone and it makes the words so much clearer when they sing in the sanctuary.

The Junior Choir loves to be part of the Senior and Youth Choir, as we were for the Easter Service singing Hallelujah. It makes them feel part of a wider community of singers.

We never could have a Junior Choir without the parents, grandparents and friends that bring the Magnificent Seven to rehearsal each week. Some stay and sing with us. Others take some time to just relax alone for a few minutes in the church library. Jacqui and I are so grateful to everyone that helps to bring the singers to us. We also feel so fortunate to have Pastor Scott join us when he doesn't have other meetings. He adds so much to our rehearsal and it's important for the children to know they can sing and laugh with him.

It has been so wonderful to be back in person this year for rehearsals and singing in church. Jacqui and I would love to have more K-5 singers joins us next year.

Have a safe and happy summer, Susan Marston, Junior Choir Director



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.

The Facilities Team

The Facilities Team is responsible for the care and custody of all church properties. This team also works with various organizations with regard to electricity, fuel, building insurance and other expenses to ensure we have the best and most cost effective rates for the church.

This cohesive team manages various responsibilities to serve our members. The vision of the Facilities Team is to maintain our wonderful building for its intended use for spiritual services, music events, weddings, funerals, church programs, youth development, fundraising and outreach mission activities.

The Facilities Team is also responsible for rentals of the Church facilities by outside organizations. The Facilities Team ensures that the purposes of these organizations serve the public good and conform to the stated purpose and goals of First Parish.

In addition the Team coordinates all Internal Team use of the Church building. Each Team of the Church must complete a Building Usage Form for meetings, fairs, etc. to assist in this matter.

The Facilities Team responsibilities do not include the Audio/Visual system in the Church or the Information Technology systems of the Church.

This team meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

If you're interested in finding out more about the Facilities Team, please contact John Brockiington or any member of the Team.

 ${\sf John\ Brockington-\underline{jbrockington1@gmail.com}}$

Dale Siulinski - dsiulinski001@maine.rr.com

Eddie Fullmer – eddiefullmer@gmail.com

Sorren Arneson – <u>sorrenarneson@gmail.com</u>

Fred Connelly - fred@fredx2.us

Carol Connelly - carol@freddieandmedesigns.us

Sue Burgess - sueb1972@gmail.com

Flower and Altar Update

The Flower and Altar Team would like to thank all of you who purchased lilies and tulips for Easter. The church looked truly lovely.



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 207-768-1699 or mvlord@aol.com.

May 1st and 29th are open.

May 15th is Music Sunday.

Altar Flowers given for the Month of April

April 3rd flowers were given by Lynne & Dale Siulinski in memory of Lynn Siulinski Dalton and Jean & Adam Siulinski

April 10th beautiful palms were given in loving memory of Tracy Lynn Richard by Deb and Mike Richard

April 17th beautiful Easter flowers, lilies, tulips, and hyacinths, were given by First Parish families and friends.

April 24th flowers were given by Jan and Ed Hryniewicz in celebration of Pastor Scott's Installation as Pastor and Teacher of First Parish Church







Spring is here. Soon we will want to get out into our fish garden and get that ready for the spring and summer. Gardeners are always welcome to join us.

Mission Team Update

FMI – Carol Spencer-Lemay SpencerLemay2@gmail.com









Shoe Ministry: The Mission Team is still accepting clean shoes in good condition to give away. We particularly need donations of sneakers for children of all ages, including teens.





The FPCC-UCC RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE has been rescheduled for Saturday, October 22, 2022 from 9 am to 2 pm. To register online for the blood drive at First Parish Congregational Church, visit redcrossblood.org, and enter SACO UCC in the red "Find a Blood Drive" box. Then select your appointment time, or you may call 1-800-733-2767 (1-800-RED-CROSS). If you would like to donate blood at a different location or date, please sign up at redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

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





WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPDATE







PLEASE SAVE THE DATES

On May 6th, 7th, and 8th, First Parish Church and Women's Fellowship will host Jen Wright, Founder and Executive Director of H.E.A.L. Jen visited Zimbabwe with her UCC choir members when she was in high school, and her experience changed her life. Seeing children as young as 5, living on the streets because their parents had died of AIDS, Jen knew she had to help. We hope you will come hear Jen speak about her Faith Journey and her work in Kenya. Her story is compelling, and she endeared herself to the First Parish women who heard Jen speak at our Women's Spiritual Retreat in January 2019.

If you have questions, or would like to help plan this special weekend, please contact Joan Sonneborn at 494-7154.

ATTENTION KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS!

<u>HAT NOT HATE</u> 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 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 varn 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 pompom? 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 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.





Jen Wright will be our Guest Preacher on May 8, 2022



JOIN US ON MAY 8, 2022

When Jennifer was a 20 year old college student, she received an unlikely call from God. Join us during Sunday morning worship to hear her story of developing an orphanage and school in Kenya, and how she learned to lean into her faith even when the way forward seemed so daunting.



Jennifer Musick Wright is the Founder & Director of HEAL, a not-for-profit organization committed to raising our world, one child at a time.





HEAL Raising Our World Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. HEAL is developing Rapha Community Center, an orphanage and secondary school in the central highlands of Kenya. They provide nurturing care to 50 orphans and quality education to over 80 students from the local community.

CONNECT WITH HEAL

Facebook and Instagram: @healraisingourworld
www.healraisingourworld.org • jennifer@healraisingourworld.org • 802-558-0139
PO Box 452, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

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





MAY 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:50am CE Team 10am Service 11:30am Youth Choir 1pm TV Service	2 9am Counters 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Big Book	3 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 6:30pm Facilities - Teams 7:15pm Men's Fellowship - FPCC	4 4pm Diaper Bank	5 9am TOHG 4pm Jr Choir 6:30pm Choir	3:30pm Guiding Eyes 5:30pm Pot Luck with Jen Wright	7 Women's Fellowship with Jen Wright
8 10am Service Jen Wright is Preaching 11:30am Youth Choir 1pm TV Service Happy Mother's Day	9 9am Counters 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Big Book	10 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 7:15pm Men's Fellowship - Zoom	4pm Diaper Bank 6:30pm Finance Team - Zoom	12 9am TOHG 4pm Jr Choir 6:30pm Choir	13	14
15 10am Service Music Sunday 11:30am Youth Choir 1pm TV Service	16 9am Counters 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Big Book	17 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 6:30pm Mission Team 7:15pm Men's Fellowship – Zoom	18 10am So ME Theological Round Table 4pm Diaper Bank 6:30pm Diaconate	19 9am TOHG 4pm Jr Choir 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm GNT - Zoom	3:30pm Guiding Eyes	21
22 10am Service Children's Sunday 11:30am Youth Choir 1pm TV Service	23 9am Counters 6:00pm Big Book	24 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 6:30pm Personnel Team 7:15pm Men's Fellowship - Zoom	4pm Diaper Bank 6:30 pm Council - Zoom	26 9am TOHG 4pm Jr Choir 6:30pm Choir	27	28
29 10am Service 11:30am Youth Choir 1pm TV Service	30 Office Closed	31 9am Counters 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 7:15pm Men's Fellowship - Zoom				THE STATE OF THE S

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