

# The Messenger

First Parish Congregational Church, Saco "A Christ-centered Inclusive Community of Faith with Love and Hope to Share"

# May 2023

#### First Parish Book Club

Meet in the Church Parlor

May 2, 2023 6:30 pm Matt Haig's "The Humans: A Novel"

June 6, 2023 6:30 pm Geraldine Brooks' "Horse"

See Community Events for information on a reading event with Geraldine Brooks.











Did you know...

Memorial Day was officially established as a national public holiday in 1868 by General John A. Logan, head of a group of Union veterans. The holiday was originally called Decoration Day-named for the decoration of soldiers' graves-but the name gradually changed until it officially became Memorial Day in 1967.

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

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

On the Sunday after Easter, a week typically known as "Low Sunday" or "Cannon Sunday" (because people are out of there as if shot out of a cannon), I decided that our focus would be joy. The Sunday after Easter is sometimes celebrated as 'Holy Humor Sunday.' I did include a couple of extra jokes in the service, but again the focus was joy. We got serious about joy!

The sanctuary was festooned with decorations intended to elicit joyful feelings. There were colorful kites and butterflies hanging from shiny streamers, there were the silhouettes of dancers on the chancel wall, and the choir pews were with filled with some stuffed animal friends. My hope that transforming the worship space would create an emotional response. The title of my message was, "Dancing Into Joy!" and in it I explored our call to serve God by sharing the joy that we experience in and through God and God's love.

There were three action items in the message: 1. Consider ways that you experience deep and meaningful joy in your lives. 2. Consider ways that you as individuals can share joy with others. 3. Consider ways that the church (First Parish Church) can offer joy to our community and the world. I asked you to write them down on slips of paper. I said that you can keep the first two and suggested that you display them somewhere that you will see them every day. And then I asked you to give the third slip back to us; share your ideas with me and the church leadership.

We received a nice little stack of your thoughts and ideas. We will use them as the basis for a long-range planning and visioning process in the coming weeks. Here are just a few of your ideas:

- "Get outside the doors and let others know us."
- "Worship outside. Invite people to bring dogs."
- "Use our space to help others."
- "Have a free community meal."
- "Outreach to the marginalized and refugees."

And so on. Many of the comments suggested that we continue to do all of the wonderful and meaningful things that we are already doing. And as you saw from the few examples that I shared ... enhance, support and multiply the ways that we invite, worship and serve.

For those of you who may not have been here, or those of you who could not think of any ideas in the very brief moment that I gave you to write, do not worry. You did not miss out on your opportunity to share. There is a basket on the table as you enter the sanctuary that has a photo of our steeple on it. Please use those slips of paper to share all of your ideas. How can we share the joy? I want to hear from you!

In God's Wonderful Peace,

Scott





#### Vice Moderator Update...



Hello Easter People!!

Happy continuation of the Easter Season! The couple days of 80 degree temperature that we recently experienced was a tease for the coming of the late spring and summer seasons. Before long we will have the opportunity to enjoy reading books in the sun, strolling along on our beautiful beaches, or building giant sand castles!

The number of folks attending service at the church is nicely growing and my compliments to Pastor Scott for creating an environment which is drawing more and more new families in!! The Concert Series continues to attract audiences. The 8am Sacred Conversations is also responding in number of attendees. The service is wonderful for those individuals that enjoy a quieter more intimate service.

The financial efforts to achieve more competitive interest rate is almost complete thanks to the Finance and Investment Teams. Accounts are set up and we are waiting for Schwab to provide transfer links between our bank and Schwab.

The Facilities Team filed a Certificate of Appropriateness with the Saco Historical Committee before we further investigate the possibility of placing solar panels on the church's roof. The initial investigation is to determine if the church could place solar panels on the roof, as the church is located in the Historic District. The Historical Committee was excited to look into this request, as we would be the first organization to place solar panels within the Historic District.

We are looking into a serious review of the Bylaws. Dale last fall wrote a document with specific questions to be answered, which is a great start. Dale's initial review will start the discussion about our team structure, governance and financial structure. We then must determine how to comply within the Bylaw structure. If you would like to help as a contributor or a reviewer, please let me know by May 15!! All changes of the Bylaws would require a Congregational vote.

We continue to look for a Moderator, so if you are so inclined, let Pastor Scott or me know and we can provide information about the position to help you decide.

Enjoy the rest of the Easter Season!

Blessings to you all,

Bob Condon Vice Moderator







Deacon Ministry

Dear Friends,

With the promise of May soon approaching, we'll soon be leaving our winter coats behind! This is a great time to return to wearing our name tags regularly at church!

As you have seen, we're blessed to have many new families visiting our church this spring, and a common thread motivating their return is being made to feel welcome! Many of you must have felt similarly when you first came to First Parish!

Wearing a name tag is an indication that you belong to our church community, and that you're willing to make yourself known to others. As we Deacons and Greeters welcome people to the Narthex each week, it is so much more gratifying to all if we can greet people by name! Additionally, a visitor can be made much more comfortable, if a question arises, when he/she can approach someone with a name tag, and call them by name.

Additionally, with the Shepherding Program that the Diaconate is restarting, and that you'll soon hear Pastor Scott describing, putting names with faces will be beneficial to all! Speaking of that, you may view an updated photo of the Diaconate, labeled with our names, on the Diaconate bulletin board in the Atrium. Underneath it, you may also find a labeled photo of our newest First Parish members!

Let's all be united as a community, with "love and hope to share" (as the new banner displayed in the Atrium says), and put forward our best welcoming hospitality, with our name tags prominently worn! (If you need help in finding your name tag on the Atrium kiosk, Russ Tremblay or another Deacon is overseeing the Welcome Station on Sunday mornings, and will be happy to assist you.)

Blessings, Margery Condon and Dan Carter Diaconate Co-Chairs







And just like that another program year at Saco First Parish wraps up. In Church school, our Wonder Word for May is

**Ministry.** Our classes focus on Peter and his ministry.

May 21 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. On this day we will be unveiling our new banner.

May 28 is Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday. We invite you to wear RED for the flame of Pentecost. This is our last Sunday of Church school classes for this program year. Our age level classes will not resume until September. However, we hope that children, youth and their families take part in our Vacation Bible School and Pilgrim Lodge programs. Our nursery will remain open all summer.

See you at Church,

## Kris





#### Pilgrim Lodge

We celebrated our Church's Church camp, Pilgrim Lodge, with their new

Director, Liz Charles McGough on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. After worship there was time to check out all the wonderful camping opportunities for all ages that are happening this spring, summer and fall. Our fellowship time consisted of ice cream cones just like at camp. Thank you to Saco Scoops for helping us get the ice cream. **The Christian Education Team** is offering camperships again this year. Camperships are now available and are due into the church office by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Please register with Pilgrim Lodge before applying for a campership.



FMI: 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. Please see the bulletin board in the atrium for more information about Pilgrim Lodge. If you are registering for PL for the first time please let Kris know as there is a Bring a Friend scholarship.



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

-Matthew 19:14

Helping **Lisa** and **Mary** in the Nursery for the month of **April** was:

2<sup>nd</sup> Glenys Salas
9th Lindsey Martel
16th Glenys Salas
23<sup>th</sup> Kelsey Jackson

30<sup>th</sup> Carol Spencer Lemay

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.

# "It's Only One Sunday!"

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



# Fellowship

Every Mother's Day our youth gives 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. Please make checks



payable to First Parish UCC with Blankets in the emo 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. This past winter we gave a dozen blankets to Seeds of Hope as they provided an overnight warming center.

College Care Packages were sent to **Kaeley Brann**, **Eben Browne**, **Anna DiMatteo and Simon DiMatteo.** Good luck on those exams. We know you will do well. Hope to see you

#### **High School and College Graduations**



soon.

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

CARE PACKAGE

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

June 26-30 Monday – Friday 9-11:30 AM

Children 4 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Our theme for this year is **Hero Hotline:** Called **Together to Serve God**.

Our Bible Verse is:

"So let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up." -Romans 14:19 (CEB)

This summer at Hero Hotline VBS, your children will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible based good time as they are called together to serve God. They will become Heroes and discover that answering God's call together means "striving for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up!" After the daily Bible story the children will expand on what they've discovered by making their own art projects at the Craft Station, singing new songs at the Music Station, exploring the wonders of God's creation at the Science Station, playing games at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty treats at the Snack Station. Along the way, the Heroes will hear about our service project as they respond to a call for action.

Registration is open and on the website as well as hard copies at the VBS table in the atrium. Our VBS team is back for another year ready to go.

FMI: kris@firstparishsaco.org



## **Ronan Adler Steeves**

Lindsey Hersey & Frederick Steeves



#### **April**



April 2 Connor Remillard

April 9 **Dexter Roberge** 

April 16 Jo Fitzgerald

April 23 Cameron Wiggins-Mehlman

April 30 Cassie Remillard



#### **Confirmation Class 2023**



Wesley Wiggins-Mehlman



Hal Wiggins-Mehlman



Joan Sonneborn

#### **Confirmands**



**Lucas Edstrom** Parents: Lisa and Jon Edstrom kayaking, camping



**Roland Poirier** 



**Abbie Seymour** Parents: Tracy and Keith Seymour volleyball, camping, skiing



**Norma Gorham** 

**Easter Extravaganza and Egg Hunt** 





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.

#### **Called to Care Team**

What is Called to Care?

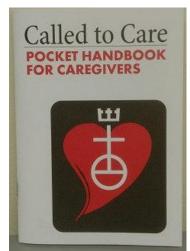
It's a ministry of caregivers who are willing to show love and compassion to those in need in the community. This ministry is a subset of our Mission Team.

This ministry is an opportunity for us to give the gift of time and compassion to parishioners that are in need of a warm smile, due to illness, inability to get out of their home, recuperating from a surgery, dealing with the loss of a loved one or just in need of some company.

The simple willingness to be present with a listening ear is all that we ask.

If you feel that Called to Care is "speaking" to you, we would love to include you in our group of members. Please contact me at 978-430-5678.

Trina Triggs – Chair Sue & Jack Neumyer Carol Spencer-Lemay Martha Perkins Ruth & Tim McGee Deb Fralich Lorie Faubert Doug Macrae Judi Klingensmith











# Flower and Altar Update



Altar flowers for the month of April:

April 2<sup>nd</sup> given by Edward Olsen in memory of Mary Agnes Hayes

April 9<sup>th</sup> Lilies and Tulips in Honor and Memory of Loved Ones

April 16<sup>th</sup> given by Lynn & Dale Siulinski in memory of Loved Ones

#### Thank you...

- All who ordered lilies and tulips. The sanctuary was lovely!
- Deb & Mike Richard for the large palm trees.
- Marcia Lord for the lovely Easter banner.



If you would like to provide flowers on a Sunday, you can sign up (sheets are hanging outside the office). You can also contact Marcia Lord @ 207-768-1699 or Patrice Tripp @ 207-590-1109.

#### **Diaper Bank Update...**

We are happy to report that FP Diaper Bank will celebrate its second birthday on May  $12^{\text{th}}$ . Diaper Bank has not missed a Wednesday regardless of weather, holidays or lack of volunteers. We consistently serve 25-35 families each week and on average, 1000 diapers are given out, along with feminine hygiene items.



Please know that you are welcome to come visit us any Wednesday from 4-6pm in the nursery on the lower level. We love our new "home" in the nursery and appreciate Lisa Edstrom, Mary Coyne and Kris Galasyn for "sharing" their space with us.

Although we have not received many specific donations from the church family since the first of the year, we recently were delighted to accept 20 boxes of diapers from Saco Bay Rotary and \$100 worth of diapers from Hannaford. Hannaford Corporate Office also donated a carload of feminine hygiene products thanks to Vanessa Johnston. Thank-you Vanessa and David for delivering that huge donation!

Pam and Pastor Scott were invited to the March  $22^{nd}$  meeting of Rotary where Pam gave a brief presentation on diaper need and the positive impact FP Diaper Bank has had on the community.

Please remember that First Parish Diaper Bank ALWAYS appreciates donations. Financial gifts keep us sustainable. We accept diapers any time. They may be dropped off in the office if Spurwink School is in session.

Next time you are out shopping, grab a box of size 4,5,or 6 diapers. Or write a check and know that a child in your community has fresh diapers because of you.

Pam Mohlin



#### **FMI – Carol Spencer-Lemay**

# **Mission Team Update**

# Thank you for your support of the

Saco Food Pantry!

Don't forget to donate to the Saco Food Pantry if you are able. The need is great.

Thank you for leaving your non-perishable donations in the shopping cart in the Atrium!

Spring and Summer needs at the Food Pantry are: Mayonnaise, Ketchup and Salad Dressings

Ongoing needs: Peanut Butter, complete pancake mix and syrup

The Saco Food Pantry, located at 67 Ocean Park Road, is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM, and the last Tuesday of the month from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM.

#### **First Parish Shoe Ministry**

Thank you for continuing to support this ministry! We are still accepting shoes in excellent condition and new socks. At this time our shelves are very low on children's shoes and socks. Please leave your donation in the office or near the shoe display.

#### **Coming Soon!**

Sharon Beckwith will be updating us on the Daisy's Children program in Honduras. This is a feeding program for children in a small town. Visit <u>daisyschildren.org</u> for more information.

The UCC Strengthen the Church offering will be collected in June, but you can give to this program at any time at <a href="https://www.ucc.org/stc">ucc.org/stc</a>.

#### **MISSION TEAM MEETING UPDATE!!!!**

The Mission Team meeting for the month of May has been moved to May 17, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Parlor at First Parish Church.





# Good News Team AKA GNT Update

Hear ye, hear ye...

First Parish Church would like to participate in the Memorial Day Parade. We are looking for anybody that might have or know someone who might own a classic convertible car. If you know anyone who would be willing to help us out, please contact Wylie Herzberg.

We are also looking for Veterans who may be interested in walking or riding in the Memorial Day Parade. Please contact Wylie Herzberg for more information.



The GNT is looking into having a booth at this year's Sidewalk Arts Festival on June 24th. For more information please contact Wylie Herzberg.





#### **Geraldine Brooks**

Wednesday, Jun 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

#### The Historic Theater

28 Chestnut Street Portsmouth, NH 03802 www.themusichall.org



**Geraldine Brooks** is the author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *March* and the international bestsellers The Secret Chord, Caleb's Crossing, People of the Book, and Year of Wonders. She also wrote the acclaimed nonfiction works Nine Parts of Desire and Foreign Correspondence.

A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history.

Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, Horse is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism.

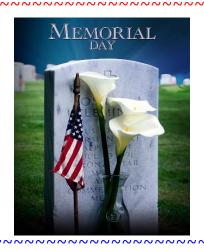
Please call before attending any community events to make sure they aren't postponed or canceled as a result of the coronavirus. You can find CDC coronavirus information at cdc.gov/coronavirus.

**Cost:** \$15\* **Buy Tickets** 

This event listing provided for the Portsmouth community events calendar.

Looking for things to do in the area? Check out www.pressherald.com/things-to-do/dothis-calendar

You can search by date, within a number of miles... you'll be amazed at what is happening in Maine!



# The First Parish Bean Suppahs are back!!!

Mark your calendars!

May 13, 2023 Serving from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm \$10.00 Adults \$5.00 Children 6-12



Menu will be:

Pea Beans Kidney Beans Mac N Cheese Hot Dogs Coleslaw Breads Desserts **Beverages** 







#### https://healraisingourworld.org

H.E.A.L. Is a 501c3 not for profit organization, currently based in Philadelphia, PA.

H.E.A.L. serves 140 orphaned children in Kenya. The Founder and Director of H.E.A.L., Jen Wright, will be returning to First Parish Church on Sunday, May 7th. Jen will preach that day, and the Women's Fellowship and Mission Team will be providing a complimentary lunch for those who have signed up following worship.

This is an exciting way to hear Jen speak about the incredible work she continues to do, the accomplishments of the past year, upcoming goals, and mission opportunities. The 140 children she serves, have suffered great adversity, and yet, they smile all day long. Do you wonder why?

Come and hear their stories. All people of all ages are invited. Hope to see you there!

For more information, please call Joan Sonneborn at 494-7154.

Women's Fellowship and Mission Team







Pihcintu Multinational Girl's Chorus April 23rd @ 4pm \$15 At Door

Catie Curtis
June 10th
@ 7pm





Night of Talent

May 6th

Free Event

Donations accepted

A place where local artists can

@ 6PM

show their stuff! More Details

**Coming Soon!** 

Tickets available at FirstParishSaco.org

July 15th @7PM(



\$15 online +applicable fees

\$20 @ the door

# THE WANDA (S) KIDS SUMMER THEATER CAMP

JULY 17TH-AUGUST 11TH, 2023 M-F, 8AM-4PM FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN SACO

Give your kids the tools they need to succeed in any career. WandA Summer Theater Camps can help:

- Nurture positive self-esteem
- · Strengthen friendships & community
- Foster independence

FOR AGES 7-17

Multi-week discounts available
&
Early Bird Pricing before May Ist



ENROLL YOUR KIDS
TODAY!



Why Share the Secret?

With the budget tight this year, we don't have money to boost our posts on social media which means less people can see them. However, we can combat this by having more people share our posts!

A post with 0 shares, gets the least amount of views (sometimes as low as 7!)

A post with 1-2 shares is a good boost, it could get us up to 200-300 views!

4-6 shares can get us up to around 600-800 views!

7-8 shares can even get us over 1000 views!

But we can only get shares by people like YOU who have liked our Facebook page choose to share the posts! So the more you "share the secret" by sharing our posts, the more people see them, the more people we get to join us both online and in person, and the more good we can do for our church family and the wider world beyond! Every share counts!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May Day!	1 9am Counters 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Big Book	9:30am Women's Fellowship 6:30pm Facilities Team via Teams 6:30pm Book Club 7pm Men's Fellowship	3 4pm Diaper Bank 5:15pm Jr Choir 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7pm Sr Choir	9am TOHG 3:30pm Guiding Eyes	5	6 7:00pm Night of Talent
7 8am Sacred Conversations 8:50am CE Team 10am Service 11:30am M&A 11:30am H.E.A.L. Luncheon 1pm TV Service	8 9am Counters  6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Big Book	9 9:30am Women's Fellowship  7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom	10 4pm Diaper Bank 5:15pm Jr Choir 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Finance Team via Zoom 7pm Sr Choir	9am TOHG	12	13 5:00pm Bean Suppah
Mother's Day Music Sunday 8am Sacred Conversations 10am Service 11:15am Youth Choir 1pm TV Service	9am Counters 6:30pm Big Book	16 9:30am Women's Fellowship 7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom	17 10:00am Theological Grp 4pm Diaper Bank 5:15pm Jr Choir 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Mission Team 7pm Sr Choir	18 9am TOHG 3:30pm Guiding Eyes	19	20
Children's Sunday 8am Sacred Conversations 10am Service 11:15am Youth Choir 1pm TV Service	9am Counters 6:30pm Big Book	23 9:30am Women's Fellowship 6:30pm Personnel Team 7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom	24 4pm Diaper Bank 5:15pm Jr Choir 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Council 7pm Sr Choir	25 9:00am TOHG 7:00pm GNT	26	27
28 Pentecost Sunday 8am Sacred Conversations 10am Service 11:15am Youth Choir 12:00pm Diaconate 1pm TV Service	Memorial Day Office Closed  *** HAPPY ***  MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBER AND HONOR ************** 6:30pm Big Book	30 9am Counters 9:30am Women's Fellowship 7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom	31 4pm Diaper Bank 5:15pm Jr Choir 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm Sr Choir			





The Messenger First Parish Congregational Church 12 Beach Street Saco, ME 04072

