

The Messenger

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

September 2023



HOMECOMING SUNDAY

September 17, 2023

Let's begin this new program year at First Parish with great start.

Come meet new members and friends, renew acquaintances and enjoy fellowship as only First Parish can.



Church Services will be at 8:30 am and 10:00 am There may be some special things happening at the 10:00...

Following our 10:00 am service we will have a pot luck lunch.

Last names beginning with the following please bring:

A through J – main dish K through Q - salads R through Z – desserts

Beverages will be provided.

Access to Lower Level during week days...

As the new school year is upon us, just a reminder to all... Spurwink School rents most of the lower level of First Parish Church for their therapeutic school. In order to provide the environment needed for the children of the school we are asking that nobody enter the lower level until after 2:30 pm during the weeks/days that Spurwink is conducting classes. The **only** exception is if a vendor or repair company requires access to a specific area of the lower level.

Thank you for understanding.

Sacred Conversation Schedule

If you are an early riser, you are invited to join us on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am for our Sacred Conversation worship service. These services are led by a team of facilitators. The schedule for September is as follows:

September: 3 (Labor Day weekend) No early service.

September: 10 Jan Hryniewicz

September: 17 Ellie Mercer

September: 24 Bill Donoghue



Pastor Scott's Message...



The Pastor's Perspective ...

I met Reverend Richard Dutton when he served as one of the interim ministers for First Baptist Church in Beverly, Massachusetts. Several years later, Dick called and asked me if I would consider accepting a call to serve as the Associate Pastor at First Baptist Church, New London, New Hampshire. My response was, "I do not even need to see the job description. I am in!" When the process moved to the point of my official interview with the search committee, I met Dick in a restaurant parking lot and followed him to the church. During the drive, I stared at the "Diversity" sticker that decorated the rear window of Dick's Volkswagen Jetta.

My friend and colleague passed away last month. His life and ministry were celebrated just a few days ago. I am thankful for the technology that enables us to participate in a virtual congregation. I mourn my friend's passing, and I am grateful to have served with someone who held love and inclusivity as the primary foci of his ministry.

We will begin our new program year this month. Our overarching theme for the year is going to be "A Place for Everyone." Every Sunday I begin our worship services by saying that all are welcome here. This year we will explore what that means in our daily lives as individuals and as a church family.

In my conversations with the staff, we acknowledge that we already do a good job at making people feel welcome here. But that does not mean that we should not continue to enhance those things that we already do well. We should not pat ourselves on the back, or rest upon our laurels. Even more, we will continue to seek ways to let our neighbors know that they are welcome here.

For example, one Sunday in June we celebrate PRIDE and our inclusion of our LGBTQIA+ neighbors. But why just one Sunday? And what about other neighbors that also experience exclusion in the wider world? How do we communicate and extend our welcome to them as well?

Our focus hymn for the year is going to be "Draw the Circle Wide," by Gordon Light and Mark Miller. The song lyrics say, "Draw the circle wide. No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side." Then the chorus tells us, "Draw the circle, draw it wider still. Let this be our song, no one stands alone." The lyrics do NOT say, "Draw the circle wide ... that's good right there. There's no more room, no room to spare."

As a church family, we will consider the ways that we draw the circle wide, and then how we can draw it wider still. We are a Christ-centered faith community with love and hope to share. How do we make certain that we are sharing with everyone? That is our call. That is our challenge. That is the heart of who we are. Draw it wider still. There is a place for everyone at First Parish Church, Saco.

Grace and Peace,

Scott





Vice Moderator Update...

Summer has just about passed us by. I hope we have a dry fall to enjoy the remaining warm days at the beach, riding bikes and just plain enjoying our families.



We have several items happening in the church which we should all be aware of:

- 1. We continue to search for a Moderator.
- 2. We continue to advertise for a new Sexton. Winter is coming and we need to be ready for heating of the building and keeping the sidewalks clear.
- 3. We need a person(s) to recruit (nominating) for our teams; without those people, we have holes in our leadership structure.
- 4. We need folks who would like to help with our Stewardship Program. We have a few people signed up but could use more folks to provide ideas on why they love FPC. Stewardship will start momentarily with its completion in October. Earlier Stewardship Campaign moves the budget and stewardship out of the holiday season. This year will be a financial education year so that church members and friends understand our current financial constraints. If you would like to be on the Stewardship Team this fall, please let Sue Burgess or the Finance Team know (Glenys Salas, Dale Siulinski, Patrice Tripp, Amy Chute, and Bob Condon).
- 5. There is serious discussion about having a Capital Campaign to raise funds for church exterior maintenance and adding solar panels to the church. The savings the panels will produce are significant, and reduces our risk of rate change by CMP. Over the life of the panels, we would save 300K 400K in electricity with a 90K investment. The town of Saco has approved the project.
- 6. The Facility Team is working to get a quote for the exterior structural work and maintenance to extend our building into the next generation. We would present various plans to the congregation to accept exterior renovation and/or solar panels for a vote before moving ahead.
- 7. We will be looking at our long term Legacy Funds. Due to the current Market with low returns on investment, our funds are dwindling and need a review our current investment plan.
- 8. Bill Donoghue and Bob Mohlin will make a presentation to the Council in September to look at the church security recommendations from Home Land Security. The building has some excellent security features but there may be some risks that we may want to address. The federal government will pay for any security updates we make to the church.
- 9. Bylaws are presently in review to accurately reflect how we operate the church.

10. The Facilities Team is working to understand the repair necessary to restore the basement after the water and moisture issues. This currently includes insurance company, and remediation contractors.

Bob Condon Vice Moderator





Are you excited about the start of a new church programming year?

Would you like to grow in your spiritual journey, while serving our church, and welcoming others to our church community?

Consider becoming a Deacon!

For new and prospective Deacons, you're invited to the Deacon 101 Training Saturday, September 9th, 2023, 9-12 noon, lunch included

We'll meet in the Conference Room, upstairs (first door on the right).

Please RSVP to Margery Condon (margerycondon1@gmail.com)

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Margery Condon, Diaconate Chairperson









September always seems to creep up on us. Maybe it is because we do not want to let go of the summer or maybe it is because there is so much to do to prepare

returning, programs starting up, church school classrooms with teachers and children enjoying all our wonderful Bible stories. Yes, this is a special Sunday. Homecoming Sunday is **September 17th.** As we begin our worship together, that morning, we will be having a **Blessing of the Backpacks.** All children, youth and church school teachers are invited to bring their Backpack/bag forward and place on the altar. We ask that everyone sits up front while the blessing takes place and our morning's Children's Message. We will also have our **Teacher Commissioning** at that time. Please remember to retrieve your bag after worship. We will begin age level Church school classes that day. In the meantime, we would like all our parents to fill out Church school registration forms for their child(ren). We ask that you fill out a form for each child, birth (nursery) through Twelfth grade. This is helpful for many reasons.

for our program year. This is one of my

favorite Sundays...all our families

- 1. Helps us in the purchasing of curriculum
- 2. Helps us determine class size vs. room vs. adults needed
- 3. Helps to organize age level events, Bible Sunday, VBS, Youth Fellowship.

- 4. Helps us report attendance to our Church conference.
- 5. Helps us to know if there are parents wanting their children Baptized

You can find this form on the Church website under Christian Education, click on Christian Education and then Christian Education Registration. Thank you.

I look forward to seeing you at Church. Stay safe,

Kris



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

-Matthew 19:14

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

6th Carol Spencer Lemay

13th Glenys Salas

20th Carrie Jahns

27th **Danielle Roberge**

Thank you to all who have signed up for helping in our Nursery. Our new sign up sheet for the Fall and Winter is up. We hope people will continue that generosity by signing up.

"Its Only One Sunday!"

For many our nursery is their first Welcome at First Parish. Please help us keep that welcome going by signing up to be a nursery volunteer. There is a sign up in the atrium.

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



We give thanks to all the very dedicated adults that teach consistently. Over this past

program year our Church school classes have increased. This year we will be adding another class. We are so grateful to all our families and to all our teachers. We are excited to introduce two new teachers to you

Joanne Howard and **Christa Remillard**. PreK/Kindergarten: **Danielle Roberge and**

Christa Remillard

Younger Elementary: Linda Lambert and

Joanne Howard

Older Elementary: Heather Nolette and

Michael Remillard

Youth: Karen Brann and Jay Salas



2023 at Pilgrim Lodge

Pilgrim Lodge is winding

down.

Look who went to the Adult Lighten Up,
Loosen Up camp
session: Lynn and
Jamie Beals.

Check out their cool nametags. They highly



recommend the camp. Women's Fall Weekend Sept. 15-17. Michelle Fiske, and Hope Guerrette are attending. 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.



Oct 1 - Acolyte Training Oct 15 - Bible Sunday Oct 20-22- PL Fall

Homecoming Reunion weekend Oct. 28- PL Fall Work Day Oct 29 - Sunday Fun Day Fall Festival

Kaeley Brann will be our featured artist for the fall. Kaeley is a 2019 graduate of Massabesic High School and a 2023 UMO graduate with a Fine Arts degree. She was also very active at First Parish and was confirmed in 2016. Kaeley says about her art, "I have always gravitated towards portraiture and the human form in my work. I enjoy studying the different features of those who I'm depicting. It allows me to appreciate small and often overlooked details, like small wrinkles around a mouth or freckles across a nose. These small details are what come together and make us all uniquely beautiful and I draw a lot of my inspiration from them."

Kaeley's exhibit will be featured at the end of the month on the upper level. Please come and enjoy her creations. Thank you Kaeley for sharing your art with us.

> "Inclusion Elevates All" -Elaine Hall



Music Ministry

From Our Music Director

jacqui@firstparishsaco.org

I'm excited to be working on music planning for our new church year. This year I will be conducting my Masters Recital at First Parish on **Saturday April 13th, 7PM**. This is a culmination of my studies at USM and the focal point will be the senior choir. The program will be sacred and will be a journey from the birth of Christ to his resurrection. Most of the music will be sung during services throughout the year however the actual recital will also have a string quartet and some of my professional colleagues will be joining the choir. Please save the date!

Senior Choir:

The Senior Choir is a diverse group of 30-35 singers who enjoys singing all kinds of music including spirituals, gospel, traditional hymns and sacred classical and contemporary music. Since diversity is important to us, we also sing and read literature from other cultures. We are there for one another and enjoy singing together and working on music that ranges from easy to difficult. We pray together, work hard, and we celebrate together. Please join us!

- •Rehearsals resume on September 13th
- •We will rehearse on Wednesdays from 6:45PM-8:15PM
- •Sunday morning rehearsals are at 8:45AM
- •If you are interested in joining us, please reach out to Jacqui at Jacqui@firstparishsaco.org
- •Singers interested will receive a handbook, information on the year, a calendar, and can meet with Jacqui to discuss further details

Praise and Worship Choir:

The praise and worship choir is an intergenerational choir for 6th grade and up. The group leads contemporary worship hymns and will lead many of the Introits this year. We also collaborate with the Senior Choir and Junior Choir regularly.

- •Rehearsals resume on Sunday, September 10th
- •We rehearse after church for 45 min. Generally from 11:15-12:00 every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month
- •Sunday morning rehearsals are at 9:30AM every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month

Junior Choir:

The Junior choir is for singers pre-k to 5th grade. The group sings once a month and on special occasions and is led by the fabulous Susan Marston with Jacqui accompanying.

- •Rehearsals resume on Wednesday, September 27th
- •Rehearsal time 5:30 pm 6:00 pm
- •Please reach out to Susan if you have a child interested in singing with the group, amarsto1@maine.rr.com

Bell Choir:

The bell choir is led by Audrey Cabral and will be resuming rehearsals this fall. They ring once in the Fall, once during Advent, once in the Winter, on Palm Sunday and on Music Sunday.

- •Rehearsals resume on Monday, September 11
- •Rehearsal time 6:00 pm
- •Please reach out to Audrey if you are interested in ringing, golfers99@hotmail.com

Music and Arts Team and Concert Series Committees:

Interested in supporting the music and arts programs at the church but don't want to be in the ensembles? Music and Arts or the Concert Series Committee might be a good place for you. We are looking for someone to help find sponsors for the concert series, to help with fundraising, and to help with advertising.

- •Music and Arts meets the first Sunday of each month after church
- •Concert Series Committee meetings are TBD



This 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.

Personnel Team 2023

The purpose of the Personnel Team is multifaceted:

- create & review Personnel policies & budget
- organize hiring processes
- develop & implement procedures for the annual review of all employees
- provide Personnel-related budget recommendations
- provide support for hiring & termination
- serve as liaisons with staff members
- establish approval procedures for time away from work
- provide other Personnel-related support as needed

Current Personnel Team members are:

Phil Blood, Chair Faith Garnett Doug Macrae Mari Warner

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

We would appreciate having additional members. If you are interested in joining our team, please contact any team member.



Flower and Altar Update

Thank you to those who provide flowers for the altar each week. If you wish to remember or honor a loved one or celebrate an event in someone's life with altar flowers, the sign-up sheet is on the wall outside the church office. You can also contact Patrice Tripp at 207-590-1109 or Marcia Lord at 207-768-1699.

Altar flowers for the month of August:

Stephanie, James, Aaron & Caleb Kind in Memory of Jim Keithley

Kathy & Ray Lund in Celebration of the lives of Robert Ottaviano, Eddie Justis and David Justis

Edward Olsen

Sundays in August through December are open for altar flowers. 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.



Blessed are the PEACE makers

The 4th and final Peace
Workshop
September 17th from
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

The schedule for the afternoon includes a discussion time, a time for individual hands-on art making, and a wrap-up sharing time.

During the discussion time we will look at two art prints; The Peacemakers by George Healy and Jesus and the Children.

We will also consider some questions: What does blessed mean? Is there a difference between a peacemaker and a peacekeeper? What qualities does a peacemaker have?

There will be a variety of art-making activities to choose from. Learning how to create a monoprint is one of the choices.

The workshop is an intergenerational activity for participants ages eight and up.

Registration is limited to 15. Children (ages to 12) must be accompanied by an adult. This is a free workshop funded by the Atkinson-Johnson Foundation and all materials are provided.

If you want to register, look for the sign-up sheet on a table in Fellowship Hall.

For more information contact Judy Foote @ judyfoote@prodigy.net



Mission Team Update

FMI – Carol Spencer-Lemay

Saco Food Pantry



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.

The **Saco Food Pantry** thanks First Parish Congregational Church members for their ongoing generosity. Please continue to donate non-perishable food items and hygiene items and place them in the shopping cart in the Atrium. Thank you!

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.

MUMS For SALE!

\$9.50 for one 8" pot or \$36 for a bundle of 4 different colors

The colors are:
Pink/Purple
Red/Burgundy
Yellow/Gold
Orange/Bronze

Order online via this link:

<u>first-parish-church-saco-fall-mum-fundraiser-2023</u>

(Or have your credit cards ready for Carol SpencerLemay to help you order via her laptop after the 10 AM service.) PICK UP your order at First Parish

Congregational Church Saco on Sunday, September 17, 11:15 AM to 12:30 PM

To learn about Daisy's Children, visit <u>daisyschildren.org</u>

HELP FEED THE HUNGRY AT BON APPETIT

WHEN: Friday, September 29 at 3:00 PM or 4:20 PM until 6:00 PM

WHERE: Second Parish Congregational Church, 19 Crescent Street, Biddeford, ME

SIGN UP: On the bulletin board under "Missions" (near the FPCC, Saco, office.)

Bon Appetit is a community meal program in which volunteers serve a free hot meal every weekday evening. Volunteers may help prepare the meal starting at 3 PM. In addition, starting at 4:20 PM, volunteers serve drinks, salad, the entree, and dessert, and also help with the clean-up after the meal. Please introduce yourself to Jim Cortwright, the manager. Contact Carol Spencer-Lemay at (207) 229-1902 if you would like a ride. Website for Bon Appetit

is: https://www.bonappetitmealprogram.com

DIRECTIONS: From Alfred Street onto Jefferson (at the 7-11), Crescent St is angled left at the five corners. The Church is the large white building at the corner of Crescent and Graham. Park on the Street. Enter by walking up the left hand driveway (facing the church); then go up the narrow cement stairs on your right to the small door at the end of the sidewalk.



What Mission work is scheduled in October? The Red Cross Blood Drive in memory of Roeun Nou, is scheduled for Saturday, October 21, 9:00 AM to 2:45 PM at First Parish Congregational Church, Saco. Donors can register at redcrossblood.org (enter our zip code and then click on BY DISTANCE) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.



Fellowship Workshop formerly known as Women's Fellowship



The Gingerbread Fair December 2, 2023!!!





The date is set for the 2023 Gingerbread Fair: December 2nd from 9:00 -2:00

We are in the planning stages during the Tuesday morning workshop sessions. Several people gather between 9:00-11:00...men and women...our group is growing each week. Some of us knit, sew, do needlework, drink coffee, tea, and discuss local issues. We are looking to use the space in the church in a safe and creative manner. After some time off, we had a very successful event in 2022 with lots of new people involved! Do you have some new ideas? Let us know. Are you willing to do what you did last year? Let us know.

The proceeds from the fair allows Fellowship Workshop to sponsor Camperships to Pilgrim Lodge, support H.E.A.L., support the Diaper Bank, and get gift cards for groceries for our neighbors in need. Coffee, tea, and punch provided at each Coffee Hour and at funeral receptions along with flowers, plates, and napkins are also purchased.

Basically, everything comes back to help the needs of the community, so it really is an ALL CHURCH event!!!

Questions or ideas????? Contact us!!!

FAIR PLANNERS: Glen Ellen Roth & Sue Neumyer

P.S. The Fellowship Workshop group will be cleaning out our large storage closet in the Workshop Area of Fellowship Hall in preparation for the Gingerbread Fair. Clean out day is **September 12th** and will begin at **9:00 am to finish by 11:00 am**, hopefully. Please feel free to "pop" in and join us. You just never know what we might find!







Saco Main Street is please to announce the Pumpkin Harvest Festival!!!

Saturday, October 21, 2023 11:00 am - 3:00 pm Rain Date is Saturday, October 28, 2023

Check out the website for all of the information.

Saco Pumpkin Harvest Festival

First Parish Church Good News Team is planning on having a booth at the Pumpkin Harvest Festival.

Volunteers are needed for 2 hour time slots.

We're planning on giving away candy, cider and activity books for kids.

Look for us while you're at the Festival.









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

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

Join us for a First Parish Bean Suppah!!

Mark your calendars! September 9, 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**

First Parish Fellowship Opportunities



Family Fellowship

Shuffle off to Shuffleboard Sunday, September 10 Noon – 2:00 PM



Join us for an afternoon of family fun at the shuffleboard courts in Ocean Park. We have reserved the courts for the afternoon, so bring a picnic lunch or grab a sandwich (the town common is right across the street) and join us at the corner of Temple Avenue and West Grand Avenue. Thank you to Barry Jackman, Audrey Cabral, and the Ocean Park Association for welcoming us!



Pastor's Bible Study

The global pandemic put many ministries on pause. One of those ministries was the formation of a Pastor's Bible Study group. While COVID is still very much with us, we are going to offer this important part of our church family life. Of course, often times the most difficult obstacle to overcome is deciding WHEN to meet. I have been going over my calendar looking for the day and time that has the least number of conflicts. After weeks of consideration, I have decided to ask you! If you would like to participate in this Bible Study, please let me know what day(s) and time(s) work best for you. Tear off below and drop off at the office or email me at scott.cousineau@firstparishsaco.org.

Sunday afternoon					
Sunday evening					A 4-4
Weekday morning Tuesday	/ Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	*	A Company
Weekday evening Tuesday	Thursday			MAR	
			Service .		A.







Top of the Hill Gang and Men's Bible Study at Hadlock

Our Top of the Hill Gang and Men's Bible Study groups enjoyed an evening at Hadlock Field on August 29th.

Thank you to Jim Pate for supplying the tickets to the game.

Thank you to Dale Siulinski for sharing the photo!

Front row: Wylie Herzberg, Richard Foote, John Grew and Bob Condon Next row: Sorren Arneson, Jack Neumyer, Mike Garnett, David Johnston and Ken Maclay Next row: Doug Macrae, Phil Blood, Richard Caron, Geordie Campbell and Russ Denner Next row: Tim Maclearie, Peter Gray, Phil Curtis and Jonathan Wright-Gray









SCHULZ

омпа	School					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10am Service 1pm TV Service 2pm Concert	4 LABOR DAY Office Closed 6:30pm Big Book	5 9am Counters 9:30am Fellowship Workshop 5pm SoME Dance 6:30pm Facilities via Teams 7pm Men's Fellowship	6 4pm Diaper Bank	7 9am TOHG 3pm Guiding Eyes for the Blind 5pm SoME Dance	8	9 5pm Bean Suppah
10 8:30am Sacred Conversations 8:50am – CE Team 10am Service 11:15am P&W Choir 1pm TV Service	9am Counters 6pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Big Book	9:30am Fellowship Workshop 3pm Tutor & Ed Testing 5pm SoME Dance 7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom	13 4pm Diaper Bank 4:15pm – Flower & Altar Team 6:30pm Sr Choir 6:30pm Finance Team via Zoom 6:30pm Mission Team	9am TOHG 5pm SoME Dance 6:30pm – Book Club	15	16 9am – Flower & Altar Mum setup 9:30am – CE Classroom setup
Homecoming Sunday 8:30am Sacred Conversations 10am Service 11:15am P&W Choir 11:30am All Church Pot Luck Lunch 1pm TV Service 1:30pm Peace Workshop	18 9am Counters 6pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Big Book	19 9:30am Fellowship Workshop 3pm Tutor & Ed Testing 5pm SoME Dance 7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom	20 10am Theological Group 4pm Diaper Bank 6:45pm Sr Choir	21 9am TOHG 3pm Guiding Eyes for the Blind 5pm SoME Dance 7:00pm GNT	22	23
24 8:30am Sacred Conversations 10am Service 11:15am P&W Choir 11:30am Diaconate 1pm TV Service 6pm ALL TEAM MEETING	25 9am Counters 6pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Big Book	26 9:30am Fellowship Workshop 3pm Tutor & Ed Testing 5pm SoME Dance 6:30pm Personnel Team 7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom	27 4pm Diaper Bank 5:30pm Jr Choir 6:45pm Sr Choir 6:30pm Council	28 9am TOHG 5pm SoME Dance	29	30

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

