



The Messenger

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

August, 2021



Pilgrim Lodge

*Join us Saturday
August 14th
from 10-6
For First Parish UCC
day at Pilgrim Lodge*



Summer Pick-Up Choir

*Join us at 9AM Sunday mornings to sing in the choir!
If you have been thinking about singing with us, now is the time!*



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

Pastor Scott's Message...



The Pastor's Perspective ...

This is the August edition of *The Messenger* so this must be the “looking forward to September” column by the Senior Minister. And that it is! As I sit and contemplate what to include here, I am keenly aware of our desire to return to “normal.” I am also aware of the fact that we are not done with the coronavirus just yet. But having said that, there is reason to hope.

We have welcomed people back into the sanctuary for in-person worship.

We held an in-person Vacation Bible School, and we are planning to offer in-person Sunday school in the fall.

The Top of the Hill Gang has resumed their Thursday morning work parties, and the Women's Fellowship is actively planning the Christmas Fair.

We have a number of people that are interested in joining our church family and we will be offering a new member information class beginning in September.

We are putting weddings and baptisms on the church calendar.

We offered a wonderful Pride Sunday Service and continue to seek ways to embody the love and welcome of God.

We began the Diaper Bank providing much needed assistance to numerous families in the area. Almost six thousand diapers distributed so far!

All of our teams continued to meet throughout the pandemic, and now they are meeting in person and are planning events and activities to engage the church family and the community.

I have said numerous times that First Parish Church did not stumble or struggle through the coronavirus pandemic. No ... First Parish Church flourished! We continued to worship, teach, proclaim, and serve with faithful commitment and dedication. Yes, we had to adapt and do some things differently, but we never stopped, we never closed the doors or shuttered the windows.

So now we can look ahead with optimism. Certainly, there will be challenges, but I am confident that we will rise to meet them. We can begin to dream dreams and see our vision for how we will love God and serve our community in this ever-changing world. I encourage you to share your dreams and your visions with me. May First Parish shine brightly with the love, hope, peace and joy of God!

I look forward to the coming year with great anticipation. But first ... I am taking a little vacation time. I will be out of the office August 15 – August 27. If you have any pastoral needs during that time, please contact the church office or our Diaconate.

May God bless you all,

Scott



Moderator Update



Greetings Church family! Just a quick update from me this month. In my July note, I mentioned that your council team compiled the SWOT survey results and would review them during our council meeting in June. Unfortunately, due to a major storm and associated power outages, that meeting had to be postponed until then end of July. We very much appreciate all of you for participating in the survey and we still plan to provide an update by the end of summer.

As a reminder, we are still looking to hear from anyone who has a professional background in marketing & media coordination, business budget management, or Maine property law. If you have this professional experience and are willing to share some insight, please email me at jenfullmer1@gmail.com.

It's wonderful to see folks in the sanctuary singing and worshipping together. I continue to enjoy seeing you all virtually, as family commitments have kept me out of town most Sundays, but I am looking forward to worshipping together in person again soon.

In His service,
Jen



Deacons' Corner

I imagine we all know the old saying, "Patience is a virtue."

After a year and a half of pandemic restrictions, patience is a very hard virtue to hold on to. Like most of our church family, the deacons are struggling with the need to be patient; we are anxious to get back to our regular routines...greeting our congregation, handing out bulletins, serving communion, passing the offering plates, and chatting with people at coffee hour (remember coffee hour?) Those things will resume, all in good time. Meanwhile, let us be grateful for the activities we *can* resume: attending church in person (though socially distanced); singing hymns (but with masks on); greeting our friends (but without coffee and goodies.) Our patience will hopefully be rewarded in the near future!

Have you ever thought about becoming a deacon? We have a couple of openings on the team and would love to talk to you about it. Requirements include a positive desire to serve the church and a significant time commitment. If you think you might be interested, speak to any of the current deacons: Pam Mohlin, Norma Gorham, Cheryl Gray, Karen Donoghue, Margery Condon, Rick Twomey, Dan and Julie Carter, Chris DiMatteo or Nadine Russell. We patiently await your inquiries!

Love and blessings,

Nadine Russell and Dan Carter, co-chairs





These past few weeks have been extremely busy and maybe even a bit stressful. Our daughter Heather married Tom Hanscom on



July 18th.

Then there was Vacation Bible School the week before and our two young granddaughters attended so they stayed at our house then and if that wasn't enough we have been doing some home renovations that have yet to be completed. It has been an exhausting but amazing time and we were thrilled with how beautiful the wedding unfolded and even the rain stopped.

August is upon us and any other year we would be talking about Homecoming Sunday and the beginning of Church school. This past year brought a lot of changes but I am very hopeful that this year we will be able to be together more. At this time we cannot make any definite decisions. Please be patient as we pray and discuss and pray some more and discern the beginning of our Church school year. Thank you.

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.

1. It 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.



2021 at Pilgrim Lodge

This summer PL is still closed for week long camping

experiences due to the pandemic.

However, they do have day passes available, Fri- Sunday, through August 22nd. Scott and I are committed to going to PL on Saturday, August 14 and invite others to go too. If you are interested in going that day please sign up on the PL website: www.pilgrimlodge.org Day passes are \$15 for ages 4 and up. Please let Kris know that you signed up so that we can car pool if people are interested.. Swimming, walking the Labyrinth, hiking, canoeing, and checking out the camp are a few of the fun activities available. There is no food service so we will need to take our own food.

Coming soon: Pictures of VBS: Discovery on Adventure Island on our Wonder Wall.

I miss you all

Stay home, stay well, stay safe,

Kris



Discovery on Adventure Island

was our VBS theme and was held Tuesday through Friday, July 6-9, 2021, from 9-11:30 AM. Twenty-

four children listened to Bible Stories, sang together, created awesome crafts, ate snack, loved the science experiments and enjoyed fun recreation. We ended the day with a reflection of our time together. Our fabulous VBS team: **Susan Anton, Peggy Blood, Rev. Scott Cousineau, Judy and Peter Gray, Susan Marston, Danielle and Cam Roberge Nadine Russell, Asher Schuenke**

Madeline Sylvester Aldene Walters, Abby Worster and Kris Galasyn. Our stories for the week are:

- The Creation Story (Genesis 1:1-2:9) (told by) Pastor Scott
- Moses and the Burning Bush (Exodus 3:1-20) Linda Lambert
- Faith Through the Roof (Luke 5:21-26) Peter Gray
- The "Lost" Parables (Luke 15) Pastor Scott



Every day we looked for an infinity lantern that would give us our word of the day. Pastor Scott did an amazing job hiding the lanterns.

We always have a service project and this year we concentrated on putting our love into action. We brought in different sizes of diapers for our First Parish Diaper Bank and \$175 dollars was also contributed. Thank you to Pam Mohlin and Cathy Bailargeon for coming in and sharing about this important project with the children.



Christian Education Team News

This month our CE team will be working on preparing our classrooms for the beginning of Church school. Even though we are uncertain about what September will bring we will be doing our regular sprucing up.



Flower and Altar



Sunday Flowers

As I am writing this Messenger Article, upcoming open Sundays for Altar flowers are 8/8, 8/22, 8/29 & 9/5. Please fill in the sheet outside the office or contact Patrice Tripp at 207-590-1109 or rtripp@maine.rr.com or Marcia Lord at 207- 468- 1699 or mvlord@aol.com.



July 4th The Flower & Altar Team for the Glory of God

July 11th Edward Olsen in Memory of his Grandmother,
Frances V. Olsen (1917-1997)



July 18th The Hewes Flower Fund in Memory of Virginia Hewes

July 25th Rosemary Guptill in Memory of Robert Guptill, Sr.

Weeding Wednesdays, August 11th & 25th at 10:00 AM

Members of the Flower & Altar Team have spent some time weeding, cutting back overgrowth, planting and mulching. The gardens are starting to look better. The work isn't done yet. We would love to have you join us one Wednesday for 1 – 2 hours



Top of the Hill

Top of the Hill Gang is Back and we're looking for members to join our team. We meet every Thursday morning at 9:00 am. All are welcome to join. If you want more information feel free to call the church office at 207-283-3771



MISSION TEAM UPDATE

It is not too late to give to **Strengthen the Church**, the UCC offering which supports leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Proceeds from this offering have helped some of our youth attend regional UCC gatherings. Please make checks out to First Parish Church, Saco, with STC in the memo line, or when giving online, enter Strengthen the Church in the text window. *Correction: the June 2021 Messenger stated that the former ReadMore Saco was funded by Strengthen the Church, which was an error. The discontinued ReadMore Saco was funded by a grant from Neighbors in Need.*

Daisy's Children, (aka Feeding Forward or Amigos) feeds Honduran Children and supports their education in Concepcion Del Norte, Honduras. If you would like to support this non-profit, make checks out to First Parish Church, Saco, with Daisy's Children in the memo line, or enter Daisy's Children in the online text box.

We thank everyone who donated to the Saco Food Pantry!! The Pantry accepts donations of non-perishable food and toiletry items, which can be placed in the shopping cart at church. **The Food Pantry is still in need of volunteers weekday mornings from 9 am to 10:30 am.** Please call Lynn Steed at (207) 494-8662 or email lsted203@gmail.com.

Carol

Gingerbread Fair



Yes Virginia, there will be a Gingerbread Fair at First Parish Church in Saco this year!

Hey Women's Fellowship! There are less than 150 days until Christmas....so we have to get going!

Our first organizational meeting was held last week, which was very well attended. Everyone seemed enthused and ready to go, so please come join us.

There will be a fair planning meeting on Thursday, August 19th at 6:30. I am asking anyone that was involved in helping or organizing a table at the last fair in 2019, to come and talk about this year's fair. I know the world has not completely settled, but I believe we can put on a fair and still follow CDC guidelines to keep everyone safe.

If you cannot attend but have ideas or suggestions, please call or text me at 207-229-3196. You can also e-mail me at droth@maine.rr.com

Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Glen Ellen Roth
Women's Fellowship



**WHEN FAMILIES RECEIVE
SOMETHING AS SMALL
AS A DIAPER, THE IMPACT IS HUGE**

**IMPROVED PHYSICAL
HEALTH FOR CHILDREN**

**IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH FOR PARENTS
LESS STRESS, ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION**

**IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT
CONSISTENCY, WHICH
LEADS TO MORE FAMILY STABILITY**

Many thanks for all the support the First Parish Diaper Bank has received since May 12th, opening day. The diaper donations, financial contributions and volunteered time all tell us once again that First Parish is “a church with love and hope to share”.

As of July 21st., the bank has distributed 5,880 diapers to low-income families in the tri-town area. Sadly, this has shown us that “diaper need” exists in our community.

Each week, between 5 and 15 families come to us for help with their weekly diaper supply. Meeting the moms, dads, grandparents and children is both enjoyable and meaningful.

Please continue to keep the diaper bank supported by both your donations and your prayers.

Cathy Baillargeon, Pam Mohlin and Nadine Russell



Look at all the fun activities Pilgrim Lodge has to offer....

Come Join Us!

**First Parish UCC Day at
Pilgrim Lodge Aug 14th**

From 10 am – 6 pm



**There is also a store to buy Pilgrim Lodge
merchandise and delicious ice cream!**



AUGUST 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:00 am Sunday Service 1pm TV Service	9:00 Counters 7 pm Big Book	7:15 pm Men's Fellowship Meeting	4 pm Diaper Bank 4 PM Prayer Ministry/Virtual	12 pm Jacqui practice		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10:00 am Sunday Service 1pm TV Service	9:00 Counters 7 pm Big Book		4 pm Diaper Bank	12 pm Jacqui practice 5 pm Spurwink/Grad/Sanctuary	 Pilgrim Lodge Maine Conference, United Church of Christ	10 am-6 pm First Parish UCC at Pilgrim Lodge
 15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:00 am Sunday Service 1pm TV Service	9:00 Counters 7 pm Big Book	6:30 pm Missions/Atrium	10 am Minister's Theological Group/Conference Rm Diaper Bank	WF 6:30 pm 12 pm Jacqui practice	1 PM Anti-Racism Meeting	
 22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:00 am Sunday Service 1pm TV Service	9:00 Counters 7 pm Big Book	6:30 Pm Personnel/Conference Rm	4 pm Diaper Bank 6:30 pm Council	12 pm Jacqui practice		
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
10:00 am Sunday Service 1pm TV Service	9:00 Counters 7 pm Big Book					

*** Nadeen (office Admin) will be on vacation during the week of Aug 9th-13th**
The office hours during this week will be Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

*** Pastor Scott will be on vacation Aug. 15th thru Aug 22nd.**
We will have guests Ministers on Aug 15th and Aug. 22nd.

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

