



The Messenger

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

September, 2021



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Pastor Scott's Message...



The Pastor's Perspective ...

Are you ready for a new program year?! Are you ready to see the sanctuary filled with people of every age as we gather for worship?! Are you filled with energy and enthusiasm?! Is your mind swirling with new visions and dreams for First Parish Church?! Is your pen poised to fill your calendar with all sorts of programs and activities?

Or ... are you holding a trembling pencil, ready to erase and reschedule?

It is that time of year when we return from vacation and summer holidays and prepare for the exciting new year ahead. However, it is hard to drum up enthusiasm with "We hope to ..." and "We plan to ..." not knowing what developments or circumstances each week will bring.

Having said that ... I AM excited about the new program year! I AM ready to see the sanctuary filled with people! I AM filled with energy and enthusiasm! And my mind IS swirling with all sorts of dreams and visions! Here are some of the things that I am looking forward to:

New Member Welcome Sessions ... We have a number of people that have expressed interest in joining church family. We will be offering New Member sessions beginning on Sunday, September 19. The sessions will gather at 11:30 AM. There will be two additional sessions on Sunday, October 3, and Sunday, October 10. If a weekday session would work better for you, please let me know and we can look at our calendars.

Mission Sundays ... On the final Sunday of August, I offered a message titled, "Be Doers," based upon James 1:17-27. I would like to offer opportunities for us to be 'doers of the Word.' I hope to plan and coordinate several Sundays throughout the year on which we can work together to accomplish service and mission projects within the church and in the community.

Eat – Learn – Pray ... I have had a number of conversations at meetings and with individuals about offering opportunities to educate ourselves about areas of concern that we face in the world today. One church called them "Nurtures." We will gather together, share a meal, learn together, and pray together.

Worship Planning teams (with a small 't') ... Jacqui, Kris and I coordinate and plan our worship services. I would like to expand the circle and include you! I would love to hear your thoughts and ideas. I would love to offer worship services that you help plan, create and lead. Worship is a collective experience. The planning teams will meet on a short-term, rotating basis so that we can include as many people as possible.

Obviously, all of this is dependent upon COVID and the rise and spread of the Delta variant. But as we have learned, we are a resilient, innovative, creative, and adaptive church family. I know that we can do anything that we set our hearts and minds to. Are you ready ... excited ... enthusiastic ... energized?! I AM!!

May God bless you all!
Scott



Moderator Update

Greetings church family!

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer full of sunshine and many blessings. Regrettably, my Messenger input this month is in the form of my resignation as FPC Moderator. Last week, I was notified that my Afghan Air Force Officer Colleague, friend, and dear brother and his family were pulled into the “safe zone” at Kabul Airport by an incredible U.S. Marine. Me and a very small “pick up team” of people from my network over the years worked a plan and I was in awe watching just a few amazing Americans make it happen. Watching this team, I observed everything that is good about America. I was on my knees praying to God like I never had before, along with many of you and those around the country and observed God’s amazing power. The way the planets aligned on this were only due to God’s divine intervention and He led us every step of the way.

So, why do I need to resign? As I write this, my Afghan Brother, Hakim, and his family are currently safely on the ground at Washington Dulles Airport. They decided that they want to be near me and Eddie. He considers me a sister and knows that his wife, daughter, and two daughters-in-law will be most comfortable with us helping them. Hakim fought his whole life for a better Afghanistan and future for his children and he is heartbroken. Hakim is very well educated, and he saw to it that his children were as well. Over the past 20 years, his oldest son became a civil engineer, his middle son & middle son’s wife became medical doctors, his daughter became a history teacher, and his youngest son is top of his class and would have been entering the 12th grade this year. There are 11 in the family, including three small grandchildren. I am working with an extensive network to prepare for their arrival and everything that will be required to support them. This could literally take years and it has already consumed most of my time this past two weeks. It is critically important to get this right and I believe this is what I am currently called to do.

I am not one to break my commitments, but I just won’t have the capacity to provide the time, focus, and leadership that FPC deserves as Moderator going forward. For the remainder of this year, our Vice Moderator Dale Siulinski has graciously agreed to fill the role of Moderator and the council is currently coordinating for an interim Vice Moderator in accordance with our First Parish Church Bylaws. I will continue to assist the council where I can, but I must step down from the lead as I simply won’t have the capacity to effectively carry out the duties of moderator. Your FPC council has begun some important work this year and I know that will continue.

Thanks so much for all you do! I love this church family and am grateful for your understanding.

In His service,
Jen





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 are planning on age level classes, acolytes and nursery care. This is plan A.

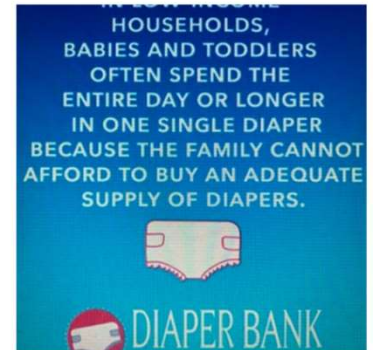
We have pushed back our Homecoming Sunday to September 19th, two weeks after the beginning of school. We will be watching Maine's COVID numbers and will change plans accordingly if necessary. Our church is open. We are having in person worship. We are all masked. Masking will be in place come September. If age level classes cannot take place come September than plan B will be in effect. Yes, we have a plan B and even a plan C and D.

Please be patient as we pray and discuss and pray some more and discern the beginning of our Church school year.

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, click on Christian Education and then Christian Education Registration. Thank you. Our Service Project this fall will be the **First Parish Diaper Bank**. We invite our Church school families and our congregation to donate. As of Aug. 25th, 10,480 diapers have been distributed to the tri-town community since the programs start on May 12th of this year. On



average, 15+ family units use the diaper bank each week. Most popular sizes are 4,5,6, but smaller sizes are also needed as the bank grows. Checks to the PDF are encouraged due to storage limitations.

We continue with **Celebrate Wonder**



this fall. The lessons will be incorporated into our worship service through our Children's Message. Our Wonder Word for this month is "Reconciliation"

and our lessons will focus on the story of Joseph and his brothers.

I look forward to seeing you at Church.

Stay safe,

Kris

In October

Any child/youth third grade and above who wishes to be an Acolyte please email kris@firstparishsaco.org and join us on Sunday, October 3rd @11:30 in the sanctuary.





The Christian Education Team

spent Saturday, August 21st at the church

organizing our Church school classrooms. This year our 5,6,7 graders will be meeting in classroom 6. Our senior high class will be meeting in the youth room and they will be meeting the 1st, 3rd and 5th (when there is one) Sunday's of the month. Our custodian, Guy, has been cleaning, painting and washing our classrooms. Also, many thanks to Bob Congdon and the Top of the Hill gang for their extra hands. Since Saco schools moved out, Spurwink has changed classrooms and therefore so have we.



2021 at Pilgrim Lodge

This summer PL was still closed for week long camping experiences due to the pandemic.

However, they did have day passes available, Fri- Sunday, through August 22nd. Our Saco First Parish Day at Pilgrim Lodge was August 14. It did rain after lunch but there was still great fellowship, ice cream and the store was open for business. Walking the labyrinth, canoeing, swimming in the lake, picnic lunch, swinging, playing games were all part of the experience of Pilgrim Lodge. We had a fabulous time of fellowship and I am sure we have some new Pilgrim Lodge campers.



Flower and Altar

Sunday Flowers

All Sundays in September have been signed up for.

If you would like to provide flowers for a future Sunday Service please fill in the sign up sheet outside the Church 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.



Altar Flowers given for the Month of August

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| August 1 st | The Flower & Altar Team for the Glory & Honor of God |
| August 8 th | The Flower & Altar Team for the Glory & Honor of God |
| August 15 th | Carol & Fred Connelly in celebration of their 35 th Wedding Anniversary on August 17 th . |
| August 22 nd | The Flower & Altar Team for the Glory & Honor of God. |
| August 29 th | The Flower & Altar Team for the Glory & Honor of God |



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



THE GINGERBREAD FAIR is coming December 4!!! If you have **jewelry, scarves, purses, or jewelry boxes in very good condition**, that you wish to give away, please bring them to Carol SpencerLemay at church or contact her at spencerlemay2@gmail.com or (207) 284-9088. The items will be sold at the fair to raise income for Women's Fellowship.

MISSION TEAM UPDATE

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





SEPTEMBER 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 4 PM Diaper Bank 4 PM Prayer Ministry - Virtual	2 12 PM Jacqui Practice	3	4
5 10 am Service 1 pm TV Service		7 9am Counters 6:30 PM Facilities 7 PM Big Book	8 4 PM Diaper Bank	9 12 PM Jacqui Practice	10	11 Don Skelton Memorial Temple OP 10 AM Priscilla Kelly Funeral Laurel Hill 11 AM
12 10 am Service 1 pm TV Service	13 9am Counters 7 PM Big Book	14	15 4 PM Diaper Bank	16 12 PM Jacqui Practice	17	18 Rev. Mercer Memorial Service 11 AM
19 10 am Service Homecoming Sunday 1 pm TV Service	20 9am Counters 7 PM Big Book	21	22 4 PM Diaper Bank 6:30 PM Council	23 12 PM Jacqui Practice	24	25
26 10 am Service 1 pm TV Service	27 9am Counters 7 PM Big Book	28	29 4 PM Diaper Bank	30 12 PM Jacqui Practice		



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