

The Messenger



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

August, 2022

2022 Concert Series

August 21 7:00 pm

Classic Music with Joel Pierce











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





Pastor Scott's Message...





The Pastor's Perspective ...

This morning I read a journal article about being an effective "hybrid" church in our world today. We all know that we live in a new world with new challenges ... and new opportunities. The author of the article proposed that an effective hybrid church does more than simply slap their worship service on social media and hope that people watch. Being an effective hybrid church involves some of the same principles for being an effective traditional church. One of those principles is engagement. Effective, vital, healthy congregations have always found ways to engage their church families. Our challenge, and our opportunity, is to continue doing that in new and non-traditional ways.

The author distinguishes between being "experts" and "explorers". Experts and explorers approach the world in different ways. And the reality is that in these unprecedented times, there are not many that can claim to be experts. We have not experienced anything like this before. So, he encourages us to be explorers together. Rather than fear the changes, or resist the changes, that are happening in the church around us, we should embrace them!

Explorers recognize that being the engaged church means that we have to think beyond those ministries that happen within the physical structure of the church. We have to seek opportunities to embrace members of the community that may not be able to gather in-person. We have people that join us from South and North Carolina, Texas, Florida, California, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and beyond.

Explorers recognize that being effective and engaged means looking at the ways that we offer worship, Christian education, fellowship, and other programs and ministries, and understanding that we have to adapt. The people to whom we extend our hearts and hands are different than they were two or three years ago. They certainly are very different than they were twenty and thirty years ago.

Explorers are excited about the new adventure. Explorers are willing to take risks and step out into unknown territory. And explorers understand that we are experiencing this new day together. Together with one another and together with God.

I thank you for your willingness to participate in our interactive worship services this summer. I thank you for sharing your images of the expressions of God. I also thank you for sharing your Spirit Stories. Some of you shared your experiences in worship and others sent them to me later in the day. Thank you all.

As we begin the month of August, we have more interactive services coming up: "Love Stories," "God Sightings," and "Easter in August!". With the journal article in mind, we will look for ways that everyone can participate in these services. I thank you for being willing to be explorers together.

中央工作产业

God bless you all, Scott







Meet Our New Members!

In the month of June, we welcomed ten new members to the First Parish Church family. Let us introduce them to you.

Mary Apte grew up in a family with diverse religious backgrounds, but primarily Methodist. She recently moved to Maine from California and purchased the childhood home of Mary Johnson.

Richard Caron grew up in Lewiston, ME. He is a disabled veteran that served in the United States Marine Corps and Army Reserves. He is also a retired postal worker.

Cathy Foote grew up in Ohio, then moved to Connecticut where she lived for fifty years. She recently moved to Kennebunk. Cathy was a teacher for a short time, then worked in schools. She is the sister-in-law of Richard Foote.

Deb Fralich attended college intending to go into the ministry but changed her path because she does not enjoy public speaking. Instead, she pursued a career in Women's Health/Labor and Delivery. Deb raised her family on a farm in New Gloucester, and now lives in Saco.

Phyllis Hayward has been attending First Parish Church for about twenty years. She was born in Bridgewater, MA then lived in Harrisville, NH. She has two children and two grandsons.

Susan Loker grew up in Needham, MA. She currently lives in Durham, NH but weekends in Biddeford. She worked in Human Resources in the high-tech field and used to run a Christmas tree farm.

Tim McGee lived in New Jersey, then Florida. He and his wife moved to Saco one year ago. Tim worked in pharmaceutical sales for Johnson & Johnson. Tim now works as a writer.

Ruth McGee worked as a midwife. She was raised in the Church of England and her grandfather

was a Rector. Ruth met Tim when he made a sales call. She enjoys tennis and pickleball.

Rev. Kent Schneider is a retired UCC minister. He was ordained in Chicago. Kent lived in Florida, New Orleans and North Conway, NH before moving to Farmington, NH. He is also a hymn writer and worked for NBC in their marketing department.

Carrie Suchar (pronounced soo-har) sings in the choir and is one of Jacqui's piano students. She was introduced to the church by Jacqui. Carrie grew up in a musical family. She was not raised in the church, but she loved playing hymns. Carrie works as a commercial fisherman.

Welcome one and all to the First Parish Family!



Moderator Update



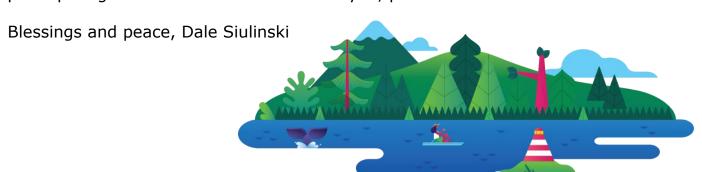
From the Moderator...

The weather has been beautiful lately albeit unusually dry, which has allowed us to get outside more and experience God's wonders. I hope you can take time to slow down and take in the beauty that surrounds us, especially here in Maine. Unfortunately, for many of us it has to be an intentional decision to stop and appreciate what's around us because it truly provides a meaningful and spiritual experience.

At our June Church Council meeting we discussed the issue of face masks. First Parish is fortunate to have several effective protection factors in place such as the bipolar ionization ventilation system and a large volume of space which allows us to spread out a little bit. Therefore, we voted going to mask optional. Please note that this is not a decision that we take lightly. COVID is still in our midst but we feel the protection factors that we are afforded allow us to establish this policy now. We hope you welcome this change which has been long in coming.

Whereas new members may appreciate an improved understanding of how the Church Council operates, I started a series of explaining the function of the Church Council in the June issue. I'd like to continue that here. Again, between meetings of the church body, the Church Council shall be the governing board of this church. In addition to previously mentioned items, the Church Council is responsible for all financial affairs of the church, developing and preparing an annual budget for approval by the church body, and authorizing each year to expend up to 5% of the unrestricted legacies based on the average market value of the three previous years. The Moderator or Vice Moderator signs all purchase orders and standard contract agreements.

The Council also must consider necessary changes to the Bylaws. This is an important issue item that must be done this year for which I will establish an Ad Hoc Team. If participating on this team is of interest to you, please let me know.







Dear Family and Friends of First Parish,

"A Christ-Centered Inclusive Community of Faith with Love and Hope to Share" These words constitute our church's vision statement.

As we approach the final month of summer, and the start of a new program year, let's exemplify the sharing of love and hope, by more consistently wearing our name tags.

By wearing a name tag, a person appears more approachable to someone new who may have a question. It helps new, and not so new, church members more easily put a name with a face! And, with the masking that was required during the Pandemic, and which is currently optional, it has been difficult to recognize and get to know people by name for the past couple of years!

By getting back into the habit of wearing a name tag on Sunday mornings during August, our church community will convey a sense of welcome and friendliness to not only guests and visitors, but to each other!

Because it may have been a while since you wore your name tag and it may have been misplaced, we will have a sign-up for a new/replacement name tag at the Welcome Station in the Atrium, by the name tag holder.

Under the auspices of the Diaconate, the Welcome Station will be stocked and ready to go for the beginning of August. To help visitors/new members with questions on Sunday mornings, we would like to recruit some volunteers to be a friendly presence at the Welcome Station, and help people with questions, or by filling out a temporary name tag. (As stated before, people may also sign up for a replacement/permanent name tag.)

If you're interested, please notify Margery Condon at (978) 495-2316 or margerycondon1@gmail.com.

Come help us fulfill the vision for our church be a friendly and welcoming presence!

See you in Church!

Blessings, Margery Condon and Dan Carter, Diaconate Co-Chairpersons





It happened over 25 years ago. I was feeding our four children breakfast, my specialty cold cereal and pop tarts, when I stopped seeing our children and saw instead hundreds of children. All races, all nationalities. The walls of my kitchen dissolved with rows and rows of children's faces. At the same time this was happening my whole body grew extremely cold. I was shivering. I realized these were God's children and they were hungry. Then my body turned incredibly warm. My heart was "strangely warmed" as John Wesley once said at Aldersgate. My body was warm knowing that I could feed my children. They didn't go to bed at night hungry. They didn't have to take turns eating meals. That when our cupboards were bare I could go to the grocery store and buy more food because we had money, we had jobs. Then I heard my oldest son's voice saying "Mom, it's time to go to school." The whole vision was over. I didn't think about it for weeks, when I was chatting with a friend of mine who happened to be a minister. He listened and said. "Kris, you had a vision." My response was, "me?" Then he said, "The question is, what are you going to do about it?" I share this story because last month during worship on July 24th we shared Spirit Stories. This one is mine.

Yes! It is a Happy August. The kind we remember pre-covid. Yes! We have a mask optional policy so we can see all those wonderful smiles. Yes! We have a new air filtration system on every level of our church. Yes! We have vaccines to keep us

safe. Yes! Covid is still with us but we can safely be together once again.

Homecoming Sunday is planned and will happen on **September 11**th.

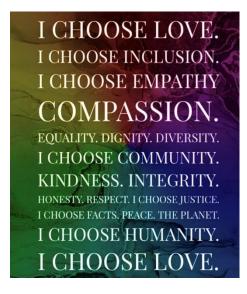
It is never too early to register your child(ren) for Church school. Parents please fill out our Church school registration form. It only takes a minute online. You can find this form on the Church website under Christian Education.

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

Stay safe, stay healthy. See you at Church,

Kris



Pilgrim Lodge

It finally happened! Dexter, (Cam) finally got to **CAMP** PRIDE. Dexter (Cam) had an



amazing time and I know they will be excited to share with us at a later date.

Three other youth, Cassie and Chloe Remillard and Emilv Savage also went to PL. They attended



First Time Campers and also had an amazing time.

PL does that to you. Everyone is very mindful of each other and it is a natural high to be in nature and so acutely aware of God's presence.

By the time you read this article, three more youth will have been to PL and home again. Bailey Fitzgerald, Jo Fitzgerald and Cameron Wiggins-Mehlman all attended **Hogwarts Camp: July 24-30**

Thank you to the Johnson-Atkinson Fund and the Christian Education team all of our youth were granted camperships to attend PL. If you are interested in writing to our campers, please use this address:



Name of Camper, Pilgrim Lodge 103 Pilgrim Lodge Lane West Gardiner, Maine 04345 There are still many more camping experiences www.pilgrimlodge.org to enjoy and campership money to make it more affordable.

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.



Vacation Bible School Food Truck Party: On A Roll With God.

Our Bible verse is: "Give us this day our daily bread" - Matthew 6:1

From July 5-8 our church was buzzing with the sound of children at our Food Truck Party VBS. It was an amazing 4 days of Bible stories, music, crafts, science experiments, snacks, recreation, Bible reflection and service projects. Friday we had a closing celebration and a very special surprise, an ice cream truck. Thank you to Classic Memories who came and shared their story with us and then handed out ice cream. A very special thank you to an anonymous donor who made that happen. We had a fabulous VBS team: Rev. Scott Cousineau, Judy and Peter Gray, Susan Marston, Danielle and Dexter (Cam) Roberge, Nadine Russell, Madeline Sylvester, Aldene Walters and Kris Galasyn. Extra hands include Heather **Hanscom** and **Sue Neumyer** and youth helpers Jo Fitzgerald, Connor Remillard and Asher Schuenke. What a fabulous team. This year we had a Breakfast for the team on Tuesday before VBS began and on Thursday we had a pool party and of course the ice cream on Friday for everyone. We had two wonderful service projects. We

provided "God's Hands for God's Hands" to our local librarians at Dyer and we made bookmarks to send to those in our Church family who are alone, unable to get to Church often or in nursing facilities. We all enjoyed making these fun projects and happy to remind people that we care for them.

A certain little Chef named Remy, (from Ratatouille), joined us at VBS. You can see him in our pictures on the Church Face Book page or on YouTube. He was loved by all. Also, you can check out our Closing Celebration there.

Next year's theme has been announced. Get your capes ready VBS team!!





"Let the little Children come to me." Mt 19:14

Helping **Lisa** in the Nursery for the month of **July** were:

3rd **Jon Edstrom**

10th Mary Coyne & Glenys Salas

17th Glenys Salas24th Carole Macrae

31st Carol Spencer Lemay

Our Extravagant Welcome begins in the nursery. Families need to know that we have a safe, loving and clean nursery.

Thanks to Lisa Edstrom, our Nursery Care Provider, we do. However, Lisa can't do it alone. We need your HELP. Please sign up to help in our nursery.

"It's Only One Sunday!"

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



Baptism

Welcome to the UCC

July 24th Cassie Ann Remillard

Parents: Christa and Michael Remillard

Chloe Lynn Remillard

Parents: Christa and Michael Remillard





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 Finance Team

The Finance Team works together to review the monthly financial reports and identify any variances or trends that may need to be investigated, addressed, or corrected. The team also helps develop the annual budget proposals for review and approval by the Council and the Congregation.

The team meets monthly about 8-9 times per year for a one hour meeting to review the financial statements. We have been meeting via Zoom on the 2nd Wednesday of the month for the past year or so since it accommodates current member schedules.

Current team members include Amy Chute, Bob Condon, Bill Donahue, Dale Siulinksi and Patricia Tripp.

Experience with budgeting or finances is helpful but not necessary; if you want to know more about how the church's finances operate and help monitor and improve them, you are eligible to join.

Please contact Amy Chute (amy.chute@firstparishsaco.org) if you are interested in more information about the team.





OneBody Member Directory

From Our Good News Team

Now available to all First Parish members



We're happy to announce the availability of a secured online member directory for First Parish Saco. Once a verified active member has setup access to the directory they will be allowed to submit revisions to the information on file in PowerChurch as well as search for available contact information of other members.

How to access OneBody Member Directory

The directory can be accessed from https://www.firstparishsaco.org/ and select *Offering & Services* and then *OneBody Member Directory* from the site menu. To logon you will need to use your previously confirmed email address and password.

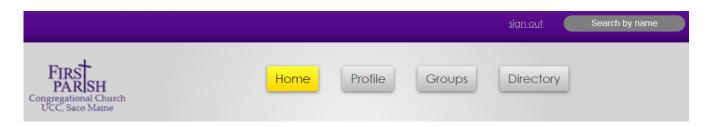
How to Sign up for a OneBody account

Once you access the directory site from https://www.firstparishsaco.org/ and select *Offering & Services* and then *OneBody Member Directory* from the site menu please click on *Sign Up for an account if you don't have one.*

On the next screen please select *Verify by email* and enter the email address you have previously provided to First Parish Church for your member account. If the email matches what we have in the directory you will receive an email at that same email address shortly after with a link to create a password for your account. *Please use a complex password to protect access to the directory.*

You will not be able to gain access to the online directory if you are not using the email address the Membership Team has on file.

If you receive an error message when entering your email please contact membership@firstparishsaco.org and describe the issue you are experiencing so the Membership Team can provide assistance.



Flower and Altar Update



The 2022 Altar Flower Sign Up Sheets are available outside the church office. You can also contact Patrice Tripp at 207-509-1109 or rtripp@maine.rr.com or Marcia Lord at 207-768-1699 or mylord@aol.com.

Open Sundays in August are August 7, 14 and 28.

Altar Flowers given for the Month of July

June 3rd Flowers were given by Sue Burgess in honor of Independence Day

July 10th Flowers were given by Flower and Altar Team

July 17th Flowers were given by Edward Olsen in memory of Grandparents George & Frances Olsen

July 24th Flowers were given by Rosemary Guptill in memory of Robert Guptill, Sr.

July 31st Christmas in July

Are you new to the church and looking for a way to get more involved?

Join our team and make some new friends!





Mission Team Update

FMI - Carol Spencer-Lemay SpencerLemay 2@gmail.com

Saco Food Pantry

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



Back to School Giveaway and Ice Cream Social Friday, August 26th 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

What will happen: As with MLK Day of Service, clothing, shoes, socks, and toiletries will be given away. Cups of ice cream will be served outside, weather permitting. School supplies like pencils, pens, markers, paper, binders, tissues, folders, and crayons will be given to children and teachers who come for supplies. Simple haircuts will also be provided.

What is needed: We accept donations of school supplies, toiletries, shoes, clothing, socks, and paper or plastic bags in excellent condition. In particular, sneakers and clothing for school aged children are needed. In addition, we need volunteers to set up before the event, volunteers to help during the event, and volunteers to clean up afterwards.

Please contact Carol Spencer-Lemay at spencerlemay2@gmail.com or (207) 229-1902 if you would like to volunteer. Hope to see you at First Parish.

Bon Appetit (Second Parish Congregational Church, Biddeford, ME) would love to have more volunteers to help prepare and serve food. Donations are also gladly accepted. To volunteer, you may inquire at bonappetitmealprogram.com or contact Jim at jimcort@metrocast.net. You can show up any weeknight to see if more volunteers are needed by arriving around 3 pm to 4:30 pm at Second Parish Congregational Church, 19 Crescent St, Biddeford, Maine.

The Mission Team has purchased take-out containers for Bon Appetit and white Lagasse bags for the Diaper Bank. Come to a meeting to see what else we can do to contribute to the wellbeing of our local community. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 6:30 pm at First Parish. If you have questions, contact Carol Spencer-Lemay at (207) 229-1902 or spencerlemay2@gmail.com

Mission Team Update

FMI – Carol Spencer-Lemay SpencerLemay 2@gmail.com

Do you remember what happened in 2021?

Last year the Mission Team and members of the congregation gave \$750 to the **AROM Anti-Racism Organizing in Maine**, which was a virtual ZOOM conference in October of 2021. The event not only featured Maine Rep. Rachel Talbot Ross, Tribal Ambassador Maulian Dana, historian Kate Mchmahon, but organizations that help Maine Youth and formerly incarcerated individuals, plus musicians.

What is happening now with AROM?

This year, there is an opportunity to continue to support anti-racism organizing in Maine by contributing to **Next Step Organizing 2022.**

Who is it for? Aspiring and current grassroots organizers building an antiracist culture of belonging in predominantly white communities of Maine.

What is it? A series of relationship building and skill developing virtual workshops designed to deepen our organizing skills and strengthen our community.

When?

Opening Virtual Gathering: Friday, October 21, 12:00 to 4:00 pm; **Virtual Skill Building – Wednesday Workshops 6:00 – 8:30 pm** November 2nd, November 16th, November 30th and December 14th **Closing Virtual Gathering:** December 16th, 12:00 – 4:00 pm

Contact Info: <u>sass.rosc@gmail.com</u> or <u>jake@communitychange.org</u>

If you can't attend, here is how to donate:

Make checks out to First Parish Congregational Church with **Next Step 2022** in the memo line or designate cash to **Next Step 2022** or give online at https://communitychangeinc.org then click on "Support CCI" and under "I want my donation to be dedicated" enter **Next Step Organizing Maine 2022**.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

Thank you!!!

to everyone who knitted and donated sixty-three beautiful blue hats for the "Hat Not Hate" program to stop bullying. October is Antibullying month, so these hats will be distributed nationwide along with thousands of others.

First Parish You Rock!!!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP IS GIVING AWAY YARN!

We have TOO MUCH YARN! Come Tuesday mornings (9:30 am to 11 am) to pick up your free yarn, or contact Glen Ellen Roth at droth@maine.rr.com or (207) 229-3196.

We have many different colors available. Please help us clean out our closet.

News flash!!!

The Gingerbread Fair is making a comeback on December 3, 2022!!!

Currently, many table "chairs" are in place. We are looking for a few more to help with the following:

Books, puzzles, games Snack bar Live Music Gift baskets Wreaths (pre-ordered) Kid's crafts/toys

There will be a poster in the atrium for signing up to help out. It's a festive day! The greater community looks forward to this fair every year... so make sure you don't miss out on the fun!!

Want to help? Please contact GlenEllen Roth at droth@maine.rr.com.



Peace Workshops



On Sunday afternoon, September 18th from 2-4 PM, the first of four quarterly peace workshops will take place. The workshop is free (funded by the Johnson-Atkinson Fund). The title of the series of workshops is Seek Peace and Pursue it (Psalm 34:14)

Using scripture, art, discussion, and reflection, we'll explore what peace means to each one of us and how to practice peace in our daily lives. The work of art we will explore for the first workshop is Edward Hicks' "The Peaceable Kingdom". Also there will be an art-creating time. This is an opportunity to explore art activities like painting, collage, stamping, and printing, with at least one group collaboration. Each participant will choose their own art activity. Each activity will have some ideas to get you started. You don't have to be an artist. This is meant to be a time of being together and enjoying each other as well as dabbling in the arts.

This is a workshop for adults, teens and children ages 5 and older. Families are welcome. Each child or family group of children must be accompanied by at least one adult. Registration will begin in mid-August and will be limited to 15 persons. If you have questions or would like to be sent a registration form, please contact workshop leader Judy Foote at (207) 219-8269 or judyfoote@prodigy.net.



First Parish Concert Series

2022

All shows begin at 7:00 pm Tickets \$10.00 FMI visit <u>www.firstparishsaco.org</u>





AUGUST 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9am Counters 6:30pm Big Book	9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 6:30pm Facilities - Teams 7:15pm Men's Fellowship - FPCC	3 4pm Diaper Bank	4 9am TOHG 3:30pm Guiding Eyes	5	6
7 10am Service 1pm TV Service	8 9am Counters 6:30pm Big Book	9 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 7:15pm Men's Fellowship – Zoom	10 4pm Diaper Bank 6:30pm Finance Team - Zoom	11 9am TOHG 6pm - Concert with Venti Cordi	12	13
14 10am Service 1pm TV Service	9am Counters 6:30pm Big Book	16 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 6:30pm Mission Team 7:15pm Men's Fellowship – Zoom	4pm Diaper Bank 6:30pm Diaconate	18 9am TOHG 3:30pm Guiding Eyes 7pm GNT – Zoom	19	20
21 10am Service 1pm TV Service 7pm - Concert with Joel Pierce	9am Counters 6:00pm Big Book	23 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 6:30pm Personnel Team 7:15pm Men's Fellowship – Zoom	4pm Diaper Bank 6:30 pm Council	25 9am TOHG	26 9am Back to School Giveaway & Ice Cream Social	27
28 10am Service 1pm TV Service	99 9am Counters 6:00pm Big Book	30 9:30am Women's Fellowship Workshop 7:15pm Men's Fellowship - Zoom	31 4pm Diaper Bank			

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