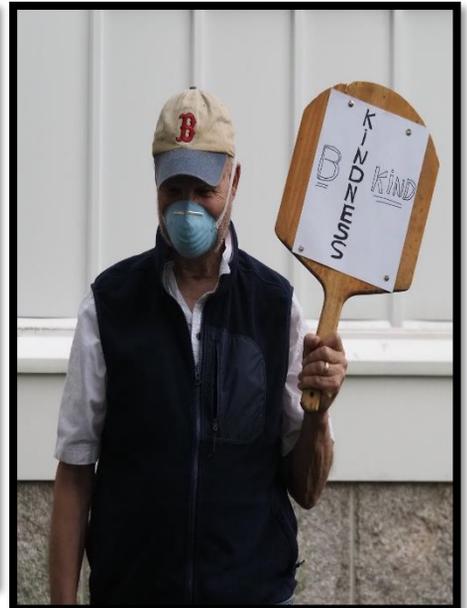


First Parish Congregational Church United Church of Christ The Church with Love & Hope to Share



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DEACONS' CORNER

Dear family and friends of First Parish,

As we continue to navigate this strange, new world, we all occasionally find ourselves wondering how to react to the events that happen around us. That is a quandary for the deacons of First Parish as well. In our weekly Zoom meetings, we discuss pastoral concerns and we talk a lot about what our physical church reopening will look like. Recently, though, we have also been paying a lot of attention to the racial strife that seems to be engulfing our nation.

Our first question is always “What can we do about it?” You’ve probably seen the black-draped cross that we had erected on the front lawn (thanks to the generosity and talent of new member Bob Condon!) and perhaps you’ve been part of the Sunday witness there for Peace and Justice. That witness came out of a soul-searching discussion among the deacons and Pastor Scott.

Our next and most important step is educating ourselves: what is the history of racism in our country? What is white privilege? What is the black experience and how does it impact our African-American neighbors? To that end, we have assisted Scott in compiling a list of books, videos and other resources that are published in this edition of the Messenger.

We prayerfully hope that these various resources will help us all to dig deep into our souls and think about racism in new and productive ways. Then we can take the next step, whatever it may be, in Jesus’ name.

Thanks and blessings,
Dan Carter and Nadine Russell,
Co-Chairs



Pastor Scott's Message...



Pastor's Perspective ...

I have always considered myself to be a relatively well-informed individual. However, in recent weeks I have realized just how little I really know, especially when it comes to the history of race in our country. I guess that I just assumed that they taught me everything that I needed to know in my middle school and high school history and social studies classes. I was wrong. I took a course on racism when I was in seminary. A course ... and it has become abundantly clear that one course is not nearly enough.

The Watts race riots in Los Angeles happened when I was two years old, but I heard references to them as I got older. I remember hearing about other incidents and subsequent protests over the years, but they never really made me want to dig deeper. I know now that I should have read more, listened more, and paid closer attention. But, like many people, since those stories did not affect me, I did not dig in. I was under the assumption that it was not my story, it was not my history. I was wrong. It is OUR story.

I have had many conversations over the last few weeks, and just about everyone has expressed the same feelings. And we have all committed ourselves to hearing those stories. It is in those stories that we develop empathy and we can begin to understand how we can contribute to taking healing steps forward.

A number of people have asked me to compile a list of resources. This list is not exhaustive, but it is a starting point. You can go online and find numerous websites and lists of titles for further exploration.

Books on Racism:

Stamped From the Beginning, Ibram X. Kendi

How To Be Anti-Racist, Ibram X. Kendi

Trouble the Water, Michael-Ray Matthews, Marie Clare Onwubuariri, Cody Sanders

White Fragility, Robin DiAngelo

Between the World and Me, Ta-Nehisi Coates

Me and White Supremacy, Layla F. Saad

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria, Beverly Daniel Tatum

So You Want to Talk About Race?, Ijeoma Oluo

Eloquent Rage, Brittney Cooper

White Rage, Carol Anderson

The Cross and the Lynching Tree, James Cone

(Please note that because of the current interest, many of these titles are backordered at local libraries and booksellers.)

Continued on next page

There are also a number of movies and documentaries that you can watch. Here is a list of a few of them: Just Mercy, Selma, Fruitvale Station, 12 Years a Slave, The Learning Tree, 13th, I Am Not Your Negro, Black America Since MLK: And Still I Rise, and Ken Burns: The Central Park Five.

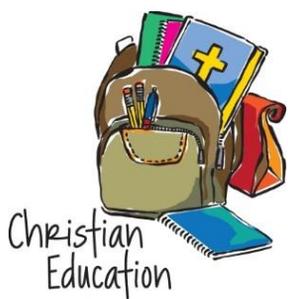
In addition, there are numerous TED Talks and podcasts. Emmanuel Ocho, a former NFL player has a series of episodes of “Uncomfortable Conversations With a Black Man,” on YouTube. Shay Stewart-Bouley has created a website, Black Girl in Maine, that offers resources and a local perspective. (Some of you may know Shay. She used to attend worship here at First Parish Church.)

My hope is to offer a series of educational opportunities once we are able to resume in-person gatherings. I want to invite conversion. I want to hear people’s stories. In the meantime, let us commit ourselves to pursuing paths of love. Let us try to see and hear from perspectives other than our own.

May God grant us peace along the way.

Pastor Scott





It may be the summer of social distancing but things are still hopping at First Parish. Right now we are getting ready for our Vacation Bible School.

We have ten families, (19 children) participating in our Virtual VBS. This summer's theme is **Knights of North Castle**. The banner verse is: **“Be Strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.” -Ephesians 6:10**

Some of the, (masked), team was able to put together the packets that will enhance the online component. All Bible stories, music (with some super cool dance moves), experiments and craft directions are all online. The packets contain, information, extra fun pages, five different crafts, super cute lanyard (with our mascot Sparky on it), a tapestry to create, instant snow (yes, that is what I said), reflection books and other fun items all in a very awesome back pack. Our **Service project** for the month of July will be **Mighty Knighties: Pajama Drive for Children in Foster Care**. We are working with the York County Resource Parent Care Team by

collecting **NEW** pajamas for boys and girls in the Foster Care System. We would love the support of our Faith Community in helping us bring in more pajamas. For the month of July there will be a plastic bin along with the food pantry shopping cart outside the church building from 9:30-4:30 that will be collecting the pajamas.



- must be **NEW**
- a complete set (top, bottom or an appropriate nightgown)
- sizes toddler to XL

When the children have completed the virtual VBS, they will receive a completed certificate and other fun theme items.

Thanks to **Judy Gray, Susan Marston, Camilla Roberge, Danielle & Marc Roberge, Nadine Russell, Aldene Walters** and **Kris Galasyn** our VBS team. Can you guess these team members?



This might be easier.



Blankets for Church World Service

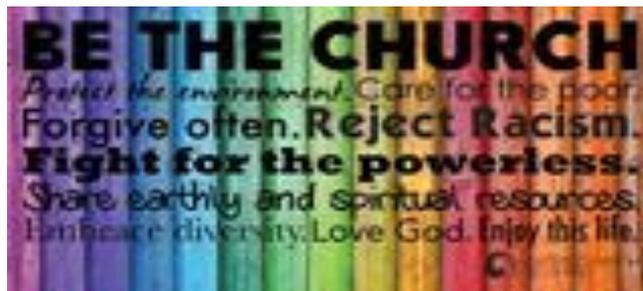


Thank you to everyone who contributed to Blanket Sunday.

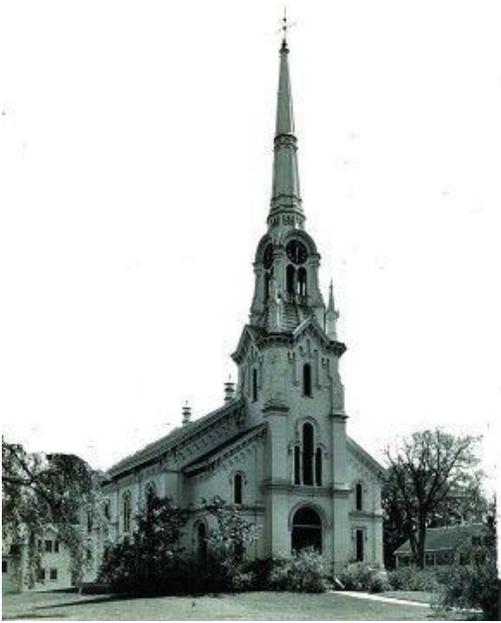
We brought in \$555.00 which translates to 55 blankets that will be distributed to people in need of help in all types of disasters. First Parish receives these blankets for our MLK Day of Service.

New Banner at First Parish

The next time you drive by First Parish check out this really cool banner that was just put up. With everything that is happening in the news these days we felt this banner was a great choice. The rainbow Be The Church banner will be at the corner of Beach and Main.



It joins our Cross draped in black and our Peace and Justice signs. If you haven't had the opportunity to stand in Peace with us on Sunday mornings from 11:30-12:30 we invite you to join us. We ask that you wear a mask and social distance. Signs are welcomed or you can make one there.



FROM THE HISTORIAN

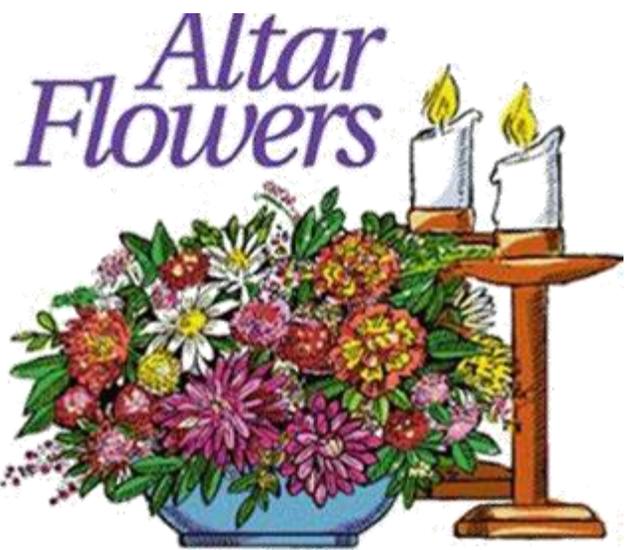
It is hard to believe that 20 years have gone by. August 30, 2000 was one of the hottest day of that summer. Workers were stripping the paint from the old church and were given order to have no open flames near the building. One worker lit a cigarette and his gloves caught on fire. When he went to shake off his gloves the flame jumped to the building. The fire spread quickly, and seven fire departments were called in. As a large plume of smoke filled the sky, crowds of people gathered on the street to watch. Some people cried as the stained-glass windows melted and fell in. A plume of smoke could be seen for miles. It was impossible to save the building.

We were lost in the wilderness. We began holding services at Thornton Academy.

We became the church in boxes. This did not weaken us but made us stronger. We found that a church is not a building but the people in it.

Many new members have joined since then. Even now, in this time of Coronavirus, we remain connected. This proves that a church is not a building but a community of people and their love of God and one another.

Tony Nero

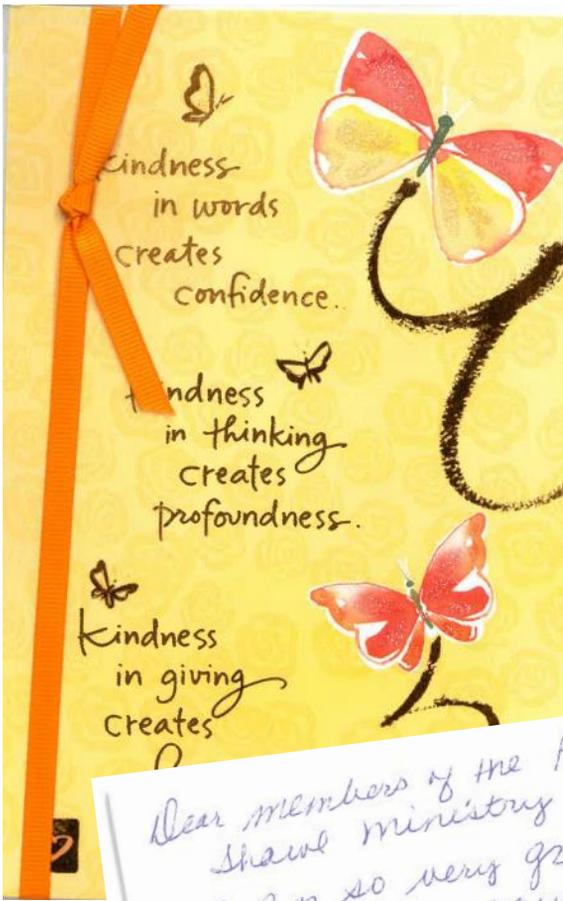


Flower & Altar

Flower & Altar thanks all who have provided flowers for the altar the last few weeks. If anyone would like to provide flowers in the upcoming weeks, please contact Patrice Tripp at 207-590-1109 or rtripp@maine.rr.com.

- May 31st Jim Wheater & Marcia Lord in memory of their parents, Jim & Helen Wheater and Mathieu & Norma Valliere
- June 7th Charles and Debra Clark Flower Legacy Fund in Memory of Constance Clark
- June 14th Patrice & Rich Tripp in Memory of Patrice's parents, Irene & Clayton Hoak
- June 21st Mari Warner in Honor of her niece Kim & Nish Welikadage's 9th Wedding Anniversary
- June 28th Mari Warner in Memory of her parents, Vera & Bob Warner

Thank You Notes to The Prayer Ministry



Ladies,
Thank you so much
for the beautiful shawl.
It was so kind of you,
I'm a little tired from
the treatments but I'm
OK,

Love you all

Kellie

Dear members of the Prayer
Shawl Ministry -
I am so very grateful for
the beautiful prayer shawl
sent to me through Pam
Mohlis. I am very aware of
this ministry as I was involved
in it at my previous church.
I had many days after my
accident that I was in too much
pain to get out of bed or a chair.
I wrapped up in the shawl daily →

2
and truly believe that the
prayers enveloped in the shawl
have helped in my recovery.
May God Bless each member
of your church and the knitters
and crocheters in your ministry.
In God's
Anne Marie
★ Holy Name,
Chapin
Littleton, CO

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Your kindness
is appreciated
more than words
can say

Thank you



Thank You Notes to The Prayer Ministry

Thank You

May 13, 2020
Dear Kathy,
I want to thank you personally for the very beautiful shawl you made through your church's prayer shawl ministry. Not only are the reds my favorite colors but it helped to know it came with prayers and love in each stitch.
I was in a bad bike accident April 8 and the recovery is slow (even)

but wrapping up in your beautiful shawl ^{has given} me peace and comfort. When not in use it graces my grandmother's 120 year old rocker.
Pam sang your praises, "lovely stylish, caring and faithful" and obviously very creative. Pam & I met at church in FL and we also see each other when we visit our son & family in Cape Elizabeth.
Bless you -
Mary God
Anne Marie Chapin

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Thank You
for your thoughtfulness.

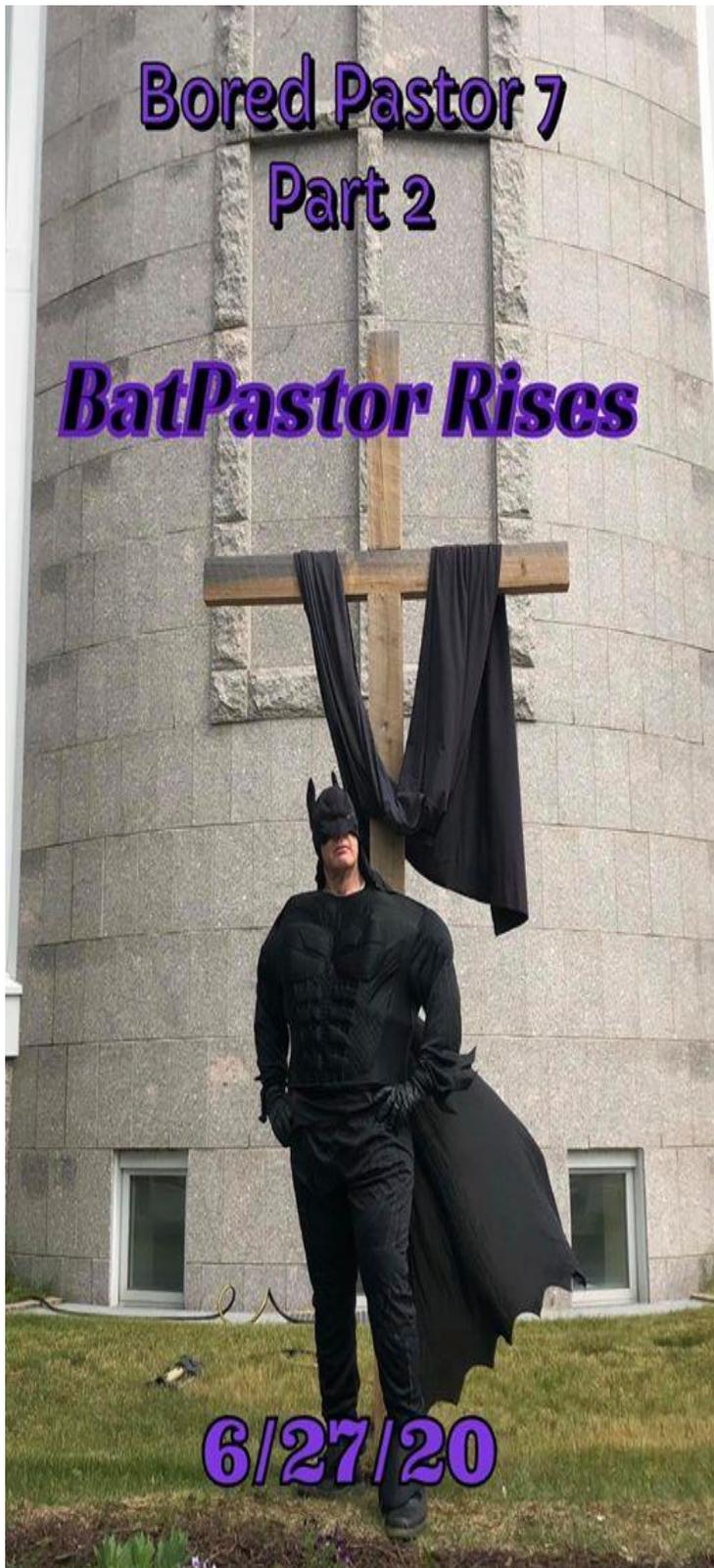
Your kindness
is appreciated
more than words
can say.

Thank you



Bored Pastor 7 Part 2

BatPastor Rises



6/27/20

Bored Pastor 7 Part 2
Is Now Available!

[Click Here](#)

Don't Miss Any Of
Pastor Scott's Fun Antics
During Quarantine!



Help Wanted

Maintenance/Custodian Position: First Parish Saco is seeking a year round, part time (28 hours per week) person to perform light maintenance and custodial functions for the church.

Please visit our website-firstparishsaco.org or email (office@firstparishsaco.org) for an application.

The position will be filled as soon as a suitable candidate is found.”

First Parish Congregational Church, UCC
12 Beach Street,
Saco, ME 04072
(207)283-3771

Job Description for:

Position: Maintenance/Custodian

Reports to: Senior Minister along with the Facilities Team Status:

Part-time year-round, average of 28 hours/week.

Perform all cleaning, light maintenance and repairs of the church building and surrounding areas including, but not limited to bathrooms, kitchen, sanctuary, atrium, fellowship hall, classrooms, offices, meeting rooms, corridors, lawns, sidewalks, steps, ramps and parking areas.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Complete the weekly and monthly Housekeeper and Maintenance check list developed through the Facilities Team. Items will include the following:

- Clean all walls, bathroom floors and fixtures, appliances, furniture, cabinets, counters, etc. on a regular basis using current CDC guidelines.
- Give priority to the bathrooms, sanctuary and public spaces each week, before other ancillary spaces, in preparation for Sunday services and/or other events.
- Complete approved Work Order Requests left in the main office including work orders for the Parsonage.
- Clean floors, including the maintenance of the wood floors
- Pick up and empty trash, both inside and outside.
- Perform safety and operational checks on elevator, boiler/furnace, fire alarm, sprinkler system, generator and sump pumps.
- Inspect and repair light fixtures, door/window hardware, etc.
- Maintain and service mechanical equipment (air filters, lubrication, etc.)
- Mow outside areas
- Keep sidewalks to church clear in inclement weather, including shoveling, snow blowing and ice removal.
- Perform general carpentry, painting and repair work.

- Set-up and take-down for special events as requested.
- Report items and projects needing attention to the appropriate vendor, the office and the Facilities Team.
- Coordinate and Communicate with service personnel as well as Fire/Police as necessary.
- Coordinate weekly with the Facilities Team contact person.
- Attend Staff meetings as requested.
- Follow written instructions and procedures in the use and handling of all cleaning products and solutions.
- Use safety precautions and follow Manufacturer's Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) procedures for all services, equipment use and work activities.
- Perform other related duties in consultation with the Facilities Team and/or Senior Minister

Qualifications:

- Experience in the maintenance and custodial fields.
- Ability to be self-managed and organized.
- Good problem solving and communication skills.
- Ability to follow through with assigned tasks in a timely manner.
- Ability to clearly receive and relay information.

Physical Demands:

- This position requires one to be physically active. Ability to bend, lift up to 50 pounds, climb, shovel, scrub, etc. as needed.

Approved by the Personnel Team 6/8/2020

Approved by Council 6/24/2020



HAVE YOU VISITED THE NEW FIRST PARISH WEB SITE?

Check it out at <https://www.firstparishsaco.org>

Also, please Like Us  on Facebook
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Subscribe to our YouTube channel

Search either service for *First Parish Saco*

Do you have Feedback or Suggestions?
Please email feedback@firstparishsaco.org



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

MISSING YOU ALL AND CAN'T WAIT TILL WE'RE BACK TOGETHER AGAIN!!

