

# The Messenger



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

# November, 2022

#### **The Common Table**

On World Communion Sunday (October 2), I offered a message based upon Acts 2:43-47. The passage is Luke's quick summary about the Christian life in the first century. They shared everything in common, they helped those in need, they went to the Temple to learn and worship, and they broke bread together in their homes. Every meal was sacred because they did it in remembrance of Jesus. Every meal was sacred because they were together as a community.

There is sacredness in togetherness. Together we learn and grow. Together we love and serve. Together we deepen our affection for one another. Together we support one another. There is sacredness in sharing our lives with one another.

The Common Table is an invitation to do that ... to share togetherness.

What is The Common Table? What does it mean?

We are looking for people to host meals in their homes, or at the church. Each host will determine the date and time for the meal, as well as how many they can accommodate. Each host will also determine if they would like the meal to be potluck, or if they will provide the meal for their guests. The meals may be lunch or dinner... hosts' preference.

As the hosts offer their homes, we will extend the invitation to the church family to join you ... to break bread together. To sign up as a host, please contact me at <a href="mailto:scott.cousineau@firstparishsaco.org">scott.cousineau@firstparishsaco.org</a> or Sue Burgess in the church office.



#### **Pledge Cards**

If you need a Pledge card for 2023, we have some available in the Narthex or contact the office at office@firstparishsaco.org.

#### **Tax-Saving Strategies That Support our Church**

Are you interested in finding out more regarding taxsaving tips? Please see the Investment Team article in the October edition of "The Messenger" for more information.



### Pastor Scott's Message...

### The Pastor's Perspective ...



As we enter into November and December, we enter into "holiday" season. If you are like me, you have likely already had conversations with family and friends regarding your annual Thanksgiving dinners. Who is going to host, who is going to cook, etc. You may have already had family conversations about your Christmas celebrations. Who is going to host, who is going to cook, how is the gift exchange going to happen. There is so much to plan, and the time will go quickly. We will be tucking into that Thanksgiving dinner before we know it!

Here at the church, we are preparing for slightly different gatherings as we enter November. We too are getting ready to share Thanksgiving baskets with our neighbors in need. We too are thinking about Christmas worship services and sharing our gifts. And we are making plans for another gathering that will take place not long after Christmas ... our annual Affirmation Meeting. Our Generosity campaign is well underway, and our teams are creating their budget requests for the coming year. In addition to sharing your financial gifts ... your treasure ... we are hoping that you will consider the ways that you can also share your time and your talents.

In other churches with which I have ministered, this is the season of recruitment. This is the season during which people typically hid from me during coffee and fellowship hour lest I ask them to serve on a board or committee.

Our organizational structure is a little bit different here when it comes to our volunteers. We do not have "boards" and "committees," we have teams. The term "teams" sounds a lot less formal. Our teams do not have term limits. We also do not have a Nominating Team or a Recruitment Committee. Our teams are open to all who wish to serve on them. Therefore, I do not need to hunt you down during coffee hour ... or do I?

Consider this as your invitation to serve. It would be wonderful to have you join our teams. Some of our teams have members that have faithfully served on them for years. They would love to have you join them! Serving on a team is a great way to serve our church, serve our community, and also meet the other members of the church family. Serving is an important part of our call as a Christian community. The added benefit is that it also makes you feel better. Yes, it is true. Research shows that serving releases endorphins which actually help to elevate your mood. Please consider joining one (or more) of our teams.

The reality is that every member of the church family is a member of every team. We ALL share in the leadership and participation in worship. We ALL are responsible for our mission ministries. We ALL share the responsibility for educating our children and youth in the faith. We ALL are responsible for extending hospitality to guests and visitors. We ALL are responsible for being good stewards of our resources. Each and every one of you plays an important role in the life and ministry of First Parish Church. Thank you for all that you do.

May God bless you and may you be a blessing to others.

Pastor Scott



## **Moderator Update**

# From the Moderator...



November is one of those in-between months that I'd prefer to skip and go straight to December. The trees have lost their brilliance, the boys of summer have gone home, and historically there isn't a lot of snow to provide that beautiful blanket. But alas, December will be here before we know it.

Stewardship season is upon us! That time of year where you prayerfully reflect on what your faith means to you in the form of financial support to the church. While we totally appreciate whatever monies you may drop in the offering plate, it's important that you pledge so the Council can anticipate available monies and establish a budget for the coming year. Having an accurate idea of what financial support will be available allows us to plan, considering what expenses can be handled with the income that will be generated. The budget submitted by each team will help us understand and prioritize spending based on monies available. If you are the chairperson of a team and have not submitted your budget request for 2023, please do so as soon as possible. We will continue to share progress in regular communication with the congregation and seek your insights and guidance. We will also continue to have Witnessing Stewards speak about what First Parish means to them, in anticipation of Consecration Sunday, November 13. It's vital that we have a strong stewardship season whereas you may recall that we approved a deficit budget at the Annual Affirmation Meeting this year because we had money left over from 2021. However, we won't have that luxury in 2023. The Church Council will be reviewing and discussing budgets over the next couple of months. Budget hearings will be scheduled for December and January to allow your review and comments prior to Annual Affirmation.

We also encourage you to consider giving, not only in financial terms but in pledging your time and talent as well, by participating in one or more of the many groups and activities that First Parish has to offer. When we changed the governance structure of how the church functions ten years ago, we changed how people join teams and find fulfillment in volunteering. People are encouraged to join any team consistent with the passion in their hearts for the mission of that team. If you would like to assist the Senior Minister in the spiritual guidance of the congregation become a Deacon. If your talent lies in arranging greenery, join Flower and Altar. Joining a team promotes involvement which in turn creates a greater sense of value and commitment to the church, as well as an increased understanding of the objectives and decision-making that occurs. We welcome your participation!

Blessings and peace, Dale Siulinski









#### **A Spiritual Opportunity**

Dear Friends,

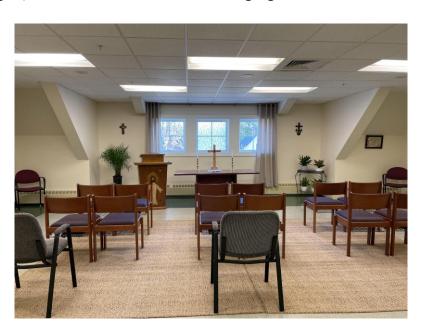
If you haven't already, please check out the upstairs worship space! (Formerly the All-Purpose Room, it has recently been transformed into an inviting and peaceful chapel, and location of the 8:00 Sunday worship service also known as Sacred Conversations.) Even better, consider attending a worship service there!

I had the opportunity to attend last Sunday's (October 23rd) Sacred Conversations service. As a Deacon, I greeted worshippers in the Atrium, handed out bulletins, and directed them upstairs. When I joined the service, I felt a peacefulness among the seven other congregants. Inspirational music was integrated throughout the service. Following the Scripture reading, Pastor Scott, who was leading this particular service, provided an interactive experience. Several people responded to Scott's questions, giving not only a response, but sharing a personal connection with the Scripture reading. An environment of comfort and safety was evident, and there was no pressure to verbally participate. Prayer was an important component of the service. There was an option to provide an offering in a basket on a table upon leaving.

I found this service to be very meaningful, and I look forward to attending again!

Blessings to you,

Margery Condon and Dan Carter, Diaconate Co-Chairpersons

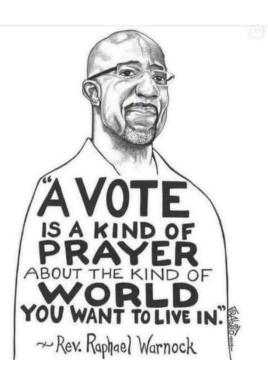




November is upon us. This month we continue with Celebrate Wonder in our classrooms. Our Wonder Word is

about the prophet Elijah and Isaiah and our last Sunday of the month brings us to Advent. November is the last month in our Fall Quarter for Church school and our Winter Quarter begins December 4. Stay safe. Stay well, See you at Church,

Kris





Bible Sunday was celebrated on Sunday, October 23 during the 10am worship service. The following third graders

received their Bibles. Aiden Karbel and Ariana Raymond. Fifth grader, Celeste **Apte Macas** also received a Bible. The Christian Education Team hosted a Bible Breakfast which was delicious and enjoyed by all who attended.











# Fellowship

We

working on a final date but our GIVE THANKS OVERNIGHT will be either

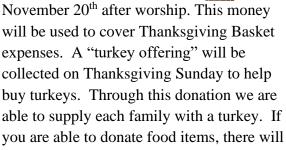
Friday evening, November 18<sup>th</sup> or Saturday evening, November 19<sup>th</sup>. All youth, sixth through twelfth grade are invited to stay overnight at the church for Food, Fun, Faith and Fellowship. We will



begin at 7PM. At this time we assemble the Thanksgiving Baskets for area families that are having a hard time making

ends meet. We do need help with filling the baskets so we will be asking the congregation to bring in nonperishable food items. The items needed are: stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, chicken broth, canned fruits and pie mixes. Also, that evening we will be baking because we are bringing back our **Bake** 

Sale!!! Bake goods will be ready to sell on Sunday,



be a special shopping atrium

November



Thanksgiving cart in the beginning 6<sup>th</sup>. If you would

like to help supply turkeys you can send a donation to the church, made out to First Parish UCC, and in the memo line write YF Turkey donation. Thanksgiving Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> there will be "Turkey envelopes" in the pews.
Thank you.

On Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> our Youth Church school class served dinner at Bon Appetit Meal Program in Biddeford.

Here are a few pictures.







We all enjoyed being able to help others by serving a nutritious dinner. We decided to do something more and put together Trick or Treat bags for those who come by on Halloween.



"As we lose ourselves in the service of others we discover our own lives and our own happiness."



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

Helping **Lisa or Mary** in the Nursery for the month of **October** was:

2nd Giselle Cantin

9th Christa Remillard

16<sup>th</sup> Carol Spencer Lemay

23rd Glenys Salas

30th Cathy Baillargeon

The need for Nursery volunteers is always great. There is a Nursery sign up sheet on the Christian Education board in the atrium.

Thank you.

## 2022 Christmas Pageant



**Sign ups** will be out soon. Our Church School Christmas Pageant will be Sunday, December 11, during morning

worship. Friday evening, December 9<sup>th</sup>, there will be a catered supper and rehearsal. This is our only rehearsal. At this time we will also assign costumes. This year we will NOT have to wear masks so you can see all our smiles. Our Baby Jesus will be Baby Girl Matula, who has not yet made her presence known. She is the daughter of Abby (Worster) and Paul Matula.

### October



October 2 Jo Fitzgerald

October 9 Cassie Remillard

October 16 Chloe Remillard

October 23 Cassie & Chloe Remillard

October 30 Dexter Roberge





## Confirmation

Our first Confirmation class will be Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at 11:30 in

the youth room. A light lunch will be provided. Confirmands are: Lucas Edstrom, Aiden Fiske and Abbie Seymour.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone. Make it a safe one.





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.

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#### **Music and Arts**

We are so blessed at First Parish to have the wonderful music be an integral part of the worship service each week. From the beautiful preludes and postludes that our Music Director, Jacqui Savage, shares to the magnificent anthems the choirs share, their music ministry is outstanding. We are also blessed with so many musicians who add their talents throughout the year.

Our youth are also engaged in the Junior and Youth choirs. Thank you to Jacqui and Susan Marston, our Junior Choir director, for their continued leadership with these choirs who also add so much.

For years, our Handbell Director Audrey Cabral has led a talented group of bell ringers. We are grateful for her steadfast leadership and welcome the wonderful music from these dedicated members.

If you are interested in joining any of these wonderful choirs, please reach out to Jacqui to learn more. Singers and ringers are always welcome!







## 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 <a href="mailto:rtripp@maine.rr.com">rtripp@maine.rr.com</a> or Marcia Lord at 207-768-1699 or <a href="mailto:mvlord@aol.com">mvlord@aol.com</a>

#### Altar Flowers given for the Month of October

October 2nd - Given by Heidi & Ken Byrd in celebration of Theo's birthday and their anniversary.

October 9th - Given by Edward Olsen in memory of Reverend Wilbur Gough, who was 104 years old when he died last summer.

October 16th - Given by Lorie Faubert in loving memory of Ted Faubert & Jeffre Schnarr

October 23rd – Given by Denise Bilodeau in memory of Roger Bilodeau.

#### **Gingerbread Fair Greens Table**

The Flower & Altar Team needs:

**Greenery** to make the items for the Greens Table. Does anyone have wooded area(s) with evergreen, fir and/or pine we could cut to use?

**Holly and/or winterberries** for decorations **Your time & talents** to assist in making the arrangements

Contact Patrice Tripp @ 207-590-1109 or rtripp@maine.rr.com





Would you like to remember or honor a loved one on Poinsettia Sunday. Flower & Altar Team will be taking orders for red poinsettias in 7  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch pots. Each plant will be \$13. Orders will be taken after service on Sundays,  $\frac{11}{13}$ ,  $\frac{11}{20}$  &  $\frac{11}{27}$ .

We purchase our poinsettias from the Morrison Center Seedling Program in Scarborough, which provides job/training skills and community support for adults over 20 years of age with developmental disabilities.

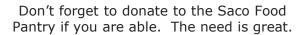


## **Mission Team Update**

FMI - Carol Spencer-Lemay SpencerLemay2@gmail.com

The Mission Team Meetings are now held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm in the Parlor of First Parish Congregational Church. Join us on Nov. 9 to learn more, or contact Carol SpencerLemay at <a href="mailto:spencerlemay2@gmail.com">spencerlemay2@gmail.com</a> or (207) 229-1902.







The Saco Food Pantry is highlighting the need for the following items this month:

Hot cocoa mix
Hearty Soups/stews/chowders
Turkey Stuffing mix
Please do not donate cans of pumpkin pie mix.

Canned Beef Stew
Turkey Gravy
Instant Oatmeal

#### Have you heard of Welcome Immigrants Our New Neighbors (WIONN)?

This non-profit organization provides basic furniture, household goods, warm clothing and other support to immigrants who were forced to come to the United States because of unrest or other life threatening reasons. At this time, the charity is in need of <u>silverware</u>, <u>large pots and pans</u>, <u>cooking utensils</u>, <u>everyday dishes</u> (NOT fine china), <u>vacuums</u>, and <u>microwave ovens</u>.

If you would like to donate any of these household goods *in clean and good working order*, please contact Mathew Gerken at <a href="mailto:mdgerken19@gmail.com">mdgerken19@gmail.com</a>. Mathew will arrange a time to meet you at the Storage area at 432 Elm St, Biddeford, ME.

If you would like to give financial support, make checks out to Christ Federated Church, Kennebunk with **WIONN** in the memo line, and mail the check to Christ Federated Church/ 6 Dane St/ Kennebunk, ME 04043.

For more information, or to learn about volunteering, contact Judy Cadmus at <a href="mailto:judy1060@maine.rr.com">judy1060@maine.rr.com</a>.

#### **BON APPETIT**

You may sign up to volunteer for this weekday community meal program on the bulletin board near the church office, or contact Carol Spencer-Lemay at (207) 229-1902 or <a href="mailto:spencerlemay2@gmail.com">spencerlemay2@gmail.com</a> to see if she can carpool with you. Volunteers help prepare the meal and/or serve the food and clean up. For more information, visit <a href="mailto:bonappetitmealprogram.com">bonappetitmealprogram.com</a>

**WHEN:** Any Monday(s) in October, 2 to 4 pm and/or 3 to 6 pm

WHERE: Second Congregational Church, 19 Crescent St, Biddeford, Maine



**Bravo** to all who volunteered or donated blood to the red Cross Blood drive on October 22!

**American Red Cross** 

A total of 26 units of blood were collected which exceeded their goal for the day!

You can save a life by giving blood!

Thank you!

### **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPDATE**



# The Gingerbread Fair December 3, 2022!!!





#### **Candy Table at Gingerbread Fair**

Do you have any yummy candy recipes your family and friends always request? Any traditional favorites you can have fun making with them? Please donate to the Gingerbread Fair's Candy Table. Your sweet treats are much appreciated by all.

Please wrap or package your goodies individually, by twos or sets of 4 etc. If you have any questions, you may contact Carol Rivest via email: <a href="mailto:crivest@maine.rr.com">crivest@maine.rr.com</a> or 207-590-5387 or Gisele Cantin, email: <a href="mailto:giscantin@gmail.com">giscantin@gmail.com</a> or 207-602-9304. Thank you!

Did you read a lot of books during COVID?

Did you put together a lot of puzzles during the shut down?

How about board games or card games?

Would you like to help raise some money and recycle these gently used items?

Lorie Faubert and Karen Donoghue are going to be collecting books, puzzles and games for their table at the Gingerbread Fair!

If you'd like to donate any of these items, please contact Lorie or Karen at the following:

<u>lfaubertme@gmail.com</u> or (540) 454-5456 <u>donoghuekarene@gmail.com</u> or (603) 641-6834

#### **BOUTIQUE at GINGERBREAD FAIR**

Do you have jewelry, scarves, purses, jewelry boxes, unopened make-up, lotions, or similar items that you are not using? Please donate them to the Women's Fellowship to sell at the Gingerbread Fair! You may leave the items at the office, or contact Carol Spencer-Lemay at <a href="mailto:spencerlemay2@gmail.com">spencerlemay2@gmail.com</a> or (207) 229-1902. Or, you can help us price the jewelry - we would love to have more help. We never know what treasures will be given to us!



# First Parish Concert Series

2022

All shows begin at 7:00 pm **Tickets \$10.00** FMI visit www.firstparishsaco.org



# First Parish Ghurch Presents



WHERE: 12 Beach St. Saco, Maine WHEN: November 16 and 17 Time: 7PM

Tickets at firstparishsaco.org



Music and Lyrics
STEPHEN SONDHEIM

**Director/Choreographer** A.P. NURI

Music Director WILLIAM SAWYER

Stage Manager MALLORY TOPEL







Looking for things to do in the area? Check out <a href="https://www.pressherald.com/things-to-do/do-this-calendar">www.pressherald.com/things-to-do/do-this-calendar</a>
You can search by date, within a number of miles...
you'll be amazed at what is happening in Maine!



# **Seeds of Hope Gratitude Brunch**

Nonantum Resort Kennebunkport, ME November 13, 2022 10:00 am – 2:00 pm For tickets visit:

https://seedsofhope4me.org/ events/seeds-of-hopegratitude-brunch

#### **Thornton Academy's Homestay Program**

This program is looking for Homestay Families for the 2023-2024 school year. This program was started in 2010 and has been a fulfilling opportunity to both host families and their international students. This program has given international students a chance to fully immerse themselves in American life, learn about American values and customs and really hone their English language skills.

For families, it's an ideal way to gain an in-depth understanding of the world outside our borders, since students will be eager to talk about their home countries, family traditions and cultures. A Homestay experience will allow students and families to make personal connections and build life-long friendships. Families can rest assured that they will have the ongoing support from Thornton Academy throughout their time as Homestay Families.

If you would like to host one of Thornton Academy's Homestay Students or to learn more information about the Homestay Program, please contact Homestay Coordinator, Sara Demers, at 282-3361 ext 4557 or by email at <a href="mailto:sara.demers@thorntonacademy.org">sara.demers@thorntonacademy.org</a>



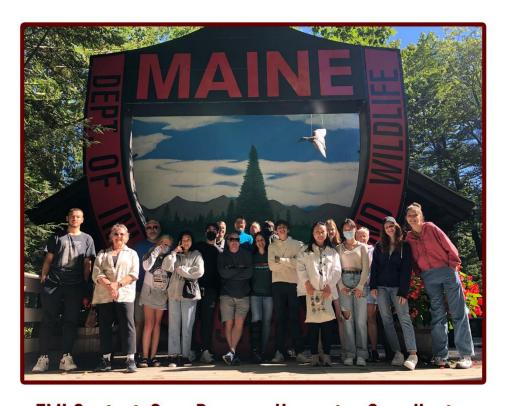
# THORNTON ACADEMY

# HOMESTAY PROGRAM

Thornton Academy's Homestay Program offers an alternative to dormitory living for new and returning international students seeking language and cultural immersion in a nurturing and supportive home environment. In turn, families can look forward to opening their homes to young people ready for new adventures who want to share their own family traditions and perspective. It's a year of discovery for both student and families!

Homestay matches are carefully considered based on information provided in applications completed by both perspective parents and students. Typically one or two students are placed with a Homestay family for either a single semester or the full school year. Some returning students may continue with the same Homestay family for multiple years. A written agreement between Thornton Academy and the Homestay Parents includes a provision for a stipend to offset expenses related to Homestay.

Participants in Thornton's Homestay Program become part of the larger Homestay Community where families support families, experiences are shared and lifetime connections are made!



FMI Contact: Sara Demers, Homestay Coordinator sara.demers@thorntonacademy.org • 207-602-4457





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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		9:30am Women's Fellowship 12:00pm ITW Set building 6:30pm Facilities via Teams 7pm Book Club 7pm Men's Fellowship	2 4pm Diaper Bank 5:15pm Jr Choir 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm Sr Choir	3 9am TOHG 3:30pm Guiding Eyes 6p ITW Rehearsal	4	5 12pm ITW Rehearsal
6 8am Sacred Conversations 8:50am CE Team 10am Service 12:00pm ITW Rehearsal 1pm TV Service 3pm Islamic School	7 9am Counters 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Big Book	8 9:30am Women's Fellowship 7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom	9 4pm Diaper Bank 5:15pm Jr Choir 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Finance Team via Zoom 6:30pm Mission Team 7pm Sr Choir	10 9am TOHG 6p ITW Rehearsal	11 Veterans Day 6:00pm ITW Rehearsal	12 12pm ITW Rehearsal
13 8am Sacred Conversations 10am Service 11:15am Youth Choir 11:30am Consecration Brunch 12p ITW Rehearsal 1pm TV Service 3pm Islamic School	14 9am Counters 5:00pm ITW Rehearsal 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Big Book	15 9:30am Women's Fellowship 7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom	16 10:00am Theological Group 4pm Diaper Bank 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7pm Into The Woods Preview Night	17 9am TOHG  7pm Into The Woods Opening Night	18	11:00am Grosvener Funeral & Reception
20 8am Sacred Conversations 10am Service 11:15am Youth Choir 11:30am Deacons 1pm TV Service 3pm Islamic School	9am Counters 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Big Book	9:30am Women's Fellowship 6:30pm Personnel Team 7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom	23 4pm Diaper Bank 5:15pm Jr Choir 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Council 7pm – Sr Choir	24 Thanksgiving Day  Office Closed	25 Office Closed  Ate Too Much	26
27 8am Sacred Conversations 10am Service 11:15am Youth Choir 1pm TV Service 3pm Islamic School	28 9am Counters 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Big Book	29 9:30am Women's Fellowship 7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom	30 4pm Diaper Bank 5:15pm Jr Choir 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm Sr Choir			

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