

The Messenger 2020

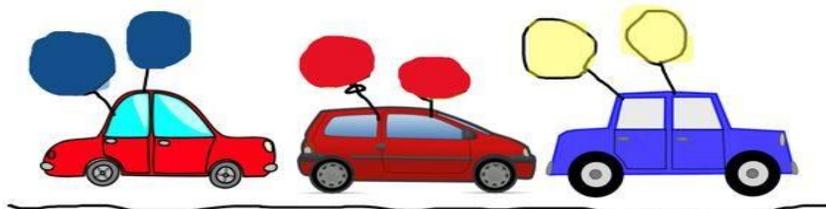
First Parish Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

The Church with Love & Hope to Share



Homecoming Sunday



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

11:30-1:00

First Parish Church Parking lot
Rain date Sunday, September 20

Stations include:

- Celebrate Wonder curriculum Packets
- Family Activity Book
- Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook (Nursery Children)
- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Artistic Cut Wood Cross craft kit
- Fun treats/Bubbles/Bookmark

We invite people to:

- Wear a funny hat/headband
- Decorate your car
- Bring your backpack
- Bring a nonperishable food item for the Food Pantry

*First Parish Christian Education team, Church school teachers, Deacons,
Youth and Pastor want to welcome
First Parish Church School Families to our 2020-2021 Program year*

Scott Cousineau Senior Minister
Kristine Galasyn, Director of Christian Education
Jacqueline Savage, Music Director
Nadeen DeSilva, Office Manager

scott.cousineau@firstparishsaco.org
kris@firstparishsaco.org
jacqui@firstparishsaco.org
office@firstparishsaco.org

Pastor Scott's Message...



Pastor's Perspective ...

It is September! It is time for the world to return from summer vacation and time to get back to our regular routines!

Scrrraaaaaatttccchhhh!!! (Or however one would write out the sound of a needle drawing across a record.)

It is September, but as we know, our “regular” routines have been disrupted. We have learned to adapt, to change the ways that we work, shop, and socialize. We have sacrificed and we have learned new skills. Some of the changes have been difficult, but others have enabled us to experience the world in new and beautiful ways. No one likes change, especially uninvited change that is thrust upon our lives.

As we prepare to begin a new program year, we continue to seek ways to adapt. Out of necessity, our ministries and programs will be different this year. In order to ensure the health and safety of our church family and our community, we will have to be creative and innovative. Last week I met with the staff and we discussed ways that we can create meaningful moments in our lives together. We will offer engaging and authentic worship services, we will provide opportunities for the children, youth and adults to learn and grow, we will create beautiful music, we will reach out and serve our community. How we gather has changed, but our calling has not.

We may not be able to have large, in-person worship services, concerts, or other gatherings as we begin the year, but we can explore new ways to meet and gather. We can seek new opportunities to enjoy fellowship with one another. We can discover new ways to explore and deepen our faith.

Here are some thoughts for some in-person activities ... an appropriately distanced picnic ... evening vesper services ... a walking/hiking group ... a movie group ... learning the secrets of video technology.

Here are some ideas for virtual activities ... online Bible study ... congregational participation with the Messenger writing stories ... creating content for our Facebook page ... enhancing our digital and social media footprint.

What are your thoughts? Please do share them with me.

When the Hebrew people were in exile in Babylon, God spoke to the people through the prophet Isaiah. God said to the people: *“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”* (Isaiah 43:19)

We are in our own wilderness time, but God will make a way for us. God has always been faithful and will always be so. Let us open ourselves to the new thing that God is doing. Let it spring forth and give us new life!

It is September! Let us celebrate! God bless you all!

Scott

Deacons' Corner

Dear First Parish Family and Friends,

I recently watched two outstanding films – “I Am Not Your Negro” and “John Lewis: Good Trouble”.

The first film was based on the unfinished book by James Baldwin [Remember This House](#). James Baldwin was a writer and advocate for equal rights for African Americans. He wrote many powerful books about racial injustices since the time of slavery. “I Am Not Your Negro” presents Baldwin’s words and “The story of America” through the lens of the lives of three Civil Rights Icons – Medgar Evers, Malcom X and Martin Luther King, Jr. Each of these men was murdered before they were 40 years old, as they were engaged in Civil Rights work. Each approached the fight civil rights in a different manner, but each knew there was much work to be done in the civil rights movement.

In 1965, James Baldwin debated William F. Buckley at Cambridge University, in what was called “The Cambridge Debate”. Baldwin’s declaration was that “The American Dream is at the expense of the Negro.” This is just one example of the amazing footage contained in this film. Some is difficult to watch, but the entire film is a wonderful teaching for all of us.

“I Am Not Your Negro” is available on Netflix.

The second film is a documentary about Congressman John Lewis. He talked about getting into “Good Trouble, Necessary Trouble”. Congressman Lewis was one of the original Freedom Riders in the South, where Jim Crow laws negated many of the rights of African Americans, from voting to using any restroom, to sitting at a lunch counter to order a cup of coffee or something to eat. In his 20s, Congressman Lewis spoke at the March on Washington (1963) and led the March from Selma to Montgomery, in what is called “Bloody Sunday” (1965). You will see footage of this day and just one of the times that Congressman Lewis nearly lost his life fighting for equal rights for African Americans, in particular, but for all marginalized populations. He stated at one point that it was on this day that he lost his fear of death.

There are some lighthearted moments such as Congressman Lewis dancing to the song ‘Happy’, in his office. The love and joy of all those around him was felt throughout the film.

Congressman Lewis recently died of pancreatic cancer and even with this diagnosis, he never stopped fighting for what he believed in.

This documentary is available for rent through the Portland Museum of Art and the United Church of Christ websites. <https://www.portlandmuseum.org/films> and www.ucc.org

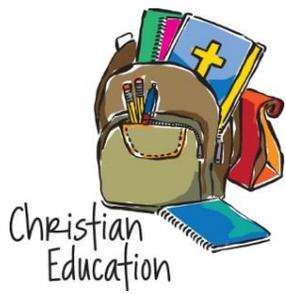
I hope that you will take the time to enjoy one or both of these excellent films!

Also, Pastor Scott has a number of books available on the topic of racial justice and equality, if you are interested in reading more. Please contact him for more information: scott.cousineau@firstparishsaco.org

Thank you for letting me share this with you!

Blessings to you each day,

Debbie Grew,
First Parish Deacon



September 2020 will look a bit different for Church school. There is still so much to do to prepare for our program year. Please be patient as we figure out the best practice for our

Church school children at this time.

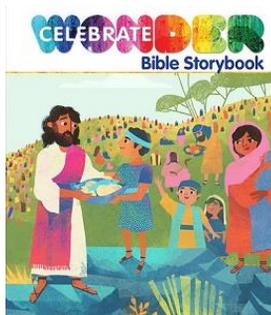
Church school will look different because

- We will not be together in person.
- We will be using a new curriculum
- We will be having part of Church school virtually-through our children's messages
- We will have take home packets available

Homecoming Sunday is September 13th.

During our Children's Message on September 6th we will be introducing our new curriculum.

Celebrate Wonder



which is our new curriculum this fall- Honor the spiritual life of children-their natural sense of awe, wonder, curiosity and imagination- shape

their growing faith with Celebrate Wonder.

On September 13th we will be starting the lessons which will be incorporated into our worship service through our Children's Message. We are working on a special event for

Homecoming Sunday- A Drive through

Parade. This parade will have various stations where different items/treats will be passed out.

We encourage our families to wear funny hats/headbands and to decorate their cars. All children are invited to bring their Backpacks with them to the parade as one of our stations will be **Blessing the Backpacks.** Diaper bags are welcome too!

Church school

Registration is now open. Our Church school registration form is ready to be filled out.

Visit our website: www.firstparishsaco.org click on Christian Education at the bottom of the page, then click on the Registration button. We encourage all children to be registered, birth through age 18. These forms are important for the following 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
6. It gives us written permission to use your child(rens) picture on our website, Facebook page, and for church use (slideshows etc.). Names and faces will never be put together. Stay safe, Stay well.

Kris



Confirmation Class

We are still in the midst of Confirmation, still trying to figure out a safe way to Confirm our Confirmands. We ask for your patience as we keep praying for guidance. Thank you.

Baptisms this summer

Welcome to the UCC

August 21

Maximilian Theodore Herrick

Parents: Bettina and Trevor Herrick





Knights of North Castle. was our VBS theme

for this summer. The banner verse is:

“Be Strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.” -Ephesians 6:10

We all hope that you enjoyed our VBS slideshow on Sunday, August 30th. Despite not being in person we still had a wonderful VBS. Here are a few parent comments.

Rachel Reiche: “Renee is really enjoying the activities/crafts and Andrew is doing a great joy of helping her with them. I will miss the song presentation. I always looked forward to it.”

Lindsey Schuenke: “The kids have missed being at VBS in person! But they have enjoyed doing the lessons at home, too, and my youngest is running around singing ‘be strong in the Lord’ over and over. So maybe the message is sticking?”

Christa Staten: “The kids are having a blast with the activities!”

Abbie Henry: We missed singing all together.

Brandi Flanagan: “VBS was a virtual success at my house! My five year old loved the songs, dance routines, and animated Bible stories and his three year old sister also enjoyed it all. The songs would get stuck in our heads and I would hear him humming them throughout the day. The kids thought the snow was cool. They are making the armor as we go. Fionn knows each part and what it stands for. It was a great theme that he could really connect with. “

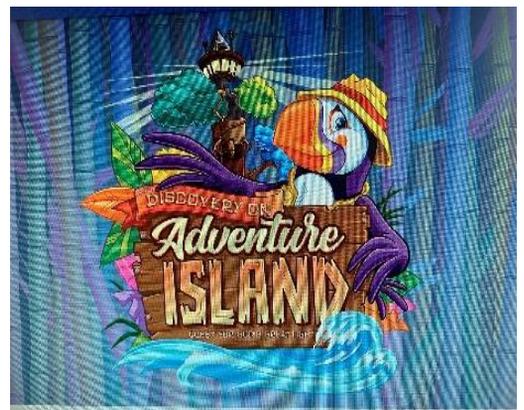
Our VBS Mission Project this year was Mighty Knighties. We collected pajamas for children who are in the foster Care system. Currently, there are 250 families licensed as Foster



parents in York County. This donation supports these families and the vulnerable youth they care for. Our donation will be received by Adoptive and Foster Parents of Saco, whose role is to gather physical resources and support for our foster homes. We give thanks to all our VBS families and our Faith Community for their generous donations. Thank you.

We hope to see everyone (in person?) summer 2021 for

Shine! Your light has come; the LORD’S glory has shone upon you! -Isaiah 60:1





Talking to children about race can be difficult and the Christian Education Team has recently bought a number of new children's books for just that purpose. All of the books below are available for take home. Sanitizing techniques will be used for all books going out or coming in to First Parish. Please just email Kris, kris@firstparishsaco.org if you are interested in checking them out for a week. Also purchased, were youth and adult books on Anti Racism.

Children's Books

1. I Am Enough by Grace Byers
2. You Matter by Christian Robinson
3. Not Quite Snow White by Ashley Franklin
4. Vote Our Future by Margaret McNamera
5. I Am Perfectly Designed by Karamo Brown
6. She's Got This by Laurie Hernandez
7. We're Different, We're the Same: And We're All Wonderful By Bobbi Jane Kates
8. I Believe I Can by Grace Byers
9. Being You by Alexs Pate
10. Antiracist Baby by Ibram X. Kendi
11. All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold
12. It Feels Good To Be Yourself: A Book About Gender Identify by Theresa Thorn

Youth/ Adult Books

1. How To Be An Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi
2. I Am An Anti-Racist: Coloring Book for both Adults and Kids
3. This Book is Anti-Racist by Tiffany Jewell
4. Raising White Kids by Jennifer Harvey
5. I'm Still Here. Black Dignity In A World Made For Whiteness by Austin Channing Brown

Cokesbury, which is the publishing house for our Church school curriculum also has put together a three part lesson on Anti-Racism: Faith and Culture. This includes topics of: Curiosity and Empathy, Colors and Cultures, Prejudice and Stereotypes. Each lesson is complete with Main Idea, Bible verse, Background info, Story Connection, Discussion Questions and Reflection. There is added information for older students. If you are interested in having a copy of this curriculum please let me know and I will be happy to make up packets for you. It is geared to early-middle elementary but could be adapted to younger and older.

Darkness cannot drive out darkness only Light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate only Love can do that.

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Welcome Guy Rochefort”

We would like to welcome Guy and introduce everyone to our newest staff member, Guy Rochefort. Guy has taken the Custodian/Maintenance position at First Parish. Guy is a lifelong resident of Biddeford. He has extensive experience having worked at a number of businesses in our area, including Southridge Rehabilitation Center and the Nonantum Resort. When you are able, stop by and say, “Hello.”



Flower and Altar



Sunday Flowers

Flower & Altar continues to place flowers on the altar each Sunday. Would you like to remember, honor or celebrate a loved one or event? The following Sundays are available: September 20, October 4, 11th & 25th. If you wish to provide flowers, contact Marcia Lord at mvlord@aol.com or 207-768-1699 or Patrice Tripp at rtripp@maine.rr.com or 207-590-1109.

August 9th

Brenda MacDonald in memory of my husband David, on his birthday.



August 16th

Fred and Carol Connelly in celebration of their 34th wedding anniversary.



August 23rd

Carl and Jo Nancy Gunn in honor of all those who are gathering groceries for those who need to stay home.



August 30th

Dan and Jo-Ann Dearborn in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.

MISSION TEAM UPDATE

The Mission Team would be very happy to welcome new members. Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 15 at 6:30 pm outside the church. Please bring your mask and a portable chair.

Shoe Mission



Recently, Nancy and Rick Twomey displayed the children's shoes in the Atrium for any child who would like shoes for school. If any adult (or child) needs shoes, Carol SpencerLemay may be contacted at (207) 284-9088 or spencerlemay2@gmail.com to set up an appointment to view the shoes available in the shoe closet.



Maine-Wabanaki REACH
Restoration • Engagement • Advocacy • Change • Healing

Our team is hoping to offer the online programs (when available) through the Maine Wabanaki REACH organization. What is this program? REACH (Restoration-Engagement-Advocacy-Change-Healing) began as a collaboration of state and tribal child welfare workers who knew from their work together that children, families, and communities need truth, healing and change. See for yourself at <http://www.mainewabanakireach.org/about> .

Food Pantry

And



Our church still offers opportunities to Feed the hungry. You can donate to the Saco Food Pantry by leaving non-perishables in the cart outside the church, Monday to Thursday. Or you can volunteer by contacting Lynn Steed at (207) 494-8662 or lsteed203@gmail.com. Bon Appetit also could use donations and volunteers. Contact Laura Cortwright at llccmb@yahoo.com to volunteer.



The Talent Show was a great success and included many acts given by singers from all of our choirs!!! If you haven't seen it yet, please check it out!

[First Parish Church Talent Show 2020](#)



[Click Here](#)

Special thanks to the Youth Choir that did the Scripture Readings all summer and to all that participated in our Summer Virtual Choirs!!

Programming will continue on this fall and the Senior and Youth Choir will be providing weekly virtual choir anthems. Rehearsals start next week over zoom and also a handful of people will rehearse in the sanctuary masked and distanced.

Miss Delaney will start recording Music and Movement for our Cherubs this week and we will start posting classes on September 20th.

To catch up on spring classes, check out our Cherub playlist here

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL_NUr5JZJeHclb1jeWqGyqmwaArtP0Wd7

More information on the Junior Choir will be out next month but there are plans for the Junior Choir to rehearse over zoom and to do some virtual choirs. Susan will be in touch soon. See you at Virtual Church!

[Click Here](#) to watch our newest episode...

[Bored Pastor 9](#)



Just in case you missed any of the last episodes...

Just click on the "Titles" and enjoy the show!

[Bored Pastor 8](#)



[Bored Bear](#)



[Bored Pastor 7 Part 1: Divinity War](#)



[Bored Pastor 7 Part 2](#)



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



HAVE YOU VISITED THE NEW FIRST PARISH WEB SITE?

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

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

Search either service for *First Parish Saco*

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

