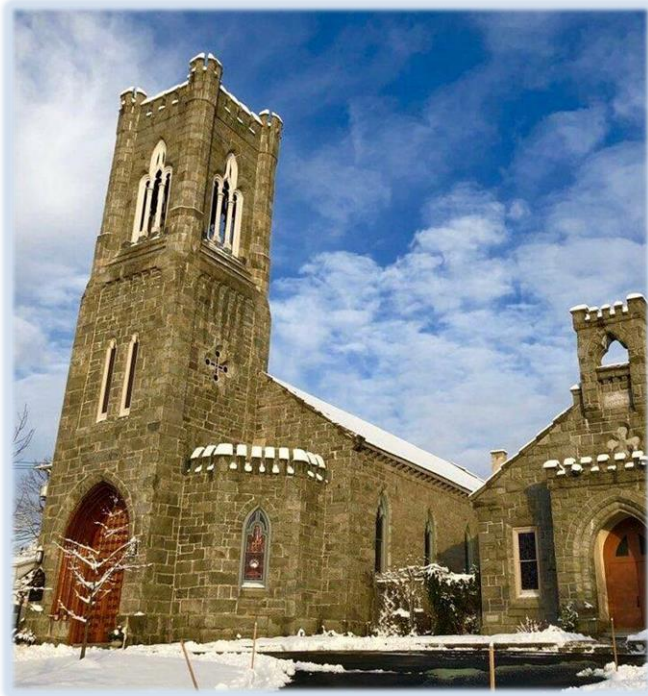


January 2021

# THE BEACON



## *First Church Congregational*

*United Church of Christ*

*26 Pleasant Street*

*Methuen, MA 01844-3199*

Telephone: (978) 687-1240

Rev. William D. Ingraham, Senior Pastor

[pastor.bill.ingraham@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.bill.ingraham@gmail.com)

Roberta Jurovich, Office Manager

[firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com)

[www.firstchurchmethuen.com](http://www.firstchurchmethuen.com)



## ***“GETTING PARSONAL”***

*Rev. William D. Ingraham*

I've decided on my New Year's resolution for 2021: to be grateful. My goal will be to live day by day, week by week, even moment by moment, with an attitude of gratitude. Even when things get difficult, when the days are dark and troubled, and my burdens (emotional or physical, social or professional) feel weighty – far too heavy for me to carry – I will strive to be grateful.

Many worthy contenders have presented themselves, vying for first place of 2021 resolutions. I've imagined goals for fitness and health, accompanied by resolutions for more vegetables, more fruits, less coffee, less sugar (*sugar!*), more strength training, more yoga. I've had thoughts of reading more intentionally through books I already own, plowing my way through piles of unread, well intentioned books that still pique my interest. Perhaps if I started with history, working my way through biographies and then on to fiction? And what about polishing-up on my Spanish? If only I could regain a good vocabulary, surely the grammar would all fall back into place.

All of those are worthy resolutions. I suspect each of them will play some role in my life in the coming year, especially through the next few, hopefully waning months of the pandemic. Yet the clear

winner, of all these and many other potential resolutions, is gratitude. As a start in what will be an exercise for the months ahead, I want to share some of the things for which I am grateful. Perhaps there will be overlap for you, too.

**I'm grateful for a life grounded in faith.** From the earliest days of my life, my parents raised me in an environment of faith in God, both at home and in church. Surrounded by disciples of Jesus Christ, I have always lived with an understanding of the love and compassion of God, and of our calling, as followers of Jesus, to walk in his ways, serving God and the world in all that we do, as best we can.

**I'm grateful that my faith evolves and grows.** The faith I cling to now is distinct from my faith as a child. I strive to live with an open mind and an open heart, sometimes succeeding, sometimes failing. And year after year, my understanding of divine love and compassion has grown, as has my capacity to express them in the world.

**I'm grateful for family and friends.** Though the pandemic keeps us physically distant from one another, we have maintained, even strengthened the bonds between us. We've been proactive about connecting, hearing, encouraging and supporting one another. I'm grateful for that beyond measure.

**I'm grateful to be part of the First Church Congregational family.** From our first days together, I have been blessed to share in life and ministry with you. I grieve the ways the pandemic has taken away (temporarily!) the in-person interactions that we all cherish. Yet we maintain a strong bond. Our faithfulness to God *and* to each other has seen us through, as it will continue to do, until we can physically gather again.

The rest of my list names things about our ministry for which I'm grateful.

**I'm grateful for the live broadcast of worship,** starting on the first Sunday of the pandemic. For months we used Stacey Murry's iPhone to broadcast from my office or the parsonage back yard. Then, through the generosity of our church, we acquired a state-of-the-art video broadcast system for our sanctuary. It took a while to work out the kinks, but we now have achieved a dependable, quality broadcast that has not only serves our church's members and friends, but also extends our reach to countless new people. I am especially grateful for Stacey Murray, Carol Sanborn and Pat Wright for their ongoing dedication to our live broadcast.

**I'm grateful for the Church Board,** and for the various committees, ministry teams and groups that have continued their work undaunted throughout the pandemic.

**I'm grateful for Roberta Jurovich,** our Office Manager, for all that she does for the church, for me and for Chapel School.

**I'm grateful for Chapel School,** for **Cindy Mazella's** dedication and leadership, and for the work of all of our teachers and staff. Together, they create and maintain a safe place for children to learn and grow.

**I'm grateful for the Methuen Tuesday Night Food Pantry,** and for all our church members who do so much to make it successful, volunteering, donating food and money. Through these tough economic times, addressing food insecurity is more important than ever.

**I am grateful for the faithfulness and generosity** of our members and friends. Pledges, offerings and gifts have remained steady from day one of the pandemic, assuring the financial stability of our church through this tenuous time.

And most of all, I'm **grateful for the love and support** we show one another through calls, texts, emails, cards, notes, zoom gatherings and even drop-by, socially distant visits.

Even with all of the struggles and pain, grief and loss, frustration and worry of these pandemic days, we have a lot to be grateful for. As we wait for vaccines to be broadly distributed, and long for the time our lives can regain a sense of normalcy and stability, I plan to cultivate gratitude for the many blessings of my life, and for a faith in God that will see me, *and all of us*, through to the other side.

Happy New Year!

Faithfully,

- *Bill*

\* \* \* \* \*

## ***Sunday Worship on Facebook Live & YouTube and Virtual Gatherings, via Zoom, during this time of social distancing.***

### **Sunday Morning Worship**



On Sunday mornings, starting at 10:00 AM, our weekly worship service can be seen on Facebook Live ([www.facebook.com/FirstChurchMethuen](http://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchMethuen)) and our YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLSjhXs9UG8yC89aB8evrA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLSjhXs9UG8yC89aB8evrA)). The service will also be available for viewing later on either service. An Order of Worship will be emailed out each Friday before the service.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Fellowship Time after Sunday Worship**

Fellowship Time will be held on Sunday mornings, starting at 11:15 AM, over Zoom, following the worship service above. A Zoom link will be provided via the Friday email to access this weekly gathering.



\* \* \* \* \*

### **Morning Coffee on Wednesday**



On **Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**, from 8:00 – 9:00 AM, join Pastor Bill and brew your own coffee or tea, grab a glass of orange juice or chocolate milk, for friendly fellowship and conversation. You can even eat your breakfast with us if you like! A Zoom link will be provided via a Tuesday email blast to access this gathering.

# Prayer Requests/List



We are going to start printing the Prayer List to be sent out with the Sunday "Order of Worship" bulletin on Fridays. To have someone included on the bulletin prayer list, please let Roberta, in the Church Office, know at 978-687-1240 or [firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com). No request is too big or too small! Thank you.

If you, or someone you know, is in need of a pastoral visit, please contact Rev. Ingraham at [pastor.bill.ingraham@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.bill.ingraham@gmail.com) or 978-687-1240.

\* \* \* \* \*

## IN CASE OF SNOW...

As we enter the snow season, please be advised that on weekdays, if school is cancelled, the church office will not be open. If a blizzard is predicted for a given Sunday, if there are any changes to the time of worship, or worship is cancelled, please check our church web page, [www.firstchurchmethuen.com](http://www.firstchurchmethuen.com) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen](http://www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen)).



Changes to worship will also be noted on Channel **WBZ-TV (Channel 4)**, **WBZ NewsRadio 1030**, **WCVB (Channel 5)**, [www.TheBostonChannel.com](http://www.TheBostonChannel.com), **WHDH (Channel 7)** or **The CW (Channel 56)** for cancellation notifications.



\* \* \* \* \*

## Calendar Updates?



Please help keep the church calendar current. Be sure to let Roberta know of any and all items that should go on the Church calendar. This is the only way the calendar can be kept current and up-to-date. Roberta can be reached at 978-687-1240 or [firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com).

*Thank you for your continued cooperation.*

# 2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2021 offering envelopes are available for those who have completed a pledge card for non-electronic gifts. Pledge cards and e-pledging forms are still available.



Please contact the Church Office know, at 978-687-1240 or [firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com), if you would like to receive some pledge envelopes. We can either mail them out, or arrange a time for you to pick-up.

*Thank you.*

\* \* \* \* \*



Take control of your money with **Financial Peace University**! This nine-lesson virtual class uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and make your money work for you!

You can sign up for this class and start your 14-day free trial of Financial Peace at [fpu.com/1128088](https://fpu.com/1128088). Class starts **Tuesday, January 12, 2021**. Contact Scott Sanborn with any questions.

\* \* \* \* \*



# *Stories of the Cross*

## ***A source of gratitude***

Several weeks ago, a nurse was reviewing their morning lists for things that I keep track of. Different tasks to perform... various duties to fulfill, and a list of patients to see at the local hospital. Suddenly, she recognized a name from a ways back. A dear friend and coworker of her mother's! They worked together for many years at an insurance company. She had met her a few times at the lake when she was visiting with her mother after they retired.

The nurse dropped by her room- all decked out in hat and mask. *"You probably don't remember me..."* the nurse started to say and she stopped her right away.

*"I know exactly who you are. You're my good friend's daughter!"*

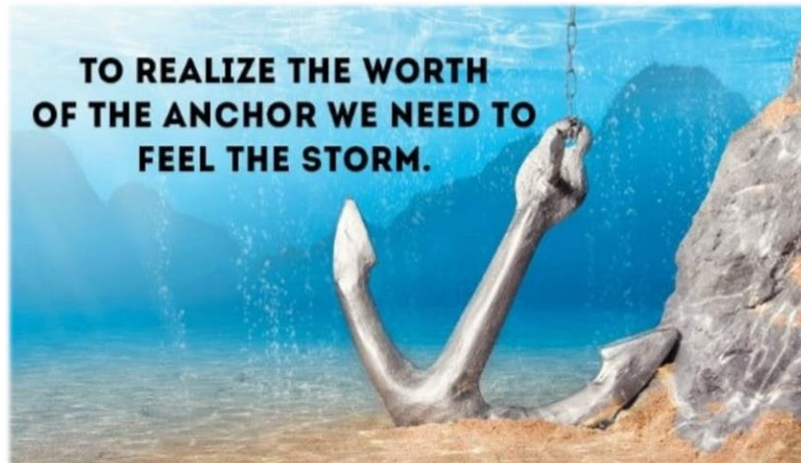
She couldn't believe she would remember her, at 94 years old, especially all covered up with personal protective gear. They had a wonderful conversation remembering 'old times' and it's always nice to see anyone that remembers your parents. She had been living in an assisted living facility and told me how isolating and lonely it was the past several months. The nurse had a cross in her pocket and offered it to her. Her eyes filled up. *"You are so much like your mother"*, she said, which is probably the highest compliment you can give her. The nurse checked on her a few days later and she had been discharged. She tries not to pass up chances to see people she knows in the hospital - You never know when they will be gone.

Last week, looking through the paper, she saw her obituary. She is still so grateful to have seen her and shared so many happy memories one last time.



*These stories of the cross are documented from true experiences related to a mission of First Church Congregational. We invite you to make your own experience through the simple act of sharing part of our faith through the cross. If you find a moment where they have made an impact on yourself or others, we invite you to share it with us anonymously. Please contact Josh Ferry for more information.*

## *From the Stewardship Ministry Team...*



I never thought this pandemic would have dragged on this long and affected so many lives around the world. I watch the news daily, and while there are stories of devastation and heartache, it is also filled with stories of love, compassion, hope and inspiration. The life of our church is a small microcosm of society; enduring some heartache at the loss of loved-ones this past year, devastation of a crumbling building, loneliness as a result of isolation, exhaustion in the daily grind of living, especially for those working in the professions of health care, teaching, parenting and care-giving. But there have also been incredible stories of love, compassion, hope and inspiration from our church family and friends. These have been documented countless times since March and I know everyone in our church family is grateful for what they have received.

Our Stewardship Campaign Theme this year was *Anchored in Faith*. We have shared a wide range of stories about how different people have felt anchored in their faith to our church family and friends in the past as well as in the present. Our church provides an anchor to which we cling to so that we can weather the storms that come before us. We have been holding on tight as individuals and as a community of faithful servants who still seek out ways to make this world a better place for others. As the caption states, "To realize the worth of the anchor we need to feel the storm." Everyone has felt the weight of this storm and we have asked that you pray and consider the worth of your anchor as you submit your yearly pledge for First Church.

A huge gratitude of thanks to those of you who already sent in your pledges. We continue to receive pledge cards each week in the mail so if you haven't yet done so, please make a trip to your mailbox with the self-addressed and stamped return envelope. **If you are an electronic giver**, you still need to fill out a new form, even if there is no change of information. If you've misplaced the pledge packet, please contact the church office and we will mail a new one to you. If you have any questions, please contact one of us on the Stewardship Ministry Team.

Stewardship Ministry Team:

*Kim Valcourt – chairperson, Rev. Bill Ingraham, Ken Peck, Marilyn Peck, Robyn Sliney, Glenn Sprague*

## *Ways to Donate*

If you would like to make a donation to any of the ministries of First Church, you can send a check to the Church Office and write the name of the ministry on the memo line. Also, we continue to make deposits every week and if you are able and not already committed to e-giving, there are several ways to continue your pledging:

- You can put a check in the mail with a note saying pledge income. The church address is:  
First Church Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
26 Pleasant Street  
Methuen, MA 01844-3119
- Click the Donate button on our Facebook page which goes to [www.firstchurchmethuen.com](http://www.firstchurchmethuen.com), then select More, then select Ways to Donate.
- You can use a phone app called **Vanco Give Plus**. Download the app onto your phone, search for our church (it falls under First Church Congregation) and then set up your profile and method of payment (you only need to set this up once).
- You can go to the end of the Beacon where it asks if you would like to make an electronic donation. Use your smart phone or table to scan the QR code (the black and white square image) and follow the prompts. If you would like your donation earmarked for a specific ministry you can let the church office know by calling or emailing and leaving a message (see email and phone number below).
- If you would like to change your pledge to an e-giving pledge you can contact the church office and ask for a form to be mailed to your house. The church number is 978-687-1240 or you can send an email to [firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com).

*Thank you!*

### **Anchored in Faith**



**Seeking God**



**Caring for Each Other**



**Improving Our Community**

## *From the Outreach Ministry Team*

### **Gifts to the Manger/Adopt a Child or Parent**

What a wonderful response we had this year to Gifts to the Manger. Our generous church family brought to the church **130 unwrapped presents**, for children ages 8 to 12, where Lori Bennett and Cindy Bateson packaged them up. They were delivered to Methuen Arlington Neighborhood (MAN), Inc. on December 10<sup>th</sup> for distribution to MAN children before Christmas. Also included with gifts were some mittens, hats and scarves.

Another way we helped MAN during this Christmas season was to adopt a child and or one of their parents. Our church family stepped up and **adopted 9 children and 2 of their parents**. They purchased items from the child's/parent's Christmas list, wrapped them, put them in a bag and brought them to the church. These bags were also delivered to MAN on December 10<sup>th</sup>. We thank everyone who brought Gifts to the Manger and adopted a child or parent. Your gifts will bring surprises and joy to MAN children and their parents on Christmas morning.

### **The Mitten Tree**

The Mitten Tree located in the church crossroads outside the Church Office has been beautifully decorated with warm mittens, hats and scarves. We thank everyone who donated items to the Mitten Tree. These items will be donated to children served by the Methuen Public Schools' Family Resource Center at 10 Ditson Place, Methuen. The Mitten Tree is a joint effort between the Outreach Ministry Team and the Chapel School.

### **2021 Souper Bowl of Caring**

Deb Maue Sprague and her team will be kicking off our 2021 Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. You will want to read her article in this issue of The Beacon to see what our Souper Bowl Challenge is this year and how the right and left sides of the church will compete for the coveted Souper Bowl Trophy. The cans of soup and cash raised will be donated to Neighbors in Need.

### **NIN Tuesday Evening Food Pantry**

On December 15, the NIN Food Pantry served 383 families. The previous week we served 393 families. We continue to need food donations as NIN is not always able to supply us with all the food we need to serve these families. We are grateful to those who continue to donate food to the Pantry.

The week between Christmas and New Year's NIN closes their food pantries so their staff can have a week of vacation. However, hunger does not take a vacation. As in past years our NIN Food Pantry will be open Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup> to provide food for those families who attend our Pantry.

**Outreach Team** – Marilyn Peck, Chair, Cindy Bateson, Ray Benedix, Cynthia Causbie, Barbara Donaghue, Deb MaueSprague, Ken Peck, Sherry Petrakis, and Becky Smith





# Gifts to the Manger



Thank you to all who donated to the **Gifts to the Manger**. All the gifts were delivered to the children and families at Methuen Arlington Neighborhood (MAN) Inc.



\* \* \* \* \*

The Annual Mitten Tree has long been a popular part of our Christmas celebration at First Church and is a joint effort between The Outreach Ministry Team and The Chapel School. And this year was no different! The tree was filled with lots of winter accessories donated by families from the Chapel School and First Church Congregational.



All donations of hats, scarves and mittens were given to the Methuen Public Schools Family Resource Center to be distributed to those in need of warm accessories.

*From the Outreach Ministry Team*



## 2021 Souper Bowl Challenge

Outreach invites you to participate in the 2021 Souper Bowl Challenge. This year we are committing to reaching a goal of 1500 cans of soup and raising \$500. All cans of soup and any cash raised during this year's Souper Bowl Challenge will go to Neighbors in Need food pantry.

In 2020, Team Left won the Souper Bowl Trophy but the score was so close that Team Left won by 2 cans (615 to 613). Will this be the year Team Right takes the trophy? Watch for the soup sales and get ready to bring your A game. Souper Bowl kick-off is January 10<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter) – get ready!!!!

Ray is going quackers this year over the new teams' challenge! This year we will be filling the pews with your smiling faces to give Pastor Bill has something to look at when he preaches on Sunday Mornings. For every 10 cans of soup or \$10 in Cash we will create a head shot and seat you in a pew. Watch the pews fill up each quarter as we add more faces. We may even fill the choir loft! We will share details on how the Souper Bowl Challenge will work in email blasts and bulletin announcements.

---

## 2021 Souper Bowl Challenge

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to 'First Church Congregational', write '**Souper Bowl**' on the memo line and return no later than Sunday, February 7.

Respectfully,  
Outreach Committee - Marilyn Peck, Chair, Cindy Bateson, Ray Benedix, Carolyn Casey, Cynthia Causbie, Barbara Donaghue, Deb MaueSprague, Ken Peck, Sherry Petrakis and, Becky Smith.



## *Random Acts of Kindness for January*

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*

~ Romans 12:2

We are fortunate to have received two submissions for our monthly Kindness column. Thank you to our readers for sharing their heartwarming stories.

- 1) Looking to decorate our home for Christmas with a lit-up snow man for our front porch, my husband and I searched to no avail to find one. Salespeople were explaining that the Christmas decorations have been "wiped out" early this year with so many people being home and able to decorate because of the Pandemic. But we found the perfect snowman in the form of a white Christmas tree with lights, a snowman head with a black top hat, a scarf, and a carrot nose, on display at one store. We asked a sales person if there were any left. She sent us to some shelving but said she thought they were all sold out. Lo and behold there was just one left. The box was high up and so heavy it required a strong, tall person to reach it and a carriage to get it to the register.

A woman noticing our plight, reached up, took the box down for us, put it in her own carriage along with her several selections and said *"Let's go - we will check out next to each other at the self-checkouts. Then I will bring it out to your car and put it in your trunk and that will make me happy as I try to do a good deed for someone each day of my life."*

It was a Merry Christmas moment and we hope to pass it on as a random act of kindness to somebody else.

- 2) I recently had an unexpected encounter with someone from my childhood, who I had seen only sporadically over the past years. As a child I would see him at large summer picnics, which I found overwhelming due to my shyness. He was always friendly towards me, making me feel more comfortable and included. I shared this memory and thanked him for his kindness, which occurred more than 50 years ago. He was clearly surprised and pleased that I had remembered and recounted his kindness all these years later. I think it made both our days!

As we start the new year, continue to show kindness, resolving to look for opportunities to spread to others even in small ways. Happy New Year!

These stories were submitted via [RAKatFCC@comcast.net](mailto:RAKatFCC@comcast.net)



## *From the Outreach Ministry Team*



### *Random Acts of Kindness for our Youth*

I want to start by thanking some of the youth for doing some of our Random Acts of Kindness. Thank-you to the children who are reading to their siblings, or helping with their baby brother when he loses his pacifier, and doing things around the house without being asked. Nice work!

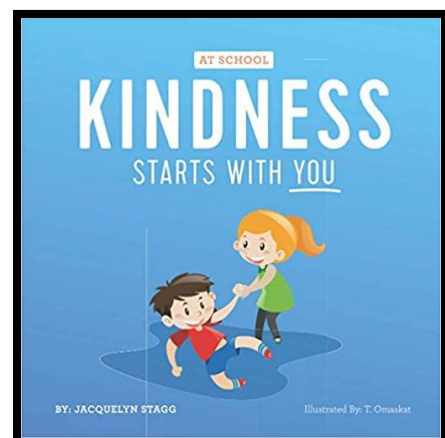
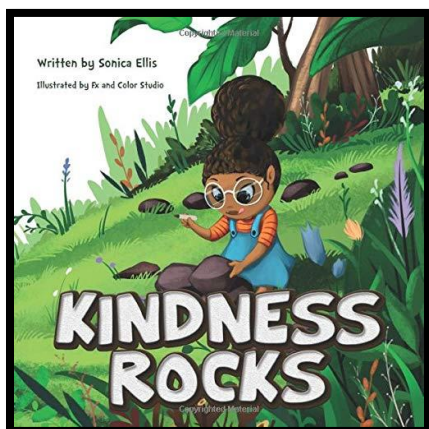
January is a time for new beginnings.

1. Start something new!
2. Say a special prayer for all those helping you during these very hard times.
3. Write a thank-you note to your Teacher.
4. Set the table
5. Feed the Birds
6. Make a Kindness rock or two. You may paint it, or just write a word on it. Whatever you would like. Save it, as we will want it for our Rock Garden.

During the next year, we have a fun project planned for all of you. It is very simple. We would like you all to spread a little bit of kindness. Each month for the following year, we will include some ideas to help us all focus on being kind and spreading Random Acts of Kindness or RAK.

For the youth we will continue with our focus on the book *"Kindness Rocks"*, by Sonica Ellis. If you cannot get the book, please let me know and we will make sure you have it. Parents, *"Kindness Rocks"* is a great book to get for the kids, so is *"Kindness Starts With You - At School"*, by Jacquelyn Stagg

Start small, it's a New Year and we have lots more to share during the upcoming year. We would love you to share examples of your kind acts, pictures, videos, or other things you are doing. Please send them to [RAKatFCC@comcast.net](mailto:RAKatFCC@comcast.net).



# Walking Group for Fitness and Fellowship

## Tuesdays in December

Bundle up and join us as we walk together for fitness and fellowship at the **Raymond J. Martin Riverside Park** along the Merrimack River in Methuen at **10:00 A.M.** on Tuesday mornings in January, weather permitting. We will continue to wear masks and maintain social distance. We will meet at the park at **10:00 AM** on **1/5, 1/12, 1/19, and 1/26**. The park is located on Riverside Drive at the end of Burnham Rd. All are welcome!

## Sunday Walk on the Methuen Rail Trail

Are you up for a winter walk on the rail trail? Join us on **Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM**, weather and conditions permitting. We will meet at the far end of the MSPCA parking lot, where we can access the Methuen Rail Trail. We will continue to wear masks and socially distance.



# Prayer Shawl Ministry



The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets year-round and always welcomes anyone who wishes to be part of this ministry. Knitting or crocheting experience is not a prerequisite to becoming a member. Come for the fellowship and someone will be glad to help you if needed. Please contact Anne Benedix or Carol Gray for more information.

We invite you to join us on Zoom, **Wednesdays from 1:30 - 3:30 PM.**

The Zoom link will be provided weekly to Prayer Shawl Ministry members. If you would like to attend, please email the Church Office at [firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com) for the link.



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*Original Artwork by Emily Jurovich*

# The Chapel School



Winter is upon us. The snow was a welcomed distraction considering the year we have had. Our one snow day thus far was a welcomed respite from the daily cleaning and sanitizing of the classrooms. We continue to stay safe and following all of our mandated protocols with the children.

Enrollment has gone up and down a bit, but we continue to receive inquiries. Tours of the school can be given after 2PM. We continue to enroll children even this late in the school year. For many families it is a tough decision to either keep their child at home or send them off to school. The children have been the best part of this pandemic. They are happy to be in school and with their friends. Having children their own age to learn with and play with is the foundation for their social/emotional skills. They cannot get that at home.

The parents have been so cooperative with their daily health screening sheets and keeping communication open about the health status of their households so that everyone can stay healthy and safe. Remote learning at this age is not an option so we are grateful that parents have put their trust in us.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be coming up this month. This will be done via Zoom or Face Time so that we can share the progress of each child with their parents. We look forward to that.

The Mitten Tree was full of beautiful hats, scarves and mittens this year. Hope you were able to see the pictures on Facebook. Thank You to everyone that rang the bell and dropped of a bag of warm items to add to the tree. We appreciate all you do to make this joint effort of Church and School such a huge success every year. Everything was packed up and brought to the Methuen Public Schools for distribution to the families and children that were in such need.

Chapel had its very own Festival of Trees displayed here in the lobby. Each child was sent home a 12 x 18 paper tree. Together with their families they decorated and created very unique trees. Not one tree was the same. We posted pictures for everyone to see. It made the lead up to Christmas fun as the children all were able to admire each other's creations.

Continue to be well and hopefully 2021 will be a new beginning for all of us. I've learned a few things along the way. From all the frustration of the past year it gave me time to realize that life itself is the most precious gift of all. We are all in this together and we need to take care of each other even when it's hard. Kindness and compassion doesn't cost a thing and paying it forward will find its way back to you in surprising ways.

*Cindy Mazella*  
Director

# The Chapel School

## Our Own Festival of Trees



## The Chapel School

*Where a Lifetime of Learning Begins*

**OPEN ENROLLMENT for the 2020-21 School Year**



- 2, 3 or 5 Day Preschool Programs
- For Children 2.9 - 5 Years Old
- Customizable Days to Fit your Needs
- Half Day and Lunch Bunch Options

**• Safe, Learning Environment for Everyone!**

- Low Student/Teacher Ratio
  - Affordable Rates
  - Non-Denominational
- Over 60 Years in Methuen!



**Contact us to schedule a tour today at  
978-689-8414 or**



**[chapelschoolmethuen@gmail.com](mailto:chapelschoolmethuen@gmail.com)**

**[www.chapelschoolmethuen.com](http://www.chapelschoolmethuen.com)**



*Located at:  
First Church Congregational  
26 Pleasant Street, Methuen*



# What's the REACH Ministry?



Do you know of someone facing surgery, recovering from surgery or living with a long-term illness? Do you know someone who has recently lost their job or could use financial support? Do you know someone who suffers from depression or is often down in the dumps around the holidays?

Maybe this person is you?

If so, we can help. Our new **REACH** Ministry wants to make sure that members of our community have a place to turn for support in their time of need. The term **REACH** stands for -- **R**eliable, **E**ngaging, **A**ble, **C**aring and **H**earfelt support.

Contact Judi Boyko or Pat King for more information.

\* \* \* \* \*

## ***Need Financial Help?***

If you, or another member of First Church you know, is need of some temporary financial assistance, please contact Rev. Ingraham at [pastor.bill.ingraham@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.bill.ingraham@gmail.com) or 978-687-1240.

Due to the generosity of Thomas Longworth, through his estate plan, there are some funds available for short term financial assistance of our members.

\* \* \* \* \*

## ***Would you like to make an electronic donation to the church?***



Use your smart phone or tablet by scanning this QR code!

Or visit our website at [www.firstchurchmethuen.com](http://www.firstchurchmethuen.com) and click the "Ways to Donate" page.

*Thank you for your support.*

# Methuen Tuesday Night Food Pantry Thanksgiving Dinners 2020





***Thank you to all who helped make this year a success!***

Donations of food and money for the Methuen Tuesday Night Food Pantry  
can be dropped off at First Church on:  
Wednesdays from 2:30 - 4:00 PM & Saturdays from 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM.



## Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

### Daily Lectionary Scripture References -January 2021 (Year B)

**Fri., Jan. 1**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13  
Psalm 8  
Revelation 21:1-6a  
Matthew 25:31-46

**Sat., Jan. 2**

Psalm 148  
Proverbs 1:1-7  
James 3:13-18

**Sun., Jan. 3**

*Second Sunday after Christmas*  
Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12  
Psalm 98 or Wisdom 10:15-21  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

**Mon., Jan. 4**

Psalm 110  
Proverbs 3:1-12  
James 4:11-17

**Tues., Jan. 5**

Psalm 110  
Proverbs 22:1-9  
Luke 6:27-31

**Wed., Jan. 6**

*Epiphany of the Lord*  
Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12

**Thurs., Jan. 7**

Psalm 29  
1 Samuel 3:1-21  
Acts 9:10-19a

**Fri., Jan. 8**

Psalm 29  
1 Samuel 16:1-13  
1 Timothy 4:11-16

**Sat., Jan. 9**

Psalm 29  
1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12  
Luke 5:1-11

**Sun., Jan. 10**

*Baptism of the Lord*  
Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11

**Mon., Jan. 11**

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36  
Genesis 17:1-13  
Romans 4:1-12

**Tues., Jan. 12**

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36  
Exodus 30:22-38  
Acts 22:2-16

**Wed., Jan. 13**

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36  
Isaiah 41:14-20  
John 1:29-34

**Thurs., Jan. 14**

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
Judges 2:6-15  
2 Corinthians 10:1-11

**Fri., Jan. 15**

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
Judges 2:16-23  
Acts 13:16-25

**Sat., Jan. 16**

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Samuel 2:21-25  
Matthew 25:1-13

**Sun., Jan. 17**

*Second Sunday after the Epiphany*  
1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

**Mon., Jan. 18**

Psalm 86  
1 Samuel 9:27—10:8  
2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1

**Tues., Jan. 19**

Psalm 86  
1 Samuel 15:10-31  
Acts 5:1-11

**Wed., Jan. 20**

Psalm 86  
Genesis 16:1-14  
Luke 18:15-17

**Thurs., Jan. 21**

Psalm 62:5-12  
Jeremiah 19:1-15  
Revelation 18:11-20

**Fri., Jan. 22**

Psalm 62:5-12  
Jeremiah 20:7-13  
2 Peter 3:1-7

**Sat., Jan. 23**

Psalm 62:5-12  
Jeremiah 20:14-18  
Luke 10:13-16

**Sun., Jan. 24**

*Third Sunday after the Epiphany*  
Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:5-12  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

**Mon., Jan. 25**

Psalm 46  
Genesis 12:1-9  
1 Corinthians 7:17-24

**Tues., Jan. 26**

Psalm 46  
Genesis 45:25—46:7  
Acts 5:33-42

**Wed., Jan. 27**

Psalm 46  
Proverbs 8:1-21  
Mark 3:13-19a

**Thurs., Jan. 28**

Psalm 111  
Deuteronomy 3:23-29  
Romans 9:6-18

**Fri., Jan. 29**

Psalm 111  
Deuteronomy 12:28-32  
Revelation 2:12-17

**Sat., Jan. 30**

Psalm 111  
Deuteronomy 13:1-5  
Matthew 8:28—9:1

**Sun., Jan. 31**

*Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*  
Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28



## **JANUARY**

04 Deborah MaueSprague  
06 Cathy Gable  
07 Janet Towler  
09 Nicolette Jurovich  
10 Roberta Barlow  
13 Richard Schubert  
17 William Ingraham  
21 Jennifer Allaire, Makayla Berg  
23 Melanie Conner-Myers  
26 Carolyn Gill  
28 Seth Pare  
29 Anastasia Yarid

## **FEBRUARY**

01 JJ Silva  
03 Christopher Brown  
04 Lynn Dewhirst, George King  
05 Joseph Yarid  
07 Roberta Jurovich

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## **JANUARY**

1/6 Robert & Susan Newton

Married 42 years

 <h1>January 2021</h1> 						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Virtual Worship Service</b> <i>Sundays at 10:00 AM</i> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen">www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen</a>	<b>NOTE:</b> All meetings are held via Zoom – contact Chair for more information					2
<b>3 Communion</b> <i>Questions for the Pastor</i> 11:15 AM Fellowship	4 4:00 PM Chapel Staff 6:30 PM Finance	5 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park)	6 8:00 AM Morning Coffee 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM Church Board	7	8	9
10 11:15 AM Fellowship	11 6:30 PM Outreach	12 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) Financial Peace University	13 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Diaconate	14	15	16
17 11:15 AM Fellowship 12:00 PM Walking Group (Methuen Rail Trail)	<b>18 MLK Day</b> <i>National Day of Service</i> Chapel School Closed 6:30 PM Stewardship	19 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) Financial Peace University	<b>20 February</b> <b>BEACON deadline</b> 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM MDCC	21	22	23
24 11:15 AM Fellowship	25	26 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) Financial Peace University	27 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl	28	29	30
	31					

Dates and times are subject to change

*First Church Congregational*  
*United Church of Christ*  
*26 Pleasant Street*  
*Methuen, MA 01844-3199*

**Address Service Requested**