

May 2021




May 15-22, 2021
See Pages 10-12
for more information

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

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firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com

Website: www.firstchurchmethuen.com



“GETTING PARSONAL”

Rev. William D. Ingraham

It has been a relief to see the vaccination rates going up across our country. Opening up eligibility to everyone 16 years old or older is a significant accomplishment. And though the Covid-19 infection rates have not dropped as much as we would like to see, the numbers are going down, as are hospitalizations and deaths. I am grateful for that.

Fully vaccinated myself, I have found some freedom returning to my life both personally and professionally. In the past several weeks I have had a handful of visits with vaccinated church families, and a few meetings with individuals for pastoral care. I even got to visit someone briefly in the hospital. The things I like most about my work – being with *people!* – are starting to come back. I have also been able to return to the gym. I am now swimming almost every day, dutifully wearing my mask everywhere but in the pool or shower. I have had a couple of dinners in the homes of close friends and have even eaten inside a restaurant a handful of times. And I am looking forward to my first little vacation, a few days on Mount Desert Island in Maine at the end of May.

Of course, the pandemic is nowhere near over yet. I am concerned for those who have not yet been able to get vaccinated, and for those resistant to getting vaccinated. I pray we will have enough

vaccinations for all of us can be safe, and for the huge waves of serious illness and deaths caused by this virus to come to an end.

And then, there is the rest of the world. Our hearts break for the news of the ongoing ravages of the Coronavirus in other places, especially in distant lands like India and Brazil. I have friends in both places, and other friends with family members and loved ones there. I hold them daily in my heart and in my prayers, checking in on them and their families. No doubt equally horrible conditions, if not worse, confront people in other parts of the world, places about which news never reaches us.

I pray that researchers, healthcare workers and governments will continue making strides in preventative measures, effective treatment of infections and the global distribution of vaccines. Across all of our differences in geography, language, political system, race, economic status or creed, we are one human family. We are all in this together. Wherever infections rage unchecked, new variants can develop. Until we have things under control everywhere, none of us will be truly safe anywhere.

Yet we are grateful for the progress we are making here at home. The time has come for us to begin moving toward a return to in-person gatherings. Our Church Board has been reviewing a plan for reopening the church for public worship since the early days of the pandemic. Paying careful attention to the procedures established by the CDC, the regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the best practices recommendations of the UCC, we are nearing the time when the plan for reopening public worship can begin to be put into action.

We will evolve worship from our present, virtual only service to a new, hybrid service that has both online and in person participants every week. Our return to the sanctuary will come in stages. We first will be able to welcome a smaller number of vaccinated participants, all by reservation. Over time, as vaccinations and infection rates continue to trend in the right direction, we will increase the number of participants. We *hope* to be able to be fully open, able to welcome all who wish to come, in September 2021. Of course, that is only a goal at present. We will know better what we are able to do as we live into the coming months. And you will be kept fully apprised of our plans each and every step along the way.

For a while, worship will feel very different for those participating in the sanctuary. A number of safety protocols will need to be observed, beginning with how we enter and exit the building. We will all be wearing masks. Those in the sanctuary will need to refrain from saying unison prayers, nor will they be allowed to sing. It also may be a while before we can pass the offering plates, or before people in the sanctuary can participate in communion. Of course, we will continue to have all of these elements of the service lead by assigned people in worship for the benefit of both the in person and the online participants.

We will provide you much more information about our plan for returning to the sanctuary at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 23rd at 11:00 AM. Please plan to join us! Annual reports will be made available early in May in an emailed PDF. Printed copies will be available upon request.

It has been a long and remarkable journey for us since this same time last year. We have accomplished so much together and have grown stronger in faith and love as a result. We stand well positioned to move into our future together, reestablishing how work and worship, love and live, laugh and serve, together, as a community of faith. I am eager to live through these coming days, months and years with you, and to see what blessings God has instore for us, and for the world!

See you soon!

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) and our YouTube channel (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.

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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.



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Morning Coffee on Wednesday



On **Wednesday, May 5th**, 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.

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WARRANT

First Church Congregational

United Church of Christ

292ND ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 23, 2021

The 292nd Annual Meeting of First Church Congregational, Methuen, Massachusetts, will be held using Zoom, at 11:00 am, on Sunday, May 23, 2021. Business to be conducted at the Annual Meeting is outlined below.

1. Welcome and Call to Order by the Chair of the Board ~ Steve Boyko
2. Opening Prayer and Necrology ~ Rev. William D. Ingraham
3. Old Business
 - Review of Minutes of the May 31, 2020, Annual Meeting
 - Board Report
 - Pastor's Report
 - Treasurer's Report
4. New Business
 - Adoption of 2021-22 Budget
 - Nominating Committee Report
 - Election of Officers
 - Other Business
5. Closing Prayer and Benediction ~ Rev. Ingraham
6. Call for Adjournment ~ Steve Boyko

Kathy Romano
Church Board Secretary

Note: The Zoom link will be the same as the Sunday Fellowship link that is emailed out on the Friday before the meeting.

Weekly Bulletin Prayer List

We print a Prayer List within each Sunday "Order of Worship" bulletin. 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. 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 or 978-687-1240.

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Methuen Tuesday Night Food Pantry



Donations of food and/or money can be brought to First Church parking lot on:

- Wednesdays from 2:30 – 4:00 PM
- Saturdays from 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

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Sunday, May 9th

From the Outreach Ministry Team

Mental Health Awareness Sunday

With Mental Health Sunday, April 25th, First Church once again affirmed its commitment to open, frank discussion of mental health and substance use disorders. Our first speaker, ***Cole Welch Caffrey***, a Methuen native and woman in long term recovery, shared her personal story of mental health and substance abuse beginning at age 7. She detailed the negative ways it impacted all aspects of her life and that of her family. On October 16, 1987, she committed to long term recovery and has been sober ever since. She offered hope and much information on community resources available to individuals and families dealing with mental health and substance abuse issues. She herself has helped many people work through these issues.

Our second speaker, ***Doug Griffin***, spoke from the point of view of a parent whose 20 year old daughter, Courtney, died of an overdose in 2014. At that point in time addiction was not viewed as a disease, but as a moral failure, and treatment was not covered by insurance. Courtney's issues began when her family moved to a new community, and she did not fit in because she was viewed as a fat third grader.

Doug said people take drugs to feel normal. Addiction is a "family disease." When there is a person with substance abuse disorder, their addiction and subsequent behavior touch the whole family with untold heartbreak as well as guilt and shame. The stigma of substance abuse impacts the addict as well as their family. Should the addict die, their family often becomes isolated because people don't know what to say or how to relate to them. We have seen this in our local communities. Doug encouraged us as a church and as individuals to reach out to people in these situations.

If you did not see the ***Mental Health Sunday service***, we encourage you to go on First Church's Facebook page or on YouTube and watch it. There is a lot of good information and resources contained in it. Also, there is information on how to contact each of our speakers in the service. They are very willing to speak with anyone.

Virtual 2021 "Stride into the Light" Walk-Run

Have you registered yet for our ***Stride into the Light 5K Walk-Run?*** If not, please do so! It will be a VIRTUAL event this year that you complete on your own time, any time within the week of ***Saturday, May 15 through, Saturday 22.*** There is more detailed information in this issue of the *Beacon*. This Walk-Run is one more way we as a church can raise awareness of mental health issues, especially suicide prevention. Proceeds from this year's virtual walk-run will go directly to Family Services' Samaritans of Merrimack Valley, located in Lawrence, MA. We hope you will send pictures of your running/walking to Roberta so we can share them in the *Beacon*.

Common Cathedral

Common Cathedral in Boston keeps homeless people fed physically and spiritually. This is especially needed during the Pandemic. On Sunday, June 27th, the Bennett Family supported by a small group of First Church members will be providing ***150 brown paper bag lunches*** including sandwiches, chips, fruit, a snack and water to the Boston Common Cathedral. Due to the Pandemic they will just drop off the lunches and there will be no socializing as has been done in the past.

Hike for Hope 2021 Challenge

Lazarus House Ministries has a **3 part challenge** for their 2021 Hike for Hope, Saturday, May 22 and Sunday May, 23, 2021, to support their Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry. Their Challenge includes a 5KWalk/Run, a Food Drive, and a Fundraiser. Becky Smith has set up a **First Church Methuen team** for the 5KWalk/Run. She invites everyone to join her. Details for each of these activities can be found online at **Hike for Hope 2021 Challenge**

From the Outreach Ministry Team

Random Acts of Kindness for May

Rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn.

~ Romans 12:15

May is the month to celebrate the spring in New England and to prepare for graduations, weddings, and summer vacations that have been dreamed about for these past many months. Let us rejoice with all those who rejoice. We are heartened by the thoughts of normalcy, backyard barbecues, and a multitude of hugs with those we hold dear.

But May is also the month for remembrance, thinking of the many souls lost protecting our country and way of life. Many people, some who had not yet become citizens, have stepped up in times of need, and far too many have paid the ultimate sacrifice. And we mourn the precious souls lost to COVID, hoping that the danger and stress of dealing with this relentless disease are thankfully in our past. Please remember them always.

May we also pay special thanks for the kindness of the people who have stepped forward to be part of the food pantry. This group of warriors shows up every Tuesday, led by their intrepid leader, Ken Peck. He works tirelessly every day to procure and supply food to those in need in our community. The volunteers supporting him provide hours of hard work to make his vision a reality. They come from many surrounding communities, realizing that their commitment makes a huge difference in the lives of the pantry's clients. Their dedication is not for fame or glory, but merely for the satisfaction that they have made a difference. Thanks to all who have been part of this amazing ministry, and thanks to all who have made the important and much appreciated donations of food and money.

Finally, some thoughts as the warm weather approaches. Please be mindful of friends and neighbors and try to find ways to extend a helping hand, offering kindness and support. Remember that listening to someone who just needs to talk, and then really hearing what they are saying can be the best gift to offer. And as a country and community, our collective strength comes from unity not division, and that respect for differences of opinion is a core strength of our democracy.





Random Acts of Kindness for our Youth

It has been more than a year since we were asked not to be going out and not doing things we would normally do. Wear a mask and stay 6 feet apart.

It has been hard, but many of you have said that you have realized more of the little things that life has for us. Enjoyed extra family time, taking outside trips, being more creative, and learning how we can still have fun in a different way. With the nice weather approaching, hopefully you can get outside and celebrate it. Remember how blessed you have been. Please continue to pray for all those helping you during these very hard times. If you are able here are some acts of kindness for May.

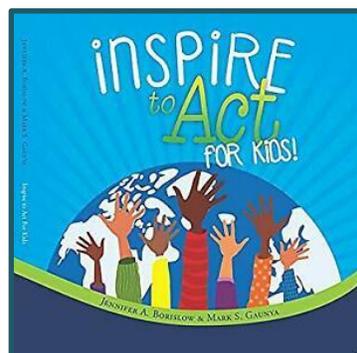
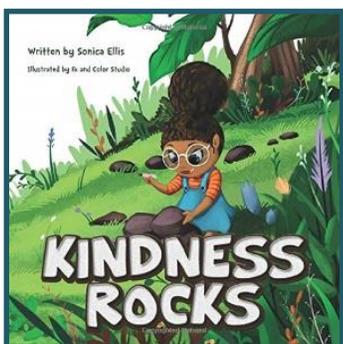
1. Bring can goods to the church to help all those in need of food.
2. Go outside and enjoy the extra daylight. Make a list of things that are beginning to come to life.
3. Count your blessings and be ready to share some of them next month.
4. Make a Kindness rock or two. You may paint it, or just write a word on it. Whatever you would like. Save it, as we will want it for our Church Rock Garden.

Let us continue to spread a little bit of kindness. For the youth, we will begin with our focus on the book "*Kindness Rocks*", by Sonica Ellis. A few other books for this month you might like are "*Inspire to Act FOR KIDS*" by Jennifer A. Borislów and Mark S. Gaunya, and "*Kindness starts with You - At School*" by Jacquelyn Stagg

If you cannot get the books, please let me know and we will make sure you have it.

Be safe.

Blessings,
Mrs. B



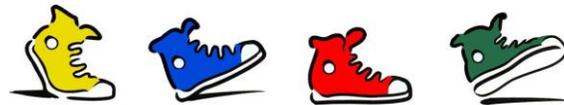
Walking Group for Fitness and Fellowship

Tuesdays in May

Come join us on Tuesday mornings for walks along the Merrimack River at Riverside Park in Methuen. Enjoy good conversation and the beauty of the river as we get some exercise. We will be walking at 10:00 AM on **5/4, 5/11, 5/18 and 5/25**. We will continue to wear masks and maintain social distance.

Sunday Walk on the Methuen Rail Trail

Our May walk on the Rail Trail will be on **Sunday, May 16th at 12:00 noon**. This month we will be walking 5 kilometers (3.1 miles) for those of us registered for the *Stride into the Light 5K*. Please join us! We will meet at the far end of the Nevins MSPCA parking lot, where we can access the Methuen Rail Trail. We will continue to wear masks and socially distance.



STRIDE INTO THE LIGHT

VIRTUAL
5K WALK
OR
RUN

YOUR PLACE. YOUR PACE.
MAY 15-22, 2021



Please join us for our 6TH Annual Event!
REGISTER ONLINE: www.StrideIntoTheLight.com

The Stride Into the Light 5K Walk-Run is a fun community event, open to anyone looking to help support those that struggle daily with mental health conditions and in need of unconditional support.

All proceeds from this year's VIRTUAL Walk-Run will be donated locally, directly to Family Services' Samaritans of Merrimack Valley, located in Lawrence, MA.

Although we would prefer to gather as a community, we ask you to participate in this year's VIRTUAL Stride by running or walking a 5K of your choice, from 5/15/21 - 5/22/21.

We look forward to Striding with you!

Contact:

Kerri Bedard (Bennett)
Committee Chair
978-764-8131
StrideIntoTheLight@yahoo.com

Registration Fee:

Adults: \$35.00 + service fee
18 & Under: \$25.00 + service fee

2021 UPDATES

STRIDE INTO THE LIGHT

After a year of uncertainty, it is more important than ever to focus on Mental Health Awareness in our community - and continue to reach out in any way we can. This May we want to continue our annual Stride tradition with a **VIRTUAL** Stride into the Light 5K Walk-Run! We ask you to participate to spread the word on mental health awareness.

As the world continues to pivot and evolve due to the impacts of COVID-19, many have been faced personally with new levels of stress and anxiety. During the pandemic, about 4 in 10 adults in the U.S. have reported symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder, a share that has been largely consistent, up from 1 in 10 adults who reported these symptoms from January to June 2019. As the pandemic impact wears on, we want to encourage people to talk about mental health issues, especially suicide prevention, which is the reason we began Stride.

We have decided to donate all proceeds from this year's **VIRTUAL** Walk-Run locally, directly to Family Services' Samaritans of Merrimack Valley, located in Lawrence, MA.

The Samaritans of Merrimack Valley, a program of Family Services of the Merrimack Valley, is a nonprofit social services organization dedicated to helping vulnerable children and families reach their full potential. Samaritans strive to reduce the incidence of suicide in the Merrimack Valley and throughout Massachusetts by providing "befriending" to individuals who are lonely, depressed and contemplating suicide or self-injury. Suicide prevention is one of the primary goals of the Samaritans, although services also include postvention services, trainings and seminars, and support groups.

Year after year, our hope is that Stride Into the Light will be one more step towards making it easier for people to openly discuss mental health issues and work towards improved methods of treatment. We ask you to join us and encourage your family and friends to join you in this year's **Virtual** Stride Event to support open conversation about mental health issues.

Although we would prefer to gather as a community, we ask you to participate in this year's **VIRTUAL** Stride by running or walking a 5K of your choice, from Saturday May 15th through Saturday, May 22nd! And then - join the online community by posting your time and photos to your social media outlets!

Thank you again, we look forward to Striding with you! Your involvement is critical to spreading the word about mental health and suicide prevention and raising money to support these causes, especially during this Pandemic time.

As I expect many of our Friends and Family to still have Questions – please feel free to reach out! The following page has listed some *anticipated* Questions that you may have initially. As our team pivoted to ensure we hosted an Event this year, even virtual, we still have many questions of our own!

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

With Stride, Kerri Bedard (Bennett)
Questions? Call or Email!
978-764-8131 or StrideIntoTheLight@yahoo.com



Anticipated FAQ

Due to the unexpected impacts of COVID-19 over the past year, we do have some changes this year, hopefully only temporary!

1. What is a VIRTUAL Walk-Run?

A Virtual Walk-Run is a race that you can run, walk, treadmill, or bike at any time from anywhere. Sign Up either as a Walker or Runner, within the appropriate age group, and then complete your 5K at your location of choice!

2. Why does the Website look different?

This year we are utilizing a different Website platform, to avoid additional costs now associated with our former platform. We will reevaluate this set up after 2021.

3. I only want to Donate – where is the Donation Page?

This year's platform does not provide as many options as we have had previously – in particular it means that all contributions to the 2021 Event will be done through "Ticket" Sales. Each option will be labeled with a specific type of Registration option. I.e: Walker or Runner, Donation Option, Sponsorship Options.

4. I don't want to Donate online – is there another way to support this event?

YES! If you have previously donated OFFLINE to this cause, and would like to do so again, please contact us!

5. Will I still receive my customary T-shirt?

Out of an abundance of respect to our community partners and small businesses, we have opted out of soliciting their support this year, as they continue to be impacted. Due to this – we will NOT be providing a customary t-shirt for Walker/Runner registrants. We hope to have an alternative option! Stay Tuned!

6. Can I still share this Event with Friends & Family?

Yes! Although we will not be formally meeting in person, our goal still remains the same! Please continue to share our event so we can continue to make Strides in the Mental Health awareness community!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

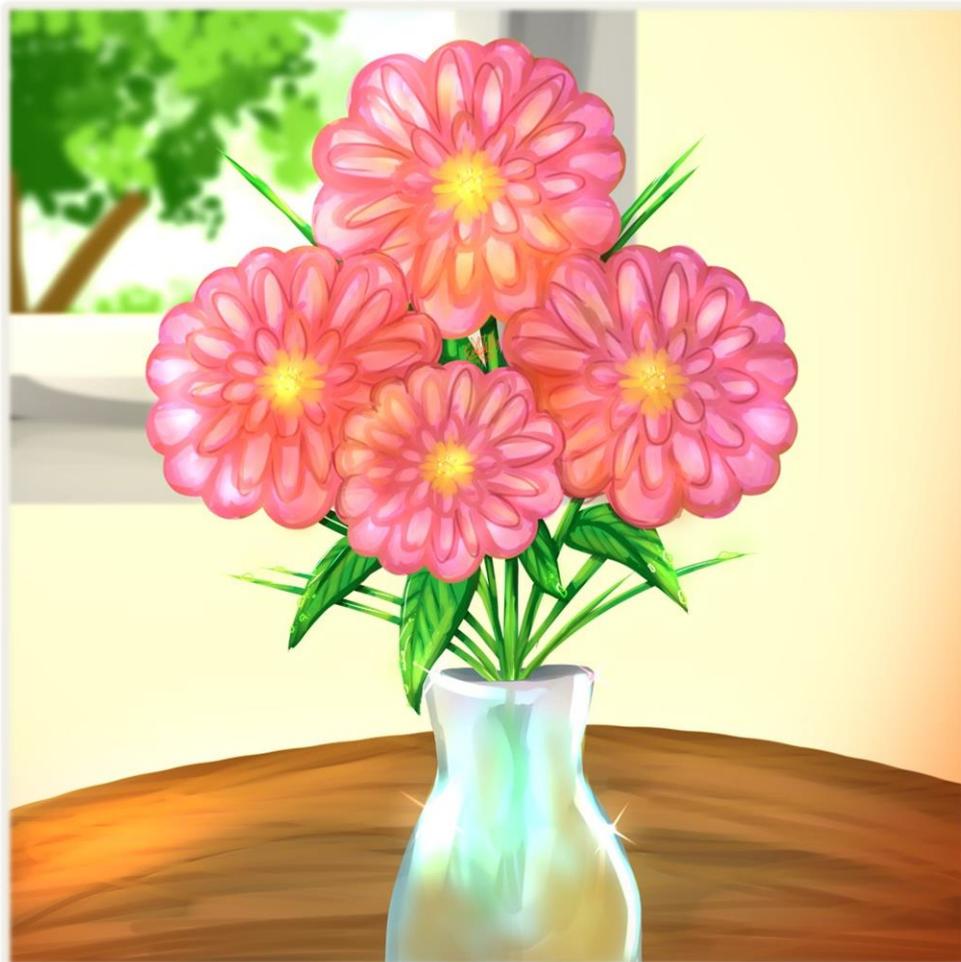
The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets year-round and always welcomes anyone who wishes to be part of this ministry. Knitting or crocheting experience is not a prerequisite to becoming a member. Come for the fellowship and someone will be glad to help you if needed. Please contact Anne Benedix or Carol Gray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



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Original Artwork by Emily Jurovich

The Chapel School



Spring is trying to shed its winter breezes. The children don't seem to mind especially when it comes to playing outside on the playground. They love to be outside in the fresh air, running around and just having fun. Fresh air keeps us all healthy and never more so than now. Masks will continue to be part of our daily lives as we still live with Covid but being able to take off the masks during outdoor play time is good thing.

Upcoming events include our annual Art Show. It will be virtual on Facebook again. We hope to have it on the site by the end of May.

School Pictures will be taken Wednesday, May 5th and Thursday, May 6th. Steve Alfano, from PortraitEfx, will set up outside next to the playground to capture those adorable smiles. It should be a fun two days.

The children will be potting flowers for Mother's Day on Thursday, May 6th and Friday, May 7th. This annual tradition continues so that every child can present their Mom with a flowering plant for her special day.

The last day of school will be Friday, June 11th. We look forward to a fun last day of activities, diplomas, and pizza. It will be a great send off for the Summer and especially for the children that will be going off to Kindergarten in the Fall.

Enrollment continues over the Summer months. Remember to recommend Chapel to family and friends that are searching for a Preschool Program.

Cindy Mazella
Director



The Chapel School

Where a Lifetime of Learning Begins

REGISTER NOW for the 2021-22 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

chapelschoolmethuen@gmail.com



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 **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.

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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 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.

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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 and click the "Ways to Donate" page.

Thank you for your support.



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References –May 2021 (Year B)

Sat., May. 1

Psalm 22:25-31
Amos 9:7-15
Mark 4:30-32

Sun., May. 2***Fifth Sunday of Easter***

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

Mon., May. 3

Psalm 80
Isaiah 5:1-7
Galatians 5:16-26

Tues., May. 4

Psalm 80
Isaiah 32:9-20
James 3:17-18

Wed., May. 5

Psalm 80
Isaiah 65:17-25
John 14:18-31

Thurs., May. 6

Psalm 98
Isaiah 49:5-6
Acts 10:1-34

Fri., May. 7

Psalm 98
Isaiah 42:5-9
Acts 10:34-43

Sat., May. 8

Psalm 98
Deuteronomy 32:44-47
Mark 10:42-45

Sun., May. 9***Sixth Sunday of Easter***

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

Mon., May. 10

Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 7:1-11
1 Timothy 6:11-12

Tues., May. 11

Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 11:1-17
1 Timothy 6:13-16

Wed., May. 12

Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 11:18-21
Mark 16:19-20

Thurs., May. 13***Ascension of the Lord***

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

Fri., May. 14

Psalm 47
Exodus 24:15-18
Revelation 1:9-18

Sat., May. 15

Psalm 47
Deuteronomy 34:1-7
John 16:4-11

Sun., May. 16***Seventh Sunday of Easter***

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

Mon., May. 17

Psalm 115
Exodus 28:29-38
Philippians 1:3-11

Tues., May. 18

Psalm 115
Numbers 8:5-22
Titus 1:1-9

Wed., May. 19

Psalm 115
Ezra 9:5-15
John 16:16-24

Thurs., May. 20

Psalm 33:12-22
Genesis 2:4b-7
1 Corinthians 15:42b-49

Fri., May. 21

Psalm 33:12-22
Job 37:1-13
1 Corinthians 15:50-57

Sat., May. 22

Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 15:6-11
John 7:37-39

Sun., May. 23***Pentecost***

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel
37:1-14
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-
21
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Mon., May. 24

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Joel 2:18-29
1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Tues., May. 25

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Genesis 11:1-9
1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Wed., May. 26

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Ezekiel 37:1-14
John 20:19-23

Thurs., May. 27

Psalm 29
Isaiah 1:1-4, 16-20
Romans 8:1-8

Fri., May. 28

Psalm 29
Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 8:9-11

Sat., May. 29

Psalm 29
Isaiah 5:15-24
John 15:18-20, 26-27

Sun., May. 30***Trinity Sunday***

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

Mon., May. 31

Psalm 99
1 Samuel 2:11-17
Romans 9:19-29

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Happy Birthday!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Susan Newton
- 05 Robyn Sliney
- 18 Colin White
- 24 Jennifer Dockham
- 25 Amy Kunicki
- 31 Ethan Bennett

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Tosh Napier
- 03 Stephen Boyko, June Clark
- 04 Frank Michaels
- 05 Donna Zacharias
- 06 Cindy Bateson

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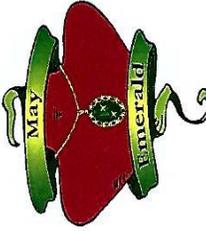
MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5/21 Richard & Lynn Dewhirst

Married 32 years

May 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Virtual Worship Service <i>Sundays at 10:00 AM on Facebook Live</i> www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen	NOTE: All meetings are held via Zoom – Contact Committee Chair for more information					1
2 Communion 11:15 AM Fellowship	3 6:30 PM Finance	4 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 5:30 – 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	5 8:00 AM Morning Coffee 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM Church Board	6	7	8
9 Mother's Day 11:15 AM Fellowship	10 4:00 PM Chapel Staff 6:30 PM Outreach	11 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 5:30 – 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	12 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Diaconate	13	14	15 Stride into the Light Virtual 5K Begins
16 11:15 AM Fellowship 12:00 PM Walking Group (Methuen Rail Trail)	17 6:30 PM Stewardship	18 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 5:30 – 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	19 June BEACON Deadline 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM MDCC	20	21	22 Stride into the Light Virtual 5K Ends
23 11:00 AM Annual Meeting	24  Memorial Day	25 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 5:30 – 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	26 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl	27	28	29
11:15 AM Fellowship 30	31					

Dates and Times Subject to Change

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

Address Service Requested