

June 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

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firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com



www.firstchurchmethuen.com



“GETTING PARSONAL” *Rev. William D. Ingraham*

Finally, we have come to the moment we have eagerly anticipated from mid-March last year: resuming public worship in the sanctuary of our church. *Hallelujah!* Beginning on Sunday, June 6th, we will open the church for worshippers. Beginning with a limited number of worshippers, with safety precautions in place, our goal is to be able to welcome everyone with no restrictions by mid-September.

Who gets to participate? For the first few weeks, we will limit attendance to 50 people, all vaccinated. Reservations will be required. No later than July we will lift the vaccination requirement, and likely increase the number of worshippers, too. Our goal is ending all capacity restrictions by September.

How do I make a reservation? Reservations will be made online or by phone. An online link to make reservations will be sent out the Tuesday before the Sunday worship. If you do not have access to a computer, you can also call the church office at 978-687-1240. We will need the name and contact information for each worshipper in the event that contact tracing becomes necessary.

What restrictions will be in place in the building? Masks will be required, and we will ask everyone to hand sanitize as they enter. Except for people with mobility issues, everyone is asked to

enter through the front sanctuary doors and exit through the crossroads. Social distancing will be maintained both in the pews and when walking about. The doors will open at 9:30 AM.

What will worship be like? Initially we will use our pared-down service as it has evolved during the pandemic. Only designated singers will sing, though congregants are encouraged to hum along if they like. We also will not be passing offering plates or communion trays for the time being. Individually packaged communion elements will be distributed upon entry on communion Sundays.

What about the cameras? We will continue to broadcast worship live on Facebook each and every week, as well as posting a recording to YouTube afterward. The cameras are unobtrusive and will not disrupt your worship experience. But we all should keep in mind that the cameras do capture most everyone in the building at some point or another during the service.

When will these restrictions end? Our goal is to return to “life as per usual” as soon as it is reasonably possible. Though the Commonwealth is lifting restrictions rather rapidly, we have decided to proceed with intentional caution. Infection rates in our area are much improved, but still rather high. Likewise, there are a number of people (including children) who have yet to be vaccinated. The Board and staff are keeping close tabs on state and federal guidelines, infection and vaccination rates as well as recommended best practices from our denomination. The Board will revisit our policy at their monthly meetings.

I give thanks to God that this day has come. *Finally!* My heart has longed for us to be gathered together since week one of quarantine, as I suspect yours has, too. We have a way to go yet before everything is as we want it to be, for sure. But the process has begun. We are on our way. I am so very grateful.

Thank you in advance for your patience, and your faithfulness, as we live together through this process.

See you soon!

Faithfully,

~ *Bill*



Sunday Worship is Now Live! & on Facebook Live & YouTube

Sunday Morning Worship – LIVE!



On Sunday mornings, starting June 6th at 10:00 AM, our weekly worship service will be held LIVE, in person, for a limited amount of parishioners! Worship can also 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, June 2nd**, 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.



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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***The first day of summer is
Sunday, June 20th!***



From the Stewardship Committee...



We are finally moving forward, and it looks like we can now transition into a new “normal”. For Stewardship, that means taking stock of what we have, what we can contribute and what we have to offer to others with our time and talents. As we approach coming back together, I like to think of this as fitting each of our individual puzzle pieces together. We each bring something unique and special, and we have seen over and over, for many centuries that the masterpiece we make as we add our own piece to the puzzle, is quite grand.

During the Annual Meeting on May 23rd, I shared the results of our Stewardship Campaign. Our Theme was *Anchored in Faith* and throughout the last year 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. I once read, “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 submitted your yearly pledge to First Church.

The following are the results from this year’s pledge drive. A huge gratitude of thanks to all of you who call First Church your home and who continue to support the ministries of First Church either with your financial support or with your time and talents. Our masterpiece shines with the contributions of each of your unique pieces to our story.

	Last Year 2020	May 2021
Number of Pledges	60	65
Increased Pledge	19	20
Decreased Pledge	7	4
Remain the Same	30	31
New Pledges	4	10
Electronic Pledges	35	39
Total Pledge \$ To Date	\$161,551.00	\$198,543.00

- ⚙️ We are working on an increase of \$36,992.00 over last year 😊
- ⚙️ We continue to collect \$14,436.00 in what is considered unpledged e-donations (people who have not updated their e-giving forms)

Stewardship Ministry Team:

Kim Valcourt – chairperson

Rev. Bill Ingraham, Ken Peck, Marilyn Peck, Robyn Sliney, Glenn Sprague

From the Outreach Ministry Team

Local Resources for Substance Abuse Disorders

During her talk on Mental Health Sunday, Cole Welch Caffrey shared some local resources for help for Substance Abuse Disorders. In response to requests that we share these resources with you, here they are:

Be Well At Black Barn Farm

6 North Street, Methuen, MA 01844

617-313-7975

www.bewellatblackbarnfarm.com

- Individual and group therapy; children, adolescents, and adults
- Utilizing exercise, nature, and working with farm animals to sustain and maintain a balanced life.



Circle of Hope

- A family support group for those who have a loved one struggling with addiction.
- Mondays, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Currently meeting at:

Methuen Senior Center

77 Lowell Street, Methuen, MA 01844

Phil Lahey at 978-886-2949



C.A.R.E.S. Initiative Program

Methuen Police Department

90 Hampshire Street, Methuen, MA 01844

Cole Welch Caffrey & Jacque Ingersoll

978-983-8698

- Individuals in need of treatment; family support; drug court support; prevention & education



Merrimack Valley Prevention and Substance Abuse Project

160 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA 01844

www.mypasap.com

603-205-4752

From the Outreach Ministry Team

Random Acts of Kindness for June

*I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other.
Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.*

~ John 13:34

Are you feeling uplifted as the summer approaches? There are many things to celebrate with friends and loved ones in the months to come, and a lot of catching up to do as well. It is a joy to walk outside without a mask and feel the warmth of the sun. It is a joy to anticipate the return to “normal” and perhaps worship inside the sanctuary. And it is a joy to think about hugs. Pastor Bill keeps reminding us that it will not be long before that will all happen.

It has been a pleasure to take the stories submitted to us and write them each month to share with you all. It has been inspiring to read what people have found to do to spread kindness. It has allowed us to endure the dark days of Covid and survive what may have been days of despair. I hope it continues.

Keep your eyes open for opportunities to be kind, to offer a smile or a kind word as you go about your day. This column will end for the next couple of months and may reappear in the Fall as the Outreach Team sets their goals for next year. Feedback is always appreciated so please send your thoughts to any member of our team.

To the graduates of the Class of 2021 – congratulations and the best of luck. The last two years have been a challenge and we salute your strength and stamina. May you have a summer filled with fun and anticipation for what is next in your lives.

To all, be well and stay safe.



Walking Group for Fitness and Fellowship

Tuesdays in June

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 6/1, 6/8, 6/15, 6/22, 6/29. We will follow state guidelines for COVID safety.

Sunday Walk on the Methuen Rail Trail

Our June walk on the Rail Trail will be on Sunday, June 13th at 12:00 Noon. The cranes are now nesting in the bird sanctuary along the trail. Feel free to bring binoculars. We will meet at the far end of the Nevins MSPCA parking lot, where we can access the Methuen Rail Trail.





Just some of the participants in our 2021 Virtual 5K



Thank you to all who donated and participated in the 2021 Stride into the Light 5K!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

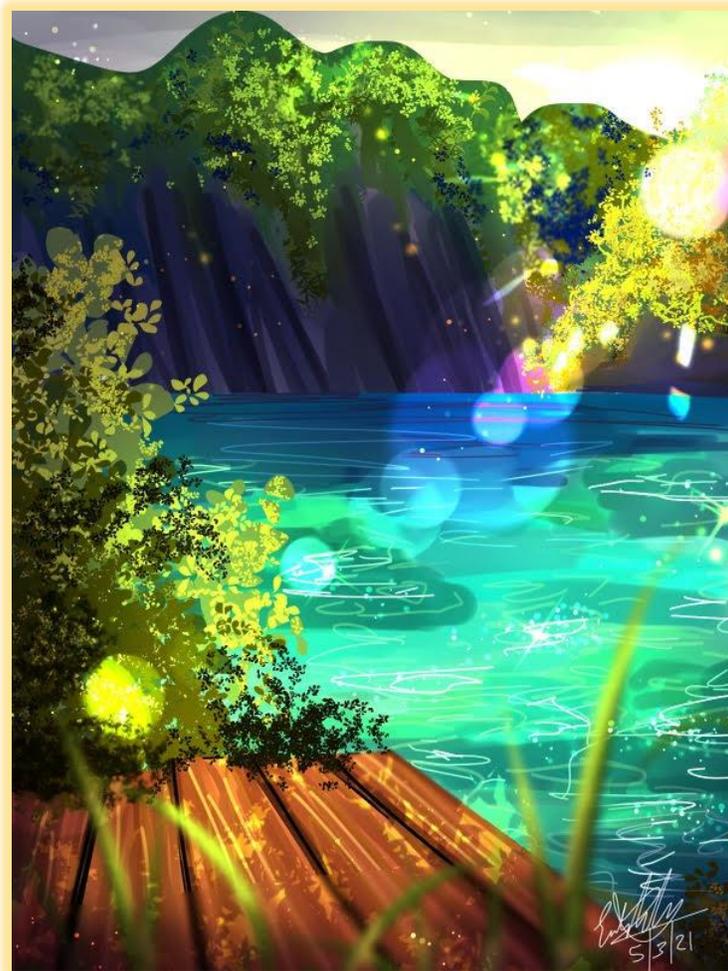
The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets year-round and always welcomes anyone who wishes to be part of this ministry. Knitting or crocheting experience is not a prerequisite to becoming a member. Come for the fellowship and someone will be glad to help you if needed. Please contact Anne Benedix or Carol Gray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

Annual Report from the Sewing Group

The Sewing Group uses donated fabric, notions, and patterns to make clothes for The Lakota Indian Reservation in South Dakota. The reservation is classified as the poorest county in America. It has an unemployment rate over 50%, a very significant substance abuse problem (alcohol and drug) and an even bigger housing issue. There could easily be 14 or more people living in a house that has no running water.

The Sewing Group makes mostly children's clothing as much of the population is under the age of 25. While many think of South Dakota as a place of terrible winters, the state also has blistering summers where it can reach 100 degrees.

For this reason, the Sewing Group tries to sew opposite the seasons, making winter clothes in the summer and summer clothes in the winter. That way they are ready to mail at the beginning of the season. We are averaging two mailings a year, approximately 2 boxes each time.

We are always happy to welcome people to join us in this project, even if they feel that they have little or no sewing experience. We have plenty of supplies to help someone learn new skills. If there was a wish for this group, it would be for new members and maybe solid color fabric suitable for pants and shorts.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carole Silva



The Chapel School



As I prepared to write this month's Beacon, I took a moment to read the 2020 June Beacon. We have come a long way in navigating our health and safety through this pandemic. This certainly was not how we thought we would be living our lives, trying to protect our health and survival from this relentless virus. While it has seemed like we would never recover from all the unknowns, we have finally turned a corner with the relaxed guidelines from the state and more people getting vaccinated.

We are nearing the end of our school year. The last day of classes is Friday, June 11th. We will be celebrating with a pizza party and lots of fun games and activities for the children. This may have been the hardest year yet for all of us, but certainly one of the most rewarding ones. We have endured and worked through all the increased health and safety protocols with only a few Covid incidents compared to many other schools in the area.

We have had several families tour the school in the past month and register their children for September enrollment. I ask everyone that visits how they heard about Chapel and it is always the same. We were recommended by a friend, neighbor, online recommendation from mother's groups, etc. Parents also know the importance and the difference in sending their child to a quality Preschool to prepare for Kindergarten. Our reputation precedes us and one we proudly are glad to uphold in this community.

Please check out our fabulous 2021 (virtual) Art Show this year. It is grouped according to class, so it is much more user friendly. It is set to music and will delight everyone that views it. The children are so creative and free in expressing their artwork. It is definitely a "must see". A great many hours of work go into preparing the artwork for this event. From mounting and matting each piece and labeling with the child's name and class, then taking pictures, formatting, and setting to music. It was a labor of love. We are grateful to all the teachers, and Roberta's skill set, to make all of this happen. You can view the Art Show on our website at www.ChapelSchoolMethuen.com/2021-Art-Show.



Stay well this Summer! Enjoy the fresh air and the beauty of nature around us. Appreciate the little things in our daily lives. Take the time to live in the present. Be grateful for life itself.

Cindy Mazella

Director



The Chapel School

Where a Lifetime of Learning Begins

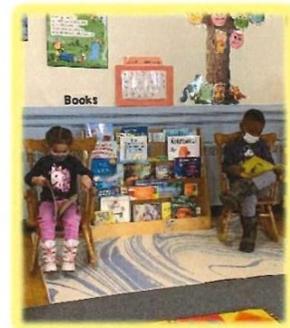
Register Now for the 2021-22 School Year



- 2, 3 or 5 Day Preschool Programs
 - For Children 2.9 - 5 Years Old
- Customizable Days to Fit your Needs
 - Half Day Classes (8:30 - 11:30 AM)
- Lunch Bunch and Extended Day 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



www.chapelschoolmethuen.com



Located at:
First Church Congregational
26 Pleasant Street, Methuen





THE CHAPEL SCHOOL

26 Pleasant Street
Methuen, MA 01844
(978)-689-8414

2021-22
School Year

Preschool Registration Form

(Please Print)

Mornings (8:30 - 11:30 AM)

- ___ 5 Days, Monday – Friday (4-5 years)
- ___ 3 Days, Typically* Mon, Wed & Fri (4-5 years)
- ___ 2 Days, Typically* Tues & Thurs (3-4 years)
- ___ Add **Lunch Bunch** (until 2:00 PM) →→→→

*Contact the School Office if other days are needed

Full Days (7:30 AM – 4:00 PM)

- ___ 5 Days, Monday – Friday (4-5 years)
- ___ 3 Days, Typically* Mon, Wed & Fri (4-5 years)
- ___ 2 Days, Typically* Tues & Thurs (3-4 years)

How many days for **Lunch Bunch**? _____
Please circle: M Tu W Th F

Child Information:

First Name: _____ M.I. _____ Last Name: _____

Gender: [] Male [] Female Date of Birth: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____

Allergies: _____

Parent/Guardian 1:

First Name: _____ M.I. _____ Last Name: _____

[] Mother [] Father [] Other: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Parent/Guardian 2:

First Name: _____ M.I. _____ Last Name: _____

[] Mother [] Father [] Other: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

You will be receiving additional forms to complete – Information & Authorization, Medical and Developmental.

The Chapel School employs a policy of non-discrimination in all its services to children and their families. We do not discriminate based on race, religion, cultural heritage, political beliefs, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability. Our registration policy is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Parent Agreement

I hereby agree to enroll my child in the Chapel School and I understand that tuition payments must be paid as per parent handbook. A registration fee of \$75.00 must be paid with this agreement. This fee is non-refundable. I understand that one month's notice will be required to withdraw my child from The Chapel School.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return your completed form as soon as possible. Thank you.

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.

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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 –June 2021 (Year B)

Tues., June 1

Psalm 99
1 Samuel 2:18-21
Acts 15:1-5, 22-35

Wed., June 2

Psalm 99
1 Samuel 2:22-36
John 5:1-18

Thurs., June 3

Psalm 138
1 Samuel 4:1-22
1 Peter 4:7-19

Fri., June 4

Psalm 138
1 Samuel 5:1-12
2 Corinthians 5:1-5

Sat., June 5

Psalm 138
1 Samuel 6:1-18
Luke 8:4-15

Sun., June 6

Second Sunday after Pentecost
1 Samuel 8:4-11 [12-15]
16-20 [11:14-15]
Psalm 138
2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1
Mark 3:20-35

Mon., June 7

Psalm 108
1 Samuel 7:3-15
Revelation 20:1-6

Tues., June 8

Psalm 108
1 Samuel 8:1-22
Revelation 20:7-15

Wed., June 9

Psalm 108
1 Samuel 9:1-14
Luke 11:14-28

Thurs., June 10

Psalm 20
1 Samuel 9:15-27
Hebrews 2:5-9

Fri., June 11

Psalm 20
1 Samuel 10:1-8
Hebrews 11:4-7

Sat., June 12

Psalm 20
1 Samuel 13:1-15a
Mark 4:1-20

Sun. June 13

Third Sunday after Pentecost
1 Samuel 15:34–16:13
Psalm 20
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17
Mark 4:26-34

Mon., June 14

Psalm 53
1 Samuel 13:23–14:23
Galatians 6:11-18

Tues., June 15

Psalm 53
1 Samuel 15:10-23
Revelation 21:22–22:5

Wed., June 16

Psalm 53
1 Samuel 15:24-31
Luke 6:43-45

Thurs., June 17

Psalm 9:9-20
1 Samuel 16:14-23
Acts 20:1-16

Fri., June 18

Psalm 9:9-20
1 Samuel 17:55–18:5
Acts 21:1-16

Sat., June 19

Psalm 9:9-20
1 Samuel 18:1-4
Luke 21:25-28

Sun., June 20

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
1 Samuel 17:[1a, 4-11, 19-23] 32-49 **and** Psalm 9:9-20
OR 1 Samuel 17:57–18:5, 10-16 **and** Psalm 133
2 Corinthians 6:1-13;
Mark 4:35-41

Mon., June 21

Psalm 119:113-128
1 Samuel 18:6-30
Acts 27:13-38

Tues., June 22

Psalm 119:113-128
1 Samuel 19:1-7
Acts 27:39-44

Wed., June 23

Psalm 119:113-128
1 Samuel 19:8-17
Mark 6:45-52

Thurs., June 24

Psalm 130
1 Samuel 19:18-24
2 Corinthians 7:2-16

Fri., June 25

Psalm 130
1 Samuel 20:1-25
2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Sat., June 26

Psalm 130
1 Samuel 20:27-42
Luke 4:31-37

Sun., June 27

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

Mon., June 28

Psalm 18:1-6, 43-50
1 Samuel 23:14-18
2 Corinthians 8:16-24

Tues., June 29

Psalm 18:1-6, 43-50
1 Samuel 31:1-13
2 Corinthians 9:1-5

Wed., June 30

Psalm 18:1-6, 43-50
1 Chronicles 10:1-14
Mark 9:14-29

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Happy Birthday!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Tosh Napier
- 03 Stephen Boyko, June Clark
- 04 Frank Michaels
- 05 Donna Zacharias
- 06 Cindy Bateson
- 08 Lori Bennett
- 12 Michael Borislow
- 13 Pat Moss-Newbury
- 14 Gary Gable
- 16 Paul Barbagallo
- 17 Thomas Shea
- 18 Michael Causbie
- 21 Glenda Schubert
- 22 David Williamson
- 25 Melissa Hodgkins, Patrick Wright, Rachel Yarid
- 27 Donald Towler
- 30 Justin Napier

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Kristen Bateson
- 06 Jill Suarez





JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

6/15
6/21

Rick & Beth Buck
Donald & Janet Towler

Married 25 years
Married 63 years

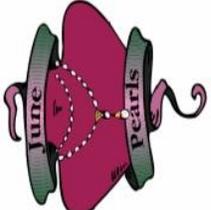
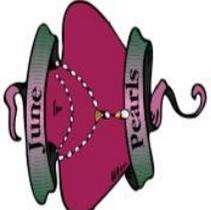
JULY ANNIVERSARIES

7/1
7/2
7/4

Mary & George Simonian
Neil & Cindy Bateson
Frank & Susan Michaels

Married 59 years
Married 33 years
Married 40 years



June 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 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 5:30 - 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	2 8:00 AM Morning Coffee 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM Church Board	3	4	5
6 Communion 11:15 AM Fellowship	7 4:00 PM Chapel Staff	4 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 5:30 - 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	9 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Diaconate	10	11 Last Day of Chapel Classes	12
13 11:15 AM Fellowship	14 6:30 PM Outreach	15 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 5:30 - 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	16 July BEACON deadline 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM MDCC	17	18	19
20 Father's Day First Day of Summer 11:15 AM Fellowship 12:00 PM Walking Group (Methuen Rail Trail)	21 6:30 PM Stewardship	22 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 5:30 - 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	23 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl	24	25	26
27 11:15 AM Fellowship	28	29 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 5:30 - 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	30 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl			

Dates and Times Subject to Change

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Address Service Requested