August 2020

THE BEACON

First Church Congregational
United Church of Christ
26 Pleasant Street
Methuen, MA 01844-3199
(978) 687-1240

Rev. William D. Ingraham, Senior Pastor
pastor.bill.ingraham@gmail.com

Roberta Jurovich, Office Manager
firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com

www.firstchurchmethuen.com

"GETTING PARSONAL"

Rev. William D. Ingraham

Sitting on the glider bench in the parsonage back yard, my cup of coffee growing inevitably cooler on the armrest beside me, I listen to the sounds of the early morning. There is far less traffic this time of day, though it remains a persistent presence – the reality of living on a busy intersection in the heart of town. Blissfully, the drivers who blare loud, pounding music, or drive a car sporting annoyingly enhanced exhaust systems, seem not to be as much of an early riser as am I.

The dark blue sky has been lightening for some time now. The sun has just begun to broach the horizon. Other than an occasional bright spot poking through the urban forest between me and the eastern sky, all I can see of it are the golden beams it casts on the outermost leaves of the giant tree in my neighbor's yard, across Tremont. At first the light reminds me of Moses and the burning bush, the edges of the tree seemingly ablaze in peach, orange and yellow hues. It burns but is not consumed. Then the vision changes, and the sight reminds me of Jesus' empty tomb, with the angel waiting there to mee the women, early on the first day of the week. The light emanates so brightly from behind the angel that its face is obscured as it says, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here. He is risen!"

I notice movement down Tremont. It is the neighborhood turkey (of the wild feathered variety – *not* the annoying, domestic, human variety). Originally, I referred to him as "Tom," but some children in the church dubbed him "Sir Gobbles," and the name has stuck. He's taking his time, slowly, calmly walking down the middle of the street at his undignified, head-bobbing, turkey gait, followed closely behind by a large, cobalt blue pickup truck. The driver does not look amused. Eventually reaching Pleasant Street, the turkey ignores the stop sign and steps out to the right, headed right across the middle of the road toward the canon on Wardwell Square. The driver turns left.

Soon I will go back inside the parsonage. It is hot outside, even this early in the morning, and humid, too. We've settled into the most sincere days of summer. It's not the heat that drives me inside as much as the need for sunscreen, which I have yet to put on today. Before the morning is over, I will venture back outside, both for my daily walk and also to inspect the day lily blooms in my garden. And I'll look to see if Sir Gobbles is still on the square, or if he's come up onto the church or parsonage lawn.

Sitting quietly on the bench, when I'm not lost in visions of sunshine and turkeys, I contemplate how things are going these days. Thus far, it has been such challenging, painful year. While we seem to have gotten a handle on the infection rate here in New England, in other parts of the country, it is raging out of control. Over 150,000 people have died of Covid-19 in the US. I've noticed people letting down their guard – and I've noticed my *own* temptation to let down *my* guard – and I'm mindful of the need to be diligent for the long haul: wearing face covering, not taking unnecessary outings, avoiding social gatherings, especially in large groups, especially indoors. I pause for a moment and pray yet again for a vaccine, an effective treatment, and for the safety of frontline workers, and of everyone in our church, and in my family, and among my friends. By the end, I'm praying for the whole world.

It is remarkable how well things are going at the church. We've had tremendous success with worship on Facebook Live and YouTube, with only a handful of big technical problems. The number of online views, while diminished from the springtime highs, still remain remarkably large for summer Sundays. The Board has been active and engaged since the earliest days of the pandemic, and committees and ministry teams have almost all followed suit. The Back to School Project backpack, clothing, shoes and school supplies project is making good headway, and the Tuesday Night Food Pantry reaches more families by the week. Even without public worship or social gatherings, our congregation continues to make a difference in the lives of our members and friends and in our community. And behind it all, making everything we're doing possible, is financial stability afforded us by the generosity of our members and friends. Everyone has remained steadfast in their support of our congregation's life and ministry. I am grateful beyond words, and inspired, by the hard work, commitment and generosity of the First Church Congregational family. I count myself richly blessed to share life and ministry with you.

I end by offering special prayers for teachers and students as the coming school year draws near. There are so many unknowns! So much at stake! And so much to be determined, for students and parents, teachers and administrators, custodial and support staff. Even we, at First Church, are touched by the challenges as we move toward reopening The Chapel School in September, scrambling to keep up with regulations that evolve weekly, if not daily, and working to make sure everyone in our program will be safe as we bring this vital, historic part of our ministry back online. Special thanks go to Cindy Mazella, our preschool director, and Roberta Jurovich, our office manager and Cindy's (and *my*!) right hand person. They are doing everything in their power to get us ready for the fall. We owe them a debt of gratitude and a word of thanks.

As I head inside, I remind myself to savor these summer days. The heat will not be with us long, though in the coming weeks, it may *seem* long. That insight feels like a bit of a metaphor for the pandemic as well. It has been long and painful, and it is far from over. But it *will* come to an end. It may take a long time, and we won't get there together unless we all do are part, all are diligent, all are dedicated to our own safety and the safety of others. But by God's grace, and thanks to the efforts of scientists and health care providers in our community and world-wide, we *will* bring this global pandemic under control. And when we do, the whole world will shout for joy! And breathe a deep sigh of relief. And as we do each and every day, in all circumstances, we will offer God our heartfelt praise.

Faithfully Yours,
~ *Bill*

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

To see all present who's using Zoom video, you'll want to attend on your computer. The website will fill your screen with a grid of everybody's video. It's like looking at the old "Hollywood Squares" TV show, only populated by your friends and loved ones! If you use your tablet or smart phone, you can see us four people at a time, swiping though different screens to see everyone. And if you call from a landline, you'll be able to hear the whole conversation, just not seeing anybody.

Sunday Morning Worship

On Sunday morning, starting at 10:00 AM, our weekly worship service can be seen on Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/FirstChurchMethuen). It will be posted on our YouTube channel later on Sunday morning, after the service ends on Facebook. This service will continue on Sunday mornings into the summer; *there will be no Wednesday evening services in July*.

* *

Fellowship Time after Sunday Worship

Every Sunday, from 11:00 AM – 12:00 NOON, we will have virtual Fellowship over Zoom, following the worship service seen at 10:00 AM on Facebook Live. A Zoom link will be provided via the Friday email to access this weekly gathering.

.

* *

Morning Coffee on Wednesdays

Every Wednesday morning, from 8:00 – 9:00 AM, brew your own coffee or tea, or grab a glass of orange juice or chocolate milk, and join in the conversation. You can even eat your breakfast with us if you like! A Zoom link will be provided via a Tuesday email to access the weekly gathering.

* *

Monthly Evening Happy Hour with Bill

At 7:00 PM, on the fourth Wednesday of the month (May 27th), we'll have an informal gathering for friendship and conversation. Just like our gatherings in a restaurant, you're welcome to have the beverage of your choice, be that soda, a cocktail, coffee or water. The same Zoom link that works for Morning Coffee will work for Happy Hour.

Planning a Meeting?

The church has purchased a Zoom Business Account. This allows any committee or ministry team chair, Sunday school teacher, youth leader, staff member, or anybody else in our church, to host a virtual meeting or hold a virtual event.

Want to give it a try? Speak with Pastor Bill, or a member of the Membership Development and Communication Committee to learn how.

* *

Prayer and Visit Requests

If you, or someone you know, is need of prayer or a visit, please contact Rev. Ingraham at pastor.bill.ingraham@gmail.com or 978-687-1240.

To have someone included on the bulletin prayer list, please let Roberta in the Church Office know at firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com or 978-687-1240. No request is too big or too small!

* *

The Church Office

Hours

The Church & Chapel School Office will remain closed to the public until further notice. Roberta and Rev. Ingraham continue to check emails and phone messages regularly.

Do not hesitate to use the answering service to leave a message. They send your message via email to the Church Office & Pastor, and will help locate Rev. Ingraham if there is a pastoral emergency.

Stories of the Cross

A Source of Distant Comfort

While walking around a car showroom, a sales person approached a member of First Church and struck up a conversation about the possible purchase of a new vehicle. While on a test drive he told the member how he came to the U.S. His family is originally from the Dominican Republic. When the family decides to relocate to the U.S., his mother stated she did not want to leave. Instead, his grandmother said she would take him and raise him which she did.

They continued to talk about the car, discussing various features, answering questions, and giving instructions on the numerous features. The salesman was always polite, very professional, and had a great sense of humor.

Before leaving the dealership, the church member sensed something was bothering him. “I have something for you” was said as the member handed him one of the small wooden crosses. “Our church makes them. Sometimes we need a little comfort and there’s always someone looking out for us. We are never alone.”

He was so grateful and became emotional. The member told him it was no big deal and hope the cross would bring him some comfort. The salesman said thank you, and they both said “God bless!” at the same time.

You never know when someone will cross your path and make a difference.

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…

Spreading joy, friendship and compassion is a cornerstone of First Church. We have seen this time and time again during weekly worship services and committee meetings, baptisms, weddings, confirmations, funerals and now we are experiencing the goodness within our Church family as we navigate through this pandemic. As we muddle through from day to day, we have individually, collectively and as a Church body, have had opportunities to spring into action to "be the light" and share ourselves wherever it was needed. Like all of you, I have been trying to "be the light" for others both within our church family and in the broader community. Being the light and sharing what I can has helped me get through the past few months. That means helping out and volunteering, reaching out to others, and giving financially.

Although we aren't actually seated *in* the church, we still *are* the church and like our responsibilities and commitments to each other, we share the same responsibilities and commitments for our Church building. Even though the doors remain closed, we continue to go out into the world and "be the light" for others in extraordinary ways. You have probably done some shopping, baking, visiting, note writing, sewing, knitting, volunteering or praying for others. But did you know that you have also been the recipient of all those kind gestures?

Even while we are spreading light throughout our community, we continue to incur expenses. Our monthly electronic giving pledges have continued to keep us afloat. As we enter into the billing cycle for late summer and early fall, the best way for our Church to remain stable is for you to continue to be that light of hope and kindness, and also for you to share your financial support if possible. 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. You can click the donate button on our facebook page by going to firstchurchmethuen.com then select More, then select Ways to Donate. You can also 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). Finally, 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.

As I reflect upon the image above, and think about First Church I am reminded that the light that shines from all of us and from within the doors of First Church has always been one of humanity and of hope. During this time of uncertainty let us continue to be the light to those we meet and for those in need.

Stewardship Ministry Team:
Kim Valcourt - chairperson,
Rev. Bill Ingraham, Ken Peck, Marilyn Peck, Robyn Sliney and Glenn Sprague

From the Outreach Ministry Team

"Random Acts of Kindness"

The Beginning

"Random Acts of Kindness" is not a new concept. Last year in Stewardship's "Interests and Talents Survey," under the category of, "I might like to serve on one of these Caring Ministries/Missions," 16 people checked off the box for "Random Acts of Kindness."

One of the Outreach Team's goals last year was to begin a new ministry based on an interest people had from the Survey. We selected "Random Acts of Kindness," but the pandemic interrupted our conversation. We didn't pick up the idea again until our June meeting. Several people volunteered to research the concept of "kindness" further.

On the internet we found half a dozen organizations who were talking about "kindness." We selected "kindness.org." and after looking at their web site decided to order their book entitled "Be Kind," "A Year of Kindness One Week at a Time." The book is written by the founders of "kindness.org," Melissa Burmester & Jaclyn Lindsey. In their book, the authors share the research they have done on "kindness" in their Kindlab, the research hub for "Kindness.org."

Kindness comes in many forms. The book "Be Kind" contains 52 weeks of various forms of kindness such as, "love, loyalty, camaraderie, compassion, reciprocity, respect, generosity, gratitude, fairness, forgiveness, heroism, and humility." Each week offers something to learn about kindness, a reflection on how that kindness was put into action, and something you can do personally in relation to that act of kindness. The book is inviting and easy to read with only 4 pages for each week.

At our August meeting, we will use the information on "kindness" from this book, as well as other sources such as "Inspire to Act," written by Jennifer Borislow & Mark Gaunya, as we begin to think about a ministry of "Random Acts of Kindness" at First Church. In the meantime, we would like to share with you some initial thoughts on kindness and how doing kind acts might help us during this pandemic.

Kindness

Why is kindness important? It is important to us as social beings, which have lived in community throughout all time, because we rely on cooperative relationships with each other in order to survive and thrive. Kindness is a way of helping to start and maintain our relationships with everyone with whom we interact.

Any act of kindness, large or small, can have a significant, positive impact on the person who receives it, as well as the person who gives it. During this pandemic, with its incumbent social distancing, many of us have experienced feelings of aloneness and isolation. Acts of kindness, "given" and "received," can help us all to feel less alone and isolated.

What Can I Do?

Here are some suggestions for acts of kindness from "Be Kind" and our team that you might consider to reach out to others and to take care of yourself during the turbulent times in which we are living.

For Yourself

- Relax with a bath
- Write a gratitude list
- Take a nap
- Take a break from Tech
- Reconnect with someone you haven't spoken with since the quarantine and social distancing began

For Others

- Send a thank you text
- Call an older person to ask if there is something you can do to help
- Ear mark a $5 bill for random acts of kindness
- Donate to a worthy cause
- Be mindful of opportunities to help as they arise
- Let someone go ahead of you in a long line

For Kids

- Hug your mother or father unexpectedly
- Pick up your toys after finishing playing with them
- Brush your teeth without being asked
- Make a special picture for your father or mother
- Do your chores without being asked
- Read a story to your younger brother or sister
- Take the dog for a walk
- Make dinner for your family
- Mow a neighbor's lawn
- For Parents: Talk with your children about kindness

For Your Community

- Create a feel-good sign
- Make a mask (for yourself and others)
- Make a donation
- Give Blood
- Call a neighbor – just thinking of you

Be Kind, Online

- Share a positive news story
- Donate your time & experience for a non-profit
- Respond kindly to a negative comment on line
- Arrange an on-line "date" with a friend

Take the Extra Time to be Extra Kind

- Share a good book
- Write a letter to someone who made a difference in your life
- Answer that email you have been putting off
- Donate your time & expertise to a non-profit

Hopefully these acts of kindness have given you some things to think about. There are no limits to the acts of kindness we can do for each other. If the book “Be Kind” has peeked your interest, it can be ordered from “kindness.org/be kind,” and Barnes and Noble for $19.99 and Amazon for $11.99. “Inspire to Act” is published by Strategic Vision Publishing.

The Outreach Team

Cindy Bateson, Ray Benedix, Lori Bennett, Cynthia Causbie, Barbara Donaghue, Deb MaueSprague, Pastor Bill Ingraham, Ken Peck, Sherry Petrakis, Becky Smith, and *Marilyn Peck,* Team Leader

* *

Walking for Fitness and Fellowship

Tuesdays in August

The Tuesday Morning Walking Group is back in business! We are once again walking together at Raymond J. Martin Riverside Park along the Merrimack River at **9:00 AM** on Tuesday mornings. *To maintain safety, we wear masks, walk in pairs, and maintain social distance*.

We will meet at the park at 9:00 AM on **8/4, 8/11, 8/18 and 8/25**. The park is located on Riverside Drive at the end of Burnham Rd. All are welcome! We hope you can join us!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry have been missing their weekly get-togethers during the Covid-19 crisis, so Cindy Mazella and Roberta Jurovich collaborated to make a summer-time meeting possible. Since many of us have shelved our knitting needles and crochet hooks during the summer heat, and instead of reading patterns, we have been getting to know how the 'tech world' works and are learning how to navigate the intricacies of ZOOM.

So, on July 15th, 11 of us got together in the comfort of our homes via computers, smart phones and tablets; one member even attended from the middle of Big Island Pond! It was a pleasant afternoon of catching up on each other's isolation activities but it all ended too soon.

When it was suggested that we do this more often, plans were formulated to hold twice-monthly gatherings, via ZOOM, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM. **In August, we will meet Wednesday, the 12th and the 26th.**

We welcome all women to join us. If you are not already on the Prayer Shawl email list, let the church office (firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com) know you would like to be included. Bring your knitting and crocheting, or not, but come for an afternoon of fellowship and conversation. It's a great opportunity to actually see and talk with your friends. An e-mail Zoom invitation will be sent to you with a link to join the gathering.

The In-Reach Committee continues to keep in touch monthly with several members who are not able to be with us regularly for Sunday worship during normal times and we continue to receive positive responses for these cards and notes which are always sent on behalf of our entire church family. We are grateful to this group which is chaired by Marge Grant.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets weekly year-round on Wednesdays, from 1:30 - 3:30 PM, in the parlor. *Unfortunately, there are no meetings during the COVID-19 church closure*. Knitting or crocheting experience is not a prerequisite. Come for the fellowship and someone will be glad to help you if needed. Please contact Anne Benedix or Carol Gray for more information.

10th Annual First Church MAN, Inc.
Back to School Project

The partnership between Methuen Arlington Neighborhood, Inc. (MAN, Inc.) and First Church Congregational, Methuen (FCC) will continue for its **10th consecutive year** in 2020. Again, we are asking you for your support (time-treasure-talent) in our effort to help as many as 60 children from Methuen. We promise that each dollar will be stretched to its limit, due to the significant discounts and donations offered by such companies as Old Navy and New Balance Footwear Company and organizations such as Methuen's Order of Masons - John Hancock Lodge, the Methuen Exchange Club and Holy Family Hospital.

Due to COVID-19, we had a sizing event on Wednesday, July 22nd, which was held outside at the MAN, Inc. Tenney Street Park. All of the kids and parents wore masks and were socially distancing while they waited in line to be helped. It was wonderful to see children that have benefitted from this project in the past. They are growing up so fast!

The only in person events we are having this year will be Mall Day Set-Up on Friday, August 21st from 5:

00 to 7:00 PM and Mall Day will be Saturday, August 22nd from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

We're writing to you and respectfully asking for your help. Donations are not as generous as has been in past years due to COVID-19 and the financial struggles that many of our neighbors and businesses are currently facing. Any help you may afford would be truly appreciated.

We invite you to stop by and witness the smiles on the faces of these children on August 22nd! Last year, I remember one of the girls in the program, who struggles to find clothes that fit and are age appropriate. Our shoppers were whole-heartedly dedicated to find clothing that all the kids will be proud to wear. We went outside the box and found an adorable dress that she absolutely LOVED. She was so excited to wear it to school for her first day of fifth grade.

By assisting these children, it not only helps them begin school with the physical necessities of clothing and supplies; it sends the message that the Methuen community cares about their success in school, and it boosts their self-esteem. In addition, we strive to teach all recipients the joy of giving back. We offer them the chance to make hand crafted projects and cards to be mailed to Support our Troops.

Your participation at any level is greatly appreciated. MAN, Inc. is a non-profit entity and our Tax-exempt ID number is: 04-3265830. If you have any questions, please call Laura Gomez at the MAN, Inc. office at (978) 691-5645 or Outreach Chair Marilyn Peck at marilpeck@comcast.net or Lisa Yarid Ferry at (978) 376-9891. For cash donations, please make checks payable to FCC, Methuen and indicate on the memo line, *"MAN Back to School.*

Building A Better Community

M.A.N., Inc.

Hello Friends!!

COVID birthdays are no fun! Henry Sanborn is turning 5 (July 30th) and was sad to find out that he won't be having a regular birthday party this year... so a drive through party is our alternative!

You are cordially invited to come drive through the First Church Methuen parking lot between 2:00 and 4:00 PM, on Sunday, August 2nd, and say a socially distanced *Happy 5th Birthday* to Henry!!

We'll be hanging out for the full two hours, so swing by when you can and we look forward to seeing you!! All First Church friends are welcome!

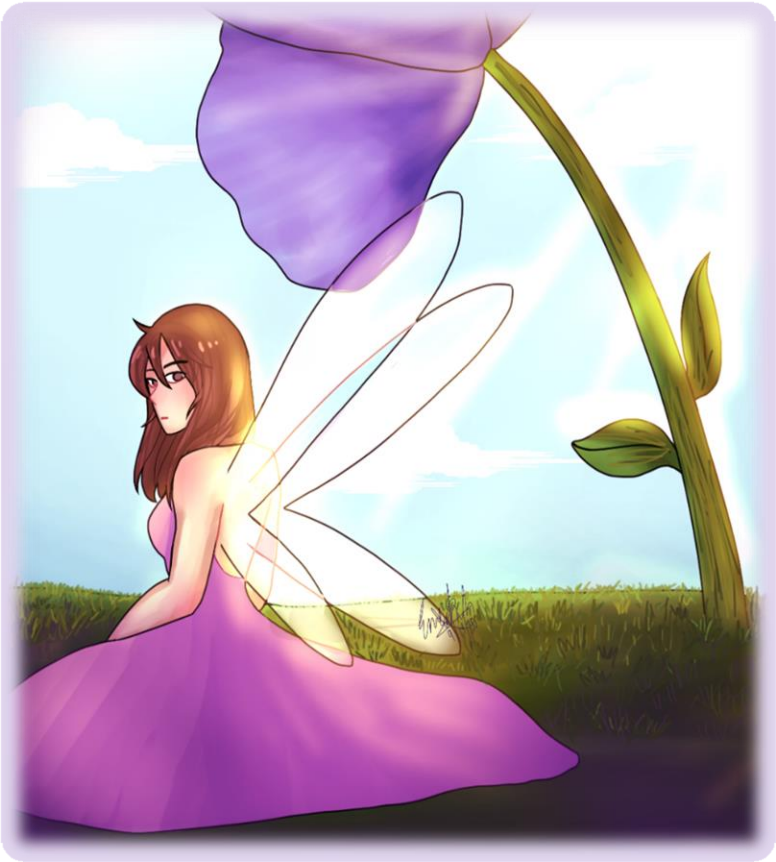
Presents are not required, but if you feel compelled, he loves Disney, Legos, Harry Potter, and dinosaurs! There will also be a box set up to collect food for the food pantry if you'd rather do that, he'll be thrilled regardless!

This is a surprise, so if you happen to see Henry between now and August 2nd, please don't mention this!

Can't wait to see you!!

~ Scott, Carol and Haleigh Sanborn

* *



Original Artwork by Emily Jurovich

The Chapel School

We continue to work over the Summer to prepare for our "new normal" opening for The Chapel School. We are writing our reopening guidelines which we will soon submit to the State for approval.

We hope to open on time in September and be ready to welcome the children. Many changes will be in place to keep us all safe and within our reopening plan. Parents will not be allowed to enter the building. A check in station will be set up at the door to check in children, ask parents select questions regarding their child's health and family health before being escorted to their classroom. Arrival and Dismissal Times will be staggered to allow more time for the one on one morning check in procedure and social distancing dismissal. Parents will need to be patient with these new procedures to stay 6 feet apart and ensure that everyone stays safe.

Roberta and I have already begun purchasing the necessary protective supplies that we will need to stay safe including masks, shields, cleaner, protective covering for our clothes and gloves.

The biggest change will be the reduced class sizes. We will only be allowed 10 children in each classroom reduced from 20. The ratios will allow for social distancing in the classroom but will cut our enrollment by half. This will be the hardest guideline as it will greatly reduce our tuition income. We are hopeful that as the school year proceeds and the state stays in the safe zone, they may increase the enrollment capacity.

Child Care centers across the state are all trying to navigate these new restrictions and protocols to stay open and keep a clean, safe and healthy environment. The centers that have already opened for the Summer will be the test ground as to what is working and what needs to change.

We may see more changes and revised guidelines as we continue to move forward. I continue to have Zoom meetings with the Director's group from the North Shore region once a month. We offer each other support and guidance on many topics including staffing, policies, classroom management and resources, supplies, cleaning and more. No topic is off limits. The facilitator from North Shore Community College is wonderful and reports back to Early Education and Care to voice our questions and concerns. It does take a village.

We are anxious to welcome our little ones back to Chapel and our committed to providing a safe and healthy school for them to learn and grow in. Keep us in your thoughts!!

Cindy Mazella
Director

The Chapel School

Where a Lifetime of Learning Begins

Help spread the word!

Register NOW for September

- 2, 3 or 5 Day Preschool Programs
- For Children 2.9 – 5 Years Old
- Half Day, Lunch Bunch, Full Day Options
- Early Drop-off & Late Pick Up Options

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

Contact us for more information at
chapelschoolmethuen@gmail.com

Registration for the 2020-2021 School Year is underway!

Secure your spot early – new state guidelines for smaller class sizes.

We welcome new families to visit the school
and discover the Chapel difference.

Find us on Facebook

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.

* *

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 -- Reliable, Engaging, Able, Caring and Heartfelt support.

Contact Judi Boyko or Pat King for more information.

* *

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 -Aug. 2020 (Year A)

Sat. Aug. 1
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Genesis 31:1-21
Matthew 7:7-11

Sun., Aug. 2
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Mon., Aug. 3
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Genesis 31:22-42
Romans 1:8-15

Tues., Aug. 4
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Genesis 32:3-21
Acts 2:37-47

Wed., Aug. 5
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Isaiah 43:1-7
Matthew 15:32-39

Thurs., Aug. 6
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Genesis 35:22b-29
Acts 17:10-15

Fri., Aug. 7
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Genesis 36:1-8
Acts 18:24-28

Sat., Aug. 8
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Genesis 37:5-11
Matthew 16:1-4

Sun., Aug. 9
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

Mon., Aug. 10
Psalm 28
Genesis 37:29-36
2 Peter 2:4-10

Tues., Aug. 11
Psalm 28
Genesis 39:1-23
Romans 9:14-29

Wed., Aug. 12
Psalm 28
Genesis 40:1-23
Matthew 8:23-27

Thurs., Aug. 13
Psalm 133
Genesis 41:14-36
Revelation 15:1-4

Fri., Aug. 14
Psalm 133
Genesis 41:37-57
Acts 14:19-28

Sat., Aug. 15
Psalm 133
Genesis 42:1-28
Matthew 14:34-36

Sun., Aug. 16
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Mon., Aug. 17
Psalm 130
Genesis 43:1-34
Acts 15:1-21

Tues., Aug. 18
Psalm 130
Genesis 44:1-34
Romans 11:13-29

Wed., Aug. 19
Psalm 130
Genesis 45:16-28
Matthew 8:1-13

Thurs., Aug. 20
Psalm 124
Genesis 49:1-33
1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Fri., Aug. 21
Psalm 124
Genesis 49:29—50:14
2 Corinthians 10:12-18

Sat., Aug. 22
Psalm 124
Genesis 50:15-26
Matthew 16:5-12

Sun., Aug. 23
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 1:8—2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

Mon., Aug. 24
Psalm 8
Exodus 1:1-7
Romans 2:1-11

Tues., Aug. 25
Psalm 8
Exodus 2:11-15a
Romans 11:33-36

Wed., Aug. 26
Psalm 8
Exodus 2:15b-22
Matthew 26:6-13

Thurs., Aug. 27
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Exodus 2:23-24
Ephesians 5:1-6

Fri., Aug. 28
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Exodus 3:16-25
2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Sat., Aug. 29
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Exodus 4:1-9
Matthew 8:14-17

Sun., Aug. 30
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

Mon., Aug. 31
Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18
Exodus 4:10-31
Revelation 3:1-6

Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings, copyright © 2005 Consultation on Common Texts. commontexts.org. Used by permission. This resource may be reproduced by congregations for their own worship and educational activities. Provided by the Southern New England Conference, UCC

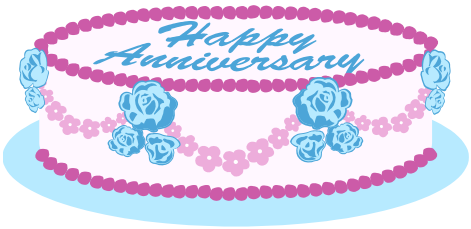
August Birthdays

04 Scott Sanborn
05 William Bennett
09 Merrilee Ford
13 Hannah Valcourt
23 Edward Allaire, William Hirsch
26 Nancy Byron
27 Neve Hodgkins
30 Violet Comeau

September Birthdays

01 Shirley Barbagallo, Joan Zonfa
06 Eric Barlow
07 Matthew Bunting

* *



August Anniversaries

8/4	Ken & Marilyn Peck	Married 30 years
8/16	Glenn & Deborah Sprague	Married 34 years

September Anniversaries

9/1	Justin & Melissa Hodgkins	Married 4 years
9/3	Jonathan & Stacy Bennett	Married 9 years
9/6	David & Sally Williamson	Married 56 years

August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship Service ***Sundays at 10:00 AM*** www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen						**1**
2 Communion 10:00 AM Virtual Service (Facebook Live) 11:00 AM Fellowship Time (via Zoom)	**3** 6:30 PM Finance (via Zoom)	**4** 9:00 AM Walking Group (Meet at Riverside Park, Methuen) 5:30 – 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	**5** 8:00 AM Morning Coffee (via Zoom) 6:30 PM Church Board (via Zoom)	**6**	**7**	**8**
9 10:00 AM Virtual Service (Facebook Live) 11:00 AM Fellowship Time (via Zoom)	**10** 6:30 PM Outreach (via Zoom)	**11** 9:00 AM Walking Group (Meet at Riverside Park, Methuen) 5:30 – 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	**12** 8:00 AM Morning Coffee (via Zoom) 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl (via Zoom)	**13**	**14**	**15**
16 10:00 AM Virtual Service (Facebook Live) 11:00 AM Fellowship Time (via Zoom)	**17**	**18** 9:00 AM Walking Group (Meet at Riverside Park, Methuen) 5:30 – 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	**19 September BEACON deadline** 8:00 AM Morning Coffee (via Zoom)	**20**	**21** 6:00 - 8:00 PM MAN – Back to School Mall Day Set-up	**22** 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM MAN – Back to School Clothing Project Mall Day
23 10:00 AM Virtual Service (Facebook Live) 11:00 AM Fellowship Time (via Zoom)	**24**	**25** 9:00 AM Walking Group (Meet at Riverside Park, Methuen) 5:30 – 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	**26** 8:00 AM Morning Coffee (via Zoom) 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl (via Zoom) 7:00 PM Happy Hour (via Zoom)	**27**	**28**	**29**
30 10:00 AM Virtual Service (Facebook Live) 11:00 AM Fellowship Time (via Zoom)	**31** 6:30 PM Finance (via Zoom)					

Dates and times are subject to change

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

Address Service Requested