



March 2021



# THE BEACON



## *First Church Congregational*

*United Church of Christ*

*26 Pleasant Street*

*Methuen, MA 01844-3199*

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## **“GETTING PARSONAL”**

**Rev. William D. Ingraham**

March marks the one-year anniversary of our personal interaction with the Covid-19 coronavirus global pandemic. While it was evolving some weeks or months before on the global stage, it was mid-March when the pandemic struck home, leading our church to end public gatherings, close Chapel School and move into a fully remote mode of operation. Remarkably, we never missed a Sunday service. We shifted immediately to live broadcast. The Board met remotely, initially on conference call and then on Zoom. Committees and Ministry teams reimagined how they could work in our new context.

The vision, creativity and sheer determination of our church, our staff, our leaders and groups, have facilitated our ministry in remarkable ways. It is worth celebrating some of our accomplishments here.

Within days of lock down we moved the *Methuen Tuesday Night Food Pantry* up to the church. We devised an innovative, contactless, “drive thru” model of food distribution that was safe for volunteers and clients. The new approach maintained the compassionate, inter-personal model that has been the hallmark of our pantry from its founding. One year ago, 200 families were a large turnout for us. Last week the pantry served 498 families! It’s now the largest weekly food pantry in the area, accounting for about 50% of the total Neighbors in Need weekly volume.

Last summer we re-envisioned the annual MAN Inc. Back to School Backpack Project, too. We moved “Mall Day,” traditionally held in Parish Hall, down to the Tenney Street Playground, serving our neighborhood’s kids and families outside, where it was safe. Looking forward to this summer, we have planned to increase the number of kids we serve from the usual 75 to 100. It will be a large undertaking!

Our annual Stride into the Light walk/run for suicide prevention and mental health awareness was first postponed, then later, canceled last spring. It just came too early in the pandemic for us to discern what to do. However, we are now switching to a virtual model so that we can hold the walk/run this spring. We will also have a special “Mental Health Sunday” this year, held on the last Sunday of March.

Perhaps among our greatest accomplishments is the weekly broadcast of worship, live, first from my office, then the parsonage backyard, and finally, the sanctuary. We have sure had our bumps along the way! To meet our needs, and provide a high-quality virtual worship experience, we took a *huge* step forward in technology, installing an unobtrusive three camera system permanently in our sanctuary. Our live broadcast of worship has had a reach far broader than ever we imagined. As an example, our Ash Wednesday service had 647 views this year. In 2020, we were thrilled to have a few more than 30 people attend our Ash Wednesday service.

We know it will be a while still before we can return to in-person worship, Christian education, meetings and fellowship. Know that our leadership and staff continue to monitor closely the numbers in our community, paying heed to the advice of state and federal health officials, as well as taking into account best practices as laid out by the UCC in the Southern New England Conference and national setting. And of course, as has been our practice since the earliest days of the pandemic, we will keep you fully informed every step along the way.

In the meantime, I ask us all to put our thinking caps on. As we look to the future, when public worship, gathering together for work and fellowship, education and service can resume, what should be most important to us? What will we need most as a church? And what can we best offer to the community? The coming months and years afford us a unique opportunity to reestablish ourselves as an active, effective congregation. It’s a chance to bring new enthusiasm and fervor to the old tasks and long-held, cherished traditions. No doubt we can find better, more fitting ways to do our work in the present day. And it is also an opportunity for us to dream big, aspiring to new ways to live and serve together in Christ’s name. We might just find something new and meaningful that we have to offer that never would have occurred to us before. In fact, I’m *certain* that we will! And it all starts when we open our hearts and our minds to God’s possibilities.

Our church has been blessed in countless ways for almost three centuries. We share a rich and remarkable history. And the best is yet to come!

Faithfully,  
- *Bill*



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

## **Sunday Morning Worship**



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

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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.



\* \* \* \* \*

## **Morning Coffee on Wednesday**



On **Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**, from 8:00 – 9:00 AM, join Pastor Bill and brew your own coffee or tea, grab a glass of orange juice or chocolate milk, for friendly fellowship and conversation. You can even eat your breakfast with us if you like! A Zoom link will be provided via a Tuesday email blast to access this gathering.

\* \* \* \* \*





# 2021 Lenten Services

at

**First Church Congregational**

*United Church of Christ*

## Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>:

10:00 AM – ***Palm Sunday*** ~ A Triumphant Entry and Celebration of Palms

## Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>:

7:00 PM – ***Maundy Thursday*** ~ A Service of Communion and Tenebrae (dramatic liturgy of Shadows and the Last Supper Together)

## Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>:

10:00 AM – ***Easter Sunday*** ~ A Joyous Celebration!

\* \* \* \* \*

## Don't Forget!!



## Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

*Change your clocks and batteries.*

***First Day of Spring is March 20<sup>th</sup>!!***

# Prayer Requests/List



We print a Prayer List within the 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](mailto:firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com). No request is too big or too small! Thank you.

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

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## IN CASE OF SNOW...

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

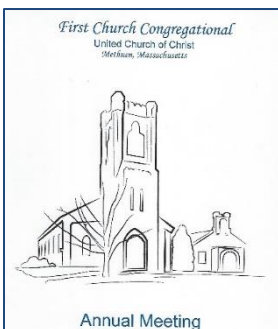


Changes to worship will also be noted on Channel **WBZ-TV (Channel 4)**, **WBZ NewsRadio 1030**, **WCVB (Channel 5)**, [www.TheBostonChannel.com](http://www.TheBostonChannel.com), **WHDH (Channel 7)** or **The CW (Channel 56)** for cancellation notifications.



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## Annual Reports are Due



All Committees should submit their annual report to the Church Office **no later than Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**. If it is not received, it may not be included in the 2020-21 Annual Report.

Please contact Roberta at 978-687-1240, if there is any issue. You can submit your report electronically to [firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com).

The Annual Meeting date is to be determined in May.

*Thank you for your cooperation.*



# Stewardship Committee



It is hard to believe that we are reaching a full year of living with the Coronavirus. Even still, we have continued our outreach programs, weekly services and have committed to being more connected with one another than ever before. Anchored in Faith, our Stewardship theme, was a result of how many of us felt these past twelve month and was a driving force for us to continue the “work” that God puts before us. We did not waiver in fulfilling our mission of Seeking Good, Caring for Each Other and Improving Our Community.

First Church is strong and vibrant and continues to be a presence in our hearts, for our families and within our community and that was never more obvious than during this year’s Stewardship Campaign. Your commitments were overwhelming as we have exceeded our pledge count from last year, welcoming more pledge units as well as more electronic givers. We are grateful for your continued support and devotion to First Church and its many different ministries.

If you haven’t sent in your pledge card, there is still time. If you didn’t receive the Stewardship Pledge Materials in the mail and would like to make a pledge, please contact the Church Office at 978-687-1240. You can also mail a pledge or donation to First Church addressed to Roberta Jurovich, Office Manager, 26 Pleasant Street, Methuen, MA 01844. One last reminder, electronic givers need to update their information every year, even if there is no change to your information or amount.

As we look ahead, we are energized and inspired for a future of togetherness that lives out the mission of First Church, Congregational.

Stewardship Ministry Team:

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



## *From the Outreach Ministry Team*

### **Mental Health Sunday April 25, 2021**

Outreach is pleased to announce we have secured two outstanding speakers for this year's Mental Health Sunday on April 25. They are the same speakers we invited for Mental Health Sunday last year but had to cancel due to the Pandemic. Their topic is Substance Abuse. You may recall the topic for Mental Health Sunday in 2019 was Suicide Prevention. That service was well attended and very well received.

**Doug Griffin**, of Newton, NH, has become one of the country's top drug reform advocates following the death of his 20 year old daughter from a drug overdose. **Cole Welch**, a recovered addict, is currently a Community Engagement Specialist in the Methuen Police Department. She helps find beds and resources for addicts in Methuen. They will share their knowledge, experience, and insights on substance abuse issues.

### **Virtual 2021 Stride into the Light Race/Walk**

First Church's annual "Stride into the Light Race/Walk" is held to raise awareness to mental health issues, especially in the Merrimack Valley. The dates for this year are **Saturday, May 15 through Saturday, May 22**. These dates will allow people to run/walk at a time convenient to them. Kerri Bedard is continuing to work with us on planning this year's virtual race/walk. She is currently looking to find a web platform we can afford that will allow us to register walkers and to accept donations. Due to the Pandemic virtual races are prolific and web platforms have proliferated and become expensive. As our plans develop further, we will provide you with more information, but please **save the dates and plan to participate**.

### **Souper Bowl of Caring**

Thanks to our amazing church family and their friends, our 2021 Souper Bowl of Caring surpassed its goals! Please see Deb MaueSprague's article in this issue to learn the number of cans collected and dollars raised, as well as which team won the coveted Souper Bowl Trophy. *We are pleased to announce that Neighbors in Need is donating all the cans of soup we raised to our Tuesday Evening Food Pantry!*

### **Outreach Opportunity Helping Students and Teachers**

We are grateful to all the people who responded to our request to purchase power strips, chrome book chargers and pencil cases for the seventh grade at the Timony School in Methuen. Please see Cindy Bateson and Cynthia Causbie's article in this issue telling how you helped us reach our goals for the purchase of these items.

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

Due to bad winter weather, the Food Pantry has had to move the NIN Tuesday Evening Food Pantry from Tuesday evening to Wednesday evening on February 3, 10 and 17. On February 10<sup>th</sup> the Pantry served 352 families and on February 17<sup>th</sup> the Pantry served 372 families. We thank our church family and the many community members who continue to donate food to our pantry, and all the volunteers who come out in the cold weather each week to serve these families.

## 2021 Souper Bowl Challenge

What a great finish to the 2021 Souper Bowl of Caring! First Church together with The Chapel School and the community collected 1265 cans of soup and raised \$1780 in donations for Neighbors in Need!

Although we are not physically in church, the competition between Team Right and Team Left was outstanding! Team Right donated 332 cans of soup and \$675 in donations for a final score of 1007, while Team Left donated 851 cans of soup and \$975 in donations for a final score of 1726 to win the First Church Souper Bowl trophy!



If you saw the February 14 service, you will have noticed that we are beginning to fill the pews with smiling faces. Pastor Bill was very emotional when he saw them. We will continue to add faces to the pews until we can finally return to in person services. Please contact the Church Office to arrange for your photo to be seated in a pew. The services are broadcast on Facebook Live and recorded and posted to You Tube. If you want to be included in the photos seated in the pews but don't want to have your picture posted on Facebook or You Tube we can use a photo that represents your presence. For example: a photo of your pet, a stained-glass window, etc.



On behalf of the First Church Outreach Team, a BIG THANK YOU for your generous support for this year's Souper Bowl of Caring event!

Respectfully,

*Deb MaueSprague, Marilyn Peck, Ken Peck, Ray Benedix, Cynthia Causbie, Becky Smith, Cindy Bateson Barbara Donaghue, Lori Bennett and Rev. William Ingraham.*



## *Random Acts of Kindness for March*



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

### **A kind, helpful person wrote:**

*A few days ago, I stopped in CVS to pick up something and I noticed an older woman struggling to use a kiosk computer to print out her reward coupons. Now, I am no expert in technology, as my children could attest to, but I figured we could figure it out together. I helped her navigate through the confusing screens and soon her coupons were being printed. She thanked me warmly and was quickly on her way to the register. It was such a brief encounter, but the positive human connection put me on the path for a great day.*

*Sometimes we are the ones in need of kindness. You may choose to lie to your friends (and yourself) when they ask how you are doing, and you say fine, but you really are not. So the next time a trusted friend asks how you are doing, be honest, and if you need, to ask for help. Taking care of yourself, indulging in a little self-kindness is as important as sharing kindness with others.*

### **The NIN/FCC Food Pantry**

This Neighbors in Need/First Church Congregational Food Pantry has evolved into quite an amazing act of kindness. It deserves special recognition for how it impacts the lives of members of our community. The pantry was founded by Marilyn and Ken Peck, and Ken continues to oversee all aspects of its daily needs. The pandemic required the pantry to vacate its original site and relocate to Parish Hall at First Church. That in itself was a monumental task and involved moving all the food, tables, and refrigeration (huge freezers and a milk cooler). The small team of volunteers was dedicated and certainly had to demonstrate their strong backs and indomitable spirits to complete.

As the community need grew, so did the need for food and volunteers. New procedures had to be developed to comply with Covid safety rules, and to safely distribute food. It became an inside/outside process. Inside, volunteers filled bags with the groceries, which were taken outside and our clients would drive through the parking lot and pick up their food. The lines grew, many more people came on Tuesday afternoon, and despite very hot weather in the summer, leading to very cold, snowy weather in the winter, the food bags get prepared and distributed.

But there are also special things going on provided by some kind and caring individuals. COVID families have received food delivery to assist them through trying times. Shut ins are offered home delivery. The weekly drop offs get a bit extended each week as new friendships are formed and time is needed to catch up. NIN contacts Ken with the names and addresses of people in need, and he takes it from there. What an amazing operation, and how fortunate we are to have the huge number of dedicated volunteers that we do. Kindness abounds!



## *From the Outreach Ministry Team*



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

Thank-you everyone for all your Random Acts of Kindness this month. This month many children made valentines for loved ones. The children also continued praying for people who are sick, for their teachers, and for the people working at supermarkets so we can buy food. Nice work!

March will be 1 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 I want you to all think about all the new things you have done that you might not have done if this had been a normal year.

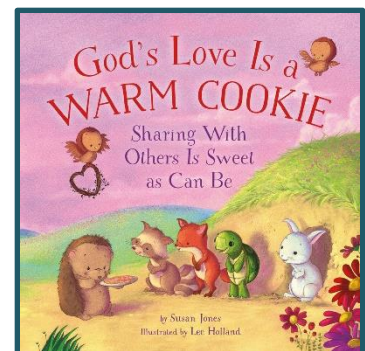
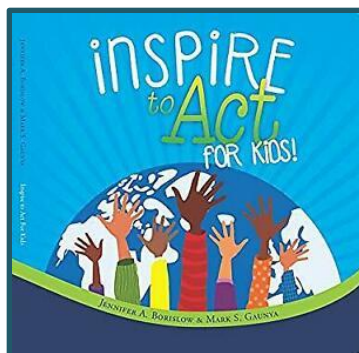
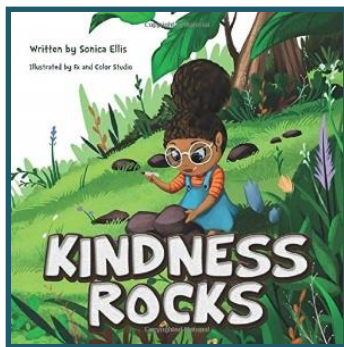
Continue to pray for all those helping you during these very hard times.

1. Bring can goods to the church to help all those in need of food.
2. Make a list of the new things you have done or something new you tried
3. Remember how lucky you have been and make a lucky shamrock to share with others.
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 Rock Garden.

During the next year, we would like you all 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 new books for this month you might like are *"Inspire to Act FOR KIDS!"* by Jennifer A. Borislów and Mark S. Gaunya, and *"God's Love is a Warm Cookie"* by Susan Jones,

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

Blessings, Mrs. B



## From the Outreach Ministry Team

### An Outreach Opportunity Helping Students and Teachers

The Outreach Team wishes to thank everyone who contributed items needed by the seventh grade teachers and students at the Timony School in Methuen. All items from the teachers' wish list were purchased and delivered, including 20 pencil boxes, 7 Chromebook chargers, and 14 power strips. These items were needed to maintain learning and provide safe-distancing practices in the classrooms. Thank you for meeting needs of our local school community!



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## Walking Group for Fitness and Fellowship

### Tuesdays in March

Please join us at the Loop in Methuen at **10:00 AM** on Tuesday mornings in March, weather permitting. We have made the change to the Loop for safety reasons during the winter. The sidewalks there are usually cleared well after storms. We will continue to wear masks and maintain social distance. We will meet in front of the AMC Theaters at **10:00 AM** on **3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23 and 3/30**. Hope to see you!

### Sunday Walk on the Methuen Rail Trail

Are you up for a winter walk on the rail trail? Join us on **Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:00 noon**, weather and conditions permitting. Although we usually walk to the Lawrence line (about 2 miles roundtrip), you can always walk a shorter distance by turning around sooner. We 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. Maybe we will see some signs of Spring!





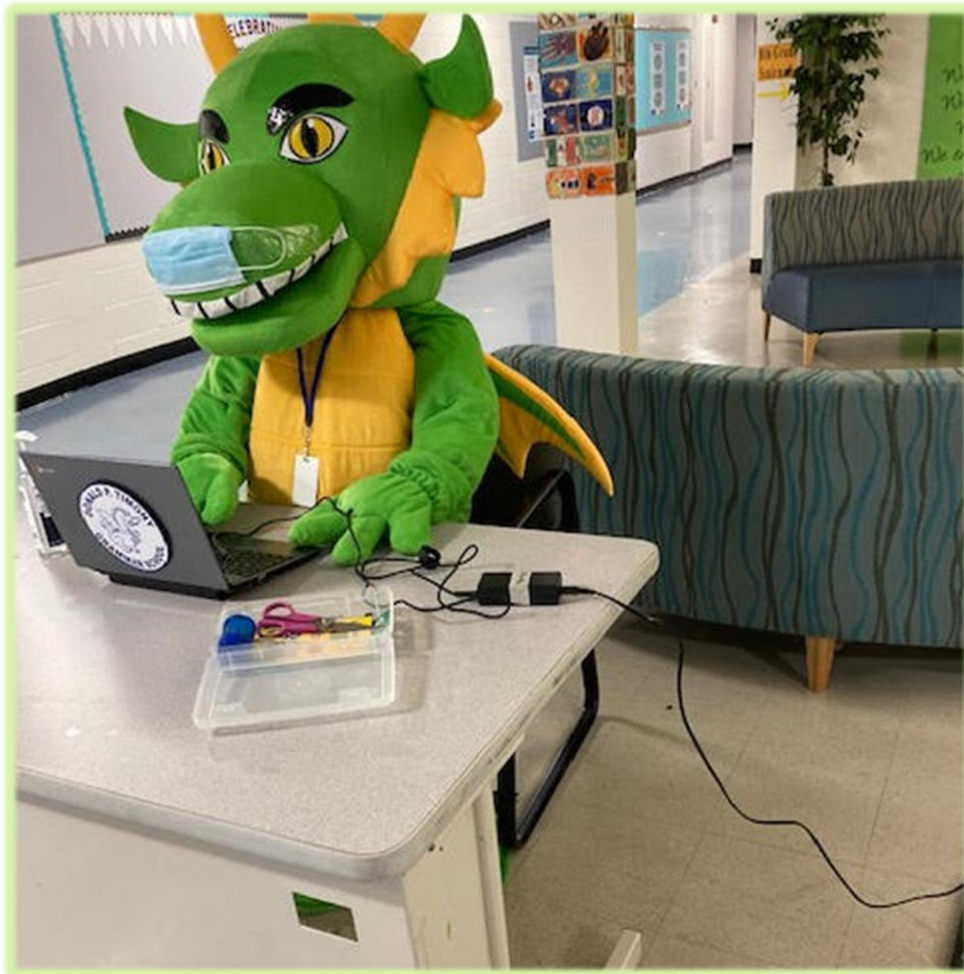
# Thank you!

Dear Outreach Committee and Church Members,

On behalf of the seventh grade teachers and students of the Donald P. Timony Grammar School, I sincerely thank you for the donations of strip outlets, chrome book chargers and pencil storage containers. These supplies help make virtual learning and technology a bit easier by providing us with tools to help keep us charged up and running! In addition, since students are not allowed to share supplies, the individual storage boxes will allow us to provide the supplies needed for work on written projects, rather than complete dependence on computer generated work.

As always, I am touched by the generosity and thoughtfulness of this congregation, and grateful for the commitment to the community of the Outreach Committee!

With joy and gratitude,  
*Diane Alaimo*





# Prayer Shawl Ministry



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

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

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



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*Original Artwork by Emily Jurovich*



# The Chapel School

Inside and Out, the children always have fun at Chapel!



Busy, busy, busy... Hard at Work  
A Puzzle Challenge



Future Engineers -  
Building a City

*Fresh Air =  
Rosy Cheeks!*



Making a  
Snow Angel



Having fun in  
the Snow



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

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



Located at:  
First Church Congregational  
26 Pleasant Street, Methuen





# 2020 Easter Giving



If you would like to donate and/or order a plant for Easter, please use this form and return it to the church office by **Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**. Please note: We will need time to order the plants. All donations and orders received by this deadline will be listed in the "Easter Giving Booklet".

\*\*\*\*\*

## Plant Order

All Easter plants at **\$15.00 per plant**, please indicate quantity below:

Easter Lily \_\_\_\_\_\*  
(white lily)

Tulip \_\_\_\_\_\*

Mona Lisa Lily \_\_\_\_\_\*  
(pink & white lily)

Please print

Given in Loving Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration/Honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle choice)

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

*\*After the Easter service, all plants will be delivered to  
a homebound member or friend of the church*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Donation

BUILDING MAINTENANCE \_\_\_\_\_ OPERATING EXPENSE \_\_\_\_\_

ORGAN RESTORATION \_\_\_\_\_ OUTREACH \_\_\_\_\_

REACH TEAM \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

Please print

Given in Loving Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration/Honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle choice)

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Please make check payable to: *First Church Congregational* ("Easter Giving" in memo)

*Thank you and Happy Easter!*



# BEHIND THE scenes

AT FIRST CHURCH

BY: BECKY WRIGHT

Walking into the church after being away for almost a whole year brought tears to my eyes. It felt like a privilege to enter that day and participate in documenting what happens each Sunday while most of the congregation continues to watch from home.

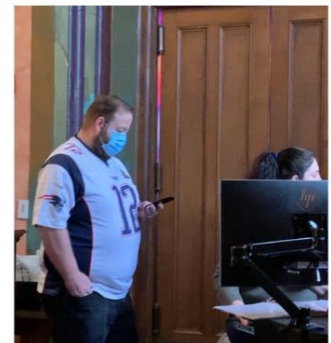
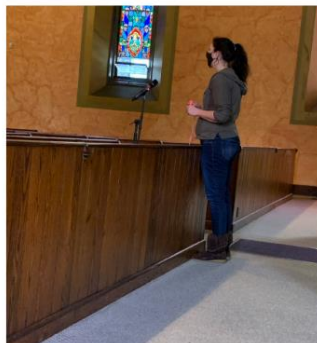
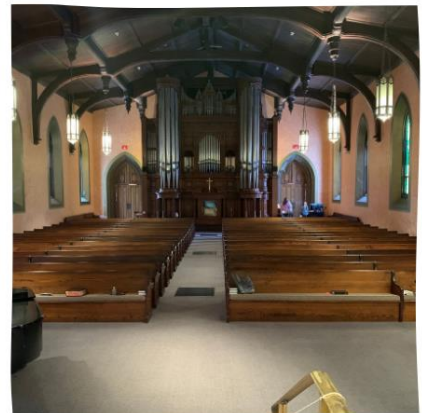
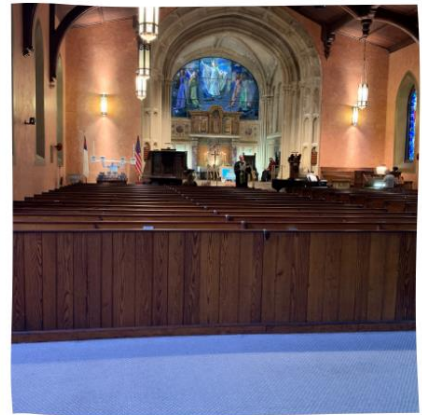
**Stacey Murray, Carol Sanborn, and Patrick Wright** have spent countless volunteer hours getting the AV system up and running to bring what we miss so much about the church to our screens at home. Although there are still some kinks to work out, their efforts to produce a flawless production do not go without appreciation. The team continues to work tirelessly with our tech support partner, **Kinly**, to remedy any issues within the system.

Each Sunday morning, the team arrives at 8:30 AM to set up everything needed to bring church service to you at home. From graphics and visually beautiful preset camera angles to setting up microphones for each person and musical element, to sound and volume checks on our sound system, everything is checked and checked again to ensure the best possible level of success. At 9:50 AM the production goes live with opening visuals and lovely organ music.

Throughout the live service, Facebook is monitored and readings and other important information is posted. Prayer requests sent through the chat or private message are also written down and addressed. If any technical issue is noticed, the team springs into action to correct the problem as soon as possible.

After the service, the team continues to work uploading the service to YouTube, and Facebook. Any prayer requests sent through the chat or private message are given to Pastor Bill to ensure they are heard. They also spend time preparing graphics and other production elements to enrich future services.

*Thank you, Carol, Stacey & Pat for the hard work that goes into the Sunday service production.*



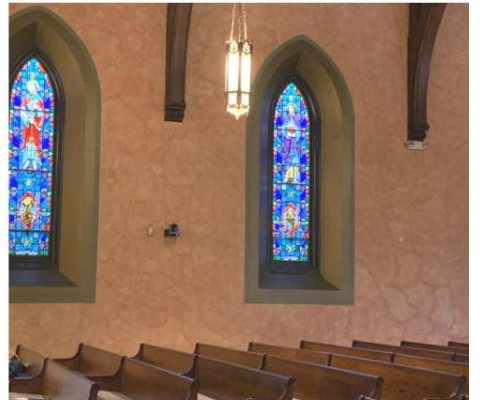
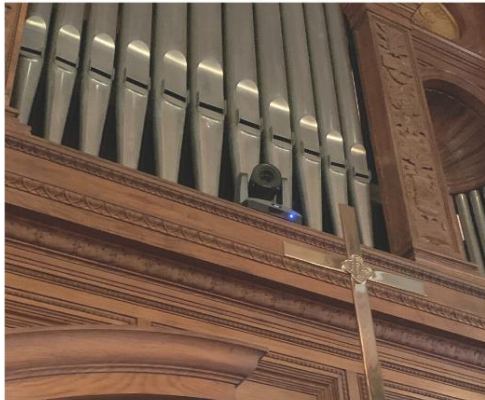




The System



The Cameras



# 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](mailto:pastor.bill.ingraham@gmail.com) or 978-687-1240.

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

\* \* \* \* \*

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



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

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

*Thank you for your support.*





**Daily Lectionary Scripture References –March 2021 (Year B)**

**Mon. Mar. 1**

Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45  
Genesis 21:1-7  
Hebrews 1:8-12

**Tues., Mar. 2**

Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45  
Genesis 22:1-19  
Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19

**Wed., Mar. 3**

Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45  
Jeremiah 30:12-22  
John 12:36-43

**Thurs., Mar. 4**

Psalm 19  
Exodus 19:1-9a  
1 Peter 2:4-10

**Fri., Mar. 5**

Psalm 19  
Exodus 19:9b-15  
Acts 7:30-40

**Sat., Mar. 6**

Psalm 19  
Exodus 19:16-25  
Mark 9:2-8

**Sun., Mar. 7**

**Third Sunday in Lent**  
Exodus 20:1-17  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
John 2:13-22

**Mon., Mar. 8**

Psalm 84  
1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22  
1 Corinthians 3:10-23

**Tues., Mar. 9**

Psalm 84  
2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19  
Hebrews 9:23-28

**Wed., Mar. 10**

Psalm 84  
Ezra 6:1-16  
Mark 11:15-19

**Thurs., Mar. 11**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Genesis 9:8-17  
Ephesians 1:3-6

**Fri., Mar. 12**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Daniel 12:5-13  
Ephesians 1:7-14

**Sat. Mar. 13**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Numbers 20:22-29  
John 3:1-13

**Sun., Mar. 14**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

**Mon., Mar. 15**

Psalm 107:1-16  
Exodus 15:22-27  
Hebrews 3:1-6

**Tues., Mar. 16**

Psalm 107:1-16  
Numbers 20:1-13  
1 Corinthians 10:6-13

**Wed., Mar. 17**

Psalm 107:1-16  
Isaiah 60:15-22  
John 8:12-20

**Thurs., Mar. 18**

Psalm 51:1-12  
Isaiah 30:15-18  
Hebrews 4:1-13

**Fri., Mar. 19**

Psalm 51:1-12  
Exodus 30:1-10  
Hebrews 4:14-5:4

**Sat., Mar. 20**

Psalm 51:1-12  
Habakkuk 3:2-13  
John 12:1-11

**Sun., Mar. 21**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16  
Hebrews 5:5-10  
John 12:20-33

**Mon., Mar. 22**

Psalm 119:9-16  
Isaiah 43:8-13  
2 Corinthians 3:4-11

**Tues., Mar. 23**

Psalm 119:9-16  
Isaiah 44:1-8  
Acts 2:14-24

**Wed., Mar. 24**

Psalm 119:9-16  
Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23  
John 12:34-50

**Thurs., Mar. 25**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Deuteronomy 16:1-8  
Philippians 2:1-11

**Fri., Mar. 26**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Jeremiah 33:1-9  
Philippians 2:12-18

**Sat., Mar. 27**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Jeremiah 33:10-16  
Mark 10:32-34, 46-52

**Sun., Mar. 28**

**Passion or Palm Sunday**  
**Palms:**  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16  
**Passion:**  
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11;  
Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39  
[40-47]

**Mon., Mar. 29 (Holy Week)**

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11  
Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

**Tues., Mar. 30 (Holy Week)**

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
John 12:20-36

**Wed., Mar. 31 (Holy Week)**

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70  
Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32



# Happy Birthday!

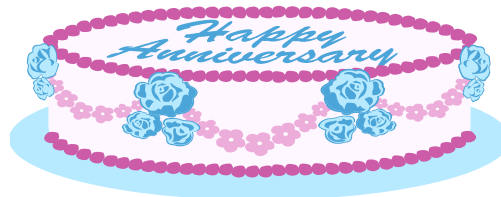
01 Charlene Bunting  
 03 Thomas Savastano  
 06 Haleigh Sanborn, John Silva  
 08 Heather LoCicero  
 10 Richard Dewhirst  
 12 Nicholas Jurovich  
 14 Dominic Alaimo, George Simonian  
 15 Dennis Michaud  
 17 Patrick Romano, Rebecca Smith  
 19 Kate Dockham, Adam LoCicero  
 22 Abigail Boyko, Alexander Boyko  
 24 Jack Napier  
 25 Carole Sanborn  
 28 Jessica Borislow  
 29 Emily Jurovich, Kristen Pare  
 31 Ray Valcourt



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS





03 Hanson Causbie  
 04 Callie Bateson  
 05 Michael Alaimo  
 07 Justin Hodgkins

\* \* \* \* \*



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3/4	Larry & Robyn Sliney	Married 26 years
3/6	Patrick & Rebecca Wright	Married 16 years
3/15	Bill & Lori Bennett	Married 41 years
3/28	Stephen & Judi Boyko	Married 29 years

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

Dates and times are subject to change





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

**Address Service Requested**