

April 2021



THE BEACON



First Church Congregational

United Church of Christ

26 Pleasant Street

Methuen, MA 01844-3199

Telephone: 978-687-1240

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www.firstchurchmethuen.com



“GETTING PARSONAL”

Rev. William D. Ingraham

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things unseen.

~ Hebrews 11:1 (NRSV)

I've been eagerly anticipating spring flowers in my garden all winter long. My anticipation started before that, though. From the moment I finished planting bulbs back in the late fall, I've been eager. Even before that, as I scoured the internet looking for just the right daffodils, at just the right price, I've been looking forward to this spring. I've thought about planting daffodils around the parsonage since I first saw the house on my initial meeting with the FCC Search Committee. "Daffodils would look great in that yard," I thought to myself, knowing full well that I had to wait until after the Search Committee decided to make me their candidate, and then, until after I actually *got called* to serve this church, before I could really make plans for spring flowers. I also needed to wait to see if anything already was planted there (which, shy of a few tulips along the sidewalk on Tremont, there was nothing).

Last fall, *finally*, I planted daffodils. Some were ordered online, and others were a gift from a parishioner's garden. When the last bulbs were in the ground, my wait began in earnest. The days evolved from late autumn, first turning cool, then downright cold, with snow, and ice, and wind, and frozen ground to follow. I was excited for the spring that was to come – for *this* spring. As the last

snow piles started to recede, to my delight, there were little green shoots visible just outside my kitchen window, making themselves known through two final inches of snow. Now all of the bulbs have broken ground, as have peonies, iris and daylilies. It is going to be a remarkable spring!

We are in the midst of a seasonal transition in the church, too. This is Holy Week – in fact, as you receive this newsletter, we’ve made it to Maundy Thursday. We’ll gather online to recall Christ’s final days and hours, remembering his passion and faithfulness. We’ll hear again about the last supper, the time in the garden and Jesus’ arrest. We’ll listen to the trial recounted, hearing Peter’s denial, following the story all the way to Jesus’ crucifixion, death and burial in the tomb. Then, we’ll wait for the coming of Easter. And just as spring always follows winter’s darkness and cold, Easter always follows the wilderness days of Lent’s thoughtful introspection and confession. Resurrection follows crucifixion. Hope follows worry and doubt, and even despair.

I suspect you are as ready for Easter this year as I am. It is often felt as if last year’s Lent somehow spanned long past spring, dragging along with us even as we recounted Easter, Pentecost, Advent and Christmas. We have been in the wilderness for a long time! Yet Easter’s hope, the hope for new life and possibility, the hope of God’s promise to lead us through the darkest of times, are all right before us. We’ve just a little bit longer to go. Easter is coming. Spring is coming. Hope, and joy, and *life* all are coming.

We read reports of increasing numbers of vaccinated people, and more and more members of our church as getting vaccinated. Yes, infection rates are on the rise again, and we need to persevere and be diligent a bit longer. Maybe just a few months? While we’re not yet sure when, we *are* starting to feel certain that life and freedom are right before us. We are on our way back to normalcy, to getting to hug our family members and friends, and to getting back to lives lived in community, *in person*. We are all *so eager!*

It’s not quite here yet, but the day is coming. Like Easter’s hope when it’s only Maundy Thursday. Or the hope of yellow daffodils when all we’ve got is an inch or two of green leaves poking from the ground. While the time for waiting and anticipating is not over yet, we know that what we are longing for, hoping for, *needing*, is getting closer to us by the day.

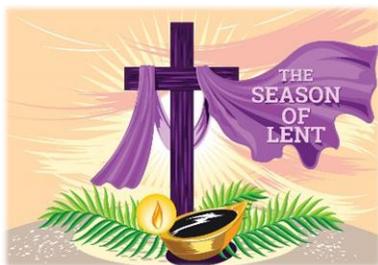


See you soon!

Faithfully,

- *Bill*





2021 Lenten Services

First Church Congregational

United Church of Christ

Methuen, MA

All our worship services can be seen on Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/FirstChurchMethuen) and will be available later on our YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLSjhXs9UG8yC89aB8evrA).

Thursday, April 1st:

7:00 PM – *Maundy Thursday*

A Service of Communion and Tenebrae (dramatic liturgy of Shadows and the Last Supper)

Sunday, April 4th:

10:00 AM – *Easter Sunday & Communion Sunday*

We will celebrate the joy of resurrection, the empty tomb, and the promise of life that triumphs over all adversity!

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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. 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 or 978-687-1240.

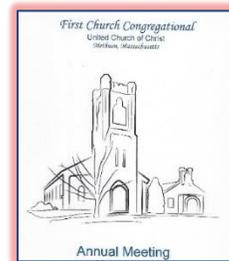
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Annual Reports are Due

All Committees should submit their annual report to the Church Office **no later than Thursday, April 1st**. 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.

The Annual Meeting is currently scheduled for Sunday, May 23rd.

Thank you for your cooperation.



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

Sunday Morning Worship



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

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Fellowship Time after Sunday Worship

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



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Morning Coffee on Wednesday



On **Wednesday, April 7th**, 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.

* * * * *



Palms Pickup

Saturday, March 27th

Some parishioners stopped by the church on Saturday, March 27th, to pickup palms for Palm Sunday, wooden labyrinths and get a picture taken with “Souper Bowl Referee” Ray!



From the Outreach Ministry Team

Mental Health Sunday April 25, 2021

At our March meeting in preparation for Mental Health Sunday, April 25th, we spent time talking about the importance of Mental Health as many of us have experienced varying levels of stress and anxiety during the Pandemic. We also talked about **“Substance Abuse,” the topic for April 25th**. Both of our speakers for that day are very knowledgeable about the topic. We anticipate they will cover recognizing the problem, how to deal with it, and related information.

Since the March Beacon issue, we found that one of our speakers, **Cole Welch-Caffrey** is no longer with the Methuen Police Department as a Community Engagement Specialist for C.A.R.E.S. In 2021 she assumed a new role as the Program Director of Haverhill Clubhouse, a community-based center serving members with psychiatric conditions.

Cole is a woman in long-term recovery. She was born and raised in Methuen and serves as **President of Merrimack Valley Prevention and Substance Abuse Project (MVPASAP)**. She struggled in her adolescent years with alcohol misuse, but found recovery at the young age of 20. She has been clean and sober since October 16, 1987.

Through volunteering at MVPASAP and her own experience and strength, Cole has been able to assist those struggling with addiction and families affected by the disease of addiction. ***MVPASAP’s mission is to educate community members on the dangers of substance misuse, the importance of prevention, advocate for those in need of services, all the while trying to decrease the stigma of addiction.*** MVPASAP is a 501c3 that serves Methuen, Lawrence, Andover, North Andover and Haverhill.

Our other speaker, **Doug Griffin**, of Newton, NH, is also on the Board of MVPASAP. He has become **one of the country’s top drug reform advocates** following the death of her 20 year old daughter, Courtney, from a drug overdose in 2014. Doug, his wife, Pam, and their daughter, Shannon, 29, were on the front page of the March 11, 2021 issue of The Eagle-Tribune. Doug is one of the people on the State of New Hampshire Commission charged with the creation of a recovery monument. A State statute has established a commission of oversee the location, design, construction, and maintenance of the monument, while an online survey currently is seeking public input on what the monument will look like.

Virtual 2021 “Stride into the Light” Walk-Run

The 6th Annual “Stride into the Light” Walk-Run will be held **Saturday, May 15 through, Saturday, May 22**. This year it will be a *virtual walk-run*. The dates allow people to walk-run at a time convenient to them. Kerri Bedard has found a platform that will allow us to register participants and to accept donations. See the “Stride Save the Date” flyer in this Beacon. We decided to donate all proceeds from this year’s VIRTUAL walk-run locally, directly to Family Services’ Samaritans of Merrimack Valley, located in Lawrence, MA

NIN Tuesday Evening Food Pantry

At the beginning of the Pandemic the Food Pantry was averaging 183 families served. We are now at 500 families. In the last month and a half we went from 440, to 498, to 508 families. We continue to thank all those who donate food and those who volunteer each week.

The Outreach Team – Marilyn Peck, Team Leader, Cindy Bateson, Ray Benedix, Lori Bennett, Cynthia Causbie, Barbara Donaghue, Deb MaueSprague, Ken Peck, and Becky Smith

From the Outreach Ministry Team

Random Acts of Kindness for March

Two stories were shared with the Random Acts of Kindness Team...

On a very cold morning, our heat went out. A very helpful grandson was planning to come to install a shelf in the laundry room and we called and told him not to come. The house was too cold. Saying that the cold would not bother him, he came anyway and turned into our saving grace. Upon entering the house, he was alarmed by what he could smell. He would not leave until other family members on their way had arrived. They too detected the strong odor. We all went outside and called 911. Both fire and police responded, arriving quickly, and entered with their detectors. Our plumber also arrived and when he smelled the odor, he immediately knew what it was. The propane tank fueling the heating system was low on propane. The additive to the propane is to warn you of low fuel. The propane supplier said they would be out in 24 to 48 hours, but that was not good enough for the fire chief. He contacted the gas company directly and they responded to his call. The snow removal company had piled snow on the storage tank and a delivery could not be made. At the end of the day, the snow was shoveled, gas was delivered, and heat was once again working. So many kind people came to our rescue and also warmed our hearts.



Having spent a good deal of the last year at home, I have become more aware of my neighborhood. I have a neighbor who always has a little red tote sitting on top of his barrel, and it made me curious. As it turns out, the tote contains water for the attendants. They take out the water, and replace the red tote for next week, barely breaking stride. I asked them about the water when they got to my house, and they said that it started last summer during the very hot days and it was so greatly appreciated. It is an act of kindness for people that can sometimes be invisible to the rest of us. A little act that means so much.

Spring Forth and Be Kind!



From the Outreach Ministry Team



Random Acts of Kindness for our Youth

Thank-you everyone for all your Random Acts of Kindness this past month – more can goods were bought and shared with food pantries. Thoughts of how lucky many of our youth were to be able to be with family and not sick. I heard from some of you about the kindness you are sharing. Nice work!

More than 1 year ago, we were asked not to go out and not do things we would normally do. Wear a mask and stay 6 feet apart. It has been hard, but many of you have said that you have enjoyed extra family time – helping siblings, playing board games and doing puzzles. We have gone on hikes and chilled a lot more. We have been more creative with art projects and have learned to create new snacks and dinners.

As you celebrate Easter this year, remember how blessed you have been. Please continue to pray for all those helping you during these very hard times. If you are able, here are some acts of kindness for April:

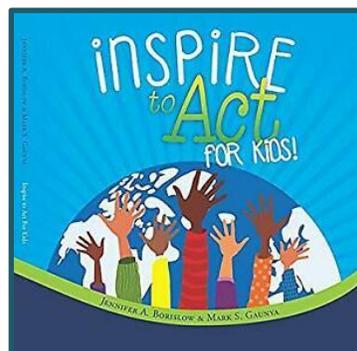
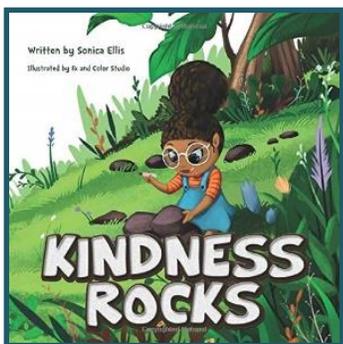
1. Bring can goods to the church to help all those in need of food.
2. Make a list of the new things you have done or something new you tried.
3. Count your blessings and be ready to share some of them next month.
4. Make a Kindness rock or two. You may paint it, or just write a word on it. Whatever you would like. Save it, as we will want it for our 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. Borislow and Mark S. Gaunya, and *"Kindness Starts with You - At School"* by Jacquelyn Stagg

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

Be safe.

Blessings,
Mrs. B



Walking Group for Fitness and Fellowship

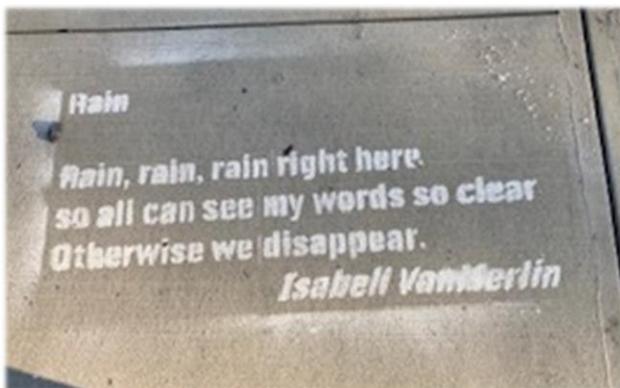
Tuesdays* in April

Come welcome **Spring** with church friends on a weekly walk along the Merrimack River! We will be returning to Riverside Park at 960 Riverside Drive in Methuen starting in April. We will continue to wear masks and maintain social distance. Meeting time is **10:00 AM** on **4/6, 4/13, 4/20 and 4/27**.

*If Tuesday mornings don't work for you, or you would like to walk additional days or times, and you would like company, contact Cindy Bateson with the day and time you would like to walk. We will send out an email to our group of regular walkers who are looking to walk more. It doesn't have to be a regular schedule and doesn't have to be our regular location. For example, "I would like to walk the Windham Rail Trail next Saturday morning at 9:00". If we can, we will submit the date and time to the church Tuesday or Friday email blast.

Sunday Walk on the Methuen Rail Trail

Springtime on the scenic Methuen Rail Trail! Always lots to see and enjoy along the way while enjoying the company of fellow walkers and getting exercise and supporting our mental health. Beautiful mosaic artwork, a carved bear statue, the bird sanctuary (watch for nesting cranes), flowering trees, a stone bridge, the Tenney Chapel carillon bells, and Spicket River views. Did you know there is a "Little Library" at the MSPCA access point? Join us on **Sunday, April 18th at 12:00 NOON**. 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.



Prayer Shawl Ministry



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

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



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



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Original Artwork by Emily Jurovich



The Chapel School

What have we learned this year? First and foremost, we have learned that when presented with a challenge, we rise up and face it head on. It was not the kind of school year we expected but nothing ever is, and we always have to be ready for anything. Challenges are never easy, but they somehow drive us forward and make us better. Fears turn into problem solving which turns into forging new concepts and operations.

Children are the most resilient at adapting to change. They have amazed us every step this past year. We have learned that despite all the changes to our daily routine and how we use materials in the classroom, we can still have fun and learn a thing or two.

Enrollment is well underway for September. We already have received registrations both in house and from new families. We receive inquiries every day. A mother rang the bell yesterday to drop off an application. We were not expecting her. When I went to the door, she handed me an application and check for her child's placement for September. She said I just went to the Chapel website and printed out the application. She said everyone knows about Chapel. You have positive reviews on every webpage for parents. That was all I needed to hear!!!

We have also purchased a new Chapel flag. The old one was ripping from all the wear and tear. The registration banner will be going back out on the front lawn as well. We have also purchased lawn signs that we are asking families to display on their front lawns to promote Chapel too. They all match with same colorful logo. If you would like to display a Chapel lawn sign, please call the office at 978-689-8414.



The Chapel Staff have all had first vaccine shots and some have their second. It has made us feel hopeful that we are closer to eliminating this virus.

With the time change and Spring weather we are in the home stretch to completing what has been the most challenging but rewarding school year ever.

Cindy Mazella
Director



The Chapel School

Where a Lifetime of Learning Begins

REGISTER NOW for the 2021-22 School Year



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



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



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



Contact us to schedule a tour today at

978-689-8414

chapelschoolmethuen@gmail.com



www.chapelschoolmethuen.com



Located at:
First Church Congregational
26 Pleasant Street, Methuen





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 – 4:15 PM)

**** Not Available at this time ****

- ___ 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 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.

2021 UPDATES

STRIDE INTO THE LIGHT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

With Stride, Kerri Bedard (Bennett)

Questions? Call or Email!

978-764-8131 or StrideIntoTheLight@yahoo.com



STRIDE INTO THE LIGHT

VIRTUAL
5K WALK
OR
RUN

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



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

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

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

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

We look forward to Striding with you!

Contact:

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

Registration Fee:

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

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.

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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 –April 2021 (Year B)

Thurs., Apr. 1**Holy Thursday**

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Fri., Apr. 2**Good Friday**

Isaiah 52:13–53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25 *or*
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1–19:42

Sat., Apr. 3**Holy Saturday**

Job 14:1-14 *or* Lamentations
3:1-9, 19-24
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16
1 Peter 4:1-8
Matthew 27:57-66 *or* John
19:38-42

Sun., Apr. 4**Easter**

Acts 10:34-43 *or* Isaiah
25:6-9
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 *or* Acts
10:34-43
John 20:1-18 *or* Mark 16:1-8

Mon., Apr. 5

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Genesis 1:1-19
1 Corinthians 15:35-49

Tues., Apr. 6

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Genesis 1:20–2:4a
1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Wed., Apr. 7

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Song of Solomon 3:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

Thurs., Apr. 8

Psalm 133
Daniel 1:1-21
Acts 2:42-47

Fri., Apr. 9

Psalm 133
Daniel 2:1-23
Acts 4:23-31

Sat., Apr. 10

Psalm 133
Daniel 2:24-49
John 12:44-50

Sun., Apr. 11**Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1–2:2
John 20:19-31

Mon., Apr. 12

Psalm 135
Daniel 3:1-30
1 John 2:3-11

Tues., Apr. 13

Psalm 135
Daniel 6:1-28
1 John 2:12-17

Wed., Apr. 14

Psalm 135
Isaiah 26:1-15
Mark 12:18-27

Thurs., Apr. 15

Psalm 4
Daniel 9:1-19
1 John 2:18-25

Fri., Apr. 16

Psalm 4
Daniel 10:2-19
1 John 2:26-28

Sat., Apr. 17

Psalm 4
Acts 3:1-10
Luke 22:24-30

Sun., Apr. 18**Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

Mon., Apr. 19

Psalm 150
Jeremiah 30:1-11a
1 John 3:10-16

Tues., Apr. 20

Psalm 150
Hosea 5:15–6:6
2 John 1-6

Wed., Apr. 21

Psalm 150
Proverbs 9:1-6
Mark 16:9-18

Thurs., Apr. 22

Psalm 23
Genesis 30:25-43
Acts 3:17-26

Fri., Apr. 23

Psalm 23
Genesis 46:28–47:6
Acts 4:1-4

Sat., Apr. 24

Psalm 23
Genesis 48:8-19
Mark 6:30-34

Sun., Apr. 25**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

Mon., Apr. 26

Psalm 95
1 Samuel 16:1-13
1 Peter 5:1-5

Tues., Apr. 27

Psalm 95
1 Chronicles 11:1-9
Revelation 7:13-17

Wed., Apr. 28

Psalm 95
Micah 7:8-20
Mark 14:26-31

Thurs., Apr. 29

Psalm 22:25-31
Amos 8:1-7
Acts 8:1b-8

Fri., Apr. 30

Psalm 22:25-31
Amos 8:11-13
Acts 8:9-25

Happy Birthday!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 01 April Lykowsky
- 03 Hanson Causbie
- 05 Michael Alaimo
- 06 Justin Hodgkins
- 08 Anne Benedix
- 12 Meredith Wright
- 14 Andrew Hodgkins, Denis Webster Greene
- 16 Josh Ferry
- 17 Evan Chaisson
- 19 Alaina Romano
- 20 Kim Kowal
- 21 Pauline Hamilton
- 24 Raymond Benedix
- 25 Audrey Lang
- 26 Diane Alaimo, Jennifer Borislow
- 30 Janet Tashjian



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Susan Newton
- 05 Robyn Sliney, Miranda Suarez

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APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | |
|------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 4/7 | Kevin & Brenda Adametz | Married 20 years |
| 4/12 | Dennis & Brenda Michaud | Married 18 years |
| 4/20 | James & June Clark | Married 17 years |
| 4/20 | George & Patricia King | Married 47 years |
| 4/22 | Thomas & Roberta Jurovich | Married 26 years |



April 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 Committee Annual Reports Due Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM Virtual Service	2 Good Friday <i>Chapel School Closed</i>	3
4 Communion Easter Sunday 11:15 AM Fellowship	5 6:30 PM Finance	6 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park)	7 8:00 AM Morning Coffee 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM Church Board	8	9	10
11 11:15 AM Fellowship	12 4:00 PM Chapel Staff 6:30 PM Outreach	13 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park)	14 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Diaconate	15	16	17
18 11:15 AM Fellowship 12:00 PM Walking Group (Methuen Rail Trail)	19 6:30 PM Stewardship	20 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park)	21 May BEACON Deadline 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM MDCC	22	23	24
25 Mental Health Sunday 11:15 AM Fellowship	26	27 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park)	28 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl	29	30	
The Chapel School Closed – MA School Vacation Week						

Dates and Times Subject to Change

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

Address Service Requested