

NOVEMBER 2022



# THE BEACON



## First Church Congregational United Church of Christ

26 Pleasant Street  
Methuen, MA 01844-3199  
Telephone: (978) 687-1240

Rev. William D. Ingraham, Senior Pastor  
[pastor.bill.ingraham@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.bill.ingraham@gmail.com)

Roberta Jurovich, Office Manager  
[firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com)

Mike Boutin, Minister of Music  
[boutinerjr@gmail.com](mailto:boutinerjr@gmail.com)

[www.firstchurchmethuen.com](http://www.firstchurchmethuen.com)

Worship on Sundays at 10:00 AM  
In-person & on Facebook Live



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

While preparing my monthly report for the First Church Board this week I came to an exciting, even surprising realization. We’ve got something special in the works for every Sunday from now through the first of the year! I hope you’ll plan to join us. Here’s a preview of what’s ahead:

- **November 6: Stewardship Luncheon following worship.** The ministry team that cooks for Bread and Roses each month will prepare the same meal for us, serving it as a banquet to celebrate our church’s generosity and good stewardship.
- **November 13:** In the afternoon, the **first wedding** to take place in our church since before the pandemic began. The bride, Farrah Derderian, is a child of First Church.

- **November 20: Thanksgiving Food collection.** The shopping list is included in this newsletter. We're serving a lot of families, so your support is crucial.
- **November 27: First Sunday of Advent.** Make sure to be here for the lighting of the first Advent candle.
- **December 4: Second Sunday of Advent.** After worship **Jamie Blanco Galant**, mother, journalist, author, actor, podcast host and *First Church member*, will **present her newly published book, "Hope for the Hopeless."**
- **December 11: Music Sunday.** Plans are under way. It's gonna be great!
- **December 18: Fourth Sunday of Advent.** Always a special day!
- **December 24: Christmas Eve,** with candles and lots of Christmas carols.
- **December 25: Christmas Day worship.** This is a relaxed and fun service. Plus, you can come wearing your pajamas!
- **January 1: New Year's Day worship.** The sermon will be "Questions for the Pastor," also known as "stump the chump!" It promises to be a thought-provoking morning. Come with your questions in mind!

As I said, we've got a lot to look forward to. You don't want to miss a thing! Please plan to join us, bring a neighbor or friend, and celebrate the excitement of an active, faithful congregation that strives to fulfill our mission statement every day:

*Seeking God. Caring for each other. Improving our community.*

See you in church.

*~Bill*

*Photo taken on a recent walk through  
Greycourt State Park.*



# Sunday Morning Worship

10:00 AM

*Hope you will join us!*



For those who cannot attend in person, worship will continue to be broadcast each Sunday, at 10:00 AM, on Facebook Live ([facebook.com/FirstChurchMethuen](https://facebook.com/FirstChurchMethuen)). It will also be posted following the worship service on our YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLSjhXs9UG8yC89aB8evrA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLSjhXs9UG8yC89aB8evrA)).

The service can be viewed at any time on either platform.

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## *Breakfast with Bill*

Join Pastor Bill for ***“Breakfast with Bill”*** – an informal time for friendship and conversation on any topic. We will gather on **Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM**, at Carleen’s Coffee Shop, 209 South Broadway, Lawrence, MA. And remember, it’s dutch treat!



# Prayer and Visit Requests

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

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*We would like to thank all our friends at First Church. We really appreciate all of the prayers, cards, calls, visits, and food while George was laid up.*

*With Love,  
George & Pat King*

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# *Musical Musings*

Hard to believe that I've been here a month already. I've learned a lot: you are an incredibly kind and gracious congregation and have welcomed me so warmly into your faith community. You value your music program and share your thoughts about it easily. I always welcome your opinions, your reactions, and your ideas.

It's been a real pleasure getting to know and work with our Chancel Choir. I'm so excited about all the possibilities as we grow together. BUT WE NEED MEN! A choir needs 4 parts: soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. It would be AMAZING to have a couple more tenors and basses to add some depth and weight to our choir sound. And of course, we can always use more altos and sopranos.

If you can't commit to a weekly choir rehearsal on Sunday morning at 8:30am, or if it's just too early for you, talk to me. We could come up with some alternatives: maybe once a month or arrive later than 8:30 am. Each week, I send out an email to our choir members that includes a rehearsal audio track to listen to and to sing along to in preparation for Sunday. It's a great way to prepare and if you can't read music, this is a different way to learn it.

If you play an instrument, I also want to hear from you. I'd like to start scheduling solo instrumentalists for preludes or postludes. Talk to me.

This week, we also started a new tradition of "funeral choir". When someone dies here at First, I'd like us to offer the ministry of a funeral choir: singers come together specifically for the funeral, even if you don't regularly sing in the choir. (But maybe you'll have such a great experience in the funeral choir that you decide to join the Sunday Chancel Choir too!). It's a powerful ministry to the grieving family, who are deeply grateful for sharing our music with them in their time of need.

We are also getting ready for Advent and Christmas: these seasons are all about music, so I'm excited to share that music with all of you. Consider joining the choir for the season of Advent and Christmas. I'm considering a simplified arrangement of some of the Messiah by Handel for Advent or Christmas, so come be a part of it!

See you on Sunday!

*Mike Boutin*



# From the Chair of the Church Board...

## FIRST CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL

*You know what's missing???*

**U R !!!!**

Greetings all from your chair of the church board! If you've been to church in person, you know what the excitement is. If you haven't come in a while, there's a LOT going on - many things to enjoy and also a lot of items that you can participate in. To sum up a portion of all of the wonderful items:

- First Church held our recent Ham & Bean supper to a rave review! Over 200 hungry people came to our annual fellowship event, and they left very full of good eats and laughter. Besides the outstanding ham and beans was hot dogs, mac-n-cheese, salads of all kinds, brown bread, dinner rolls, Mann's apple crisp, and even a Vegan buffet! A lot of people volunteered to make it happen, and I cannot thank them enough. A great time was had by all who participated.
- Our Minister of Music – Mike Boutin – continues to fill our sanctuary with beautiful music. There's room in the choir for singers of all skill level, so come and join in the fun. Also, if you can't commit to the year round program, you may consider joining for Advent (coming up) or Lent. Additionally, the First Church Bells choir is starting up again. If you can count, you can play! Please speak to Jim Conner if you're interested in joining in the fun.
- The Outreach program launch – “Just Book It!!” is still underway, with hundreds of new and used volumes going to a local school. If you would like to contribute, donate, or help, please talk with any of our Outreach team.
- The Stewardship program, “Forward Together,” is going to wrap up its annual work with a wonderful luncheon on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. The meal will be the same that we provide to the Bread & Roses outfit, so come enjoy!
- Christian Education is back, thanks to our wonderful teachers. Currently, it's on a limited basis, but we can expand if you would like to volunteer. Please see Rev. Bill to help build this great program.
- Chapel school is back in session! Chapel is still enrolling, so spread the word to any and all parents that may be interested.
- ...and so much more!

However, it's not all fun & games, as we have more work to do. With our historic tower repairs complete, the capital campaign is now focused on replacing the sanctuary furnaces and repairing the water damage to the narthex. The head of the campaign, Steve Boyko, is trying to raise \$75,000 more to complete the repairs. The church is driving to get to 100% participation in order to close the financial gap, so please talk to Steve to find out how you can help.

As always, all are welcome to chat anytime with me. I love to hear your ideas and suggestions. We also have a lot of other activities and missions scheduled, so I would love your input. I know you all work so hard to make our church a blessing to our families and neighbors, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Let's keep the energy and drive, continuing to seek God, care for each other, and improve our community.

God bless!!!

*Josh Ferry*



# *The Stewardship Ministry Team*

*cordially invites you to a luncheon  
following worship*

*on*

## *Sunday, November 6, 2022*

*Come join us as we share a meal together  
in fellowship to celebrate and give thanks  
for all of God's promises and blessings  
to us at First Church!*

### ***Forward Together***



***Joyfully***



***Faithfully***



***Gratefully***

## ***From the Outreach Ministry Team***

### **Thanksgiving 2022 Food Pantry for NIN**

For a variety of reasons, First Church is changing the way our Neighbors in Need (NIN) Thanksgiving distribution is being given this year. The number of families coming to our NIN Tuesday Evening Food Pantry is now over 300 families each week. These families need as much food as we can provide. So in lieu of the usual Thanksgiving groceries you would usually provide, we are asking you to provide non-perishable food items, your choice, from the shopping list on the next page. These donations will be part of the food distribution on Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, in addition to the food NIN will provide that day. The next article explains how to donate food and/or make a monetary donation. If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Peck.



### **Let's Book It!**



We are excited to tell you that we have collected over 500 new and gently used books for Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade at the Tenney Grammar School. We plan to deliver the books and handmade bookmarks to MaryBeth Donovan Grassi, principal of the Tenney Grammar School, the week of October 31<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to your generous donations, this was a great church wide effort and a wonderful success!

### **Samaritans' 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Hope**

What a beautiful fall day the Family Services' Samaritans had for hosting their 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Hope on October 22<sup>nd</sup>! JoAnn Crosby, Bob and Bargara Donaghue and Kathy Romano walked that day representing the "First Church Stride Team." Others had signed up to walk but were unable to do so due to unforeseen events.



### **Gifts to the Manger**



We know it is a little early to be talking about "Gifts to the Manger", but we wanted you to know we do plan to do it, but our plans are not set yet. We will have more information in the December Beacon, and if appropriate, information in the weekly email blasts as the time get closer.

### **The Mitten Tree**

We also plan to do the Mitten Tree again this year. The Annual Mitten Tree has long been a popular part of our Christmas Celebration at First Church and is a joint effort between the Chapel School and the Outreach Ministry Team. After Thanksgiving a Christmas tree will be placed in the crossroads outside the Church Office where the Chapel children will enjoy watching it be decorated with mittens, hats and scarves you donate.



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

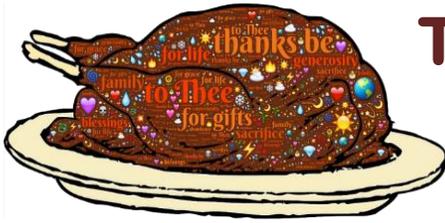


On Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, our NIN Food Pantry served 300 families.

### **The First Church Outreach Ministry Team**

*Cindy Bateson, Lori Bennett, Cynthia Causbie, JoAnn Crosby, Barbara Donaghue, Rev. Bill Ingraham, Ken Peck, Becky Smith and Marilyn Peck, Team Leader*





# Thanksgiving Food Pantry

## for Neighbors in Need

### 2022

**We need your help!** The number of families coming to our Neighbors in Need (NIN) Tuesday Evening Food Pantry is now **over 300 families** each week. These families need as much food as we can provide. **So in lieu of the usual Thanksgiving groceries you would usually provide, we are asking you to provide items, your choice, from the following shopping list for food distribution on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, in addition to the food NIN will provide that day.**

You may bring your donations on **Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**, before or after the worship service (10:00 AM), and place them on the tables against the wall in the Parish Hall. **We will also accept donations on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.** If you would prefer to donate money instead of shopping, you can mail a check to First Church Congregational, 26 Pleasant Street, Methuen, MA 01844, **or** you can drop it off in an envelope marked **“Thanksgiving Food Pantry”** at church weekdays (9:00 AM to 2:00 PM) or before or after worship on Sunday mornings. **Deadline for donations is Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.**

### Shopping List

- **Canned Vegetables** – *Corn, Green Beans, Peas, or Carrots*
- **Canned Beans** – *any variety*
- **Canned Fruit** – *Pineapple, Peaches, Pears, etc.*
- **Canned Soup**
- **Canned Tuna or Chicken**
- **Peanut Butter**
- **Macaroni & Cheese**
- **Pasta**
- **Pasta Sauce**
- **1 or 2 lb. Bags of Rice**
- **Any other non-perishable food items you wish to donate**



## Thanksgiving Donation for Neighbors in Need

(Print) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation:    \$15 \_\_\_\_\_    \$25 \_\_\_\_\_    \$35 \_\_\_\_\_    \$50 \_\_\_\_\_    other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make your check payable to “First Church Congregational”, write “Thanksgiving Food Pantry” on the memo line and return no later than Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!*

Thank you.

**The Outreach Ministry Team**

# Walking Group for Fitness and Fellowship

## Tuesdays in November

November may not be the most beautiful month along the Merrimack River, as the leaves fall and the cold moves in, but a walk and talk with First Church friends will warm your soul. Come join us on the following Tuesdays: 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/22 and 11/29 at 10:00 AM at the Raymond Martin Park (971 Riverside Drive in Methuen).

## Sunday Walk on the Methuen Rail Trail

Come join us for our monthly Rail Trail Walk on Sunday, 11/13 at 12:00 PM. We meet in the back of the MSPCA parking lot where we access the Rail Trail. We usually walk south to the Lawrence/Methuen line and back, approximately 3 miles roundtrip, but walkers can shorten their walk by turning back at the old train station. Don't forget to dress warmly! Hope to see you!



# 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 or Anne Benedix or Carol Gray for more information.

We invite you to join us on **Wednesdays from 1:00 - 3:00 PM**,  
in the parlor of First Church Congregational.

*Note: There will be no Prayer Shawl on Wednesday, November 23rd,  
due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.*



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Original Artwork by Emily Jurovich

# From the Organ Restoration Committee

## Foley Baker Visit October 5, 2022

Foley-Baker technicians, Chris Walton and Milo Popovic, came to First Church on October 5 to follow-up on several items from Foley-Baker's May visit. The following is a summary of the items they addressed.

- Restored Great Gamba 8 at their shop and reinstalled it on this visit. It is the pneumatic action to start that stop on the organ.
- Replaced worn leather and steel magnetic armatures with new paper and steel armatures, which are the first valves in the system to play notes. They spent much to their time on this visit accomplishing that task.
- The General Cancel was not repairable, and they could not find a replacement in the United States, so they have ordered one from England, and it is on its way, and will be installed on their next visit.
- They could not tune the reeds, nor will they be keeping their organ tuning appointment on October 25<sup>th</sup> because we have no heat in the sanctuary. It was 58 degrees in the sanctuary that day. They cannot tune until we have heat in the sanctuary. It is a waste of money to do so. So, we will make a new tuning appointment when we have heat.
- The noisy wind leak was on the Swell stop action, so they reset the wind line.
- They took two dented façade pipes back to the stop to restore.

## Restoration Funds

We depend on our church family and friends to continue to donate to our Restoration Fund in memory and honor of loved ones in celebration of their lives, as well as at Christmas and Easter. This coming holiday season, please consider making a gift to the Organ Restoration Fund in memory or honor of a loved one. Last year \$2,655.00 was donated to the fund in these ways. As of March 31, 2022, there is a balance of \$34,471.36 in the Fund.

## **The Organ Restoration Committee**

*Marilyn Peck and Janet Towler, Co-Chairs; Deb MaueSprague, Kathy Romano, and Glenda Schubert*





# The Chapel School

Now that the Ham and Bean Dinner is behind us, our creative minds have moved on to the Festival of Trees. Hard to believe but we are already making ornaments for the tree. Our tree name is "Christmas Tree-Rex" with a dinosaur theme this year. Tree setup starts in two weeks and opens to the public on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> and runs through December 4<sup>th</sup>. A special ticketed preview night will be held Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

We had our 2 year licensing visit on October 6<sup>th</sup>. We were ready and waiting for this unannounced visit. All the necessary paperwork had already been submitted through the State Portal. On site he reviewed fire drill logs, attendance records, staff and children's files, staff meeting minutes, injury report logs and more. He took his walk around the building to each classroom asking the teachers questions related to policies and procedures of the school and checking required postings in each classroom and bathroom. He did a thorough review of any safety issues as well. He then came back to the office and reviewed all the EpiPens and Allergy paperwork. Whew!!!

The licensor was very impressed with the classroom renovations and was pleased with the entire daily operation of the program. He gave us a clean and positive report. Music to my ears!!! Our new license arrived two weeks later in the mail, and we are good for another 2 years!!

We just finished taking School Pictures. The children were photographed individually and in a class group. This is always a fun day. Finish portrait packages will be back in time for Thanksgiving.

Our annual Halloween events were lots of fun. Orange and Black Days were complete with Oreo cookies stuffed with orange crèmel! YUM!

We are already planning our annual Turkey Day with the children. It's one of my favorite events with the children and staff. I'm sure it will be yummy as always. Our little preview Thanksgiving with the children is always well received by both children and parents.

We continue to be safe here. Masks are no longer required but many children and staff continue to wear masks when returning to school with a lingering cold or cough. It just reduces the spread of additional illness. We continue to bleach surfaces and toys at the end of each day in addition to our daily protocols.

*Cindy Mazella*  
Director



# Thanks to all who attended the Ham & Bean Dinner Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>

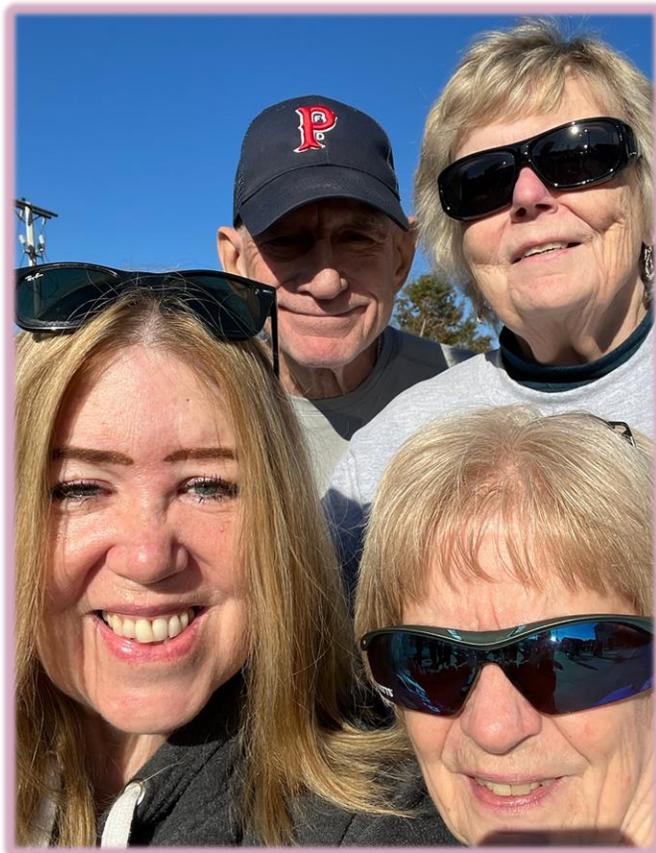


# Thank you to all who volunteered at the Ham & Bean Dinner Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>



Pictures from the  
**Samaritans of the Merrimack Valley  
Walk for Hope**  
Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>

Thank you for all who supported and walked for  
our *“First Church Stride Team.”*



# Let's Book It!!

*"We enjoyed watching our bookcase come alive!"*

The Outreach Team is happy to announce we collected a total of **701 books** in our first ever book drive for the Tenney School!!!

On Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, Cynthia Causbie and Cindy Bateson delivered the boxes of books and handmade bookmarks (thank you, Jo Crosby!) to the Tenney School. They were met with gratitude by Supervising Principal Mary Beth Donovan-Grassi, Lower School Associate Principal Amanda Goyette Langis, Literacy Supervisor Courtney Selina, and Content Support Teacher Katie Collins who started the Book Pantry program at the Tenney.

The Book Pantry program collects and provides books to students who have few if any books of their own at home. Two Tenney students also came to greet us and join in the photos. They each picked out a book and there were big smiles as they looked through them and excitedly showed their teachers.

Thank you to everyone who donated books, or money to purchase books, and all the members of the Outreach Team who worked tirelessly on this project!

## ***The Outreach Ministry Team***

*Cynthia Causbie (Book Drive Leader), Lori Bennett, Cindy Bateson, Jo-Ann Crosby, Barbara Donaghue, Ken Peck, Marilyn Peck (Outreach Chair), and Becky Smith*



# 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.

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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](http://www.firstchurchmethuen.com) and click the "Ways to Donate" page.

*Thank you for your support.*



## Daily Lectionary Scripture References – November 2022 (Year C)

**Tues., Nov. 1**

Psalm 142  
Habakkuk 3:1-16  
Jude 5-21

**Wed., Nov. 2**

Psalm 142  
Habakkuk 3:17-19  
Luke 19:11-27

**Thurs., Nov. 3**

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21  
Zechariah 1:1-17  
Acts 22:22–23:11

**Fri., Nov. 4**

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21  
Zechariah 6:9-15  
Acts 24:10-23

**Sat., Nov. 5**

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21  
Haggai 1:1-15a  
Luke 20:1-8

**Sun., Nov. 6**

*Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost*  
Haggai 1:15b–2:9  
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or  
Psalm 98  
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17  
Luke 20:27-38

**Mon., Nov. 7**

Psalm 98  
Haggai 2:10-19  
2 Peter 1:16-21

**Tues., Nov. 8**

Psalm 98  
Haggai 2:20-23  
2 John 1-13

**Wed., Nov. 9**

Psalm 98  
Zechariah 8:1-17  
John 5:19-29

**Thurs., Nov. 10**

Isaiah 12  
Isaiah 57:14-21  
Romans 1:18-25

**Fri., Nov. 11**

Isaiah 12  
Isaiah 59:1-15a  
2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

**Sat., Nov. 12**

Isaiah 12  
Isaiah 59:15b-21  
Luke 17:20-37

**Sun., Nov. 13**

*Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost*  
Isaiah 65:17-25  
Isaiah 12  
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13  
Luke 21:5-19

**Mon., Nov. 14**

Psalm 76  
Isaiah 60:17-22  
Ephesians 4:25–5:2

**Tues., Nov. 15**

Psalm 76  
Isaiah 66:1-13  
1 Corinthians 10:23–11:1

**Wed., Nov. 16**

Psalm 76  
Isaiah 66:14-24  
Matthew 23:37–24:14

**Thurs., Nov. 17**

Luke 1:68-79  
Jeremiah 21:1-14  
Hebrews 9:23-28

**Fri., Nov. 18**

Luke 1:68-79  
Jeremiah 22:1-17  
1 Peter 1:3-9

**Sat., Nov. 19**

Luke 1:68-79  
Jeremiah 22:18-30  
Luke 18:15-17

**Sun., Nov. 20**

*Reign of Christ*  
Jeremiah 23:1-6  
Luke 1:68-79  
Colossians 1:11-20  
Luke 23:33-43

**Mon., Nov. 21**

Psalm 117  
Jeremiah 30:1-17  
Revelation 21:5-27

**Tues., Nov. 22**

Psalm 117  
Revelation 21:5-27  
Revelation 22:8-21

**Wed., Nov. 23**

Psalm 117  
Jeremiah 31:1-6  
Luke 1:1-4

**Thurs., Nov. 24**

*Thanksgiving*  
Psalm 122  
Daniel 9:15-19  
James 4:1-10

**Fri., Nov. 25**

Psalm 122  
Genesis 6:1-10  
Hebrews 11:1-7

**Sat., Nov. 26**

Psalm 122  
Genesis 6:11-22  
Matthew 24:1-22

**Sun., Nov. 27**

*First Sunday in Advent*  
Isaiah 2:1-5  
Psalm 122  
Romans 13:11-14  
Matthew 24:36-44

**Mon., Nov. 28**

Psalm 124  
Genesis 8:1-19  
Romans 6:1-11

**Tues., Nov. 29**

Psalm 124  
Genesis 9:1-17  
Hebrews 11:32-40

**Wed., Nov. 30**

Psalm 124  
Isaiah 54:1-10  
Matthew 24:23-35



# *Rejoice and Come Home...*

## *Advent & Christmas 2022*

*First Church Congregational*

*Methuen, MA*

### *Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>:*

10:00 AM – Worship – *1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent*

### *Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>:*

10:00 AM – Worship – *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent* ~ Communion Sunday

### *Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>:*

10:00 AM – Worship – *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent* ~ Music Sunday, Gifts to the Manger

### *Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>:*

10:00 AM – Worship – *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*

### *Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>:*

7:00 PM – *Christmas Eve Service*

### *Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>:*

10:00 AM – Worship – *Christmas Sunday*

## *Merry Christmas to All!*



Our worship services will be held in person, for a limited number of parishioners! A registration link will be sent out on in the Tuesday and Friday email blasts prior to each service, if you would like to attend in person.

Worship will continue to be broadcast each Sunday, at 10:00 AM, on Facebook Live ([www.facebook.com/FirstChurchMethuen](http://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchMethuen)) and posted after the service on YouTube ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLSjhXs9UG8yC89aB8evrA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLSjhXs9UG8yC89aB8evrA)).

# Happy Birthday!

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 09 Irene Smith
- 10 Christine Gatulis
- 25 Kacey Buck
- 26 Amanda Gable, Peter Koop, Glenn Sprague
- 27 Jamie Conner-Myers
- 30 Lyn Kimball

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Mary Simonian
- 02 Nathaniel Hodgkins
- 03 Emily Carter
- 04 Michelle Wright
- 06 Neil Bateson, Susan Kerr

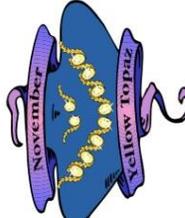
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## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- |       |                             |                  |
|-------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 11/8  | Michael & Jennifer Borislow | Married 36 years |
| 11/24 | George & Caroline Rollins   | Married 37 years |

# November 2022

								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
<b>Worship Service</b> <i>Sundays at 10:00 AM</i> <b>In-Person &amp; on Facebook Live</b> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen">www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen</a>		<b>1</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Meet at Riverside Park)  4:30 PM Food Pantry	<b>2</b> 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl  6:30 PM Church Board	<b>3</b>  6:30 PM First Church Bells	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Stewardship Luncheon Prep		
<b>6 Communion</b> <i>Daylight Savings Ends (Fall Back)</i> <b>Stewardship Sunday</b> 11:15 AM Stewardship Luncheon	<b>7</b>  4:00 PM Chapel Staff 6:30 PM Finance	<b>8</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Meet at Riverside Park)  4:30 PM Food Pantry	<b>9</b> 8:00 AM Breakfast w/Bill (Carleen's in Lawrence)  1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Diaconate	<b>10</b>  6:30 PM First Church Bells	<b>11 Veterans Day</b> Church/School Closed	<b>12</b>		
<b>13</b> 10:00 AM Sunday School  11:15 AM Fellowship Time  12:00 PM Walking Group (Methuen Rail Trail)	<b>14</b>  1:00 PM Cook for Bread & Roses  6:30 PM Outreach	<b>15</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Meet at Riverside Park)  4:30 PM Food Pantry	<b>16 December</b> <b>BEACON deadline</b>  1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM MDCC	<b>17</b>  6:30 PM First Church Bells	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Thanksgiving Donation Drop-Off		
<b>20</b> Final Thanksgiving Donations Due 11:15 AM Fellowship Time	<b>21</b>  Chapel School Thanksgiving  6:30 PM Stewardship	<b>22</b> Chapel School Thanksgiving 10:00 AM Walking Group (Meet at Riverside Park) 4:30 PM Food Pantry Thanksgiving Distribution	<b>23</b> Chapel School Closes at 11:30 AM	<b>24 Thanksgiving</b> Church/School Closed 	<b>25</b> Church/School Closed	<b>26</b>		
<b>27</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 11:15 AM Fellowship Time	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Meet at Riverside Park)  4:30 PM Food Pantry	<b>30</b>  1:00 PM Prayer Shawl					

Dates and times are subject to change

*First Church Congregational*

*United Church of Christ*

*26 Pleasant Street*

*Methuen, MA 01844-3199*

**Address Service Requested**