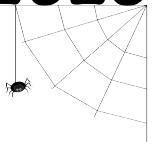
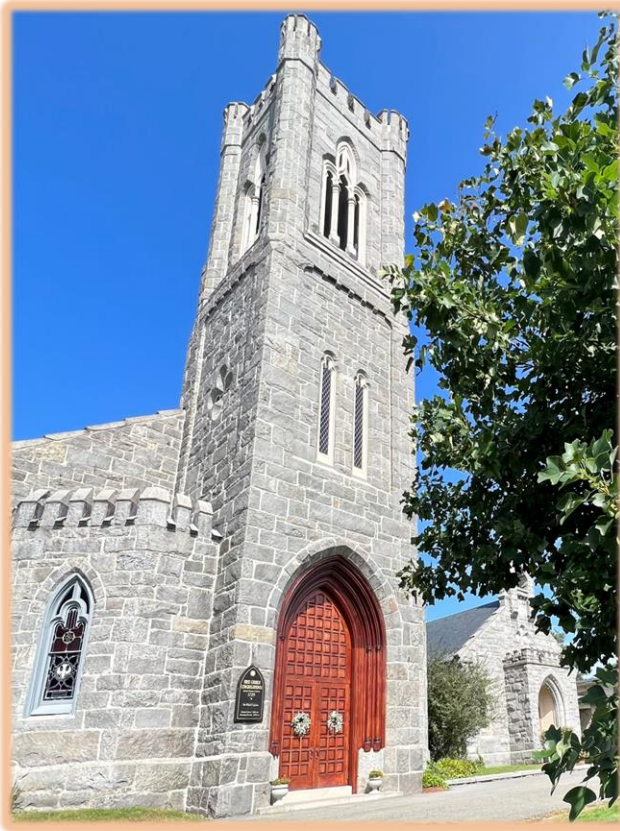


**Ham & Bean Dinner**  
Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>  
See Page 7

**OCTOBER 2023**



# 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*



\* \* \* \* \*

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

It was September of 1988 when Cindy Mazella joined the staff of Chapel Kindergarten and Nursery, the predecessor of what now is The Chapel School. She was co-teaching with Ann Smith in classroom 2, the room off Parish Hall, closest to the playground and stage. A new mother herself, she had come to us from Head Start of Greater Lawrence. Her daughter, Meghan, 4 years old at the time, was beginning her second year at Chapel. Her son, Daniel, newly 2 years old, would have to wait to join the school the following year.

Chapel had both morning and afternoon session back then. Cindy was on the afternoon faculty, with 20 kids on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and a dozen or more on Tuesday and Thursday. To

help, Cindy was a substitute teacher in the mornings, when needed, ending that first year as a fill-in for a morning session teacher who departed early. She was willing and eager to jump-in and help-out from the very start – something characterizes her work ethic to the present day.

Mid-school year, five years later, the Director position at Chapel opened. Only two staff members were Director qualified at the time, and the Chapel Committee elected to offer Cindy the job on an Interim basis. That spring the Committee posted for the permanent position, receiving many applications from qualified candidates from the community and beyond. Teachers and parents rallied in support of Cindy. They were enthusiastic for her to become the next Director of Chapel. By the close of that school year Cindy was offered the job. She's been our director ever since!

A lot has changed during Cindy's tenure. Her first big project was to rebuild the playground, replacing its tired and dilapidated predecessor. Then, when New Hampshire funded public kindergarten, which was about the same time Methuen moved to full day kindergarten from half-day, our whole approach had to be reconsidered. This afforded us the opportunity to offer five-day pre-school for the first time in our history. That's when "Kindergarten" came out of our name! We rebranded ourselves "The Chapel School," building on our rich history of making a safe and happy place for children to begin their academic careers.

Through the years, Cindy helped us to adapt our program to meet the needs of our Chapel School families. Morning preschool classes became the core of our day. With the addition of early drop-off, lunch bunch and extended day programming, we were able to give working parents good options for their children's care. This approach is more successful this year than ever.

Cindy is beloved by staff, students, and parents, alike. Not just parents! Grandparents, too. Likewise, after 35 years at Chapel, Cindy has become a cherished part of First Church Congregational. Though her work prevents her being there all the time, she attends some portion of Prayer Shawl Ministry almost every week. She never misses a George Washington Birthday Dinner or a Ham & Bean Supper and joins us for worship online more often than not. For the last decade she has attended Church Board meetings and has been a great help to us as we lived through the pandemic and emerged on the other side.

Cindy has been a great resource for me, as pastor, and I am grateful. Her connections to Methuen have been invaluable to me and to our church. I was told early on, "Ask Cindy. She knows everybody!" Plus, Cindy knows and loves our church dearly – perhaps better than she knows her own! She has been a faithful, cheerful, enthusiastic, and dedicated part of our life and ministry for so long. It's hard to imagine life without her.

On Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, starting at 12:00 – 4:00 PM, First Church Congregational will host an open house with buffet luncheon to honor Cindy and express our appreciation to her. I hope you'll be able to join us that day!

See you in church.

~ Bill





# Sunday Worship

10:00 AM

*We 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 ([www.facebook.com/FirstChurchMethuen](http://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchMethuen)) and posted after the service on our YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLSjhXs9UG8yC89aB8evrA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLSjhXs9UG8yC89aB8evrA)). The service can be viewed at any time on either platform. An Order of Worship will be emailed out each Friday before the service.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Weekly Bulletin Prayer List

We print a Prayer List within each Sunday Worship bulletin. To have someone included on the bulletin prayer list, please let Roberta, in the Church Office, know by emailing her at [firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com). Thank you.



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

\* \* \* \* \*

## 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, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM**, at Ellie's Farmhouse, . And remember, it's dutch treat!



*Brunch with Bill in September*



# From the Chair of the Church Board

Happy days everyone! Time to celebrate the changes of autumn, pumpkins, kids back to school, leaf peepin', and enjoying milder temperatures for a change. As always, with the change of seasons, we have a lot of energy here at First Church Congregational. This means that we have plenty going on, including:

- Welcome Sunday was a big hit! We had a great fellowship luncheon, with lots of salads, burgers, hot dogs, and an ice cream truck!! A big thanks to all of you that brought food to share, helped out on the grill, setup/cleaned/broke down the parish hall, and otherwise contributed to such a fun time.
- It is always a true blessing to hear the First Church choir! It is definitely worth coming in person to our Sunday service and listen to the dedicated singers. Thank you to Mike and all the choir members that contribute to Rev. Bill's worship.
- Chapel school is back! Cindy Mazella is working with our new Chapel School director Gina Colarusso to ensure a smooth transition. It is great to see all of the children back in the halls, learning, laughing, and growing. They are still enrolling for the 2023-2024 year. So if you know of someone who might be interested in an outstanding experience for their youth, please contact Cindy and Gina.
- The Ham & Bean supper is coming soon - Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>. This is a fellowship event that is always a fun time, so please attend with the rest of your church family. In fact – invite a friend!!! Plans are coming together, so contact Marilyn Peck or Carol Sanborn if you'd like to volunteer. Tickets are available, so purchase them now for the savings.
- The Capital Campaign continues, with the Narthex project continuing. The demolition of the damaged areas is complete, but the rebuilding will start soon. Work is complete for two of the classrooms, ready for the start of our new school year. Thanks, Allan!!!!
- Our Outreach group is hard at work (as always!). We have a book drive – “Let's Book It” – that is in its second year. You can bring in your donations or even just go to Amazon.com to make the purchase easier. Also, we have charity walks, a clothing drive to the YMCA, and more. Please reach out to one of the faithful Outreach team members to see how you can help. Between the focused projects and our continuing food pantry, helping so many in our community, there are numerous ways to make an impact.
- ...and so much more!

So, if you're looking for some way to help our church and our community, there's plenty of options. Also, there's always the prayer shawl ministry, other outreach projects, singing or ringing in one of our outstanding choirs, or just joining the walking group to help yourself. There are so many new opportunities available through our historic congregation, so feel free to seek out what you would like and help our neighbors & neighborhood at the same time.

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 rolling, continuing to seek God, care for each other, and improve our community.

God bless!!!  
*Josh Ferry*



## From the Stewardship Ministry Team...

**TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE...** our Stewardship Theme for this year emphasizes the many ways we make a difference in each other's lives and the lives of those around us as we meet together in worship, as we care for each other and help our neighbors. Because of our pledges, we gather in worship each Sunday to praise God in worship whether in person or on-line for those who cannot join us, and our children meet in Sunday School to learn about God and Jesus. Because of our pledges, we care for each other by staying connected through newsletters and email blasts, church dinners and fellowship times in a well maintained and safe building. Because of our pledges we are able to help our neighbors through our Tuesday Food Pantry, MAN Back to School project, donations of Thanksgiving Dinners and many other outreach programs in our community and beyond.

### IT TAKES ALL OF OUR PLEDGES SO THAT **TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Plans for our Stewardship Campaign have already begun. Later this month we will be mailing out this year's campaign materials. The Team is also planning to update the Narrative Budget that shows how our budget is spent in stories and pictures. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you can support *Together We Make a Difference* with your weekly pledge or monthly e-gift. We will celebrate with a luncheon following worship on November 12<sup>th</sup>, which will include the chicken pot pie meal that we provide monthly to Bread and Roses. We will celebrate *Together We Make a Difference*.

Stewardship Ministry Team:

*Kathy Romano – Chairperson*

*Rev. Bill Ingraham, Irene Maggio, Marilyn Peck, Robyn Sliney and Kim Valcourt*

\* \* \* \* \*

A retirement announcement poster for Cindy Mazella. The background is light yellow with gold and pink balloons and confetti. At the top, it says "It's time to celebrate!" in a cursive font. Below that, in large bold letters, is "CINDY MAZELLA IS RETIRING!". The date and time are "7 OCTOBER 2023 • 12:00-4:00 PM" and the location is "26 PLEASANT STREET, METHUEN, MA 01844". A photo of Cindy Mazella, a woman with short grey hair and glasses wearing a red and white striped shirt, is on the right. A pink box at the bottom left contains the text: "PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING CHAPEL PRESCHOOL'S ESTEEMED TEACHER AND DIRECTOR FOR 35 YEARS WITH AN OPEN HOUSE RETIREMENT LUNCHEON, HOSTED BY FIRST CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL METHUEN!". A pink box at the bottom right contains the text: "For more information please call the church office: (978) 687-1240".

*It's time to celebrate!*

**CINDY MAZELLA IS RETIRING!**

7 OCTOBER 2023 • 12:00-4:00 PM  
26 PLEASANT STREET, METHUEN, MA 01844

PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING  
CHAPEL PRESCHOOL'S ESTEEMED TEACHER AND  
DIRECTOR FOR 35 YEARS WITH AN OPEN HOUSE  
RETIREMENT LUNCHEON, HOSTED BY  
FIRST CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL METHUEN!

For more information  
please call the church  
office:  
(978) 687-1240

# *Musical Musings*

October in New England is one of my favorite seasons of the year....the air is brisk, the leaves crackle and crunch under your feet, the sun is still shining, there's no snow yet, and the foliage is award winning. I'm looking forward to taking a road trip to Vermont over the Columbus Day weekend to take it all in....

This fall, we're off to a great start at FCM musically speaking: the choir is back, we're hard at work, and looking forward to the music of Advent and Christmas right around the corner.

The piano was tuned recently: I hope you notice the difference. The piano hadn't been tuned since 2017 according to the piano tuner. Pianos, especially good ones like the Samick grand piano we are blessed to have and use each week for worship, should be tuned at least once or twice a year, depending on usage and temperature fluctuations in the space. Moving forward, we will definitely plan and budget for at least an annual tuning, with the hope of getting to two tunings a year: one before Christmas, and one right before Easter. I'm hoping that now that the piano is in tune, that we might be able to try out some piano/organ duets with me at the organ and Kathy Romano at the piano. Stay tuned!

I've been talking about creating a new searchable digital library for our choir music. Here's the plan: on Saturday, Nov 4, anyone with a laptop or tablet can come to the church at 10am (provided there's no funeral!). Your job will be to enter music information into a Google spreadsheet: composition name, author, publishing co, # of copies, voice parts, instrumental parts, Scriptural reference, and season of the Church year. It's all VERY easy to do if you have decent computer skills and can log in wirelessly to the church WIFI. I'm hoping for at least 10 volunteers to give me no more than 2 hours. No need to tell me in advance: just come with your laptop or tablet and be ready to type! Feel free to contact me with any questions.

I really work hard to ensure that the music we sing and pray is meaningful and relevant and that you like it! Let me know what you think, pass along any feedback, and share your thoughts. I listen!

Peace and all good things,

*Mike Boutin*





*First Church Congregational Methuen*

invites you to our annual

# **HAM AND BEAN DINNER**

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 14, 2023 - 4:30-6:30PM

## **-Buffet Style Menu-**

Baked Ham and Slow Simmered Baked Beans, Hot dogs,  
Homestyle Macaroni & Cheese,  
Tossed Green Salad, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Brown Bread, Rolls &  
Butter

Mini Vegan Buffet - Vegan Dogs, Baked Beans, Tossed Salad,  
Potato Salad, Coleslaw

Dessert - Ice Cream Sundae

Beverages - Coffee, Tea, Lemonade



Tickets available at the Church Office (978-687-1240) 26 Pleasant St. Methuen,  
during the week and Sunday mornings, following (10:00 AM) worship.  
Adults: \$15 (Advance Purchase) or \$18 (At Door) Children 6-12: \$8 Under 6: Free  
Cash, or check only.

# *From the Outreach Ministry Team*

## Clothing Drive for Youth

Since August 27<sup>th</sup> First Church has been collecting “gently used” clothes for children wearing sizes 2T up through adult small/medium to help restock Methuen YMCA’s “Kids Closet”. There is a special need for fall and winter clothes for teens, although the YMCA will take clothing for any season. So far over 100 pieces of clothing and some shoes have been collected!

If you have missed the October 1<sup>st</sup> end of the clothing drive, but you have some clothes to donate, never fear. Just contact any Outreach Team Member to arrange for the clothes to be collected and transferred to the Methuen YMCA. Thank you!

## “Let’s Book It!” Book Drive for Comprehensive Grammar School



The Let’s Book It! Book Drive kicked off on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> and will run through Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are collecting new and gently used children’s books to be given to students at the Comprehensive Grammar School who are in need of books to create a home library. There is a list of requested authors and titles available, but feel free to donate other children’s books, maybe favorites of your own children, grandchildren, or yourself. Family and friends, used bookstores, yard sales and thrift stores are also great sources for books.

You can also purchase requested books using the following Amazon wish list link [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3RS6VJMN45HA?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3RS6VJMN45HA?ref=wl_share). Please have books shipped to your home and bring them to the church. A source of inexpensive, bundled used books by grade/age levels can be found at the following website <https://www.thebookbundler.com>. Thank you for your book donations!

## Lazarus House Hike for Hope 2023

The Lazarus House Hike for Hope 2023 was held in Andover on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. The Hike is held to help them meet the needs of their increasing number of guests who find themselves without the necessary Food, Clothing and Shelter for their families. A Team from First Church led by Becky Smith walked this year.



## Samaritans Walk for Hope 2023



The Family Services’ Samaritans for Merrimack Valley is holding their Walk for Hope (1.5K Walk) on Saturday, October 21, 2023, at 10:00 AM at Willow Park in North Andover. Did you know a life is lost to suicide every 11 minutes in the United States? Yet most Americans are unaware that suicide affects millions of people every year. Family Services’ Samaritans program works tirelessly to address this public health crisis and prevent suicide among youth and adults in our community. Please join the First Church Team in walking. If you’re unable to walk, you can make a donation to our team, First Church Stride Team. <https://fsmv.org/walk-for-hope-2023/>.

## NIN Tuesday Evening Food Pantry



On Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> we served 380 families, and on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> we served 400 families.

Outreach Ministry Team – Cindy Bateson, Lori Bennett, Debbie Brown, Cynthia Causbie, Jo Crosby, Barbara Donaghue, Ken Peck, Carole and John Silva, and Becky Smith.





# Walking Group for Fitness and Fellowship

## Tuesdays in October

Please join us to welcome in the beauty of fall along the Merrimack River! We will be walking at **Riverside Park** (960 Riverside Drive) in Methuen on the following Tuesdays: 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24 and 10/31 at 10:00 AM. Hope to see you there!

## Sunday Walk on the Methuen Rail Trail

Join us at 12:00 PM on **Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**, for a beautiful walk along the rail trail in Methuen. We will meet up in the MSPCA parking lot and walk south past the old Methuen rail station to the Lawrence line where we will turn around and head back. The walk is about 3 miles roundtrip, but you can turn around at any point to shorten your walk. Families welcome!



# Let's Book It!!

*"Enjoy watching our bookcase come alive!"*

The Outreach Ministry Team, in collaboration with the Tenney Grammar School, will be hosting a month-long book drive which kicked off on Welcome Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.

*The Tenney Grammar School has approximately 1,000 K-6 students, with over 50% in low-income status. Tenney is the school for children in the MAN program which FCC has had an outreach commitment for over 10 years. In addition, many teachers purchase books independently throughout the year for their classrooms.*

**How will the Book Drive work?** Each Sunday, until October 23<sup>rd</sup>, bring your books to worship (10:00 AM) and place them in the bookcase in the sanctuary. *Watch our bookshelves fill with new and gently used (English and Spanish) books.*

**Not sure how to get involved, here are some ideas:**

- First Church has set up an Amazon Wishlist, follow this link to purchase: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3RS6VJMNR45HA?ref=cm\\_sw\\_em\\_r\\_un\\_un\\_3VyJUnhPEAf3O](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3RS6VJMNR45HA?ref=cm_sw_em_r_un_un_3VyJUnhPEAf3O)
- You could purchase new books at retailers, such as: Barnes & Noble, Target, Walmart, [www.ScholasticBookClub.com](http://www.ScholasticBookClub.com) (in conjunction with the Chapel School), [www.BookBundler.com](http://www.BookBundler.com), etc.
- Check your own bookshelves, visit flea markets or the Nevins Library book sale to donate gently used children's books.

• **Requested authors & book series:**

Tedd Arnold	Kate DiCamillo	Dav Pilkey
Annie Barrows	Rebecca Elliot	Mary Pope Osborne
Aaron Blabey	Jory John	Tracey West
Katrina Charman	Jeff Kinney	Mo Willems
Beverly Cleary	Lois Lowry	"Who Was ..." Series
Roald Dahl	Eric Litwin	"Who Would Win" Series

***Help us fill our bookcase and bring the joy of reading to children's hearts!***

**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



# 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 Carol Gray or Debbie Bonafanti for more information.

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



\* \* \* \* \*

On Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, the Prayer Shawl Ministry celebrated Cindy Mazella as she prepares to retire as Director of the Chapel School after 35 years of service!





# Open and Affirming (O&A) Committee

At the September Board meeting the Church Board voted to recognize the Open and Affirming Committee as an official committee of the Church. Over the next several months, we will be providing many opportunities for you to learn, understand, and ask questions about this process. We encourage you to read the following article written by a UCC member.

## What If...

How would it be for you if, as a parent, you came gradually to understand that your just-emerging-from-college daughter had fallen in love with another young woman, and six years passed and she loved her still?

How would you feel if you belonged to a church that around this time chose to examine the possibility of going on record as a place welcoming to any woman who loved a woman, to any man who loved a man, the same as it is to any person who entered there to worship?

And if one day during this 18-month-long period of study, prayer and reflection designed to let people really examine this possibility, a woman stood and expressed her concern about how “these people” might fit in, I wonder if it would surprise you to hear the man in the neighboring pew whisper to his wife, “She doesn’t realize: she’s talking about our son.” Or if it would surprise you to learn that a half-dozen other parents present that morning were likely thinking the same: “You speak of our children, onetime singers in the Junior Choir and assistants in the Sunday School; our children, whom you have known since their infancy.”

I wonder how you might then feel if, after that lengthy consideration, your church voted “Yes. Let the word go forth that we in this 150-year old community of the United Church of Christ unanimously choose to be known as an Open and Affirming congregation.”

And if you were yourself one of these parents and if your above-mentioned daughter and her beloved sought to undergo a Liturgy of Commitment here, I wonder how you would feel to have the Deacons say “Yes. By all means yes, and we are delighted. For you are our own daughter, and this one that you love is our daughter now too.”

I wonder how you might feel if, during this ceremony, your husband of 33 years with his hair now white but his manner still so gentle stood to recite a fatherly poem to the two; if he prefaced it by saying he knew he spoke too for the much missed dad of your daughter’s beloved, gone now into death’s quiet corridor; if he then paused and looked over at this young woman where she sat beside your girl and said aloud to the very large assembly there gathered that he couldn’t be happier that his daughter had chosen her for a life partner.

Would it not lift your heart to hear the verses he then read by poet Gail Mazur? “What you want for it you’d want for a child, “it goes. “That she take hold; that her roots find home in stony winter soil; that she take seasons in stride... “That she know, in her branchings, to seek balance. That change not frighten her, rather that change meet her embrace... that she find her place in an orchard.”

And if, in the year following, a baby should come to their house, would you not rejoice and be glad? As we rejoiced last month when we first saw this newborn with his grave and curious look, with his chest no wider than a lady’s hand, held so tenderly in their slender young arms?

I think you might, if it became personal for you this way.

I think the realization might dawn within you that this is what is chiefly asked of us here: That we make a family. That we spend ourselves over the long years in many deeds of care and kindness, and make a place where such children as we are sent can shelter.

And take root.

And one day find their own place in the orchard.

Copyright 2004 - Terry Marotta [tmarotta@comcast.net](mailto:tmarotta@comcast.net)

Used with permission of the author

**O&A Committee** – Sue Newton, *Chair*, Becky Wright, Maureen Wright, Makayla Berg, Bob Donaghue, Pastor Bill Ingraham, Josh Ferry *Ex officio*



\* \* \* \* \*



# The Chapel School



The children have been settling in nicely for the 2023-2024 school year. It is great to hear the sounds of 90 kids moving and grooving around the school. We have been smoothing out any bumps we may have come across in the first couple of weeks and I can tell you this will be an amazing year of learning and fostering the children's love for school.

Our enrollment is the best it has ever been, and we are excited about starting our waitlist! We have even gotten some inquiries about next school year. Word of mouth is the best form of advertising we could ever ask for. Our Lunch Bunch program is booming this year and we keep adding more kids each day that passes. Our early and late program numbers are also at an all-time high.

We are very excited to be rolling out our parent communication app through our ProCare software. With this app the parents are able to message the teachers and office staff with ease. We are also able to send photos of the children participating in all the great activities we provide for them. Our teachers have been working hard learning all the ins and outs of the app and are excited about the opportunities this will bring to us.

Picture day was held on Tuesday September 26<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday September 27<sup>th</sup>. We welcomed Steve Alfano back again this year. Steve captured great smiles on the children and teachers this year. We also use the school photos to help with our system for allergies in the building. Each child file will be able to have a photo attached to it to help any staff know which child is which. We are very grateful for this.

Our students and teachers have been working diligently to create the best center pieces for the Ham and Bean Dinner. We have all been using our creative juices to come up with some great new ideas. We love collaborating on this project and hope you all enjoy them as much as we do.

We are all preparing for the departure of The Chapel School's long-time leader, Cindy. It will be extremely hard to see her go but we all know she has earned this retirement and will be able to start checking items off her bucket list! I am ready to take the wheel and continue to drive this school in the direction of success.

Fall has finally started to show itself and we are all excited to enjoy all the amazing opportunities that fall has to offer. Bring on the pumpkins and apple cider!

Continue to be safe everyone.

*Gina Colarusso*  
Director





# THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

If you walked, made a contribution to the First Church team or kept us in your prayers, thank you for your support of the First Church Methuen team as we walked in the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Lazarus House Hike for Hope. The weather may not have been picture perfect, like in previous years, but the rain held off until after we had finished walking.



With your help, we were able to beat our goal of \$1,000.00! Right now, we've raised \$1,160.00, which is more than last year's \$1,046.00! If you wanted to contribute to the First Church Methuen team, it isn't too late. You can still go to the team page to donate: <https://p2p.onecause.com/hike2023>. Or you can see Becky Smith for any questions.

Thank you again!



\* \* \* \* \*

*Apologies for the lateness of this notice.*

**A big shout out, special recognition and thank you to the First Church Prayer Shawl Ministry** for making and providing the 76 hand-crafted winter hats for the children who benefited from the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual First Church Congregational Methuen Arlington Neighborhood (MAN, Inc.) Back to School Project.



The kids were beyond thrilled to receive hats in their favorite colors from the ladies of the First Church Prayer Shawl Ministry.

***Thank you, thank you, thank you!***

***The MAN Back to School Project***

## *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.

\* \* \* \* \*

## What's the REACH Ministry?



Do you know of someone facing surgery, recovering from surgery or living with a long-term illness? Do you know someone who has recently lost their job or could use financial support? Do you know someone who suffers from depression or is often down in the dumps around the holidays?

Maybe this person is you?

If so, we can help. Our new REACH Ministry wants to make sure that members of our community have a place to turn for support in their time of need. The term REACH stands for -- Reliable, Engaging, Able, Caring and Heartfelt support.

Contact Judi Boyko or Pat King for more information.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

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



Or visit our website at [www.firstchurchmethuen.com](http://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 – October 2023 (Year A)

**Sun., Oct. 1**

*Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
Philippians 2:1-13  
Matthew 21:23-32

**Mon., Oct. 2**

Psalm 42  
Exodus 18:1-12  
Philippians 1:3-14

**Tues., Oct. 3**

Psalm 42  
Exodus 18:13-27  
Philippians 1:15-21

**Wed., Oct. 4**

Psalm 42  
Exodus 19:9b-25  
Matthew 9:2-8

**Thurs., Oct. 5**

Psalm 19  
Exodus 23:1-9  
Colossians 2:16-23

**Fri., Oct. 6**

Psalm 19  
Exodus 23:14-19  
Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a

**Sat., Oct. 7**

Psalm 19  
Exodus 23:10-13  
John 7:40-52

**Sun., Oct. 8**

*Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20  
Psalm 19  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
Matthew 21:33-46

**Mon., Oct. 9**

Psalm 119:49-56  
Deuteronomy 5:1-21  
1 Peter 2:4-10

**Tues., Oct. 10**

Psalm 119:49-56  
Deuteronomy 5:22-6:3  
2 Corinthians 5:17-21

**Wed., Oct. 11**

Psalm 119:49-56  
Deuteronomy 6:10-25  
John 11:45-57

**Thurs., Oct. 12**

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
Exodus 24:1-8  
1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14

**Fri., Oct. 13**

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
Exodus 24:9-11  
James 4:4-10

**Sat., Oct. 14**

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
Exodus 24:12-18  
Mark 2:18-22

**Sun., Oct. 15**

*Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*  
Exodus 32:1-14  
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
Philippians 4:1-9  
Matthew 22:1-14

**Mon., Oct. 16**

Psalm 97  
Exodus 32:15-35  
Jude 17-25

**Tues., Oct. 17**

Psalm 97  
Exodus 33:1-6  
Philippians 3:13-4:1

**Wed., Oct. 18**

Psalm 97  
2 Kings 17:7-20  
John 6:25-35

**Thurs., Oct. 19**

Psalm 99  
Exodus 33:7-11  
3 John 9-12

**Fri., Oct. 20**

Psalm 99  
Exodus 31:1-11  
1 Peter 5:1-5

**Sat., Oct. 21**

Psalm 99  
Exodus 39:32-43  
Matthew 14:1-12

**Sun., Oct. 22**

*Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost*  
Exodus 33:12-23  
Psalm 99  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
Matthew 22:15-22

**Mon., Oct. 23**

Psalm 63:1-8  
Exodus 40:34-38  
Revelation 18:1-10, 19-20

**Tues., Oct. 24**

Psalm 63:1-8  
Numbers 12:1-9  
Revelation 18:21-24

**Wed., Oct. 25**

Psalm 63:1-8  
Numbers 13:1-2, 17-14:9  
Matthew 17:22-27

**Thurs., Oct. 26**

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
Deuteronomy 31:14-22  
Titus 1:5-16

**Fri., Oct. 27**

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
Deuteronomy 32:1-14, 18  
Titus 2:7-8, 11-15

**Sat., Oct. 28**

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
Deuteronomy 32:44-47  
John 5:39-47

**Sun., Oct. 29**

*Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost*  
Deuteronomy 34:1-12  
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8  
Matthew 22:34-46

**Mon., Oct. 30**

Psalm 119:41-48  
Numbers 33:38-39  
James 2:8-13

**Tues., Oct. 31**

Psalm 119:41-48  
Exodus 34:29-35  
James 2:14-26

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



# Happy Birthday!

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

03 Irene Maggio  
04 Lauren Borislow  
05 Brenda Michaud  
07 Joyce Koop  
12 Cynthia Causbie  
13 Daniel Pavlenkov  
20 Kerri Bedard, Alexandra Casey  
23 Dennis Lang  
24 Patricia King  
30 Brenda Adametz, Carolyn Casey  
31 Sabrina Buck



\* \* \* \* \*



## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/4	Michael & Cynthia Causbie	Married 37 years
10/6	John & Carole Silva	Married 33 years
10/7	Robert & Susan Riedel	Married 45 years
10/11	Scott & Carol Sanborn	Married 12 years
10/12	Thomas & Leslie Shea	Married 49 years
10/14	Martin & Brenda Killourie	Married 56 years
10/15	John & Sarah Pavlenkov	Married 19 years

<div>  <h1>October 2023</h1>  </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 Communion</b> 11:15 AM Fellowship Time	<b>2</b> 6:30 PM Finance	<b>3</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park, Methuen)	<b>4</b> 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 PM Church Board	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 12:00 - 4:00 PM Cindy M Retirement Open House
<b>8</b> 11:15 AM Fellowship Time	<b>9 Columbus Day</b> Church/School Closed 6:30 PM Outreach	<b>10</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park, Methuen)	<b>11</b> 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM Diaconate	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 4:30 - 6:30 PM Ham & Bean Dinner
<b>15</b> 11:15 AM Fellowship Time	<b>16</b> 6:30 PM Stewardship	<b>17</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park, Methuen)	<b>18 November</b> <b>BEACON deadline</b> 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10:00 AM Walk for Hope (Willows Professional Park, North Andover)
<b>22</b> 11:15 AM Fellowship Time 12:00 PM Walking Group (Rail Trail, Methuen)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park, Methuen)	<b>25</b> 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 PM O&A Meeting	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Stewardship Sundays</b> 11:15 AM Fellowship Time	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park, Methuen) 				<b>Worship Service</b> Sundays at 10:00 AM In-Person & on Facebook Live <a href="http://www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen">www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen</a>

Dates and times are subject to change

***First Church Congregational***

*United Church of Christ*

*26 Pleasant Street*

*Methuen, MA 01844-3199*

**Address Service Requested**