

May 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

Roberta Jurovich, Office Manager

firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com

Website: www.firstchurchmethuen.com



“GETTING PARSONAL”

Rev. William D. Ingraham

We have a bit of a shift in plans for worship in May. The Outreach Ministry Team had planned our annual Mental Health Awareness Sunday for this week, May 1, with guest speaker John Crocker, scheduled as the highlight of the service. Unfortunately, a family urgency has made him unavailable this weekend. We hope to reschedule him for another Sunday in May, if not later in the summer. We will let you know as soon as we have secured the future date.

My niece will be graduating from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, on May 21, with a double major in English and Cartography. I'm so very proud of her! I will be away May 17 through 24 to attend the festivities, both familial and academic. Rev. Chris Hart will provide emergency pastoral care during my absence. As always, you can call the church any time, day or night. The answering service will convey your message immediately on your behalf.

May also marks the completion of our sixth year of ministry together. It's hard to believe this milestone has come so quickly! I count it a good sign when time passes quickly, and I am grateful for the blessing of living and serving here in Methuen.

In our call agreement (the contract that establishes our relationship of pastor and congregation), a three-month sabbatical is available to me at the completion of five years of ministry. We reached that point at the end of May last year. But with the pandemic in full swing, and our church still operating remotely with no in-person gatherings whatsoever, it was clear to me that it was not a good time for me to be away. The Board agreed to postpone my sabbatical one year.

Taking into consideration our progress in re-gathering as a congregation, the Board and I have agreed for me to begin my sabbatical this summer. But instead of taking sabbatical over the traditional three-month period, we have elected to break it into two parts. The first will be taken this summer, from Mid-June through the month of July. The second part of my sabbatical will be taken in the following summer, probably in Mid-June through July again. In our current environment, the Board and I believe this approach will make the sabbatical easier for both the church and me.

While I am away my friend and colleague, Rev. Lauren Medeiros, will serve as our Sabbatical Minister. Lauren is a chaplain at Punahou School in Honolulu, Hawaii, with responsibilities for the religious life of students from kindergarten through the fourth grade. You might recall when she preached at First Church a few summers back while she was in New England as part of a delegation retracing the connection from Punahou School and the Hawaii Conference UCC with the Congregationalists of New England. Lauren is a delight! I have every confidence that our church will be in good hands during the few weeks she is here among us. A more detailed introduction of Rev. Medeiros will be included in the June issue of *The Beacon*.

Come August, we'll be hitting the ground, running, to get our fall program in full gear as quickly as possible. We can look forward to and need to plan for! Homecoming Sunday with our traditional cookout and picnic, as well as the resumption of Sunday school and other fall programming.

I look forward to seeing you in worship in May, and hope you'll make every effort to be with us. Plan to stick around for Coffee Hour, too, and take the time to catch up with what's going on in the lives of our church family members and friends.

And don't forget our Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 15th!

See you in church!

Faithfully,
Bill

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Sunday, May 8th

Sunday Morning Worship



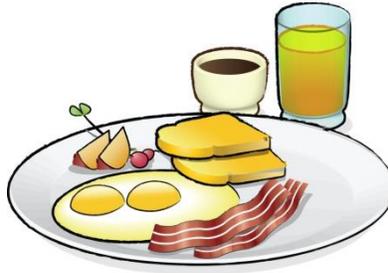
On Sunday mornings, at 10:00 AM, our weekly worship service is in person, for a limited number of parishioners! There will be a check in list on Sundays for contact tracing, if needed.

Worship will continue to be broadcast each Sunday, at 10:00 AM, on Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/FirstChurchMethuen) and posted after the service on our YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLSjhXs9UG8yC89aB8evrA). The service can be viewed at any time on either platform. The worship bulletin will be emailed out each Friday before the service.

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Breakfast with Bill

“Breakfast with Bill” (dutch treat!) is an informal time for friendship and conversation on any topic. We will next gather on **Thursday, May 12th at 8:00 AM**, at Sammy J's, 144 Main Street, Salem, NH.



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Prayer Requests/List

We print a Prayer List in the Sunday 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.

WARRANT

First Church Congregational

United Church of Christ

293RD ANNUAL MEETING **Sunday, May 15, 2022**

The 293rd Annual Meeting of First Church Congregational, Methuen, Massachusetts, will be held in person, at 11:00 AM, on Sunday, May 15, 2022. Business to be conducted at the Annual Meeting is outlined below.

1. Welcome and Call to Order by the Chair of the Board ~ Steve Boyko
2. Opening Prayer and Necrology ~ Rev. William D. Ingraham
3. Old Business
 - Review of Minutes of the May 23, 2021, Annual Meeting
 - Board Report
 - Pastor's Report
 - Treasurer's Report
4. New Business
 - Adoption of 2022-23 Budget
 - Nominating Committee Report
 - Election of Officers
 - Other Business
5. Closing Prayer and Benediction ~ Rev. Ingraham
6. Call for Adjournment ~ Steve Boyko

Marilyn Peck
Acting Church Board Secretary

From the Outreach Ministry Team

Mental Health Sunday

Due to speaker availability, we had to change the date for Mental Health Sunday from April 24 to May 1. John Crocker, M.Ed., is the speaker. He is Director of School Mental Health & Behavioral Services in the Methuen Public Schools. His topic is “Mental Health for Families & Children, Navigating the Pandemic.” This topic is broad enough to cover many areas, though we have encouraged him to speak specifically about children/grandchildren in the context of the family.

John has an extensive resume which is incorporated in the flyer Roberta is using. He is clearly well qualified to speak on the topic which is a very current one. We have invited him to stay after church and to come to Coffee Hour to be available to answer questions.

2022 Diaper Drive

Under the team leadership of Cindy Bateson, we had a very successful Lenten Diaper Drive. Some years ago, First Church had a drive called “Undies Sunday.” Our team members recalled this name was confusing because it was supposed to cover diapers and underwear. People also found it confusing and had many questions about sizes, etc. So, we decided to focus on just Diapers since there is such a need and they are not covered by social safety net programs like WIC and food stamps.

In this issue of *The Beacon* there is an article detailing what was donated, where it went, and to whom it will be distributed. We thank everyone who donated so generously.

Tuesday NIN Food Pantries

During the past months we are seeing volatility in the number of clients coming to the Food Pantry ranging from 180 to 233 clients. On Tuesday, April 12, we had 233 clients and on April 19, we had 195 clients. Additionally, NIN is finding it harder to get the food items they need as well as to know the type of food they will get from the local Food Banks, who are experiencing a shortage of food. This makes planning very difficult for everyone involved.

We continue to be grateful for our faithful food pantry volunteers who come in all kinds of weather like the wind we had this week, and the snow, rain and heat we have had in other weeks.

Lazarus House’s Hike for Hope 5K Walk/Run

Save the Date! Lazarus House has announced that their annual Hike for Hope 5K Walk/Fun will be held Sunday, September 25 at 1:00 PM in Andover. We know a number of people from First Church like to support this race



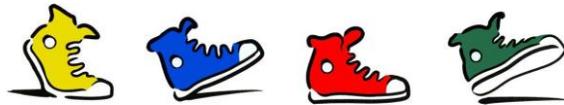
Walking Group for Fitness and Fellowship

Tuesdays in May

Spring has sprung at Raymond Martin Riverside Park in Methuen. Come join us as we walk the level, hot-topped loop at 10:00 AM on the following Tuesdays: 5/3, 5/10, 5/17, 5/24 and 5/31. The Merrimack River is beautiful this time of year. If we're lucky we'll spot a pair of swans!

Sunday Walk on the Methuen Rail Trail

Our scheduled rail trail walk for May will be on Sunday 5/22 at 12:00. We will meet at far end of the MSPCA parking lot. Come join us as we enjoy all the rail trail has to offer in the Spring season. We usually walk to the Lawrence line and then back to the MSPCA, which is about 2 ½ miles roundtrip. We hope to see you!



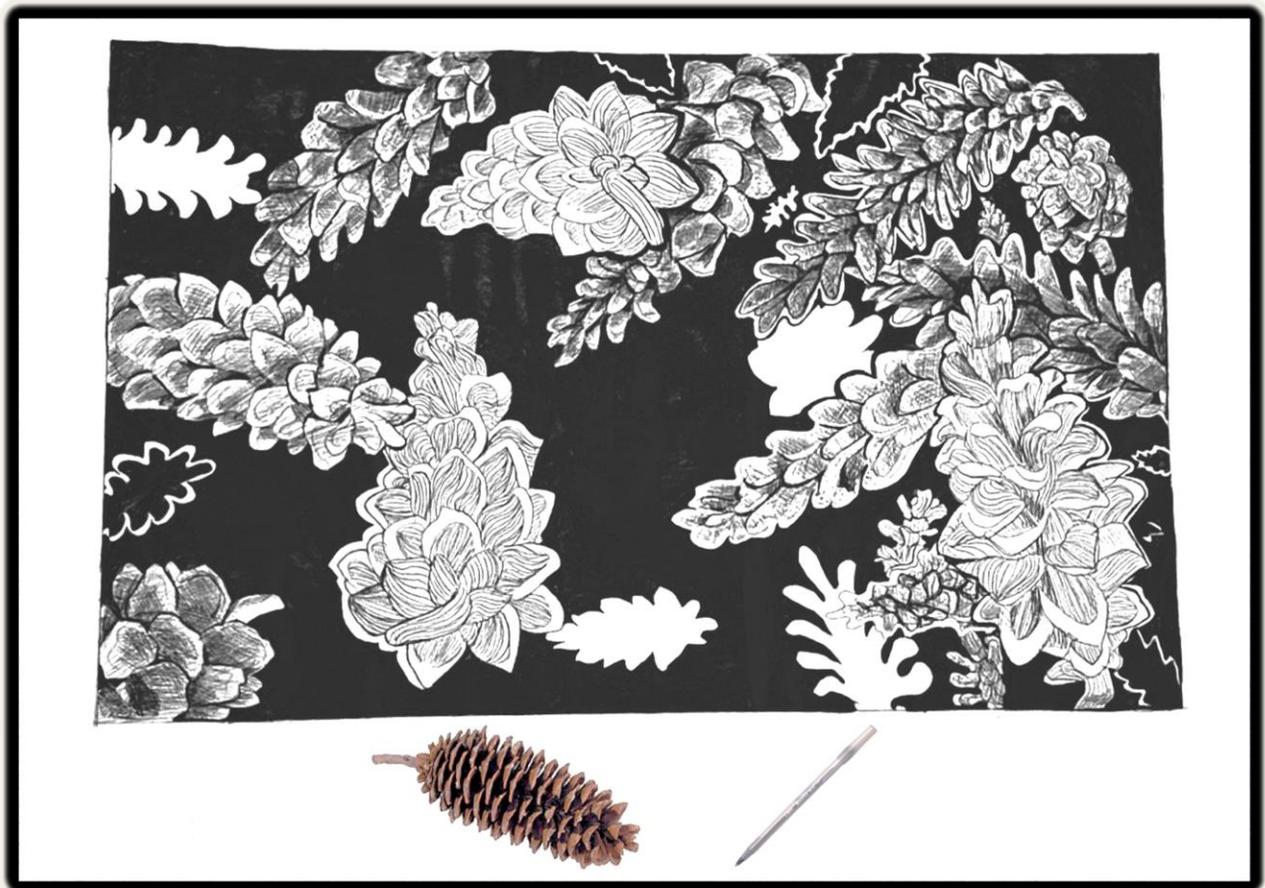
Prayer Shawl Ministry

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 Anne Benedix or Carol Gray for more information.

We will meet, *in person*, on **Wednesdays from 1:00 - 3:00 PM** in the parlor of First Church Congregational .



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Original Artwork by Emily Jurovich
(All done with one Bic pen, and just a pinecone for reference)

2022 Diaper Drive



The Outreach Committee of First Church Congregational Methuen would like to thank everyone who donated to our 2022 Lenten Diaper Drive. We collected 2428 diapers, 205 pullups, and 2020 wipes. In addition, a total of \$180 was donated. The diapers, pullups and wipes have been delivered to Andrea Vannett of Communities Together, and a check will be sent as well. Our donated items and others from churches around the Merrimack Valley will be distributed to various social agencies in our area after Easter, to be given to families in need of help in these difficult economic times. Thank you once again for your caring and generosity.

The Outreach Ministry Team

Cindy Bateson, Diaper Drive Team Leader; Ray Benedix, Lori Bennett, Cynthia Causbie, Jo-Ann Crosby, Barbara Donaghue, Deb MaueSprague, Ken Peck, Marilyn Peck (Outreach Chair) and Becky Smith



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The Outreach Ministry Team welcomes you to join us as we participate in the **City of Methuen Annual Flag Replacement** event on Saturday, May 21st, from 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM. Every year in time to commemorate Memorial Day, volunteers are needed to replace flags on the many veterans' graves who are interred in the City of Methuen. New flags are provided by the Methuen Veteran's Services Department. The First Church Team will be assigned to work together at one of the City's cemeteries.

If you are interested in being part of this meaningful community event and the First Church Team, please contact Cynthia Causbie, or email the church office (firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com), *no later than Wednesday, May 11th*. Thank you.

The Chapel School



Warmer weather and longer time on the playground make everyone happy. More time spent outside helps children to build stronger muscles. They have endless energy!

The staff continue to wear masks every day. The number of children wearing masks has decreased. There has been an increase in colds, runny noses and upper respiratory conditions.

Thankfully Covid related issues are almost nonexistent.

Our Annual Art Show will be displayed in the building this year. We will be displaying the children's artwork in the Parish Hall and in the hallways and lobby area. It will be a yearend celebration of colorful artwork. It will be ready for viewing on Sunday, May 15th just in time for the Annual Church Meeting. Hope you can stop by and enjoy the exhibit!

We are hopeful to begin work on refurbishing two of the classrooms this Summer. The final phase of tile removal needs to be completed on the floors. It has been 15 years since we began the tile removal. Once that is complete the rooms can be painted, the cabinets refinished, new counter tops and finally new rugs and furniture for the classrooms. This makeover is long overdue and necessary to stay competitive with area preschools. Grant money from the State is making all this possible.

The children are growing by leaps and bounds. Everyday lately they look taller, and you can see the growth and progress they have made both physically and emotionally. It's a great feeling for them and even better for us to see that despite all the challenges we have had to face this year everyone is thriving. Many of the children will be transitioning to Kindergarten in the Fall. We are sending them off feeling proud and grateful to have been part of their early school years.

The children will be potting flowers for Mother's Day, Thursday, May 5th and Friday, May 6th. The children enjoy this annual event so that they can present their Mom with a flowering plant for her special day.

Enjoy the Spring weather!!! Though we may still have cooler days than we want, it will still be warmer than those cold wintry days we just left behind. The beauty of New England! Always changing.

Cindy Mazella
Director





The Chapel School

Where a Lifetime of Learning Begins

Register Now for the 2022-23 School Year



- 2, 3 or 5 Day Preschool Programs
 - For Children 2.9 - 5 Years Old
- Customizable Days to Fit your Needs
 - Half Day Classes (8:30 - 11:30 AM)
 - Lunch Bunch (until 2:00 PM)
 - Extended Day (7:30 AM - 4:00 PM)

Fun Learning Environment for Everyone!

- Affordable Rates
- Non-Denominational
- Over 60 Years in Methuen!



Contact us to schedule a tour:

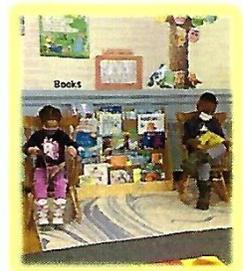
978-689-8414

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

2022-23
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 – 4:00 PM)

___ 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 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.

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 **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 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 – May 2022 (Year C)

Sun., May 1

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

Psalms 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

Mon., May 2

Psalms 121

Ezekiel 1:1-25

Acts 9:19b-31

Tues., May 3

Psalms 121

Ezekiel 1:26-2:1

Acts 26:1-18

Wed., May 4

Psalms 121

Isaiah 6:1-8

Luke 5:1-11

Thurs., May 5

Psalms 23

Ezekiel 11:1-25

Revelation 5:1-10

Fri., May 6

Psalms 23

Ezekiel 20:39-44

Revelation 6:1-7:4

Sat., May 7

Psalms 23

Ezekiel 28:25-26

Luke 12:29-32

Sun., May 8

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43

Psalms 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

Mon., May 9

Psalms 100

Ezekiel 37:15-28

Revelation 15:1-4

Tues., May 10

Psalms 100

Ezekiel 45:1-9

Acts 9:32-35

Wed., May 11

Psalms 100

Jeremiah 50:17-20

John 10:31-42

Thurs., May 12

Psalms 148

Ezekiel 2:8-3:11

Revelation 10:1-11

Fri., May 13

Psalms 148

Daniel 7:13-14

Revelation 11:15

Sat., May 14

Psalms 148

Daniel 7:27

Revelation 11:16-19

Sun., May 15

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18

Psalms 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

Mon., May 16

Psalms 133

1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42

Acts 11:19-26

Tues., May 17

Psalms 133

2 Samuel 1:4-27

Acts 11:27-30

Wed., May 18

Psalms 133

Leviticus 19:9-18

Luke 10:25-28

Thurs., May 19

Psalms 67

Proverbs 2:1-5

Acts 15:36-41

Fri., May 20

Psalms 67

Proverbs 2:6-8

Acts 16:1-8

Sat., May 21

Psalms 67

Proverbs 2:9-15

Luke 19:1-10

Sun., May 22

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15

Psalms 67

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Mon., May 23

Psalms 93

1 Chronicles 12:16-22

Revelation 21:5-14

Tues., May 24

Psalms 93

2 Chronicles 15:1-15

Revelation 21:15-22

Wed., May 25

Psalms 93

2 Chronicles 34:20-33

Luke 2:25-38

Thurs., May 26

Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11

Psalms 47 or Psalms 93

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

Fri., May 27

Psalms 97

Exodus 33:12-17

Revelation 22:6-9

Sat., May 28

Psalms 97

Exodus 33:18-23

John 1:14-18

Sun., May 29

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16-34

Psalms 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17,

20-21

John 17:20-26

Mon., May 30

Psalms 29

Exodus 40:16-38

Acts 16:35-40

Tues., May 31

Psalms 29

2 Chronicles 5:2-14

Acts 26:19-29

Happy Birthday!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Susan Newton
- 05 Robyn Sliney
- 08 Christopher Grills
- 24 Jennifer Dockham
- 31 Ethan Bennett

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Tosh Napier
- 03 Stephen Boyko
- 04 Frank Michaels
- 05 Donna Zacharias
- 06 Cindy Bateson

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MAY ANNIVERSARY

5/21 Richard & Lynn Dewhirst

Married 33 years

May 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion <i>Mental Health Sunday</i> 11:15 AM Fellowship	2 6:30 PM Finance	3 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 4:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	4 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM Church Board	5	6	7
8 Mother's Day 11:15 AM Fellowship	9 4:00 PM Chapel Staff 6:30 PM Outreach	10 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 4:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	11 8:00 AM Morning Coffee 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Diaconate	12 <i>Chapel Art Show</i>	13 <i>Chapel Art Show</i>	14
15 <i>Chapel Art Show</i> 11:00 AM Annual Meeting	16 <i>Chapel Art Show</i> 6:30 PM Stewardship	17 <i>Chapel Art Show</i> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 4:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	18 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM MDCC	19	20	21
22 11:15 AM Fellowship 12:00 PM Walking Group (Methuen Rail Trail)	23	24 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 4:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	25 June BEACON Deadline 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl	26	27	28
29 11:15 AM Fellowship	30 Memorial Day Church/Chapel School Closed	31 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 4:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution				Worship Service Sundays at 10:00 AM In-Person & on Facebook Live www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen

Dates and Times Subject to Change

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Address Service Requested