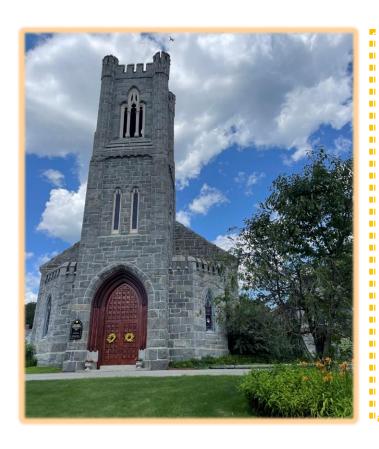
August 2023

Sunday Worship Resumes Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at

# 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

Mike Boutin, Minister of Music boutinerjr@gmail.com

www.firstchurchmethuen.com





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

# "In the Sabbatical Spirit"

A Note from Pastor Lauren

August! Can you believe it? A month when summer begins to wind itself down as a new school year approaches. A month when it's tempting for me to fret that "time keeps on slipping, slipping, slipping into the future." Instead of wondering where the time went, beloveds, join me in treasuring this present moment. I am so thankful for each of you!

August! Whether the weather is doing its altogether crazy thing: muggy hot one day and stormy the next (tornado warnings? What's up with that, New England?), or the Canada wildfires send us smoky skies, August is a time of growth and harvest. I've loved checking out roadside farmer's stands on sunny days and reveling in strawberries and lush blueberries that explode on your tongue with deliciousness! Beloveds, join me in praising the God of growth, bringing forth fruit in its due season!

August! Each day brings adventure, as we open our eyes, ears and especially our hearts to the ongoing blessings God bestows to and through us! It's been a full summer at First Church with Wednesday suppers, worship and ongoing service to our community and world! Of course, many of us are traveling and experiencing the joy, beauty and mystery of new places and people! (Like pastor Bill!) Beloveds, join me in acknowledging this planet as our home and all people, our family. I've been so thrilled to connect Hawai'i and Methuen! To serve with you these two summers and to reach for our own sabbath renewal has been such a treasure!

August! Where the words of Jeremiah 29:11 ring true. "For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Beloveds, join me in praising God and looking to the future with hope!

#### Pastor Lauren

P.S. "Breakfast with Bill" morphed into "Lunch with Lauren"... so Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Bill and I are excited to plan a "Brunch with Bill AND Lauren!" See below...

# Brunch with Bill AND Lauren!

You can join Pastor Bill, Pastor Lauren & friends for "Brunch with Bill & Lauren" on Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 AM, at Ellie's Farmhouse, 436 Broadway in Methuen, for good food and conversation. And as always, it's dutch treat.







# **Sunday Worship resumes**

August 6<sup>th</sup>, at 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 (<a href="www.facebook.com/FirstChurchMethuen">www.facebook.com/FirstChurchMethuen</a>) and posted after the service on our YouTube channel (<a href="www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLSjhXs9UG8yC89aB8evrA">www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLSjhXs9UG8yC89aB8evrA</a>). 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. 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.





The Church & Chapel School Office will be closed the beginning of August due to Roberta still recovering from ankle surgery last month. Roberta will be working from home during recovery and can be contacted by email at <a href="mailto:firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com">firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com</a>.

Rev. Lauren Buck Medeiros, our Sabbatical Minister while Pastor Bill is away (June 11<sup>th</sup> – August 14<sup>th</sup>), will be in the office on Tuesday & Wednesday mornings. Once Pastor Bill returns, his office hours will be announced.

Roberta and the Pastor will continue to check emails and phone messages regularly. Do not hesitate to use the answering service to leave a message. They send your message via email to the Church Office & Pastor and will help locate the Pastor if there is a pastoral emergency.



Roberta working from home during recovery

# Thank you for your prayers, cards and thoughtfulness following my ankle surgery.

I had the original cast/splint and (19) stitches removed on 7/24. I am now in a full cast for another 4 weeks. Then onto a walking boot and PT. It's a slow process but I'm so glad the repairs could be done, and I'll be walking pain-free again!

#### From the Church Board Chair...

New England summertime is cooking right along! Hopefully you are escaping the heat & rain we seem to be surrounded by. Rev. Bill's second half of his sabbatical is continuing, so please continue your prayers that he has a restful and rejuvenating time abroad. In the meantime, hopefully you've enjoyed Rev. Lauren filling in all the way from Hawaii – I know I am!! However, just because it's summer, your church board is not resting! We have lots going on, including:

- Our July Wednesday night worships were great as always! Great treats for our dinners, including pizza, sandwich, and potluck nights. Thanks to all who helped out. It was a great time together as always.
- Chapel School is continuing the enrollment drive for the 2023-2024 year. If you know of someone who might be interested in an outstanding experience for their youth, please contact Cindy Mazella. And if you haven't heard, Cindy is looking to retire this October. She has been such a dedicated force for many years, and she cannot be replaced. To that end, I'd like to introduce our new Chapel School director Gina Colarusso!!! She will bring a wealth of experience to the role, and she and Cindy will work hard to make the transition as smooth as possible.
- 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 continuing for two of the classrooms, scheduled to be complete before the next school year.
- Our Outreach group is hard at work (as always!). There are several projects in process, including our Back-to-School program returning this August. This is one of our signature programs, so please see Lisa Ferry to help. Many other projects are in the works, so 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
Church Board Chair



# From the Outreach Ministry Team

#### Back to School Program - Mall Day

Can you believe it! First Church Congregational, in partnership with Methuen Arlington Neighborhood, Inc. (MAN, Inc.), is hosting their 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Back to School Project on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the MAN, Inc., Tenney Street Park, 141 Tenney Street, Methuen. Under the leadership of Lisa Yarid Ferry and Linda M. Soucy, M.A.N. Inc., they have solicited the support of many individuals and organizations to donate their time, treasure, and talent to this wonderful annual event.

Volunteers from FCC size each recipient child and shop for their jeans, shirts, fleece hoodies, and other essentials. On **Mall Day, August 19**<sup>th</sup>, 75 Methuen children get their shoes, clothing, backpacks and school supplies. The children pick up their clothing with the help of a personal volunteer and receive a bagged "to go" lunch. By assisting these children, we help them begin school with the physical necessities of clothing, shoes, and school supplies; this sends the message that the Methuen community cares about their success in school, and it boosts their self-esteem. If you would like to volunteer to help on Mall Day, please contact Lisa Yarid Ferry directly.

#### Clothing Drive for "Kids Closet" - Methuen YMCA

As we announced in the July Beacon, Outreach is planning a clothing drive for the Methuen YMCA's "Kids Closet" from August 27 to October 1. We are looking for **donations of "gently used" clothing in sizes infant to grade 8**, that would be men's or women's small to medium. The Y is willing to take clothes for any season, as they have storage to keep out of season clothing. Of course, nothing with stains or rips will be accepted. Shoes, sneakers, slippers and boots are also welcome.

You may bring your donations to church and give them to Outreach Team Members either before or after church. We will also have an opportunity for you to bring clothing on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 10:00 AM – Noon. During the Drive, clothes will **not** be stored at the church. See flyer in this issue of the Beacon. If you have any questions, please contact team members, Carole or John Silva.

#### **Cooking Chicken Pot Pies – Methuen YMCA**

By the time you read this article, members of the Outreach team will have gathered in the church kitchen to make twelve 8"x8" Chicken Pot Pies to be frozen and delivered to the YMCA for their freezer. The pies will be available for YMCA families who are in crisis and need a meal. This is the same Chicken Pot Pie recipe our church makes once a month for Bread and Roses

#### "Let's Book It" - Book Drive for Comprehensive Grammar School.

Last fall we held a Book Drive for grades K-6<sup>th</sup>, for the Tenney Grammar School. You enabled us to collect over 700 new and gently used books for which the school was very grateful and put to immediate use. We plan to do a similar book drive for the CGS from September 17<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>. More details will be in the September issue of The Beacon.

#### **Save the Date – Lazarus House Hike for Hope 2023**

Lazarus House will be holding its Annual **Hike for Hope 5K Walk/Run** on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM at The Park in Andover. The Hike is held to help them raise money to meet the increasing need of their guests for warm, nutritious meals for their Soup Kitchen and supplemental groceries for their Food Pantry. The Hike raised over \$150,000 last year.

#### **Save the Date – Samaritans Walk for Hope 2023**

The Family Services' Samaritans for Merrimack Valley will hold their **Walk for Hope (1.5K walk)** on Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM at Willow Park in North Andover. Their Walk is held to raise awareness of mental health challenges and suicide prevention in our communities.

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

The threat of heavy rain toward the end of the Food Pantry hours appeared to impact the number of families who were served Tuesday, July 18, as people left the line of cars when the rain appeared to be imminent. We served 293 families while the NIN Arlington Street Food Pantry which is held each Wednesday, and has moved to the ball field (located at the intersection of East and Lawrence Streets), saw a big increase in the families they served. The scarcity of food is becoming a concern again as the Boston Food Bank was unable to give out any meat this week to any Food Pantry. No one knows why this happened. There has been no explanation given.

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



# **MAN Back to School Project**

Sizing Days in July







# 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. The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be knitting for the Nevins Home in Methuen, as well as members of First Church. Contact Carol Gray or Debbie Bonafanti for more information.

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





Original Artwork by Emily Jurovich

# Walking Group for Fitness and Fellowship

#### **Tuesday Mornings in August**

Beat the heat! We will be walking at **9:00 AM** in August at **Riverside Park** (960 Riverside Drive) in Methuen on the following Tuesdays: 8/1, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22 and 8/29. Come enjoy all the shade and cooling breezes off the Merrimack River with First Church friends. Remember to bring water to stay hydrated. Hope to see you there!

Monthly scheduled walks on the Methuen Rail Trail will return in September.

























# Time to clean out your closets!

# The Outreach Ministry Team will be conducting a



# for the Methuen YMCA Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>

## **Drop-off Times:**

- Sunday mornings, before or after worship (10:00 11:00 AM)
  - Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 10:00 AM -12:00 PM.



# Bring your "gently used" clothing – sizes infant to Grade 8, (men's/women's small/medium).

The YMCA will take clothing for any season as they have the storage to keep out of season things. Shoes, sneakers, slippers, and boots will also be welcome. Of course, NO stains or rips will be accepted.

# Thank you!

First Church Congregational, UCC

26 Pleasant Street, Methuen, MA

# The Chapel School

There will be a new face roaming the building soon. Gina Colarusso will begin her new position on Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup> as Chapel's new Director. After a lengthy search and interview process, Gina won our hearts, to take the reins and guide the Chapel School for the next generation of children and families. I am excited to begin the transition with her over the next couple of months as we prepare for our September 2023-2024 school year.

I will leave my 35-year career at Chapel and segway into retirement. I came to Chapel to sign-up my 3-year-old daughter and never left, followed by my son, 2 years later and the rest is history.

I'm looking forward to working with Gina and helping her ease into her new position. The staff met her, and the Church Board also had an opportunity to meet her last month at a "meet and greet" Board meeting. Board members introduced themselves and shared their roles in the Church as chair of their individual committees.

I would like to thank the search committee for the hiring of our new Director. Their time and talent made this process seem effortless. We don't do this every day but I thought we did it well. It was truly a team effort. Thank you to Pastor Bill, Josh Ferry, Cindy Bateson, Barbara Donaghue, Kim Valcourt, Leslie Buresh (Chapel teacher) and Cathy Fulgoni (Chapel parent).

Renovations continue in the classrooms. The painting is finished in the Phillips Chapel classroom and the upstairs PreK classroom. Work will be starting soon on refinishing the hardwood floors. We hope to have everything completed by mid-August so that the furniture can be moved back and the teachers can return to reset up the classrooms and prepare to open. How exciting!!!

Roberta continues to recover from her ankle surgery at home. It's hard to keep her down but she is still managing to keep busy from her home computer for both Church and School. Get better Roberta!!!

Continue to enjoy the Summer and know that we all need a little rest and relaxation. I'm enjoying my time off as well as checking in at the school on the renovations and giving tours to families still registering their children.

Stay well!!

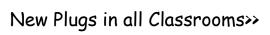
Cíndy Mazella Director



# Renovations underway at Chapel School this Summer!!



« New Flooring at front entry to Phillips Chapel (Classroom 3)







<< New Countertops >> in all Classrooms

« New sink in Classroom 3





Hardwood floors started to be refinished and painting done in Classroom 3 & PreK



# Help Share the Word!



# The Chapel School

Where a Lifetime of Learning Begins

# Register Now for our 2023-24 School Year



- For Children 2.9 5 Years Old
  - 2, 3 or 5 Day Preschool Programs
- 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!

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



Contact us for more information or to schedule a tour: 978-689-8414

chapelschoolmethuen@gmail.com



www.chapelschoolmethuen.com



Located at: First Church Congregational 26 Pleasant Street, Methuen





# What's the REACH Ministry?

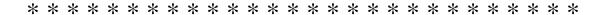


Do you know of someone facing surgery, recovering from surgery or living with a long-term illness? Do you know someone who has recently lost their job or could use financial support? Do you know someone who suffers from depression or is often down in the dumps around the holidays?

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.

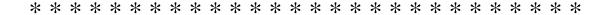
Contact Judi Boyko or Pat King for more information.



# **Need Financial Help?**

If you, or another member of First Church you know, is need of some temporary financial assistance, please contact Josh Ferry, Church Board Chair, while Pastor Bill is on sabbatical.

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



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

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



Or visit our website at <a href="www.firstchurchmethuen.com">www.firstchurchmethuen.com</a> and click the "Ways to Donate" page.

Thank you for your support.

#### Daily Lectionary Scripture References - August 2023 (Year A)

#### Tues., Aug. 1

Psalm 65:8-13 Genesis 30:37-43 Ephesians 6:10-18

#### Wed., Aug. 2

Psalm 65:8-13 Genesis 46:2—47:12 Mark 4:30-34

#### Thurs., Aug. 3

Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Isaiah 14:1-2 Philippians 4:10-15

#### Fri., Aug. 4

Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Isaiah 41:8-10 Romans 9:6-13

#### Sat., Aug. 5

Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Genesis 31:1-21 Matthew 7:7-11

#### Sun., Aug. 6

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21

#### Mon., Aug. 7

Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Genesis 31:22-42 Romans 1:8-15

#### Tues., Aug. 8

Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Genesis 32:3-21 Acts 2:37-47

#### Wed., Aug. 9

Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Isaiah 43:1-7 Matthew 15:32-39

#### Thurs., Aug. 10

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b Genesis 35:22b-29 Acts 17:10-15

#### Fri., Aug. 11

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b Genesis 36:1-8 Acts 18:24-28

#### Sat., Aug. 12

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b Genesis 37:5-11 Matthew 16:1-4

#### Sun., Aug. 13

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33

#### Mon., Aug. 14

Psalm 28 Genesis 37:29-36 2 Peter 2:4-10

#### Tues., Aug. 15

Psalm 28 Genesis 39:1-23 Romans 9:14-29

#### Wed., Aug. 16

Psalm 28 Genesis 40:1-23 Matthew 8:23-27

#### Thurs., Aug. 17

Psalm 133 Genesis 41:14-36 Revelation 15:1-4

#### Fri., Aug. 18

Psalm 133 Genesis 41:37-57 Acts 14:19-28

#### Sat., Aug. 19

Psalm 133 Genesis 42:1-28 Matthew 14:34-36

#### Sun., Aug. 20

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 45:1-15 Psalm 133 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

#### Mon., Aug. 21

Psalm 130 Genesis 43:1-34 Acts 15:1-21

#### Tues., Aug. 22

Psalm 130 Genesis 44:1-34 Romans 11:13-29

#### Wed, Aug. 23

Psalm 130 Genesis 45:16-28 Matthew 8:1-13

#### Thurs., Aug. 24

Psalm 124 Genesis 49:1-33 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

#### Fri, Aug. 25

Psalm 124 Genesis 49:29—50:14 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

#### Sat., Aug. 26

Psalm 124 Genesis 50:15-26 Matthew 16:5-12

#### Sun., Aug. 27

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 1:8—2:10 Psalm 124 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20

#### Mon., Aug. 28

Psalm 8 Exodus 1:1-7 Romans 2:1-11

#### Tues., Aug. 29

Psalm 8 Exodus 2:11-15a Romans 11:33-36

#### Wed., Aug. 30

Psalm 8 Exodus 2:15b-22 Matthew 26:6-13

#### Thurs., Aug. 31

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Exodus 2:23-24 Ephesians 5:1-6

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# **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

- 04 Scott Sanborn
- 05 William Bennett
- 13 Hannah Valcourt
- 23 William Hirsch
- 27 Neve Hodgkins
- 30 Violet Comeau



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Joan Zonfa
- 02 Gloria Domin
- 06 Eric Barlow
- 07 Matthew Bunting



## **AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

8/4	Ken & Marilyn Peck	Married 33	years
8/16	Glenn & Deborah Sprague	Married 37	years

## **SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

9/1	Justin & Melissa Hodgkins	Married 7 years
9/3	Jonathan & Stacy Bennett	Married 12 years

# August 2023

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship Service Sundays at 10:00 AM In-Person & on Facebook Live www.facebook.com/ firstchurchmethuen		Topicos Constitution of the Constitution of th				
		1 9:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 5:30 - 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	2 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM Church Board	3	4	5
6 Communion Sunday Worship Resumes 11:15 AM Fellowship Time	2	8 9:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 5:30 - 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	9 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Diaconate	10	11	12
13 11:15 AM Fellowship Time	<b>14</b> 6:30 PM Outreach	15 9:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 5:30 - 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	16 September BEACON deadline 11:00 AM Brunch with Bill AND Lauren 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl	17	18 MAN - Back to School Clothing Project Set-Up	19 MAN - Back to School Clothing Project Mall Day
<b>20</b> 11:15 AM Fellowship Time	<b>21</b> 6:30 PM Stewardship	9:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 5:30 - 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	<b>23</b> 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl	24	25	26
27 Clothing Drive Begins 11:15 AM Fellowship Time	<b>28</b> 6:30 PM Finance	9:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 5:30 - 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	30 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl	31		
		Dates	Dates and times are cubiast to change	hando		

Dates and times are subject to change

# First Church Congregational

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

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