



June 2026



# THE BEACON



## *First Church Congregational*

*United Church of Christ*

26 Pleasant Street

Methuen, MA 01844-3199

Telephone: (978) 687-1240

**Rev. Dr. Ann Rogers-Brigham, Interim Pastor**

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

*Worship on Sundays at 10:00 AM*



## ***Minister's Message*** ***Rev. Dr. Ann Rogers-Brigham***

Dear members and friends of First Church,

As June arrives, we are fully into the Pentecost season of the church year. Some of us may be thinking about a summer break, a family gathering or, maybe, marking a celebration in life like a graduation, a birthday or an anniversary. We are glad for those occasions and for the warmer weather that gives us the chance to focus on rest and renewal.

So, what about life in the church? Do we slow down and get into vacation mode? We may have a change of pace since we are not gearing up for big Christmas or Easter services, but we have great openings for new discoveries about life in the Spirit.

If there is any time to celebrate the vibrancy of life in the Spirit, I think it has to be this month! Yes, that word "vibrancy" is intentional. The story of Pentecost in Acts pictures the Spirit animating the early church community to continue the vocation of Jesus in increasingly wider fields of ministry. The overarching call is to recognize how the Spirit is present and active today.

For me, it means reading, thinking, praying, planning and being inspired for the spiritual journey. This is not only on a personal level but on a church leadership level. Pentecost asks us to broaden our view and imagine our church life as full of possibilities. Can you imagine what that means with me?

I want to share a few quotes that may help us think of how we can imagine change, growth, possibilities with the Spirit leading us toward a Spirit-filled life at First Church:

A quote from the Eastern Orthodox tradition, Demetra Velisarios Jaquet, with Women's Orthodox Ministries: *"We have a crisis of connectedness in our time, with each other and with God. Generosity has not been humanity's defining attribute, and trusting has not been humanity's strength. The Spirit of trust and mutual giving is a gift from God, perhaps obscured but not obliterated. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit has a profound effect on every person, for by this action is begun the transformation from doubt to faith, from selfishness and fear to selflessness and trust."*

A quote from the book, Credo, by Rev. William Sloane Coffin (p. 130): *"If indeed we love the Lord with all our hearts, minds, and strength, we are going to have to stretch our hearts, open our minds, and strengthen our souls, whether our years are three score and ten or not yet twenty. God cannot lodge in a narrow mind. God cannot lodge in a small heart. To accommodate God, they must be palatial."*

A quote from Women-Church: Theology and Practice (1986) by Rosemary Radford Ruether: *"The occasion of Pentecost, in which Judaism celebrates its founding in the giving of the law, and Christianity its foundation in the dispensation of the prophetic Spirit of the messianic age, is an appropriate time to focus on the meaning of salvific community—both the disciplines by which we need to walk and the prophetic Spirit that must inspire us."*

This quote comes from the book, The God We Never Knew, by Marcus Borg: *"The spiritual journey, in Christianity as well as non-Christian forms, is about the hatching of the heart, the opening of the self to the reality of the Spirit. This opening begins the process by which the self at its deepest level is reoriented and transformed."*

A quote from Henri Nouwen's book, The Life of the Beloved (1992): *"Living the spiritual life means living life as one unified reality. The forces of darkness are the forces that split, divide, and set in opposition. The forces of light unite. Literally, the word "diabolical" means dividing. The demon divides; the Spirit unites."*

All of these quotes by spiritual writers along with all our gospel writers remind us that the Spirit was a force behind Jesus' ministry and is to be behind ours as well. Jesus modeled a Spirit-filled life and we ask how we can do this at First Church in this interim time. I hope, as we have opportunity in our summer book study, conversation may lead us to talk about how we shape "life in the Spirit" in the local church. Or we can make time for one-on-one sharing as we envision the vitality of First Church life guided by the Spirit and anchored in God's abiding love in practical ways. There's so much to talk about this Pentecost season!

Whatever is unfolding in your life this month, I hope you'll take time to ponder how the Spirit is persistently seeking to lure you into deeper recognition of the divine presence of God in your life. May the Holy Spirit bless us, giving us a holy life together at First Church.

Grace and peace,  
*Rev. Ann Rogers Brigham*



# Sunday Worship

10:00 AM

*We hope you will join us!*

We like to see you in the congregation on Sunday mornings, but for those who cannot attend in person, worship will be broadcast each Sunday, at 10:00 AM, on YouTube Live ([www.youtube.com/@firstchurchcongregationalm1729](http://www.youtube.com/@firstchurchcongregationalm1729)).

An Order of Worship will be emailed out by the Friday before the service. If you do not receive this email, please let the church office know at [firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com).

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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](mailto: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. Ann at [amrogersbrigham@gmail.com](mailto:amrogersbrigham@gmail.com) or 978-687-1240.

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## Breakfast with Ann



Our next *Breakfast with Ann* is on Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM. Join us for good food and conversation. We meet at Ellie's Farmhouse in Methuen for our monthly gathering. Everyone is welcome to join us — just come a drink a cup of coffee and share how your week is going!

*We will take a break in July and August from our usual schedule and start again in September.*



May Group for Breakfast

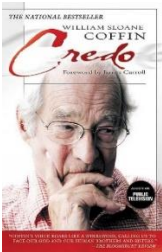
# Summer Office Hours

The Church & Chapel School Office will be open most Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, starting the week of June 15<sup>th</sup> through Labor Day. Roberta will continue to check emails and phone messages regularly. Rev. Ann will keep her regular office hours, Monday - Thursday, from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

Do not hesitate to use the answering service to leave a message. They send your message via email to the Church Office and will help locate the Pastor if there is a pastoral emergency.

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## SUMMER BOOK STUDY



Beginning June 21<sup>st</sup>, and going through July 19<sup>th</sup> (5 Sundays), we will meet after worship/coffee hour for about an hour for discussion of the book, *Credo*, by William Sloane Coffin. You can come to any of the sessions; each Sunday we'll be reading some of the passages and inviting discussion. (It is not necessary to purchase the book as readings will be distributed for each week, but it is a great book and you may want to own one) If you read ahead and find favorite passages, we'll invite you to share them as we move through the sections.

This book (c. 2004) is a collection of sayings and passages from Rev. William Sloane Coffin's sermons. He was the chaplain at Yale University during the Viet Nam era, and the pastor at New York's famous Riverside Church for twenty years. He was the most famous "progressive" pastor in America for a long time.

Let me share a portion of what James Carroll wrote in the Forward of the book (p. 13):  
*"This book is a feast of rare expression; a display of subtlety and insight that shows why Bill Coffin matters so much to America and the world. The economy of verbal construction, the wit, the grasp of the core, the biblical ground, the high literateness, the knack for simplicity, the infallible feel for the memorable word, and the sly that God exists and that God's existence matters—make Bill Coffin the greatest public preacher of this time."*



# From the Chair of the Church Board...

Greetings from your newly elected Board Chair. Thank you for bestowing upon me the privilege of leading our church for the next four years. It is truly an honor to be part of this community.

It was great to see everyone at our 297<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and hear about all the wonderful things happening in the life of First Church. If you were not able to join us, there are still copies of our Annual Report available. I encourage you to read about all the amazing things happening at First Church and how you can get involved.

Over the next few months, I look forward to meeting with you to hear your ideas as to how we may better live our mission – ***Seeking God, Caring for Each Other, and Improving Our Community***. Over the summer, the Church Board and our committees will be busy planning for our upcoming year. These next few months will be a great time for reflection.

As always, there is a lot going on in the life of our church:

- Our search for our next settled pastor is continuing. We have received 12 pastor profiles and have invited 8 candidates to interview with us. We have two active candidates, and we have invited both to meet with us in person. We welcome your prayers as we search for our next settled pastor. If you have any questions about the search process or would like to share any information with the committee, please speak to me or any of the other members of the search committee.
- Our Outreach Committee is also hard at work. Last week, we welcomed Thomas Donovan, a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and retired police officer, to be our guest in worship to speak about his personal journey to sobriety and the services available to those experiencing a mental health crisis in our community. Next month we will begin working on our Back-to-School program to help children in the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood get the clothes and supplies they need for school. Please speak to Lisa Ferry if you'd like to help. Between these projects, our food pantry, and so much more, there are many ways that you can make an impact on our community.
- We will be honoring our children, teachers and volunteers on June 7<sup>th</sup> with a special service for Children's Sunday. Our youth will be participating in the service, and we will recognize our teachers and volunteers for their service this past year. Please bring your extended family to celebrate our youth and join us for what is sure to be a memorable service.
- The Chapel School is wrapping up its 68<sup>th</sup> year of service to the community! Enrollment is in process for next year, so if you know of a family with children looking for an amazing (and affordable) preschool experience, I invite you to connect them with Gina or Roberta. Tours are happening regularly.
- As you may have heard, Mike recently applied for a grant to the Sisler Foundation to support the restoration of our 1886 James E. Treat (Opus 2) pipe organ. Over time, wear and aging have begun to take their toll, and full restoration will be needed to preserve both its sound and its legacy, as we prepare for our 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. If you feel moved to support this effort, please consider a contribution to the Organ Restoration Fund. Every gift, regardless of amount, helps to sustain the music and ministry of our church.

- Speaking of our 300th anniversary, it is right around the corner. If you're interested in helping us plan our celebration, please speak to Becky Smith or Rich Rolon about how you can get involved.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me or any of the other members of the Church Board with any questions, feedback, or ideas. We would love to hear from you!

I thank you for all that you do in service to God and our community.

~ *Steve Boyko*  
Church Board Chair

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## *Special Worship Opportunities in June*

- **June 7<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday after Pentecost, Children/Youth Sunday, Service of Word and Sacrament**
  - Children/Youth Message features Heifer Project “Adopt-a-Cow”
  - Readings: Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-5; Matthew 5:14-16, 7:7-8 & 9:9-13
- **June 14<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday after Pentecost, Music Sunday**
  - Music from our beautiful choirs
  - Readings: Genesis 18:1-5; Matthew 9:35-37
- **June 21<sup>st</sup> – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**
  - Father’s Day Prayers and Recognition of Fathers
  - Music to Honor Juneteenth
  - Readings: Genesis 21:8-21; Matthew 10:24-39
- **June 28<sup>th</sup> – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**
  - Readings: Psalm 13; Matthew 10:40-42

# Emergency Contact Request

If, heaven forbids, you were injured at church, and you couldn't speak for yourself would your church family know who to reach out to and let them know?

At the May Diaconate meeting, we discussed this very topic. We are looking to collect names and phone numbers for emergency contact purposes only. This is completely voluntary, so please don't feel that you have to supply this information. Any information provided will be kept private and only accessible by Roberta (our FCC Office Manager), the Minister (currently Rev. Ann) and the Diaconate.

So, please do consider providing an emergency contact. We hope and pray that we will won't have to use it but will feel better knowing who we should contact on your behalf.

✂ -----



## Emergency Contact Information

*Complete and Return to the Church Office.*

Your Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Contact #1:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Contact #2 (if applicable):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

***Thank you for helping us to help you!***

# *Musical Musings*

Another successful and music-filled year comes to a close this June. It's hard to believe that I am completing my fourth year as Minister of Music at First Church! Time has a way of moving quickly, especially when it is marked by so many meaningful moments of worship, fellowship, and song.

Music Sunday on June 14 will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the rich musical life of our congregation. Throughout the year, we have been blessed by the voices of our choir, the ringing of our handbells, the gifts of guest musicians, and a wide variety of anthems—some familiar favorites and some new discoveries—that have inspired us, comforted us, and occasionally brought us to tears. Music has a unique ability to express what words alone cannot, and I am deeply grateful for the many musicians who share their time and talent so generously.

The choir will continue singing through the end of June, after which I will step away from my regular music responsibilities for the summer. I will return on July 26, August 2, and August 9 to lead worship and preach while Ann is away. I always treasure these opportunities to explore scripture, theology, and the life of faith with you in a different way, and I am grateful for the trust you place in me to help guide worship during those weeks.

Rich and I will also be traveling to Guatemala in July. We are excited to visit another new country and to experience its culture, history, language, and, of course, its food. Travel has a way of expanding our understanding of the world and reminding us of both the diversity and the shared humanity of God's people.

As another church year draws to a close, I want to thank you for the joy of making music together. Whether you sing in the choir, ring in the handbell ensemble, listen from the pews, or simply hum along to a favorite hymn, you are part of the musical ministry of this congregation. Your enthusiasm, support, and willingness to raise your voices in song help make First Church a place where music truly enriches worship and nurtures the spirit.

Wishing you a restful, joyful, and music-filled summer.

Grace and peace,

*Mike Boutin*

Minister of Music

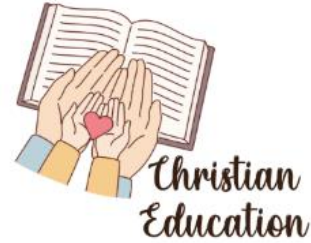


# Christian Education

We have finished the year using a Heifer Curriculum to go with the youth outreach mission of buying a Cow for Heifer. They will be doing a special coffee hour on May 31 to help raise the money needed for the Heifer project. It will cost us \$500.00 to purchase the cow. Hope you will join us for a Coffee Hour filled with MOOO-ING treats, and some beautiful prayer jars made by our youth when you make your donation. Also please mark your calendars for Children's Day June 7<sup>th</sup>. Our youth will be participating in the service, and we will recognize our teachers and volunteers.

I (Mrs. B) have been approached by a parent and asked if I'd do an Adult Craft night. I said "Yes". Watch for more information for date and time.

Blessings,  
*Lori, Sarah & Christine*



## Sunday School Lessons for June:

- May 31 – *Trinity Sunday Lesson*
  - *Children's Day Rehearsal/Coffee Hour led by our youth to raise money to buy a Heifer*
- June 7<sup>th</sup> – ***Children's Day Celebration***

Here at Heifer, we believe livestock has an important role to play in ending global hunger and poverty. Here are 5 reasons why:

1. *Animals provide nutritious food.*
2. *They generate income.*
3. *They empower women in rural communities.*
4. *They increase access to renewable energy.*
5. *They help communities build resilience.*

\* \* \* \* \*



Children's Moment – Heifer International Talk  
5/3/26



*Saint Augustin*  
by Philippe de Champaigne, c. 1645

### *St. Augustine's Prayer to the Holy Spirit*

*Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit  
that my thoughts may all be holy;  
Act in me, O Holy Spirit  
that my works, too, may be holy;  
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit  
that I love but what is holy;  
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit  
to defend all that is holy;  
Guard me then O Holy Spirit  
that I always may be holy.*

*Amen.*

~ St. Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-430)

St. Augustine of Hippo is generally regarded as one of the most influential philosophers in the history of the Western world, and he is viewed as one of the most important Church Fathers of the Latin Church in the Patristic Period.

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***The first day of summer is  
Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>!***



# From the Outreach Ministry Team...

## Mental Health Awareness Sunday

During the May 17<sup>th</sup> church service, Mr. Tom Donovan participated in our church service as a guest speaker. He discussed his role as director of the PATH program here in Methuen, including the counseling services and resources he provides to the community. He connected well with our children during the Children's Message, speaking at their level about handling their feelings and reaching out to others for help. During the adult portion of the service, he shared his personal story and his own journey with addiction and mental health. It was a meaningful and helpful discussion, and we are grateful for his visit. We encourage you to reach out to Tom if needed, and to share his information with family and friends.



**Tom Donovan, LMHC**  
PATH Program - Methuen  
Program Director

Pronouns: He, Him, His

Cell: 978-956-6595  
E: tdonovan@frontlinesvs.com  
W: frontlinesvs.com

@FrontLineSVS on Social Media

A Safe Space to be You!

## Back to School Project

Lisa Yarid-Ferry and her team are in the planning stages for the annual MAN Back to School Project. Sizing dates are scheduled in July, followed by shopping by the team. In the past the Back to School Project has provided 75 children who attend the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood Center backpacks filled with school supplies. They also receive a new outfit including jeans, a shirt, a hoodie, a pair of New Balance sneakers, and a hat knit by our Prayer Shawl Ministry Team. They can pick up a snack bag to go provided by the Masons, and our mayor sponsors a visit from an ice cream truck. Our Mall Day, when the children can pick up their new belongings, is scheduled on August 15<sup>th</sup> at Methuen Arlington Neighborhood Center on Tenney Street. Volunteers are welcome! More details will follow.

*Thank you to Lisa for leading this great project again.*

## Fall Book It! Book Drive

The Outreach Team is in the planning stages for the annual fall School Book Drive. Having donated books to the 4 grammar schools in Methuen, we have chosen the Methuen Public Schools Early Childhood Center as our next recipient. Members of the Outreach Team have met with Kelly Blanchette, Director of ECC, to discuss the type of books needed for the preschool population, including children with a variety of special needs. Reading to preschoolers not only helps develop pre-literacy skills, but also supports growth in listening, speaking, and even motor skills. Watch for more information on the Early Childhood Center in upcoming Beacons.

## Spotlight on Bread & Roses

This month Outreach would like to highlight our ***Bread & Roses Team*** and the important work they do for the wider community. For almost 20 years, the Bread & Roses Team at our church has prepared and delivered a monthly meal to the Bread & Roses Center in Lawrence. Our chicken pot pie meal prepared by our volunteers is one of the favorite meals. Bread & Roses was founded in 1980 as a soup kitchen and has been a center of hope and caring to thousands of people in the Merrimack Valley. Over 180 people a night receive a nutritious three-course meal served restaurant-style by volunteers. Guests benefit from a friendly community where people know each other by name. Guests also have the option of taking their meal to go. Bread & Roses has expanded their services to include an Emergency Food Pantry, Community Food Outreach, Food Rescue and Life & Health Services. Check out their website at [www.breadandroseskitchen.org](http://www.breadandroseskitchen.org).

Currently our Bread & Roses Meal Team is headed up by Allan and Bobbi Barlow. They shop for meal ingredients and lead the team in the kitchen. Preparation includes cooking and cutting up a large amount of chicken, peeling, chopping and cooking carrots, and mixing the ingredients together in 7 large foil pans, including added frozen peas and large cans of cream of chicken soup. The chicken pot pies are then covered and refrigerated until they are delivered the following day by Allan and Bobbi.



Special thanks to Allan and Bobbi for their leadership, and current and recent volunteers, including Pat King, Kathy Romano, Sheila Dube, Terry and Pat Romano, Carole and John Silva, and Barbara Donaghue. Many others have worked on this outreach ministry over the years, and we are thankful for your past support.

Outreach Ministry Team

*Cindy Bateson, Team Leader, Marilyn Peck, Lori Bennett, Jo-Ann Crosby, Ken Peck, Marie Rubino, Carole Silva, John Silva and Becky Smith*



# Walking Group for Fitness and Fellowship

## Tuesdays in June

It is beautiful along the Merrimack River this time of year. Come enjoy the greenery and cool breezes while getting some exercise, and talking with friends. We would love to have you join us. We are walking at the **Raymond J. Martin Riverside Park** (971 Riverside Drive in Methuen), which provides a safe, flat looped walkway. We will meet at 10:00 AM on the following Tuesdays in June: 6/2, 6/9, 6/16, 6/23 and 6/30.



# 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 Bobbi Barlow for more information.

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



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On Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Ann and the Prayer Shawl Ministry blessed a new batch of prayer shawls and lab robes. If you know of someone who may like a prayer shawl or lap robe, please let Bobbi or someone on the Prayer Shawl Ministry know.



# Open and Affirming (O&A) Committee

The following article is from the United Methodist Church web site. Please consider how we as a congregation can continue to discover how to live as a church that welcomes and embraces everyone who comes through our doors.

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## ***Three Things to Look for in a Welcoming Church***

by Joseph Yoo

*“We are a very welcoming church.”*

No church in their right mind would ever say anything otherwise. But quite often, our actions betray our words. Too many times, churches who say they’re welcoming *are* welcoming — but only to one another — the people they know.

I remember sitting with a group of ushers, who were lamenting that they had to go through “training” because they’ve been ushers for such a long time. I showed them a picture from a previous Sunday where the ushers were standing in a circle and not noticing a family (that nobody recognized) walking by them. I asked them what they saw in the picture and, unsurprisingly, no one wanted to talk anymore.

What happens is that when we’ve been part of a church for a long time, we completely take everything for granted. We just assume everyone knows where to go because *I* know where to go. Which is wild because *nobody* would act like that when we have first-time guests at our homes. We tell them where the bathrooms are, where they can find towels, where we keep our linens, etc.

Here are some things you can look for to see if a church is really welcoming as well as how to help your faith community make sure it’s making meaningful connections.

There are three things I would like to highlight as we talk about welcoming and hospitality in churches.

### ***Is your website welcoming?***

The first impression your church makes on a guest isn’t when they first pull up to your parking lot. It’s the website. And far too many churches *still* ignore the importance of a website. There are *way* too many church websites that still look like they’re preparing for Y2K. We all know first impressions matter (for better or worse). Know that the first impression one gets from your church is the website.

### ***The after-welcome welcome***

The second area I see many churches falling short in is what happens after the benediction (or right after service ends). Most churches are great in welcoming guests before church starts. But after we are dismissed, we try to get out of the church property to beat the Baptists to lunch. I was once told that one of the loneliest moments in visiting a church is after the benediction because everyone knows where to go and they’re all in a hurry to get there so people who don’t know are left to discover on their own where the children’s pick up may be or where the bathrooms are or if there’s a coffee and donuts. Ensure that your church is as intentional and diligent in their welcoming *after* service as they are before service.

## ***The 5-10-Link***

The final thing I'll share in this article is the 5-10-link rule. I do not know who came up with it, but it is something that *everyone* in church can practice (not just those who are on the welcoming team/ministry).

5 minutes before and after service, make sure you meet someone you never met. Avoid leading with the question, "Is this your first time?" Because it may not be. They may have been there for years, but your paths never crossed. Simply offer a, "I don't think we've met yet" or the simple, "Hi, my name so and so, what's yours?"

The 10 refers to distance. When someone you haven't met is within 10ft of you, go and greet them. Even if you're standing in an already established circle, have the courage to excuse yourself and break the circle to greet the person you haven't had the opportunity to meet yet. In fact, if you had to break the circle to greet them, invite them in the circle of fellowship you were already standing in — which leads to the last rule: Link.

"Link" refers to connecting them to other people in the church. In the process of getting to know them (their name, where they're from, what work they do) perhaps they have something in common with someone you already know. Maybe they just started teaching at a local elementary school and your friend works at that same school. Connect them to your friend.

We cannot have a passive mindset when we're working on making people feel welcome. We have to be active and intentional and diligent. We also have to take a risk, in the sense that we may have to step out of our comfort zone to really greet someone we may not know at church.

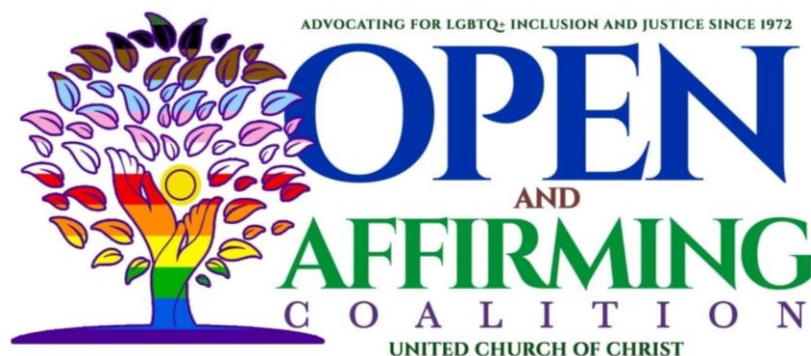
People come to church — not just to connect with God, but with God's people as well. Everyone is in need of a community. Each of us has the power and ability to help someone feel a sense of belonging in your community.

Don't be passive with that responsibility. Make the best of it and continue to connect people to your community and to God.

Joseph Yoo is the author [When the Saints Go Flying in](#). He is a West Coaster at heart, living in Houston, Texas with his wife and son. He serves at Mosaic Church in Houston. Find more of his writing at [josephyoo.com](http://josephyoo.com).



**ONA Committee** – Sue Newton, *Chair*, Irene Maggio, Christine Bane, Josh Ferry *Ex officio*



# The Chapel School



School is almost out for the summer, with the Chapel School closing on Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. I cannot believe I have completed my third year at Chapel. I had a great year and am looking forward to another great year next year. I want to thank all the teachers, staff, children and families for all their hard work and dedication.

We had an amazing teacher appreciation week. We had something planned for each day and the teachers were overly impressed with the kindness and generosity that the families provided for them. There was no shortage of love that week!

We had so many great events taking place over the school year. The children made amazing center pieces for the church's George Washington Dinner. We won first place at the Festival of Trees for our Very Hungry Caterpillar tree. We also collected a ton of mittens and hats for the Mitten Tree that we donated to Methuen Public Schools. We had a delicious Thanksgiving Feast and surpassed our goal for the Souper Bowl Train. The children had fun chasing and trying to catch Leprechauns and everyone enjoyed the annual art show

We ended the school year with a Fun Week for the children. We had a Disney Day, PJ Day, Sports day, Beach Day and my favorite Crazy Hair Day. We had a pizza party on the last day of school. The children were grinning from ear to ear each day as they came in ready for their themed day.

It is sad to say goodbye to the children that are moving on to kindergarten but we know that we have provided them with the necessary tools to be successful in their next journey.

We look forward to the returning cute faces and welcoming new faces in the fall and welcoming them to our Chapel Family.

Have a happy and safe summer.

*Gina Colarusso*

Director





The Chapel School  
Art Show 2026  
Classroom 1



The Chapel School  
Art Show 2026  
Classroom 2



The Chapel School  
Art Show 2026  
Classroom 3



EVERY CHILD  
IS AN  
artist  
- Pablo Picasso -



The Chapel School  
Art Show  
2026  
PreK Class





# The Chapel School

*Where a Lifetime of Learning Begins*

**Register Now for our 2026-27 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!*

- **School Year Program** (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](mailto:chapelschoolmethuen@gmail.com)**



**[www.chapelschoolmethuen.com](http://www.chapelschoolmethuen.com)**



Located at:

First Church Congregational  
26 Pleasant Street, Methuen





# THE CHAPEL SCHOOL

26 Pleasant Street  
Methuen, MA 01844  
(978)-689-8414

20__ - __ School Year
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## 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 the 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.*

# Pentecost/Memorial Day Sunday

## Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>

*This was a day to walk across a bridge of memory and hope. The congregation was invited to come forward to light a candle of remembrance and thanksgiving for someone who gave service to our country in war time or peace time.*



*Thank you to Rev. Ann's daughter, Martha Brigham, for reading the poem "In Flanders Fields."*

### ***In Flanders Fields***

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch, be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

*~ Written during the First World War by  
Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae*

# ***A Prayer for Pentecost***

*Come, Spirit who is our Light.  
Shine among the shadows within.  
Warm and transform our hearts.  
Come, Spirit who makes a home in us.  
Draw us to the treasures of your dwelling.  
Reveal to us the inner journey of love.  
Come, Spirit, Comforter and Consoler.  
Heal the wounded. Soothe the anxious.  
Be consolation for all who grieve and ache.  
Come, Spirit who energizes our being.  
Keep us from the tangles of toil and travail.  
Lead us to moments of prayer and play.  
Come, Spirit, consuming Fire of Love.  
Fill us with enthusiasm for your vision.  
May the desire for truth be vibrant in us.  
Come, Spirit, joy of our souls.  
Dance amid life's hills and valleys.  
Encircle us with the delights of your dance.  
Come, Spirit of wisdom and insight.  
Draw us toward your goodness and light.  
Direct our growth and guide our ways.  
Come, Spirit, strength of wounded ones.  
Be warmth in hearts of those grown cold.  
Empower the powerless. Rekindle the weary.  
Come, Spirit, source of our Peace.  
Deepen in us the actions of peacemakers.  
Heal the divisions that ravage the earth.*

*~ Joyce Rupp*

# 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, or speak to our Pastor.

\* \* \* \* \*

***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 **“Donate”** button.

*Thank you for your support.*

# Happy Birthday!

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

03 Stephen Boyko  
06 Cindy Bateson  
08 Lori Bennett  
12 Michael Borislow  
13 Pat Moss-Newbury  
14 Gary Gable  
16 Paul Barbagallo  
17 Thomas Shea  
18 Michael Causbie  
21 Glenda Schubert  
27 Donald Towler



## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

6/15	Maureen & Michael Pollard	Married 43 years
6/15	Rick & Beth Buck	Married 30 years
6/21	Donald & Janet Towler	Married 68 years

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

7/2	Neil & Cindy Bateson	Married 38 years
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# June 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Worship Service</b> <i>Sundays at 10:00 AM</i> <b>In-Person &amp;</b> <i>on YouTube Live</i> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/firstchurchmethuen1729">www.youtube.com/firstchurchmethuen1729</a>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 4:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	<b>3</b> 1:00 PM Prayer Shaul 6:30 PM Church Board	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 Communion</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30 PM Finance	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 4:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	<b>10</b> 8:00 AM Breakfast with Ann at Ellie's Farmhouse 1:00 PM Prayer Shaul 7:00 PM Diaconate	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <i>Last Day of Classes at Chapel School</i>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 Music Sunday</b> 8:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 11:15 AM Fellowship	<b>15</b> 1:00 PM Cook for Bread & Roses 6:30 PM Outreach	<b>16</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 4:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	<b>17 July</b> <b>BEACON deadline</b> 1:00 PM Prayer Shaul	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Juneteenth</b> Church Office Closed	<b>20</b>
<b>21 Father's Day</b> <i>First Day of Summer</i> 11:15 AM Fellowship 11:30 AM Book Study	<b>22</b> 2:00 PM Stewardship	<b>23</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 4:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	<b>24</b> 12:00 PM PPRC 1:00 PM Prayer Shaul	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 11:15 AM Fellowship 11:30 AM Book Study	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

*Dates and Times Subject to Change*

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

**Address Service Requested**