

Welcome Sunday
Sunday, September 17th
Worship at 10:00 AM

SEPTEMBER 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

Roberta Jurovich, Office Manager

firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com

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www.firstchurchmethuen.com



Worship on Sundays at 10:00 AM

In person & on Facebook Live

“GETTING PARSONAL”

Rev. William D. Ingraham

There's no place like home! My travels abroad ended mid-August, drawing to a close our first sabbatical together, taken in two halves over back-to-back summers. After so much time away, I was eager to get back to work with our church and community. Within two hours of arriving home, I was attending the first of two meetings that night – the Open and Affirming Committee and the Outreach Ministry Team. Jet lagged as I was, it was exciting to learn where each of them is in their work and to join in making plans for the coming year. My first morning in the office was spent doing worship planning and calling to catch up with people with ongoing pastoral care needs. Those early hours and days back were grounding for me, settling me back into the rhythm of life and ministry at First Church Congregational. What a blessing!

I'm grateful for Pastor Lauren's ministry, not only this year but last summer, too. Since the pandemic, pastors, especially interim and sabbatical ministers, have been in short supply across the

whole Christian church. I know of several congregations that have had to handle these transitions on their own, without clergy support. But not us! Lauren was willing to give us her precious summers two years in a row. How I admire her! She's a highly skilled pastor with outstanding gifts for preaching and worship leadership, let alone her skill in pastoral care. I've had the bonus of extra time with her upon my return. It not only afforded us a smooth pastoral transition, but also gives us time as friends to savor our moment together before she returns home to Hawaii.

We're swiftly moving into one of the busiest times of our year. Welcome Sunday is set for September 17, with details in a blue box just a little further into this newsletter. The choir soon will return from summer break under the gifted ministry of Mike Boutin. Sunday school will start up again and soon, and I'll be announcing this year's Confirmation class schedule before September's end. Add to this a full schedule of outreach projects, special programs, and activities, and before you know it, we'll be encroaching on Advent! It's going to be a remarkable fall, and a fantastic program year. I'm looking forward to it!

In closing, I'll share these pictures of an ancient church I visited while in Norway. Built in a remote Norwegian mountain town in the early 1300s, this building housed a congregation's worship for more than five centuries before the community decided to replace it with a more modern structure. That was in the mid-1850s. As dark as it is inside, I can hardly blame them. Still, I'm glad it was moved, reassembled, and preserved for posterity's sake. This building is referred to as a stave church due to the tall poles, or staves, that support its structure. It's 100% wood and tar, no nails or metal hinges. Though it's been decommissioned from worship for nearly two centuries, it still felt like holy ground to me. I offered prayers there for our church and community, my friends, family and the world. It was perhaps the most moving religious space I visited all summer, and that's saying a lot.

I gotta say again, it's good to be home! I look forward to seeing more of you as our program year moves into full swing. No doubt, God has many blessings in store for us as we live into our calling in the months and years ahead.

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) 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. An Order of Worship will be emailed out each Friday before the service.

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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.

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Breakfast with Bill

Join Pastor Bill for **"Breakfast with Bill"** – an informal time for friendship and conversation on any topic. We will gather on **Wednesday, September 13th at 8:00 AM**, at Ellie's Farmhouse, . And remember, it's dutch treat!

Group from *Brunch with Bill & Lauren* in August





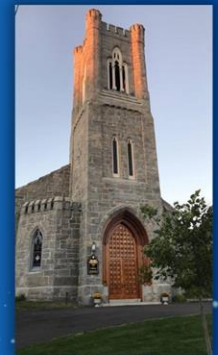
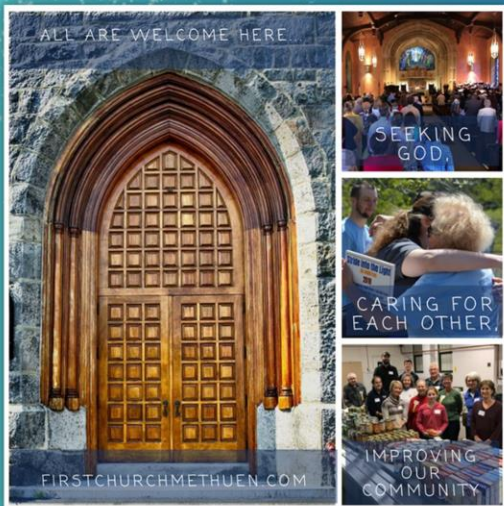
Starting Wednesday, September 6th, the First Church & Chapel School Office will be open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 AM -2:00 PM. Pastor Bill will be in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday mornings, and 30 minutes before evening meetings. Roberta and Pastor Bill continue to check emails and phone messages regularly.

If after office hours, 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 Rev. Ingraham if there is a pastoral emergency.

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Welcome Sunday

at First Church Congregational



All are invited to join us at First Church Congregational Methuen for *Welcome Sunday* on **Sunday, September 17th at 10:00 am**, and then join us for a **FREE** fun family barbecue, complete with an *ice cream truck*, directly after service.

If you are looking for a church to call home, you are welcome here!

We offer:

- Engaging Worship
- Vibrant Music
- Community outreach
- Youth fellowship
- Chapel Preschool (non-denominational)
- A place to grow in faith- judgment free!

First Church Congregational, United Church of Christ
26 Pleasant Street - Methuen, MA 01844 - 978-687-1240
www.firstchurchmethuen.com

From the Chair of the Church Board...

Ahhh... the beginning of a New England autumn. Still with warmth in the air, the glimpse of cooler days ahead is apparent. Soon, we'll be raking leaves, bringing in the last of the patio tomatoes, and sinking into a school time rhythm... but not yet!

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:

- Rev. Bill is back! He had a wonderful sabbatical, but we are thrilled to have him return to the pulpit. He has lots of stories and pictures to share, so please reach out to him. Also, I cannot thank Rev. Lauren for covering the sabbatical ministry. She is a breath of fresh air, and a blessing to all of those around. Thank you, Rev. Lauren!
- The 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 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.
- Welcome Sunday is Sept. 17th, featuring our standard fare of burgers, hot dogs (vegetarian options available), and lots of goodies. Feel free to bring a dessert or salad to share. Also, a free ice cream truck will be here as well, so save room!
- The Ham & Bean supper is back as well Oct. 14th. 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.
- 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!). The Back-to-School program returned, giving 75+ children new shoes, t-shirts, pants, sweatshirts, and backpacks filled with school supplies. Coming up, we have a book drive, charity walks, and more to come. 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



Musical Musings

How is it that summer flies by so quickly? I had an amazing summer of adventures, travel, good food and wine, and lots of time spent with friends....I hope that however you spent your summer, you made some memories to last a lifetime of winters!

A word of deep gratitude to all those who provided music during the summer months, especially to Kathy Romano, our amazing substitute organist and all-around wonderful person. Thanks, also, to our choir member who volunteered to lead special music all summer long...we are really fortunate to have such talented and generous musicians among us! Thanks, finally, to Pastor Lauren, for creating the space to make music fun and interesting throughout the summer, especially with her ukulele!

I'm eager to get back to work at FCM, and in fact, have already been at work planning music for the fall, Advent, and Christmas seasons. The choir will formally resume on Sunday, September 10th and we are eager and ready to spend another year learning, growing, praying, and having fun together. We always welcome new singers: for a week, for a month, or for as long or as often as your life allows. No previous experience is necessary, though it certainly helps to be able to read music. If you'd like to find out more, contact me at boutinerjr@gmail.com or just stop by for a Sunday morning rehearsal beginning each week at 8:30 AM.

My biggest goal for this year is to organize the music library. Currently we have hundreds of choir music sheets that we have no way of knowing anything about except to literally hunt and peck through the files. I'd like to create a searchable digital file of all our music that would list title, author, # of copies, voice parts, season, and instrumentation so that we could more easily use what we have without having to spend money on new music. The project requires at least 10 people with laptops connected to the church wi-fi each of whom takes 50 pieces of music, numbers them, and enters the information into a Google database. Within a few hours, 500 pieces of music have been numbered and cataloged and are now searchable! Anyone with basic computer skills can do this. My plan is to take a Saturday morning/afternoon in the fall to get it done. Stay tuned for more details....

As always, I look forward to your feedback, comments, and suggestions about our growing music program. See you in church in a few weeks!

Peace and all good things,

Mike Boutin



Open and Affirming (O&A) Committee

“Welcome, we are so glad you are here!” These words of welcome and the accompanying atmosphere of support, understanding, and love are what we all long for as we enter our churches. Open and Affirming is an official designation of congregations in the United Church of Christ (UCC) affirming the full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and non-binary persons in the church’s life and ministry. An Open and Affirming covenant (ONA) is more than a statement, policy, declaration, or amendment to a congregation’s by-laws. A covenant is an act of faith, a solemn promise to God in response to God’s holy Word.

The Open and Affirming Coalition certifies local churches and other ministries of the UCC as “Open and Affirming” after adoption of an ONA covenant welcoming all persons into Christian community, including equal participation in the life and ministries of the church. This welcoming process is well-thought out and planned and involves many steps, as follows:

- Step 1 – *Leading the Journey*
- Step 2 – *Gathering Information*
- Step 3 – *Building Relationships*
- Step 4 – *Mapping the Journey*
- Step 5 – *Community Recognition of the Journey*
- Step 6 – *Providing Educational Opportunities*
- Step 7 – *Writing Your Welcoming Statement*
- Step 8 – *Conducting an Exploratory Survey*
- Step 9 – *Holding the Votes*
- Step 10 – *Celebrating and Publicizing*
- Step 11 – *We’re Welcoming... Now What?*

The O&A committee is currently at Steps 3 and 4. We have had discussions with many church members and are reflecting on what we have learned and discerning how to move forward. Over the course of the next several months we will provide informational sessions, printed resources, and other educational sessions to provide everyone with an opportunity to learn and ask questions. We encourage you to read the material we distribute, take part in the discussions, and talk to a committee member as we go through this journey together.

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



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

From the Outreach Ministry Team

Back to School Program – Mall Day

Mall Day, Saturday, August 14th, dawned sunny, with a little breeze, making it a very comfortable day for everyone. Volunteers set up tables with the items being given to the children in the park next to MAN. Inc. Seventy six, excited children, some with their parents, checked in at the Registration Desk throughout the morning. First, they stopped at a craft table to make a card for our service men and women. Then they went to a table to pick up their backpack which was filled with age appropriate school supplies, then to the table where they picked up a bag with a new outfit for school, and then to a table where they picked up a box with new sneakers.

Last, but not least, they went to the table manned by “The Masons” where they got a bag of healthy snacks. A number of children played in the playground next to the park until 10:30 AM when the Ice Cream Truck came, donated by Mayor Perry, and then they made a “bee line” for the truck. Bada Bing provided lunch for all the volunteers. In this issue of The Beacon, there is a detailed article by Lisa Yarid Ferry acknowledging all the businesses and people who donated their time and resources to make the 13th Annual Back to School Project such a success!

Clothing Drive for Youth

Time to clean out your closets of “gently used” clothes for ages 2T through Grade 8 (men’s/women’s 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. See the flyer in this issue of the Beacon.

The clothing drive runs from Sunday, August 27 to Sunday, October 1. Clothes can be dropped off on each of the Sundays during the above time period from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM prior to church, but not during church hours, of 10:00 to 11:00 AM, and after church from 11:00 AM until 12:00 PM (Noon). This means clothes can only be dropped off on Sundays at those times, or on the one Saturday, September 23, from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Chapel School is in session during the week, and they are not able to receive clothes while school is in session and there is no one at the church after those hours to receive the clothes.

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

Last fall we held a Book Drive for Grades K-6th, 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 into immediate use. We plan to do a similar book drive for the CGS from September 17th to October 15th. More details will be in Roberta’s September emails and in the October issue of The Beacon.

Lazarus House Hike for Hope 2023

Lazarus House is holding its 24th Annual **Hike for Hope 5K Walk/Run** on Sunday, September 24th at 1:00 PM at The Park in Andover. 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. The Hike raised over \$150,000 last year. Becky Smith has set up a team called **“First Church Methuen.”** Please see flyer in this issue of *The Beacon* with details on how to register for or to donate to this year’s Hike for Hope.

Samaritans Walk for Hope 2023

The Family Services’ Samaritans for Merrimack Valley are 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.

NIN Tuesday Evening Food Pantry

On Tuesday, August 15th we served 400 families and on Tuesday, August 22nd we served 393 families.

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*



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Walking Group for Fitness and Fellowship

Tuesdays in September

Time to lace up your sneakers and join friends for a walk in the park! Please note that as of **September** our time changes back to ****10:00 AM****. We will be walking at **Riverside Park** (960 Riverside Drive) in Methuen on the following Tuesdays: 9/5, 9/12, 9/19 and 9/26. Come enjoy some beautiful fall weather along the water. Hope to see you there!

Sunday Walk on the Methuen Rail Trail

Join us at **12:00 PM**, on **Sunday, September 10th**, 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 turn around and head back. The walk is about 3 miles roundtrip. Come enjoy the water views and interesting artwork along the way!



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 invite you to join us on **Wednesdays from 1:30 - 3:30 PM**,
in the Parlor of First Church Congregational.



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

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On Wednesday, August 9th, the Prayer Shawl Ministry had a luncheon to say goodbye to Pastor Lauren and present her with a prayer shawl.



CALLING ALL WALKERS!!



24th Annual 5K Walk/Run

Sunday, September 24th at 1:00 PM

The Park on Bartlett Street in Andover

Come join our **“First Church Methuen”** team for this fun community focused event that brings us all together to raise critical funds for Lazarus House to continue to meet the needs of the increasing number of Guests who find themselves without the necessary Food, Clothing and Shelter for their families.

Hike for Hope Schedule of Events

- 11:30 AM – Registration/Check-in Begins
- 1:00 PM – Hike for Hope 5K Walk/Run Kicks Off
- All registered participants receive a HIKE FOR HOPE T-shirt
- Kids Activities – Face Painting, Temporary Tattoos, Balloon Twisting, Games & More
 - After the Walk – Music & Snacks
 - Dog Friendly Event

Registration Fee is \$30

Click below to register.

<https://p2p.onecause.com/hike2023?challenger=rebecca-smith-3&team=first-church-methuen-3>

You can register for Hike for Hope using your email, Facebook, Twitter or Google account. Simply click the link that works best for you and fill in the requested information. By using the link above the form should automatically give you the option to join the **“First Church Methuen”** team.

If you are unable to join us on the walk this year, but would still like to donate, please use the link above. Click the **“Make a Donation”** button and fill in the information. If you want the donation to be credited to the team, simply type **“First Church Methuen”** in the **“support a participant”** section in the middle of the window.

If you have any questions about how to register, donate or about the event itself, please contact Becky Smith, who set up our team. The Outreach Team thanks everyone who has supported the Hike for Hope all these years.



The Chapel School

It has been a pleasure to be following in the footsteps of Cindy Mazella. We have been working together for the past several weeks to ensure a smooth transition.

I am looking forward to a positive and rewarding school year. I feel with open lines of communication between the parent, student, and teacher, we will have the key to promoting an educational climate that is conducive to learning.

I am excited to be part of the first day of school. We are welcoming parents on the 6th and 7th of September to join us, from 8:30-9:30 AM, to meet the teachers and see the amazing renovations that were completed over the summer.

- Wednesday, September 6th – for 3 Day (M/W/F) & 5 Day children
 - Thursday, September 7th – for 2 Day (T/TH) children

Over the past several weeks, Cindy and I have been giving tours to lots of families and they all are enrolling!! Our enrollment is at an all-time high of 85 students at the start of the school year. We have doubled our numbers for the Lunch Bunch program as well. These numbers reflect the outstanding work of the teachers, and the commitment Chapel has to serving our Merrimack Valley families.

As we all prepare to say goodbye to Cindy, which will be very hard to do, please know that I am dedicated to continuing to uphold The Chapel School legacy.

I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns, either via email, phone or stopping by the office.

Chapel School Email – chapelschoolmethuen@gmail.com

Director Email – chapel1st@aol.com

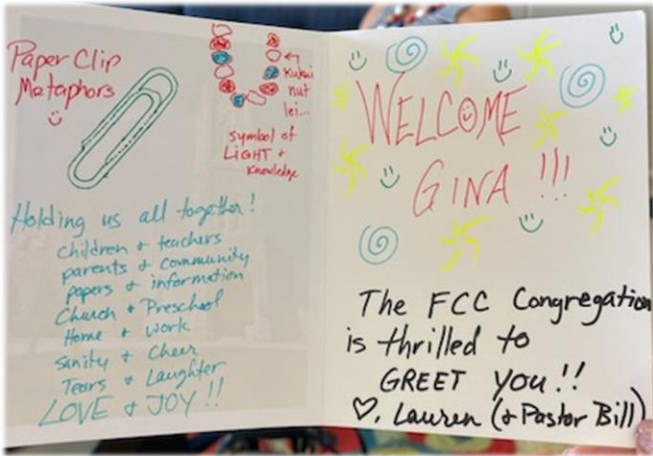
Chapel School Phone – 978-689-8414

Fondly,

Gina Colarusso
Director



On August 14th, the Chapel School & First Church Congregational welcomed Gina Colarusso as the next Chapel Director



The Chapel School was represented at the Nevins Memorial Library “Kickoff to Kindergarten” event on Tuesday, August 15th, by our outgoing Director, Cindy Mazella, and our incoming Director, Gina Colarusso. It was nice to see so many Chapel alumni getting ready to start Kindergarten!



The Chapel School is ready for 2023-24



Playground ↑



PreK Classroom ↑

↓ Classroom 3

↓ Classroom 2



↓ Classroom 1



Lunch Bunch ↓



MAN Back to School Project

Thank you to everyone that came to help on Saturday, August 19th, at the First Church Congregational MAN, Inc. 13th Annual Back to School Project Mall Day distribution event. Seventy-six children were so excited about their new clothes, new sneakers, their brand-new backpacks filled with school supplies and their snack packs donated and prepared by the Methuen Masons Fred Dobson, Eurick Dorsett, Sam Drogin and Rich Dooley. Thank you for organizing and leading this terrific event with all the volunteers from First Church Congregational including Pastor Bill Ingraham ; Magda Ballard, Members of First Church Beth & Rick Buck, Becky Smith, John & Carole Silva, Marilyn Haskell Peck, Cindy Bateson and Terry Romano. Thank you to Mayor Neil Perry for providing the Ice Cream Truck; State Representative Estela Reyes; Councilor Mike Simard and West District Council Candidate Patricia Valley. A big thank you to John Vargas of Bada Bing for providing all the volunteers with a nice lunch. Thank you to Lynn Vidler for providing the craft supplies and talent for all the kids to make beautiful cards to thank our military heroes serving our country. Ruth Estes, Jenneysha Martinez, and Linda Soucy. MAN, Inc. youth workers Cenia Vasquez, Christian Belliard, Jose Cruz, Yoy Parra, Lisandra Mejia and Elizabeth Rodriguez and for Volunteers Christine & Megan Rogers and Kim Skeirik.

Thank you to all those that made this possible with their donations: New Balance for the beautiful sneakers; Craig Jesiowski, President and CEO of Holy Family Hospital for his donation of backpacks and school supplies, the Masons for their donation of snack bags and financial support; Donors Mayor Perry and former Mayor Manzi, former Mayor James Jajuga, Steve Boyko, Anne Benedix, Carole & John Silva, Josh Ferry, Commonwealth Motors, Methuen Police Superiors Union, Methuen Firefighters Union, Danny and Julie Tulley, Lisa Williams of AFC Urgent Care and Methuen Exchange Club.



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.

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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What's the REACH Ministry?



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

Maybe this person is you?

If so, we can help. Our new **REACH** Ministry wants to make sure that members of our community have a place to turn for support in their time of need. The term **REACH** stands for -- **R**eliable, **E**ngaging, **A**ble, **C**aring and **H**earfelt support.

Contact Judi Boyko or Pat King for more information.

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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.



Daily Lectionary Scripture References – September 2023 (Year A)

Fri., Sept. 1

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Exodus 3:16-25
2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Sat., Sept. 2

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Exodus 4:1-9
Matthew 8:14-17

Sun., Sept. 3

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

Mon., Sept. 4

Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18
Exodus 4:10-31
Revelation 3:1-6

Tues., Sept. 5

Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18
Exodus 5:1-6:13
Revelation 3:7-13

Wed., Sept. 6

Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18
Exodus 7:14-25
Matthew 12:22-32

Thurs., Sept. 7

Psalm 149
Exodus 9:1-7
2 Corinthians 12:11-21

Fri., Sept. 8

Psalm 149
Exodus 10:21-29
Romans 10:15b-21

Sat., Sept. 9

Psalm 149
Exodus 11:1-10
Matthew 23:29-36

Sun., Sept. 10

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

Mon., Sept. 11

Psalm 121
Exodus 12:14-28
1 Peter 2:11-17

Tues., Sept. 12

Psalm 121
Exodus 12:29-42
Romans 13:1-7

Wed., Sept. 13

Psalm 114
Exodus 13:1-10
Matthew 21:18-22

Thurs., Sept. 14

Psalm 114
Exodus 13:17-22
1 John 3:11-16

Fri., Sept. 15

Psalm 114
Exodus 14:1-18
Acts 7:9-16

Sat., Sept. 16

Psalm 114
Exodus 15:19-21
Matthew 6:7-15

Sun., Sept. 17

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

Mon., Sept. 18

Psalm 77
Joshua 3:1-17
Hebrews 11:23-29

Tues., Sept. 19

Psalm 77
Nehemiah 9:9-15
Romans 14:13-15:2

Wed., Sept. 20

Psalm 77
2 Kings 2:1-18
Mark 11:20-25

Thurs., Sept. 21

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Exodus 15:22-27
2 Corinthians 13:1-4

Fri., Sept. 22

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Exodus 16:1-21
2 Corinthians 13:5-10

Sat., Sept. 23

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Exodus 16:22-30
Matthew 19:23-30

Sun., Sept. 24

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

Mon., Sept. 25

Psalm 119:97-104
Exodus 16:31-35
Romans 16:1-16

Tues., Sept. 26

Psalm 119:97-104
Numbers 11:1-9
Romans 16:17-20

Wed., Sept. 27

Psalm 119:97-104
Numbers 11:18-23, 31-32
Matthew 18:1-5

Thurs., Sept. 28

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Isaiah 48:17-21
James 4:11-16

Fri., Sept. 29

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Numbers 20:1-13
Acts 13:32-41

Sat., Sept. 30

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Numbers 27:12-14
Mark 11:27-33



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01	Joan Zonfa
09	John Pavlenkov
10	Julianna Buck
12	Kenneth Peck
13	Nancy Drummond
17	Beth Buck
18	Sally Dockham, Kathy Romano
21	Tina Willard
25	Debra Brown
26	Larry Sliney
30	Janet Diver

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

07	Joyce Koop
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SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/1	Melissa & Justin Hodgkins	Married 6 years
9/3	Jonathan & Stacy Bennett	Married 11 years
9/16	Patrick & Terry Romano	Married 49 years
9/19	Gary & Sally Dockham	Married 24 years
9/25	Michael & Diane Alaimo	Married 41 years
9/30	Charlene & Matthew Bunting	Married 16 years

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/4	Michael & Cynthia Causbie	Married 36 years
10/6	John & Carole Silva	Married 32 years

<div>  <h1>September 2023</h1>  </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship Service <i>Sundays at 10:00 AM</i> <i>In-Person &</i> <i>on Facebook Live</i> www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen					1	2
3 Communion 11:15 AM Fellowship Time	4 Church Office Closed 	5 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park, Methuen) 5:30 - 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	6 Classes Start The Chapel School 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM Church Board	7	8	9
10 11:15 AM Fellowship Time	11 6:30 PM Outreach	12 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park, Methuen) 5:30 - 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	13 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 1:00 PM Stewardship 7:00 PM Diaconate	14	15	16
17 Welcome Sunday 11:15 AM Fellowship Time	18 1:00 PM Cook for Bread & Roses	19 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park, Methuen) 5:30 - 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	20 October BEACON deadline 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM MDCC	21	22	23
24 11:15 AM Fellowship Time	25	26 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park, Methuen) 5:30 - 6:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	27 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl	28	29	30

Dates and times are subject to change

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

Address Service Requested