

January 2023

# THE BEACON



## *First Church Congregational* *United Church of Christ*

26 Pleasant Street  
Methuen, MA 01844-3199  
Telephone: (978) 687-1240

**Rev. William D. Ingraham, Senior Pastor**  
[pastor.bill.ingraham@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.bill.ingraham@gmail.com)

**Roberta Jurovich, Office Manager**  
[firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com)

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[boutinerjr@gmail.com](mailto:boutinerjr@gmail.com)

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



*Worship on Sundays at 10:00 AM*



## **“GETTING PARSONAL”**

*Rev. William D. Ingraham*

If the past year, as it came to a close, is an indication of the direction in which we’re moving as a church, then I’m excited for what lies ahead of us.

Our celebrations of Advent and Christmas were a delight! The headline goes to our rejuvenated music program with both the Chancel Choir and the First Church Bells in full swing! Their anthems, responses, processions, ensembles, and solos helped to set the tone, with music that was both inspirational and delightful. But music wasn’t all that was going on in worship these past few weeks. A variety of readers lent their voices for the Cantata and Christmas Eve, and families led us in lighting the Advent Candles and the Christ candle. Add to this the Deacons who coordinate each worship service, as well as those unseen heroes in the background, the technology team who manage our live broadcast every week, and we’ve had quite a lot of people working to make worship a joyful and meaningful experience. It’s made a huge difference for us, and is something to celebrate.

There also have been fellowship activities, and they’ve really ramped up of late. The Coffee Hour following worship has evolved to a weekly brunch, with hot and cold items, both sweet and savory,

joining the lineup of coffee, tea and lemonade. The food has been delightful, and folks are staying even longer around the tables, sharing laughter and stories as they round off their Sunday morning at church. And in December, we also had a Christmas Party on the Saturday before Christmas Eve. While the children laughed, played and made crafts together, adults were able to engage in deep conversation. It was a fun event!

Christian Education is back at First Church and has been through the fall. Meeting every other week, we have one class for children of all ages. You can sense the excitement among our kids when they go out together from worship for their class in Phillips Chapel.

Service to the community also ramped up in the final weeks of the year. The Tuesday Night Food Pantry served 425 families on the Tuesday before Christmas. With ample volunteers working at an accelerated pace, still, the line of cars wrapped around our block, backing up along Pleasant Street all the way to The Loop! That happened on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, too. That's a whole lot of families who had food to celebrate the holidays, and we were an essential part of that. Add to this the Gifts to the Manger toys for our neighbors in the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood (MAN, Inc.), bags and bags of hats and mittens for the Family Resource Center of the Methuen Schools, and all the bras we purchased for dislocated women in our community, and you cannot deny: First Church touched a *lot* of lives over the last few weeks of 2022, as we had done throughout the whole year.

The dawn of 2023 brings even more opportunities for us as a church. We'll start the year with a special tribute to Ray Benedix through our efforts with the Souper Bowl of Caring. All the while the Food Pantry will be operating each week, Sunday school will be going and growing, the Chancel Choir and First Church Bells will be making beautiful music, and the Board, Deacons, Trustees, Stewardship, Outreach and Finance Committee all will be working to support and expand our ministry, helping us to be faithful to God's call as we serve Methuen and the surrounding community in Christ's name.

There is no doubt about it: 2023 is going to be an excellent year!

See you in church,

*- Bill*

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## **2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

The 2023 offering envelopes are available. Please contact the Church Office, at 978-687-1240 or [firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com), if you would like to receive pledge envelopes. They can be left for you to pick-up at check-in.



Pledge cards and e-pledging forms are still available.

*Thank you.*

# Sunday Morning Worship

10:00 AM

*Hope you will join us!*



*Welcome!*

For those who cannot attend in person, worship will continue to be broadcast each Sunday, at 10:00 AM, on Facebook Live ([facebook.com/FirstChurchMethuen](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchMethuen)). It will also be posted following the worship service on our YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLSjhXs9UG8yC89aB8evrA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLSjhXs9UG8yC89aB8evrA)).

The service can be viewed at any time on either platform.

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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, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM**, at Ellie’s Farmhouse, 436 Broadway, Methuen, MA. And remember, it’s dutch treat!



*Breakfast Group from December*

# December 2022 Church Directory

The Church Directory has been updated! If you would like an electronic copy, please contact the church office. Print copies will be available by mid-January on the table outside the church office.



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## *Prayer Requests/List*



We are going to start printing the Prayer List to be sent out with the Sunday "Order of Worship" bulletin on Fridays. 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. Ingraham at [pastor.bill.ingraham@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.bill.ingraham@gmail.com) or 978-687-1240.

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## **IN CASE OF SNOW...**

As we enter the snow season, please be advised that on weekdays, if school is cancelled, the church office will not be open. If a blizzard is predicted for a given Sunday, if there are any changes to the time of worship, or worship is cancelled, please check our church web page, [www.firstchurchmethuen.com](http://www.firstchurchmethuen.com) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen](http://www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen)).



Changes to worship will also be noted on Channel **WBZ-TV (Channel 4)**, **WBZ NewsRadio 1030**, **WCVB (Channel 5)**, [www.TheBostonChannel.com](http://www.TheBostonChannel.com), **WHDH (Channel 7)** or **The CW (Channel 56)** for cancellation notifications.

# Musical Musings

Happy New Year!

Since many of you make resolutions in the new year, I thought I'd share mine for my work here at First Church:

- I resolve to continue to grow the choir...especially basses and tenors....
- I resolve to choose and perform music that inspires, excites, and helps us all to pray
- I resolve to listen....and to share openly and honestly what I hear.....

So, in that spirit, I heard a bit of chatter about the lack of Christmas music during Advent. Let me share my approach with all of you. I believe that the Church has liturgical seasons because they have something to teach us not only about religion, but about life. Advent is all about learning how to wait, to be patient, like a pregnant woman waiting to give birth. Then comes the pure joy of the season of Christmas, like a child opening that first gift on Christmas Eve. Quickly, that gives way to the discipline and the austerity of the 40 days of Lent, which again then gives way to the Alleluias that come with the new life of the 50 days of Easter until Pentecost. If you think about it, the church's liturgical year is like life. It has a rhythm: some of which is joy, and some of which is pain. The learning happens when we are open to it....

So as a minister of music, I like to use the music of the liturgical season because that music teaches us something. There's a lot of great Advent music-new and old, that teaches us about Advent and its time of waiting and being patient, because Emmanuel is coming. There's a disconnect if we hear Advent Scriptures and preaching, but we're singing about Christmas. Instead, we use the entire season of Christmas which begins at Christmas Eve until the readings about the Baptism of Jesus to sing those great carols, long after the decorations have been taken down in the stores and replaced by the chocolates, roses, and hearts of the next commercial holiday! Hopefully this helps to explain how I plan...and as always, I welcome your comments and conversation!

I'm thrilled with how our first Advent Cantata & Christmas celebrations came out. I've shared some pictures here. Thanks to all our musicians:

## **Sopranos:**

Lori Bennett  
Barbara Mague  
Sue Newton  
Marilyn Peck  
Rebecca Pontius  
Kathy Romano  
Carol Sanborn, soloist and quartet  
Haleigh Sanborn, soloist  
Carole Silva

## **Altos:**

Bobbi Barlow  
JoAnn Crosby, quartet  
Joyce Koop  
Sue Riedel, quartet

## **Altos (continued):**

Glenda Schubert  
Dotty Watson  
Makayla LoCicero, quartet

## **Baritones:**

Bill Bennett  
Jono Bennett, soloist  
Lisa Yarid Ferry  
Peter Koop  
John Silva

Paul Delabruere, percussion  
Jim Conner & Terry Myer,  
recorders

## **First Church Bells**

Anne Benedix  
Cynthia Causbie  
Paul Delabruere  
Karen Dorman  
Lisa Yarid Ferry  
Declan Mustone  
Nevin Mustone  
Teagan Mustone  
Terry Myers  
Kathy Romano  
Terry Romano  
Robyn Sliney

Finally, I'd like to share a blessing with all of you for the New Year. A word of context: I am of French Canadian heritage. It's a traditional custom to ask Peperere for a blessing on New Year's Day. It was always the same: *Bonne et heureuse annee, et le Paradis a la fin de vos jours*. Translated, it is my prayer for all of you: A good and happy year, and paradise at the end of your days!

Peace and all good things,

*Mike Boutin*



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

Happy New Year! New beginnings... New resolutions... New goals... New chapters... New starts... It's an interesting perspective, with the newness of 2023 and a congregation that is almost three centuries old. While our mission as a body of Christ really hasn't changed – Seeking God, Caring for each other, Improving our community – There are still so many new things to tackle, complete, and rejoice. However, there are so many wonderful things to reflect on...

- HEAT!!! We have heat in the sanctuary once again. Words cannot describe completely the work that our faithful trustees have put into the furnace systems. If you see one, please let them know how much their dedication means to us all
- The Outreach program, Chapel School, and many more worked so hard this Advent season for those in need. Between the food pantry, mitten (and bra!) tree, gifts to the manger, and so much more, they have made the lives of so many better. What a blessing to the community!
- A fabulous Christmas party, held December 17<sup>th</sup> was full of fun, games, and cocoa for all. Sincere thanks to all who helped make it festive.
- ...and so much more!

With the new year in front of us, it's exciting to see the projects and work to come. With our historic tower repairs complete and a new heating system, the capital campaign is now focused on repairing the water damage to the narthex. The head of the campaign, Steve Boyko, is trying to raise the necessary funds to complete the repairs. The church is driving to get to 100% participation in order to close the financial gap, so please talk to Steve to find out how you can help.

Also, with new resolutions in mind, maybe it is time to start a new way to help yourself and others! It could be with the prayer shawl ministry, an outreach project, 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 in this new year, continuing to seek God, care for each other, and improve our community.

God bless!!!

*Josh*



## ***From the Outreach Ministry Team***

### **The Ray Benedix 2023 Souper Bowl of Caring**

This year, we are excited to hold the 2023 Souper Bowl of Caring in Ray Benedix's honor. Ray was responsible for bringing the Souper Bowl of Caring to First Church in 2008. Since that date until his death in 2022, Ray was a passionate and enthusiastic cheerleader for this annual event. Under his guidance and direction, our church family has increased the number of cans of soup collected and dollars donated each year.

We plan to kick-off the Ray Benedix 2023 Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. This year we are not holding a competition between the "Right" and "Left" sides of the church to see who can donate the most. Instead, we are an "All Church Team" marching down the football field to reach our goals. Our goals in 2023 are 2,000 cans of soup and \$2000 in monetary donations. In honoring Ray, we have set our goals to substantially exceed the highest number of donations we received in the past. This issue of the Beacon has a flyer with more detailed information on the Ray Benedix 2023 Souper Bowl of Caring.

### **Gifts to the Manger**

The Gifts to the Manger box, in the church crossroads, was filled with toys and wrapping paper on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Also, three people took a child's name and purchased items from their wish list and tagged and wrapped them. The other unwrapped gifts were delivered to the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood (MAN) Inc, where parents will select from them to wrap for their children. We thank everyone who donated toys and wrapping paper.

### **The Mitten Tree**

The Mitten Tree located in the church crossroads outside the Church Office was beautifully decorated with warm mittens, hats and scarves. We thank the Chapel School parents and staff, and our church family for their donations to the tree. These items will be donated to children served by the Methuen Public Schools' Family Resource Center at 10 Ditson Place, Methuen. The Mitten Tree is a joint ministry between the Chapel School and the Outreach Team.

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

The Christmas distribution at the Food Pantry included a \$40 gift certificate provided by Neighbors in Need. Recipients had to sign-up the Christmas distribution at earlier food pantries to receive the gift certificate. They will also receive their usual food distribution. On December 13<sup>th</sup>, our Food Pantry served 304 families.

### **Thank You for Food Pantry Volunteers and Donors**

Outreach would like to thank the A and B teams of volunteers who regularly staffed the NIN Food Pantry throughout the past year, as well as their families for allowing them the time to volunteer. These 35 volunteers faithfully came regardless of whether the weather was hot, cold, raining or snowing. Many worked in the Parish Hall, but others braved the outside weather each week to greet our guests. We also want to thank everyone who donated food and money to the Food Pantry. Through your commitment, we have been able to better service out client families.

**Outreach Ministry Team** – *Marilyn Peck, Team Leader, Cindy Bateson, Lori Bennett, Deb Brown, Cynthia Causbie, Jo Crosby, Barbara Donaghue, Ken Peck, and Becky Smith*

*From the Outreach Ministry Team*



## The Ray Benedix 2023 Souper Bowl Challenge

This year, we are excited to hold the 2023 Souper Bowl of Caring in Ray Benedix's honor. Ray was responsible for bringing the Souper Bowl of Caring to First Church in 2008. Since that date until his death in 2022, Ray was a passionate and enthusiastic cheerleader for this annual event. Under his guidance and direction, our church family has increased the number of cans of soup collected and dollars donated each year.

In 2023, we have set our Souper Bowl goals at 2,000 cans of soup and \$2,000 in monetary donations. In honoring Ray, we have set our goals to substantially exceed the highest number of donations we have received in the past. This year, we are **not** holding a competition between the Right and Left sides of the church to see who can donate the most. Instead, we will be an **"All Church Team"** marching down the football field to reach our goals. All cans of soup and monetary donations raised to purchase soup will go to the Neighbor in Need food pantries.

We are kicking off the Souper Bowl on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters, respectively, will be celebrated on Sundays, January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, and February 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. We will hold a "half-time" celebration on January 29<sup>th</sup>, and a Souper Bowl Party on February 12<sup>th</sup>, both during Coffee Hour.

Cans of soup and monetary donations can be brought to church each Sunday before and after church until 12:00 noon, from January 15<sup>th</sup> to February 12<sup>th</sup>. Each Sunday, from January 22<sup>nd</sup> to February 12<sup>th</sup>, during Announcements, we will report on the number of cans received enabling us to move down the field toward our goals. In achieving our goals, we will be honoring Ray's dedication and commitment to the Souper Bowl of Caring Outreach Ministry. Let's make 2023 the best year ever!!!

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## 2022 Souper Bowl Challenge

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

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to 'First Church Congregational', write '**Souper Bowl**' on the memo line and return no later than Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully,

**Outreach Ministry Team** – Marilyn Peck, Team Leader, Cindy Bateson, Lori Bennett, Deb Brown, Cynthia Causbie, Jo Crosby, Barbara Donaghue, Ken Peck, and Becky Smith

# Walking Group for Fitness and Fellowship

## Tuesdays in January

We are a hardy group of walkers and will continue our Tuesday walks as best we can through the winter. Dress warm and come join us! Please note we will be walking **at The Loop** in the months of January and February. We will meet in front of the AMC movie theater at **10:00 AM** on **1/3, 1/10, 1/17, 1/24 and 1/31**. The walk will be cancelled if the weather is too cold or not safe due to ice or snow. Contact Cindy Bateson to be included in group emails.

## Sunday Walk on the Methuen Rail Trail

Scheduled Sunday walks on the rail trail will resume in March.



# 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 1:00 - 3:00 PM**,  
in the parlor of First Church Congregational.



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*Original Artwork by Emily Jurovich*

# The Chapel School



What a difference a year makes. As I looked back on last year's Beacon we were really in a very different place. We were still mandated to wear masks and requiring parents to submit a daily health checklist for their child. Thankfully that has all ended although we have required masks when children have persistent coughs. Just to be safe. Shredding all those daily health forms was another task. We were allowed to dispose of them after our relicensing in October. That took several afternoons of shredding.

The Mitten Tree was again a success this year despite low visibility of people coming into the building. Social Media has its charms and many Chapel parents and Church members dropped off handmade and store bought items of hats, scarves and mittens to fill the tree and several boxes under it. Brandi Kwong, Superintendent of Methuen Public Schools stopped by for a visit to share a photo opportunity with the children and thank us both Church and Chapel for our mission to partner with them and keep children warm and safe this season. Brandi was also impressed with our renovations to the classrooms and providing quality preschool to our little ones who will transition to Methuen Public Schools.

Hope everyone enjoyed the display of trees lining the lobby and hallway walls around First Church. This Chapel Family project was the most creative and diverse so far. We even had 3 trees that lit up with battery packs!! It was festive to look at leading up to Christmas. The decorations in the Hall were also an added treat. The trees, snowman and reindeer were enjoyed by the children as they ate lunch and had indoor activities in the Hall. Thanks for keeping them up for us to enjoy! We counted down to our last day of school with Christmas cookies, red and green Jello with whipped cream and sprinkles of course. The parents treated us as well to baked goods to satisfy the staff's sweet tooth. We even shared with Pastor Bill.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be coming up at the end of the month. The teachers will be preparing each child's progress reports and portfolios to share with their parents. We will chat with the parents in person on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Registration will gear up too for the 2023 - 2024 school year. Parents are already calling for tours of the school. Continue to spread the good word for us.

Happy 2023 to everyone!!! Try not to make too many resolutions that may never happen but rather a couple that you are passionate about achieving. Staying healthy and eating healthy are always on the list too.

*Cindy Mazella*  
Director



# The Chapel School - Our Own Festival of Trees



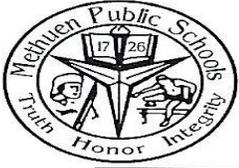
Thank you to all our Chapel Families for the beautiful artwork!

# The Mitten Tree was overflowing this year!

*Thank you to all the church & school families that contributed to make this a success.*



Brandi Kwong, Superintendent of Methuen Public Schools stopped by to see our Mitten Tree. Also pictured is Cindy Mazella, Chapel Director, and a few Chapel children, before all the mittens, gloves, hats and scarves were donated to the Methuen Public Schools Family Resource Center for their families in need.



# Methuen Public Schools

Tenney Grammar School, 75 Pleasant St., Methuen, MA 01844

Mary Beth Donovan-Grassi  
Supervising Principal  
PK-8

Amanda Goyette-Langis  
Associate Principal  
PK-4

Paula Simone  
Associate Principal  
5-8

Pam Walker  
Special Education Admin.  
K-8

Nov. 26, 2022

Dear Cynthia and members of First Church,

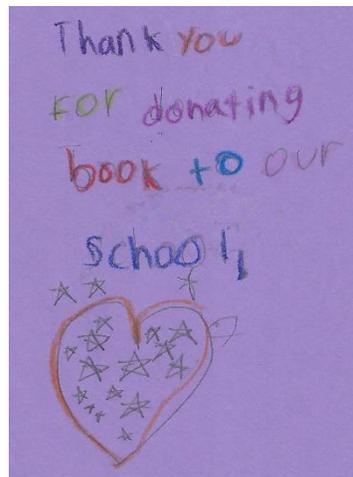
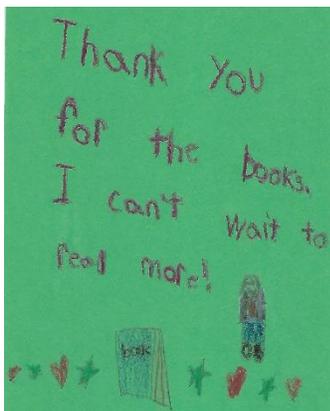
On behalf of the Tenney community, thank you for your generous contribution to our book pantry. Many of the hundreds of books donated by First Church are already being enjoyed by our students, in their classrooms and homes. We especially appreciate the effort to donate books that are of high interest among our students.

Your support supports our effort to improve literacy and promote a life-long love of learning. We can't thank you enough!

Because of your generosity, we have some very happy readers and grateful teachers.

Best wishes,

Mary Beth Donovan  
Supervising Principal





# Christmas Giving

## 2022



### **Poinsettias given in loving memory of:**

**Robert F. Pye and Peter G. Jurovich, Sr.** by Roberta, Tom, Nick, Emily & Nicolette Jurovich

**Helen, Fred & Jack Darlington** by Helen Darlington

**Kenneth & Elinor Peck and J. Philip & Ruth Mason** by Ken & Marilyn Peck

**Roger Jones** by Cindy & Neil Bateson

**Mary Parker** by Mary Simonian

**Robert & Marilyn Blaser** by Sue & Bob Riedel

**Edwin & Agnes Riedel** by Sue & Bob Riedel

**Dick & Marcelle Gingras** by Debbie Brown

**Harold & Marjorie Brown** by Debbie Brown

**Hans & Maria Schnetter** by Stephen & Judi Boyko

**Alexander & Ann Boyko** by Stephen & Judi Boyko

**Elaine** by Husband

### **Poinsettias given in celebration of:**

**Family & Friends** by Pat Moss-Newbury

**Bringing Mike to us** by Sue & Bob Riedel

**My Fellow First Church Walkers** by Becky Smith

**The Love of Family** by The Dockhams

### **Poinsettias given by:**

**Anonymous**

### **Donations to the Building Maintenance Fund given in loving memory of:**

**Arthur Gray** by Carol Gray

**Hrair Najarian** by Peggy Najarian

### **Donations to the Building Maintenance Fund given in celebration of:**

**Christmas** by Peggy Najarian

**Donations to the Capital Campaign given in loving memory of:**

**Ray Benedix** by Cindy & Neil Bateson

**Raymond Benedix** by Anne, Cyndy & Paul

**Anne & Edward H Lemieux, Edward B & William I Lemieux and Kristen Stevens** by Jean Lemieux and Family

**Scott Brown** by Debbie Brown

**Donations to the Capital Campaign given in celebration of:**

**Family & Friends** by Pat Moss-Newbury

**Donations to the Capital Campaign given in honor of:**

**Allan Barlow** by Stephen & Judi Boyko

**Donation to the Capital Campaign given by:**

**T. Padula**

**Lynette & David Kimball**

**Donations to the Memorial Fund given in loving memory of:**

**Elaine** by Husband

**Donations to the Operating Expense given in loving memory of:**

**Arthur Gray** by Carol Gray

**Wil Kurth II, Scott Brown & Anita Watson** by The Borislow & Kurth Families

**Donations to the Organ Restoration Fund have been given in loving memory of:**

**Bill & Lucille Moran** by Pat & George King

**Anita Watson** by Dorothy Watson

**Arthur Gray** by Carol Gray

**Ellis Gill** by His wife, Carolyn, and family

**Blanche & John Darlington and Mary & David Skea** by Helen Darlington

**Kermit & Gladys Meyer, Helen & Bill Corcoran and Arthur Towler** by Janet & Don Towler

**Jason Romano** by Kathy Romano

**Donald Owen Peck, Megan Marie Tripp and Hannah Taylor** by Ken & Marilyn Peck

**Marge Newton** by Wayne Newton

**Anita Watson** by Debbie Brown

**Donations to the Organ Restoration Fund have been given in loving memory of:**

Richard A Drummond by Nancy C Drummond

**Donation to the Organ Restoration Fund given by:**

Anonymous

Lynette & David Kimball

**Donations to the Outreach Fund given in memory of:**

Barbara Teer, Barbara Skinner, Linda Craven and Hazel Dennison by Helen Darlington

Barbara Sprague, Ward & Betty Maue and Thelma Currier by Deb & Glenn Sprague

**Donations to the Sanctuary Restoration Loan Repayment given in memory of:**

Mr. & Mrs. Donald W Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Wesley W Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Leon C Bradley and Mrs. Patricia L Bradley by Becky Smith

*Thank you*



**SAVE THE DATE!!**

*for our*

**141<sup>st</sup> George Washington  
Birthday Dinner**



**February 25, 2023**

**4:00 to 6:30 PM**

**Buffet Style**

***Carving Stations***

Traditional Dinner Menu

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In order to make our George Washington Dinner the success it has always been, we need volunteers to help out in various positions (ie kitchen, waitstaff, servers, etc).

If interested, please see Josh Ferry or Carol Sanborn for more information.

***Thank you!***

# What's the REACH Ministry?



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

Maybe this person is you?

If so, we can help. Our 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.

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## *Need Financial Help?*

If you, or another member of First Church you know, is need of some temporary financial assistance, please contact Rev. Ingraham at [pastor.bill.ingraham@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.bill.ingraham@gmail.com) or 978-687-1240.

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

\* \* \* \* \*

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



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

Or visit our website at [www.firstchurchmethuen.com](http://www.firstchurchmethuen.com) and click the "Ways to Donate" page.

*Thank you for your support.*



## Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

### Daily Lectionary Scripture References -January 2021 (Year B)

**Fri., Jan. 1**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13  
Psalm 8  
Revelation 21:1-6a  
Matthew 25:31-46

**Sat., Jan. 2**

Psalm 148  
Proverbs 1:1-7  
James 3:13-18

**Sun., Jan. 3**

*Second Sunday after Christmas*  
Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12  
Psalm 98 or Wisdom 10:15-21  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

**Mon., Jan. 4**

Psalm 110  
Proverbs 3:1-12  
James 4:11-17

**Tues., Jan. 5**

Psalm 110  
Proverbs 22:1-9  
Luke 6:27-31

**Wed., Jan. 6**

*Epiphany of the Lord*  
Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12

**Thurs., Jan. 7**

Psalm 29  
1 Samuel 3:1-21  
Acts 9:10-19a

**Fri., Jan. 8**

Psalm 29  
1 Samuel 16:1-13  
1 Timothy 4:11-16

**Sat., Jan. 9**

Psalm 29  
1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12  
Luke 5:1-11

**Sun., Jan. 10**

*Baptism of the Lord*  
Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11

**Mon., Jan. 11**

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36  
Genesis 17:1-13  
Romans 4:1-12

**Tues., Jan. 12**

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36  
Exodus 30:22-38  
Acts 22:2-16

**Wed., Jan. 13**

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36  
Isaiah 41:14-20  
John 1:29-34

**Thurs., Jan. 14**

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
Judges 2:6-15  
2 Corinthians 10:1-11

**Fri., Jan. 15**

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
Judges 2:16-23  
Acts 13:16-25

**Sat., Jan. 16**

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Samuel 2:21-25  
Matthew 25:1-13

**Sun., Jan. 17**

*Second Sunday after the Epiphany*  
1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

**Mon., Jan. 18**

Psalm 86  
1 Samuel 9:27—10:8  
2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1

**Tues., Jan. 19**

Psalm 86  
1 Samuel 15:10-31  
Acts 5:1-11

**Wed., Jan. 20**

Psalm 86  
Genesis 16:1-14  
Luke 18:15-17

**Thurs., Jan. 21**

Psalm 62:5-12  
Jeremiah 19:1-15  
Revelation 18:11-20

**Fri., Jan. 22**

Psalm 62:5-12  
Jeremiah 20:7-13  
2 Peter 3:1-7

**Sat., Jan. 23**

Psalm 62:5-12  
Jeremiah 20:14-18  
Luke 10:13-16

**Sun., Jan. 24**

*Third Sunday after the Epiphany*  
Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:5-12  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

**Mon., Jan. 25**

Psalm 46  
Genesis 12:1-9  
1 Corinthians 7:17-24

**Tues., Jan. 26**

Psalm 46  
Genesis 45:25—46:7  
Acts 5:33-42

**Wed., Jan. 27**

Psalm 46  
Proverbs 8:1-21  
Mark 3:13-19a

**Thurs., Jan. 28**

Psalm 111  
Deuteronomy 3:23-29  
Romans 9:6-18

**Fri., Jan. 29**

Psalm 111  
Deuteronomy 12:28-32  
Revelation 2:12-17

**Sat., Jan. 30**

Psalm 111  
Deuteronomy 13:1-5  
Matthew 8:28—9:1

**Sun., Jan. 31**

*Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*  
Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28

# Happy Birthday!

## JANUARY

- 04 Deborah MaueSprague
- 06 Cathy Gable
- 07 Janet Towler
- 09 Nicolette Jurovich
- 10 Roberta Barlow
- 17 William Ingraham
- 21 Makayla LoCicero
- 23 Melanie Conner-Myers
- 26 Carolyn Gill
- 28 Seth Pare
- 29 Anastasia Yarid

## FEBRUARY

- 01 JJ Silva
- 03 Christopher Brown
- 04 Lynn Dewhirst, George King
- 05 Joseph Yarid
- 07 Roberta Jurovich

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## JANUARY

1/6 Robert & Susan Newton

Married 44 years



# January 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 Communion</b> Questions for the Pastor 11:15 AM Fellowship	<b>2</b> Church Office & Chapel School Closed 	<b>3</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Meet at The Loop) 4:30 PM Food Pantry	<b>4</b> 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM Church Board	<b>5</b> 6:30 PM First Church Bells	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 11:15 AM Fellowship	<b>9</b> 6:30 PM Finance 6:30 PM Outreach	<b>10</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Meet at The Loop) 4:30 PM Food Pantry	<b>11</b> 8:00 AM Breakfast with Bill (Ellie's Farmhouse) 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:30 PM Chapel Staff 7:00 PM Diaconate	<b>12</b> 6:30 PM First Church Bells	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Souper Bowl Kick-Off 11:15 AM Fellowship	<b>16 MLK Day</b> Church Office & Chapel School Closed 6:30 PM Stewardship	<b>17</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Meet at The Loop) 4:30 PM Food Pantry	<b>18 February</b> <b>BEACON deadline</b> 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl	<b>19</b> 6:30 PM First Church Bells	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 11:15 AM Fellowship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Meet at The Loop) 4:30 PM Food Pantry	<b>25</b> 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl	<b>26</b> 6:30 PM First Church Bells	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 11:15 AM Fellowship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Meet at The Loop) 4:30 PM Food Pantry			Worship Service Sundays at 10:00 AM In-Person & on Facebook Live <a href="http://www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen">www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen</a>	

Dates and times are subject to change

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

**Address Service Requested**