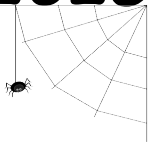
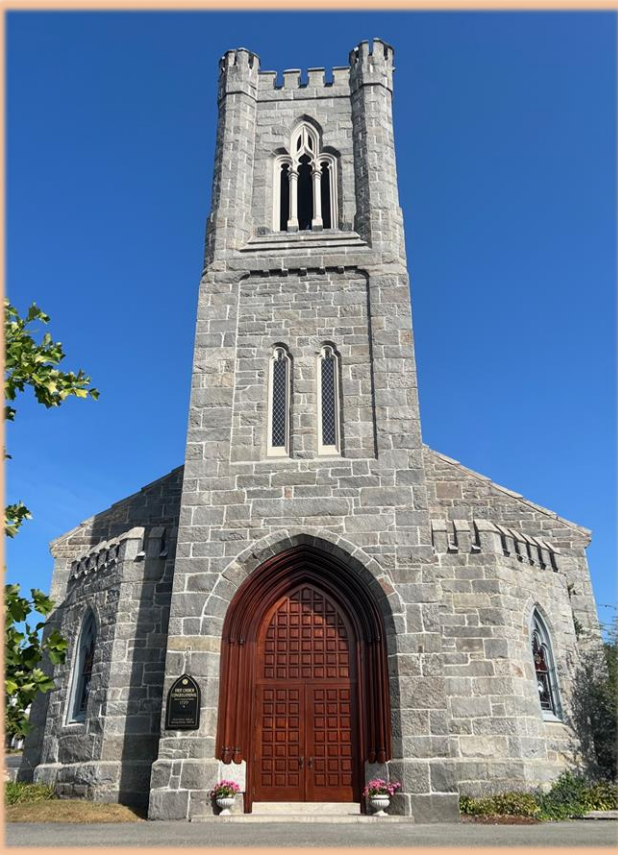


Ham & Bean Dinner
Saturday, October 18th
See Page 9

OCTOBER 2025



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
amrogersbrigham@gmail.com

Roberta Jurovich, Office Manager
firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com

Mike Boutin, Minister of Music
boutinerjr@gmail.com

www.firstchurchmethuen.com

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



* * * * *

Interim Minister Message ***Rev. Dr. Ann Rogers-Brigham***

Dear members and friends,

October days bring us autumn delights! May I share with you a call to worship written by a colleague/friend in ministry, Rev. Maren Tirabassi, that brings me spiritual delight?

***“God be praised for turning seasons—blustery winter with its snow-face, the fragile wings of spring, and hot, heavy, growing, grazing summer.
Now two-faced autumn begins with burnished days and drizzling days.
Autumn—September crimson, October orange and cat-black, November gray.***

***Autumn—golden leaves, ripe red Cortlands, school bells, football cheers, pumpkin pie,
cider, mince, the smell of cold and smoke, the touch of homecoming.
Autumn—when between the boughs of leaf-lost trees squirrels race winter.
We gather in the harvest of our lives, the plenty, the old, and rake up the scatterings—
dried hopes and fallen dreams.
And we offer all the end-year bounty and gleanings before Almighty God!”***

Maren, a UCC minister, poet, spiritual retreat leader, knows how to capture the internal feelings around the turning of seasons with words to describe our days here in New England. Maren and I worked together at the First Congregational Church in Melrose, MA, many years ago when I was new to Massachusetts life. She was from the mid-west and I had come from Kentucky to Boston, so we shared common backgrounds.

Maren's family and my family became friends; Maren's son and my son went to church camp together and we shared family picnics. She rejoiced with me when my daughter, Martha, was born and gave me support and care. Oh, how the years have passed, but I think about the years we shared when our children were young and the enjoyment of life together in the church.

Maren taught me, in many ways, about praising God for turning seasons. As I hear you talk about life here at First Church, I hear similar stories about lives woven together through the years. I hear you praising God for the bounty of friendship and the gift of support when times were difficult. The themes of joy, change, loss and transition emerge in the stories. It doesn't matter if First Church has been your spiritual family for many years or for a few short weeks/months. What matters is that we, as a body of believers, create community by caring for one another in the changing seasons of our lives, here and now and going forward.

You welcomed me to be your interim pastor a year ago and I reflect on that welcome with gratitude. You welcome new families and individuals to First Church weekly. We love our stories of the past and we love what is to come! Yes, the search process for a new settled minister invites our leaning into the future with great expectation and gathering the harvest of our church life stories to offer God thanksgiving.

I'm glad to be with you as we go into autumn days here at First Church. We look forward to our weekly worship gatherings and opportunities for fellowship and outreach. Let's continue to keep our Search Committee in our prayers as they do their work. Let's serve together, pray together, and be grateful for what we have and what is to come. Let's have open hearts and minds to the movement of the Spirit!

Please let me know about needs that arise so I can be present to support you on your spiritual journey.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Ann Rogers Brigham





Sunday Worship

10:00 AM

We hope you will join us!

Help us welcome Rev. Dr. Ann Rogers-Brigham on her first Sunday with us as our new Interim Pastor. Rev. Ann will begin on Sunday, October 6th.

For those who cannot attend in person, worship will continue to be broadcast each Sunday, at 10:00 AM, on YouTube Live (www.youtube.com/@firstchurchcongregationalm1729). An Order of Worship will be emailed out each Friday before the service.

* * * * *

Weekly Bulletin Prayer List

We print a Prayer List within each Sunday Worship bulletin. To have someone included on the bulletin prayer list, please let Roberta, in the Church Office, know by emailing her at firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com. Thank you.



If you, or someone you know, is in need of a pastoral visit, please contact Rev. Rogers-Brigham at amrogersbrigham@gmail.com or 978-687-1240.

* * * * *



Breakfast with Ann

Breakfast with Ann will resume on Wednesday, October 8th, at 8:00 AM. Join Rev. Ann and friends at Ellie's Farmhouse, 436 Broadway in Methuen, to enjoy conversation and breakfast. All are welcome to this fellowship time. No reservation needed.



Breakfast Group from September

Saturday, October 4th, at 10:00 AM

Why do we have a blessing for our pets on Saint Francis Day? Saint Francis of Assisi is known as the patron saint of animals, and his commemoration takes place on October 4th. He lived long ago yet his message is still among us! He was born Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone (c. 1181 – 3 October 1226) but is known as Francis of Assisi OFM (Order of Friars Minor), an Italian mystic and Catholic friar who founded the Franciscans.

Plan to join us (rain or shine) at the front of our church for this time together. Come and bring a furry friend, bring a picture of your pet, or just come and be part of the blessing day. Questions? Call Rev. Ann at First Church.

Saturday, October 4th
at 10:00 AM



Saint Francis of Assisi is known as the patron saint of animals, and his commemoration takes place on October 4th. He lived long ago, yet his message is still among us!

🐾 Bring your pet(s)



🐾 Bring a photo of a beloved pet(s)

🐾 Or just come and be part of the blessing day

🐾 All are Welcome!!

Celebrating World Communion Sunday

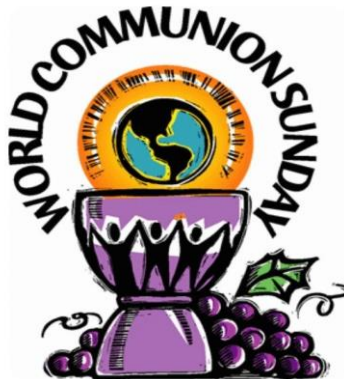
October 5th

Most of us have heard about World Communion Sunday but may not know much about where the celebration originated. According to the website of the National Council of Churches, World Communion Sunday began in 1936 in the Presbyterian Church and was adopted by the Federal Council of Churches (predecessor of the NCC) in 1940. Since then, the celebration has grown into an international ecumenical celebration of Christian unity. The key word for World Communion Sunday is communion, or unity.

We celebrate World Communion Sunday with congregations all over the globe. Followers of Jesus Christ in large churches and small, on farms and in cities, in ornate buildings and under tents, gather to receive the bread and cup of Holy Communion. Some will receive cubes of bread. Some will tear from a common loaf. Some will receive a wafer. Some will drink from a common chalice. Some will dip a piece of bread into the cup. Some will have individual glasses. Some will use wine; some juice. Some will offer both.

Pastors will lead a variety of liturgies, in many languages. Clergy will dress traditionally, formally, and casually. Despite the differences in our denominations and traditions, we celebrate our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Come and join us, join the “world,” as we celebrate our unity among Christians through the Sacrament of Holy Communion.



* * * * *

Interested in Church Membership?



We are delighted to invite new members into our life at First Church. We will organize a membership orientation meeting and receive new members in November. If you have interest in becoming a member, please speak to the Pastor or a Deacon and we'll be glad to include you in our next membership orientation.

Here are the ways (according to our church bylaws) you can be received: Full Active Member, Associate Member or Friend of First Church. You may come into membership by affirmation of faith, reaffirmation of faith, letter of transfer or confirmation. Membership registration forms are available in the rear of the sanctuary or the “crossroads” near the church office. Please, don't hesitate to contact Rev. Ann or one of our Deacons for more info!

Confirmation Class Meetings

Confirmation classes meet each Sunday, after worship, in October with Rev. Ann. Students attending classes are: Andrew Pavlenkov (Mentor: Scott Sanborn), Bella Bane (Mentor: Judi Boyko), Haleigh Sanborn (Mentor: Allan Barlow) and Alexis Murray (Mentor: Sarah Pavlenkov). We are looking forward to meaningful confirmation classes in weeks ahead. Thank you for your prayers for our youth and their mentors.

* * * * *

Sunday School at First Church

We are glad to welcome your children/youth for Christian education. The Sparkhouse curriculum is used for weekly lessons. It is a Bible based curriculum from Augsburg Fortress press. We invite volunteers to assist our regular teachers, Lori Bennett and Sarah Palenkov. See Lori or Sarah to find out about needs and be on their assistants' schedule. Also, thank you for your support of our children's offering each week; it is taken at the beginning of the children/youth message in service.

* * * * *



Family Youth Interests October 2025

Sharing our Faith in our upcoming events:

- **October 5th – Communion Sunday**
 - **Bible Story Lesson:** *Abraham & Sarah's Visitors*; Genesis 17:1-7
- **October 12th**
 - **Bible Story Lesson:** *Isaac's Blessing*; Genesis 25:19-34
- **October 19th**
 - **Bible Story Lesson:** *Free*; Exodus 5:1-6,13
- **October 26th**
 - **Bible Story Lesson:** *The Red Sea*; Exodus 14:1-30
- **November 2nd – Communion Sunday**
 - **Bible Story Lesson:** *The Ten Commandments*; Exodus 20:1-17

If you need a Sunday School registration form, please see Mrs. B or Mrs. P. Thank you.

From the Chair of the Church Board

Fall is here! Time to break out the flannels for leaf peepin', pumpkin everything, and cooler days. At First Church, we are well into our new church season, welcoming many back to our sanctuary. Many of our church committees are working on special elements, events, and programs to make our time together so wonderful. Worship services are in full swing, so please come enjoy all that the sanctuary has to offer.

As always, we have plenty more going on, including:

- The search process for our next settled pastor is continuing. As of the writing of this, the team is finishing the final draft of our church's profile with the UCC. It will be approved by our church board and then posted for candidates to review. Hopefully that will begin the interviewing process for potential candidates to be our next settled pastor. The committee is meeting virtually and physically, and they are working at a rapid pace to build our future. If you would like to see the final profile, it will be available in the office after worship.
- I hope you enjoyed our annual Welcome Sunday on September 14th. We had burgers, dogs, chips, and so many salads & sides that people brought to share. Also, we had an ice cream truck arrive, which was a real treat! Thank you to all who helped out – it was a true all-church event. Also, more fellowship is coming, as our annual Ham & Bean Supper has been scheduled for October 18th. This is always a wonderful fellowship event, so please see Carol Sanborn or Marilyn Peck to volunteer.
- The A/V system has been completely revamped and there have been a lot of bugs to be worked out. It was a large endeavor to upgrade our ailing equipment, so I thank you for your patience as we try to move forward. A big thank you goes out to the team for all of their diligence. With the upgrade, it is even easier to run the system, so if you'd like to help out, please see Stacey or Carol for more information.
- Our Outreach group is hard at work with numerous efforts. The book drive is going on, and you are encouraged to bring in new and gently used children's books to be distributed to needy children. You can additionally buy them through the Amazon shopping list or simply provide a monetary donation. More is being planned and there are a ton of other ways to give for the upcoming season, so please read further to find out how you can help. Between all these focused projects and our continuing food pantry, helping so many in our community, there are numerous ways to make an impact.
- Chapel school is back in session! The teachers and children are busy in the classrooms and playground, and it is wonderful to hear the joy throughout the church. However, enrollment is still active for the 2025-2026 school year, so if there is a family that may need our services, I invite you to connect them with Gina or Roberta. Tours are happening regularly.
- We are working to have another new member class soon, for those that may have missed it back in the spring. So, if you or someone you know is interested in being a full and voting member of our congregation, there will be more opportunities soon. Please see Rev. Ann or myself for more information.
- Our Membership Development & Communications team is hard at work planning fun events throughout the coming year. They are investigating lots of activities and fellowship times, so stay tuned. If you're interested in their work or helping out, please reach out to Christine Bane for more information.
- ...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

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Special Worship Opportunities in October

- **October 5th – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – Service of Word and Sacrament**
 - **World Communion Sunday** (*A variety of breads will be served to symbolize the continents and cultures that we all come from*)
 - Rev. Ann Rogers Brigham – Worship Leader/Preacher/Communion Celebrant
 - Music: Led by Mike Boutin, Minister of Music, and Chancel Choir
 - **Lessons:** Lamentations 1:1-6; 2 Timothy 1:3-6; Luke 17:5-10
- **October 12th – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
 - Rev. Ann Rogers Brigham – Worship Leader/Preacher
 - Music: Led by Mike Boutin, Minister of Music, and Chancel Choir
 - **Lessons:** Psalm 66:1-12; Jeremiah 29:1. 4-7; Luke 17:11-19
- **October 19th – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
 - Rev. Ann Rogers Brigham – Worship Leader/Preacher
 - Music: Lead by Mike Boutin, Minister of Music, and Chancel Choir
 - **Lessons:** Psalm 119: 97-104; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Luke 18:1-8
- **October 26th – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – Reformation Sunday**
 - Rev. Ann Rogers Brigham – Worship Leader/Preacher
 - Music: Lead by Mike Boutin, Minister of Music, and Chancel Choir
 - **Lessons for Reformation Day:** Psalm 46; Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 8:31-36

First Church Congregational Methuen

invites you to our annual

HAM AND BEAN DINNER

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 18, 2025 - 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, MA 01844

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.

A Prayer for Autumn Days

by Joyce Rupp

***God of the seasons,
there is a time for everything;
there is a time for dying and a time for rising.
We need courage to enter into
the transformation process.***

***God of autumn,
the trees are saying goodbye to their green,
letting go of what has been.
We, too, have our moments of surrender,
with all their insecurity and risk.
Help us to let go when we need to do so.***

***God of fallen leaves
lying in colored patterns on the ground,
our lives have their own patterns.
As we see the patterns of our own growth,
may we learn from them.***

***God of misty days and harvest moon nights,
there is always the dimension of mystery
and wonder in our lives.
We always need to recognize your power-filled presence.
May we gain strength from this.***

***God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened grain,
many gifts of growth lie within the season of our surrender.
We must wait for harvest in faith and hope.
Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.***

***God of geese going south for another season,
your wisdom enables us
to know what needs to be left behind
and what needs to be carried into the future.
We yearn for insight and vision.***

***God of flowers
touched with frost and windows wearing white designs,
may your love keep our hearts
from growing cold in the empty seasons.***

***God of life, you believe in us,
you enrich us,
you entrust us with the freedom to choose life.
For all this, we are grateful.***

From the Stewardship Ministry Team...

The Stewardship Team has been busy planning for our 2025/26 pledge campaign with the theme *Living the Vision Together*. We have asked members and friends to let us know what their vision is for the future of First Church. Many have responded to our request, sharing their hope for a growing church where children and adults can worship, learn and reach out to serve our community together. There is still time to share your vision by filling out the form available with the bulletin each Sunday or by emailing the church office. We will share more about your thoughts during our upcoming pledge campaign. Our campaign materials are being completed, so watch for your packet coming in the mail soon.

On Welcome Sunday in September, we continued with our presentation of Stewardship Moments. Robyn Sliney spoke with the Sunday School children during their Children's Time about what stewardship is, the importance of supporting the church and how all contributions are important. Each child was given their own set of offering envelopes so they will be able to make their contribution to First Church.

Stewardship Ministry Team:

Kathy Romano – Chairperson

Irene Maggio, Marilyn Peck and Robyn Sliney

Living the Vision Together



Seeking God



Caring for Each Other



Improving Our Community

Your Pledge Makes It All Happen

Musical Musings

By the time you read this, choir will have resumed. I am so grateful for all those folks who dedicate so much of their time on Sunday mornings and during the week as they practice on their own for Sunday. We have a remarkably dedicated group of really talented singers and I know how much you all value the ministry they share. Don't forget to take a moment on Sunday to thank our choir members personally!

Due to those who helped to complete the digital music library project last year, this year, I've been able to program music from our library, and that means an even greater diversity of musical styles and sounds. I'm excited to share some of the great and classical music that the choir will be working on over the coming weeks and months. Make sure to tell us what you really like....or don't!

Each week, I work and pray hard to choose hymns and responses based on the readings from the revised common lectionary that Ann selects, the seasons of the church year like Advent or Lent, whatever current event might be going on and catching our attention, and whatever theme or special guest we might be having. I use a number of different resources, including the hymnal's own appendices, an online resource called Singing from the Lectionary, and a website called Hymnary. Sometimes, I even ask ChatGPT! You'd be surprised how many creative ways there are to plan worship these days! I always welcome your feedback; hymns you really like to sing, hymns you wish we never sang again, and hymns you wish we would sing again....email me or stop me after church!

Finally, looking ahead: we are planning an interfaith Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 23rd, at 2:00 PM, hosted by us here at First Church. Various local clergy will lead the service, and local choirs will perform their own selections and will join together to sing the congregational hymns and a joint choir performance of Vaughn Williams' Old Hundredth with the congregation. It's going to be a great event, and since we are hosting it, it would be GREAT to have many of you there, so mark your calendars, please!

Peace and all good things,

Mike Boutin



From the Outreach Ministry Team

Let's Book It! Book Drive

- On Sunday September 14th Outreach kicked off its 4th annual "Let's Book It! Book Drive" running through October 12th.
- This year we are collecting new and gently used books for children in grades K-5 attending the Marsh Grammar School in a collaborative effort to support literacy skills in Methuen.
- You can read more information in the Beacon or Sunday Bulletin, including an Amazon wish list link. There are also copies of a book and author list on top of the bookcase in the Sanctuary for you to take. Books you donate do not have to be from these lists.
- If you prefer to have us buy books for you, you can send a check to the church office marking "Book Drive" on the memo line and we will do it for you.
- Thank you for your support! We are excited to watch the bookcase fill up with the books you donate.



Outreach Welcomes Missionary Speaker Elena Huegel

- Elena will be giving our sermon on Sunday, September 28th as she participates in our worship service. She is from Houston Texas and is home from her missionary work in Mexico for rest and the opportunity to speak to many UCC churches about her missionary work.
- Outreach will host a special coffee hour to enable us to have a question and answer session with her. We hope you will join us for this opportunity to interface with her in person.



Hike for Hope Fall Festival

- Becky Smith and Cindy Bateson headed First Church's team at Lazarus Houses Walk for Hope Fall Festival on Saturday, September 13th. The Walk took place at Veteran's Memorial Stadium in Lawrence. They raised over \$900.00 for the Walk.



Samaritans Walk for Hope

- This walk is held on Saturday, October 18th at the Andover High Field House. Here is the link to sign-up to walk <https://fsmv.org/events/walk-for-hope/>.



Outreach Updated Its FCC Website

- The foundation of all Outreach Ministry activities is the spirit of giving, with the aim of being a beacon of kindness and generosity to our community.
- During September Marilyn Peck, Barbara Donaghue, and Cindy Bateson updated Outreach's section on the church's website with highlights of our many activities.



Outreach Ministry Team

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



Walking Group for Fitness and Fellowship

Tuesday Mornings in October

Come enjoy watching the leaves turn color along the Merrimack River during the month of October! We will be walking at **10:00 AM** on the following Tuesdays in October: 10/7, 10/14, 10/21 and 10/28. We walk at the Raymond J. Martin Riverside Park, 971 Riverside Drive in Methuen. You can walk as many loops as you want (3 times around equals 1 mile) and walk at your own pace. Hope you can join us!

Sunday Rail Trail Walks

If you are interested in walking the Methuen Rail Trail on Sundays at 12:00, please speak with Becky Smith, Jo Crosby or Cindy Bateson. We don't walk every week, but we can put you in our text group and let you know when we are planning on walking.



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 Carol Gray or Debbie Bonfanti for more information.

If you, or someone you know, would like a prayer shawl, please contact the church office at firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com and you will be contacted by someone from the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

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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On Wednesday, September 24th, Andrea McDonough, Chaplain, from the Methuen Hospital, part of Merrimack Health, came to visit with the Prayer Shawl Ministry to discuss the need and impact prayer shawls and lab robes have on patients in need. After Rev. Ann blesses some prayer shawls and lab robes, the Prayer Shawl Ministry will donate them to the hospital in October.



A PRAYER FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

CREATOR OF ALL,
WE THANK YOU FOR THE LAND, THE WATERS, AND THE SKIES,
FOR THE WISDOM AND TRADITIONS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
WHO HAVE STEWARDED THEM FOR GENERATIONS.
GRANT US HEARTS OF RESPECT AND REVERENCE,
TO LISTEN TO THE VOICES OF THOSE WHO HAVE WALKED
THIS EARTH BEFORE US,
AND TO CARE FOR YOUR CREATION WITH JUSTICE, HUMILITY,
AND LOVE.
GUIDE US IN HEALING THE WOUNDS OF HISTORY,
AND INSPIRE US TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH ONE ANOTHER
AND WITH THE WORLD YOU HAVE MADE.
IN YOUR NAME, WE PRAY. AMEN.



Catholic Climate Covenant
Together for our Common Home

* * * * *



The Chapel School



We have new sand on the playground! It's the little things that get preschool teachers excited. Be prepared to dump a lot of sand out of your child's shoes! We tend to extend our outdoor play time in the Fall Season. The weather is crisp and clean!

Our children have settled nicely into the routines of the classrooms, and we are excited to watch them grow as the year moves on. We still have a few openings in our classrooms. If you know of anyone still looking for a quality preschool, please let us know. We will be happy to give anyone a tour.

The children are busy making the centerpieces for the Annual Ham and Bean Dinner coming up this month. I think the teachers are enjoying the process more!

Chapel School will participate in "Treats for Troops" again this year! Save all you leftover Halloween candy and the candy your children do not like, and we will send it overseas to our troops. This is a great cause and it teaches the children about our troops and how we can serve others. You can drop off extra candy to the Chapel School office!

This fall brings lots of new colds and illness. It is important that we keep our school as germ free as possible.

Enjoy the Fall season. The changing of the leaves, the cool days! It truly is the prettiest season. Pumpkins, gourds, cornstalks, apple cider, apple crisp, apple pie, and let's not forget pumpkin spice coffee at Dunkin Donuts! The teachers run on it!!

Gina Colarusso
Director





The Chapel School

Where a Lifetime of Learning Begins

Register Now for our 2025-26 School Year



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

Fun Learning Environment for Everyone!

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



Contact us for more information or to schedule a tour:

978-689-8414

chapelschoolmethuen@gmail.com



www.chapelschoolmethuen.com



Located at:
First Church Congregational
26 Pleasant Street, Methuen





THE CHAPEL SCHOOL

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

20__ - __
School Year

Preschool Registration Form

(Please Print)

Mornings (8:30 - 11:30 AM)

____ **5 Days**, Monday – Friday (4-5 years)

____ **3 Days**, Typically* Mon, Wed & Fri (4-5 years)

____ **2 Days**, Typically* Tues & Thurs (3-4 years)

____ Add **Lunch Bunch** (until 2:00 PM) →→→→

*Contact the School Office if other days are needed

Full Days (7:30 AM – 4:00 PM)

____ **5 Days**, Monday – Friday (4-5 years)

____ **3 Days**, Typically* Mon, Wed & Fri (4-5 years)

____ **2 Days**, Typically* Tues & Thurs (3-4 years)

How many days for **Lunch Bunch**? _____

Please circle: M Tu W Th F

Child Information:

First Name: _____ M.I. _____ Last Name: _____

Gender: [] Male [] Female Date of Birth: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____

Allergies: _____

Parent/Guardian 1:

First Name: _____ M.I. _____ Last Name: _____

[] Mother [] Father [] Other: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Parent/Guardian 2:

First Name: _____ M.I. _____ Last Name: _____

[] Mother [] Father [] Other: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

You will be receiving additional forms to complete – Information & Authorization, Medical and Developmental.

The Chapel School employs a policy of non-discrimination in all its services to children and their families. We do not discriminate based on race, religion, cultural heritage, political beliefs, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability. Our registration policy is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Parent Agreement

I hereby agree to enroll my child in the Chapel School and I understand that tuition payments must be paid as per 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.



Welcome Sunday

September 14, 2025



**Congratulations to
Lola James Aziz**
*who was baptized at FCC
on 9/14/25*

Lola's Parents: Madelyn & Luke Aziz
Godparents: Amanda Aziz & Eddie Wallace



On Sunday, September 28th,
Elena Huegel, a missionary with Global Ministries spoke
at First Church about
her missionary work in Chiapas, Mexico.



Thank you to the Outreach Ministry Team for hosting!



World Council of Churches Asks for our **Prayers for Afghanistan** **after the Earthquake.**

(The United Church of Christ is a member church of the World Council of Churches, so we lift our prayers with people from around the world for the suffering of those in Afghanistan after the earthquake 8/31/25)

A Prayer for Afghanistan

When the earth trembles and the mountains quake and the earth melts away...

Hold our hearts, God. Send our hands and feet to help however we can.

When the skies darken and the foundations falter and hell erupts underneath...

Hold our hearts, God. Send our hands and feet to help however we can.

*When fear and grief shake foundations to the core and
continue their devastation long after the world falls still...*

Hold our hearts, God. Send our hands and feet to help however we can.

Our sisters and brothers, our family, in Afghanistan live this horror - now.

*God of uncontrollable love and mercy,
may we match your love in the way we respond - now. Amen.*

* * * * *



A Daily Prayer for Those in Places of War and Conflict around our World Today

Holy God, you created us in your image and bestowed on us a dignity that can never be taken away. We grieve every act of violence that denies this sacred gift. We lift before you all whose lives have been lost, and all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Our hearts are also heavy for families enduring collective punishment, knowing such cycles of harm only deepen hatred and despair. Holy Spirit, strengthen us to resist the temptation of overcoming evil with evil. Guide us instead toward the path of mercy, healing, and restorative justice. We pray for an end to violence everywhere.

Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer. Amen.

Methuen Community Thanksgiving Service

Date: Sunday, November 23rd

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: First Church Congregational, UCC

26 Pleasant Street, Methuen

Leaders: Methuen Clergy

Rev. Ann Rogers-Brigham, First Church Congregational, UCC

Rev. Nathaniel Burnes, First Baptist Church

Fr. Marcos Peña, St. Lucy & St. Monica Parish

Rev. Eleanor Prior, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Rev. Gregory Vozzo, St. Theresa's Church, Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish

Music presented by the combined choirs of area churches

Contact Mike Boutin, FCC Director of Music, to participate at boutinerjr@gmail.com



Offering will go the Neighbors in Need Food Pantry.

You may also bring these non-perishable items: Peanut Butter, Tuna Fish, Shelf Stable Milk

If you have any questions, please call First Church Congregational at 978-687-1240

Sponsored by the Methuen Clergy Association

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
and click the **"Donate"** button.

Thank you for your support.

Happy Birthday!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

03 Irene Maggio
04 Lauren Borislow
05 Brenda Michaud
07 Joyce Koop
12 Cynthia Causbie
13 Daniel Pavlenkov
20 Kerri Bedard
23 Dennis Lang
24 Patricia King
31 Sabrina Buck



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OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/4	Michael & Cynthia Causbie	Married 39 years
10/6	John & Carole Silva	Married 35 years
10/7	Robert & Susan Riedel	Married 47 years
10/12	Thomas & Leslie Shea	Married 51 years
10/14	Martin & Brenda Killourie	Married 58 years
10/15	John & Sarah Pavlenkov	Married 21 years
10/22	Scott & Carol Sanborn	Married 14 years

 October 2025 						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship Service <i>Sundays at 10:00 AM</i> <i>In-Person &</i> <i>on YouTube Live</i> www.youtube.com/@firstchurchcongregationalm1 729			1 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 PM Church Board	2	3	4 10:00 AM Blessing of the Animals Service
5 Communion 11:15 AM Fellowship Time 11:30 AM Confirmation Class	6 4:00 PM Chapel Staff Meeting	7 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park, Methuen) 4:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	8 8:00 AM Breakfast with Rev. Ann 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Diaconate	9	10	11
12 <i>Book Drive Ends</i> 11:15 AM Fellowship Time 11:30 AM Confirmation Class	13 Columbus Day <i>Church/School Closed</i> 2:00 PM Stewardship 6:30 PM Outreach	14 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park, Methuen) 4:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	15 <i>Chapel School Picture Day</i> 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry	16 <i>Chapel School Picture Day</i>	17	18 10:00 AM Walk for Hope (Andover) 4:30 - 6:30 PM Ham & Bean Dinner
19 11:15 AM Fellowship Time 11:30 AM Confirmation Class	20 1:00 PM Cook for Bread & Roses	21 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park, Methuen) 12:00 PM Methuen Clergy 4:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	22 November BEACON deadline 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry	23	24	25
26 11:15 AM Fellowship Time 11:30 AM Confirmation Class	27	28 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park, Methuen) 4:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	29 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry	30	31 	

Dates and times are subject to change

First Church Congregational

United Church of Christ

26 Pleasant Street

Methuen, MA 01844-3199

Address Service Requested