

April 2023



THE BEACON



First Church Congregational

United Church of Christ

26 Pleasant Street

Methuen, MA 01844-3199

Telephone: (978) 687-1240

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www.firstchurchmethuen.com

Worship on Sundays at 10:00 AM



“GETTING PARSONAL”

Rev. William D. Ingraham

Once again, as the newsletter deadline approaches, I have a song going through my head. But this time, rather than a Broadway showtune, it's actually a hymn tune. Composed by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh, it was something our youth group often sang. It's got a catchy tune and is *loaded* with exclamation marks. I learned it in the spring of 1976. I think we sang it every Sunday evening from Easter to Pentecost, and often for years afterward. To this day I can recite the first verse from memory (and can sing it for you, if you'd like!):

*Every morning is Easter morning from now on!
Every day's resurrection day, the past is over and gone!
Good-bye guilt, good-bye fear, good riddance! Hello, Lord, Hello, Sun!
I am one of the Easter People! My new Life has begun!*

~ Richard Avery and Donald Marsh, 1972 Hope Publishing Co.

I marvel at the centrality of Easter to our faith, and to my own life. We see *everything* through our memory and understanding of Easter morning. Our faith is grounded in resurrection, hope and new life. When we anticipate the birth of Jesus in Advent, we know already the direction his life will take: the love he will proclaim and the healing he will accomplish. In Lent, we set time apart for our own wilderness journey, contemplating our dependence on divine compassion. Yet we know from the start that Jesus overcame the wilderness' trials and temptations, and that he can help us do the same. We approach Palm Sunday and the triumphal entry with full knowledge of what Jesus is getting into. We've read these stories year after year. His final days, his arrest and trial and even his death on the cross, we all know full well. We can never speak of Good Friday without knowing that resurrection, certain and sure, is but three days away. And so, it goes. And I am grateful.

This wasn't true for the disciples. Though Jesus had been warning them of what was ahead, they seem caught off guard by the events of Holy Week, even unprepared. And when Jesus is laid in the tomb, they think it is all over and done. The women bring spices to tend to the body on what was, unbeknownst to them at the time, the original Easter morning. It never occurred to them that the tomb would be open and empty.

While we cannot live through the retelling of Christ's passion without knowledge of Easter, still, I cherish the lesson it teaches us. The reason we tell it again and again, remembering it and reliving it year after year, is because of its ultimate lesson: life conquers death. Divine love overcome hate. Hope wins over despair. Faith strengthens us through fear. In every moment of our lives, God is with us. We are never alone, even when we might feel that way. And in the end, no matter what comes our way, life, love, hope and faith will prevail.



There are plenty of things we face, not knowing what its outcome will be. Like the disciples before us, we live through the present and into the unknown future, doing our best to cling to what Christ has taught us. We strive to trust that, in the end, we are in God's eternal, loving, compassionate care, and nothing will be able to change that. Ever!

See you in church!

- Bill

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Children's Bibles

We have not passed out a Children's Bible since pre-pandemic and would like to start again. If your child is 2nd Grade, or above, and has not received a Bible from us in the past, please let the Church Office know *by Friday, April 14th*.



Sunday Morning Worship

10:00 AM

Hope you will join us!



You Are Welcome Here!

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). It will also be posted following the worship service on our YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLSjhXs9UG8yC89aB8evrA).

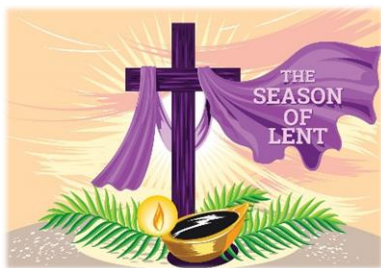
The service can be viewed at any time on either platform.

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Breakfast with(out) Bill

Pastor Bill will be recovering from his knee surgery, and doing his physical therapy, but you can still gather and think of him while enjoying some good food and conversation. ***“Breakfast with(out) Bill”*** will meet on **Wednesday, April 12th at 8:00 AM**, at *Ellie’s Farmhouse*, 436 Broadway, Methuen, MA. And remember, it’s dutch treat!





2023 Lenten Services

First Church Congregational

United Church of Christ

Methuen, MA

Sunday, April 2nd:

10:00 AM – *Palm Sunday* ~ A Triumphal Entry and Celebration of Palms

Thursday, April 6th:

7:00 PM – *Maundy Thursday* ~ A Service of Communion and Tenebrae (dramatic liturgy of Shadows and the Last Supper Together)

Sunday, April 9th:

10:00 AM – *Easter Sunday* ~ A Joyous Celebration!

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Prayer Requests/List

We print a Prayer List in the Sunday worship bulletin. To have someone included on the bulletin prayer list, please let Roberta, in the Church Office, know at 978-687-1240 or firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com. 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 or 978-687-1240.

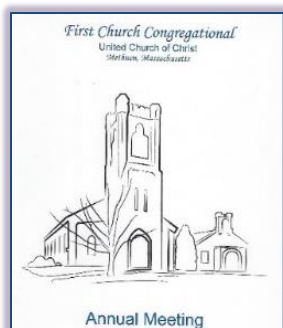
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Annual Reports are Due

All Committees should submit their annual report to the Church Office **by Monday, April 3rd**. If it is not received, it may not be included in the 2021-22 Annual Report. Please contact Roberta at 978-687-1240, if there is any issue. You can submit your report electronically to firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com.

The Annual Meeting is currently scheduled for Sunday, May 21st.

Thank you for your cooperation



From the Chair of the Church Board...

As the season of Lent continues, the board and I hope you have had a prayerful time to reflect – a time to renew the spirit and contemplate what it means to be a true Christian. As part of the First Church community, this season is perfect time to focus on our core – Seeking God, caring for others, and improving our community.

As the season closes this month, I sincerely hope you can attend (physically or virtually) our many worship service. Palm Sunday will be a musical treat as our choir performs a moving cantata. Maundy Thursday is always a spectacular and moving service, as we experience the scripture. Easter service concludes our Lenten journey, as is always a wonderful to renew the spirit. I would like to acknowledge the Diaconate, our musical performers, and our Minister of Music Mike for always making these moments special.

As they say, “but that’s not all!”

- Chapel school is continuing the enrollment drive for the 2023-2024 year. If you know of someone who might be interested in an outstanding experience for their youth, please contact Cindy Mazella.
- The Capital Campaign continues, with the Narthex being the next project to tackle. We have contracts for the needed work in hand, but we need your help. I ask all who read this to please contact Steve Boyko and see how you can help. Financial donations are always in need, but there may be other ways to help.
- Our Outreach group is hard at work (as always!) with the diaper drive and our continuing food pantry, helping so many in our community.
- ...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 in this new year, continuing to seek God, care for each other, and improve our community.

God bless!!!

Josh Ferry



Musical Musings

By the time you read this, we will be entering THE Holy Week of our Christian year: when we recall the events leading up to the death and resurrection of Jesus. These days are really at the heart of my own faith and my deepest family memories. I remember going to church as a child for Holy Thursday and Good Friday, and as a Catholic, participating in the long Easter Vigil, late into the night....they are mystical celebrations steeped in ritual. The music holds a special place in all these celebrations. I am eager to experience Holy Week this year here at First Church: our Palm Sunday Cantata will be a special experience of music, dance (yes, dance!), and readings that will move us through the moments of Jesus' last days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and his time in the tomb waiting for the resurrection. Our choir has been working really hard, and will be joined by our handbell choir, instrumentalists, and a small schola of singers doing a special piece called *"Surely He Has Borne our Grievs"* by Antonio Lotti. I'm so proud of the work our singers and musicians do each week, and the sacrifices they make to make our worship joy-filled and prayerful. I hope you take the time to appreciate their hard work, and to thank them for all they do for you.

I am so eager to celebrate Easter this year in the light of the glorious LaFarge stained glass window of the Resurrection, designed by John LaFarge for our own space. It is an invaluable treasure. Easter will be filled with joy and lots of Alleluias! I hope many of you will choose to join us in person on Easter morning. As part of our Easter worship, we will be singing the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah, and anyone who wants to join us from the congregation will be welcome! You can't participate if you're only watching online, so please...come home for Easter, join us in person, and join in the fun of singing along to the Hallelujah Chorus! Sure, it's convenient to "watch" church online while doing other things, but it's really not the same. There's nothing like experiencing "church" in person, with a community of people praying and singing together, and then continuing the celebration afterwards in the hall for Coffee Hour, with amazing sweet and savory foods and drinks. It would be great to see you in person again!

Our organ will serve our needs really well during Holy Week and Easter. Wait til you hear the Hallelujah Chorus played from the great Treat organ at First Church! BUT, our organ, an invaluable treasure, as precious as the LaFarge Resurrection window, needs our care and financial support. There is work that needs to be done to maintain the organ and ensure that it continues to provide great music. Your contributions to the Organ Restoration Fund at First Church will ensure that we can continue to do regular and much needed maintenance that will ensure that the Treat organ, like the LaFarge window, will be enjoyed and appreciated by generations to come.

As always, I welcome your comments, your feedback, and especially, your voices at worship!

Peace and all good things,

Mike Boutin



From the Outreach Ministry Team

Mental Health Sunday April 30th



The Outreach Ministry Team is pleased to let you know we are planning a Mental Health Sunday on April 30th. You'll recall that prior to the Pandemic, we had Mental Health Sundays where we had speakers who talked about the issues of "suicide" and "substance abuse." These Sundays were very well received by our congregation.

This year we have chosen the topic of "Grief" for our Mental Health Sunday. We have all experienced grief in the loss of a loved one, a job, or some other life-changing event. In dealing with these losses, we can benefit from learning various ways to cope with the reality of the loss, its resultant depression and anxiety, and ways to begin to start over again after our loss.

Our speaker is Rev. MaryAnn Thibeault-Vandette. She has served as a part-time Hospital Chaplain for 5 years and has just completed her 10th year as a Hospice Chaplain, currently working for the VNA Hospice of Woburn, MA. She has earned a Master of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School, Newton, MA, and she was ordained as a United Church of Christ Minister in 2011. She is a resident of Methuen, MA.

We hope you will plan to join us on April 30th to hear Rev. Thibeault-Vandette speak about the many faces of grief. We have invited her to stay for Coffee Hour so anyone who would like talk with her personally will have the opportunity.

2023 Lenten Diaper Drive

The Outreach Ministry Team would like to thank church members and friends who have donated diapers, pull-ups and baby wipes, as well as money to purchase these items, in support of our annual diaper drive. These items are not covered by Food Stamps or WIC and are therefore a burdensome expense for low-income families. First Church donations will be delivered to the Communities Together Undie Sunday collection site in North Andover following our March 26th final collection date. Communities Together is a collaboration among Protestant and Catholic churches in the Merrimack Valley. We will share our final tally in church on April 2nd and in the May Beacon. We thank you for your generosity.



2023 Outreach Flag Replacement Team



For the third year running, the Outreach Team is recruiting a group of volunteers to assist the City of Methuen Veterans' Affairs Office in replacing flags in local cemeteries. The replacement day will be held on May 20th, starting at 9 am. Our team has been assigned the Walnut Grove Cemetery but teams of volunteers will be in all cemeteries in the city along with the Bellview and St Mary's Cemeteries in Lawrence.

The day will begin with a welcome cup of coffee and a yummy donut, and water will also be provided. If you are interested, please contact Barbara Donaghue at bbdonaghue@comcast.net.

Honduras Mission Trip

The Outreach Ministry Team wishes to thank the congregation for their generous support of Carole Silva's recent medical mission trip to Honduras. Thanks to your generosity we were able to send Carol off with \$1,075 with which she was able to buy fresh fruits and vegetables, medical supplies and personal hygiene items with our donations for a local nursing home and orphanage. Please see her article and pictures in this issue of The Beacon.



NIN Tuesday Evening Food Pantry

The Food Pantry continues to experience many families needing supplemental food assistance as some of the government programs put in place during the Pandemic have expired. On Tuesday, March 21, the Food Pantry served 375 families.



New Outreach Ministry Team Members



We are pleased to tell you that 3 new members have recently joined our Team. We welcome Deb Brown and Carole and John Silva to our Team.

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

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Walking Group for Fitness and Fellowship

Tuesdays in April

Come join us and enjoy the signs of Spring along the Merrimack River! We are returning to **Riverside Park** at 960 Riverside Drive in Methuen! We will be walking at 10:00 AM on the following Tuesdays: 4/4, 4/11, 4/18 and 4/25. We have our faster walkers and our slower walkers, so you will have company walking at your preferred pace. Hope to see you there!

Sunday Walk on the Methuen Rail Trail

Our next Rail Trail Walk will be on Sunday, 4/16 at 12:00 PM. We meet in the back of the MSPCA parking lot where we can access the Rail Trail. We walk south to the Lawrence/Methuen line and back, approximately 2.5 miles roundtrip, but walkers can shorten their walk by turning back at the old train station. Please join us in enjoying Spring on the Rail Trail!



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.

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



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Original Artwork by Emily Jurovich

A Medical Mission Trip to Honduras

by Carole Silva

Monday, March 27th started one of the shortest weeks of my life. I boarded a flight in Boston bound for Honduras. While it was my third trip to the country, it was to be my first “medical mission”. If the other two trips I took were an adventure, than this latest one was even more so.

There were 11 of us in the group. Three were actually medical people. The leader: Evelyn, was a retired nurse practitioner, Kathy, a retired RN, and myself, a retired RN. Other members of the group may have had some medical background. But they had been on medical missions before and had functioned in roles such as: registration, fitting reading glasses, “filling” prescriptions, doing simple lab tests, handing out mosquito nets and handing out toothbrushes. This was my first trip on a medical mission.

Arriving at the Honduran airport, we had 12 large suitcases full of supplies. Everything from instruction sheets written in Spanish to small zip lock bags to hand out individual doses of medication. Eight of those suitcases were confiscated by customs because the proper paperwork hadn’t been filled out. We wouldn’t get those suitcases back until early Thursday morning. Thankfully, Evelyn, our leader had preordered some medications we had waiting for us in country.

Our group went to a different small town every day, seeing a total of 815 people for the week. We saw a whole range of ailments. Diabetics, who had run out of medication. People with high blood pressure that didn’t know it. Others had intestinal parasites from drinking contaminated water. It seemed that everyone had a cough or runny nose. We weren’t sure if it was allergies or possibly from the constant dust of unpaved roads. Everyone was given a 30 day supply of vitamins.

We would come back to our hogar (Spanish for home) tired, hot, hungry, and knowing that we had done good things. Cold showers awaited us, there is NO hot water in Honduras. Some brought “camp showers” that are large bags you fill with water and let sit in the sun, giving you a warm shower that way.

A Honduran cook had been hired for the week so that we wouldn’t have to prepare meals when we got back from a very long day. She had cooked for “foreigners” before and knew what we would and wouldn’t eat. No eating of any fruits that could not be peeled such as bananas or mangoes. No salads, the chance of food contamination was too great. Therefore, dinners were often heavy on starch. One meal was Honduran cooked sausage, rice and french fries. Bananas were always available and often avocados.

Finally on our last full day, I was able to go shopping with the monies donated from First Church. I was given a total of \$1075. Let me tell you, I had great fun!

John and Rosario Szabo were my guides and translators. First, we went grocery shopping for the Orphanage and Nursing Home. These two places are within the same compound run by nuns. I have been there twice before. There are about 30 children and about 18 elders. For each place I bought: watermelon, 2 cantaloupe, 5 cucumbers, a bag of large carrots, several bulbs of garlic, chicken drumsticks, a large bag of laundry soap, a bunch of grapes, bleach, a bag of potatoes, 2 large jugs of juice, a large package of toilet paper, and 3 loaves of bread. Along with this I also bought 2 large packages of adult diapers for the elders and 5 pizzas and soda for the kids.

While talking to the nun at the orphanage, I asked what was needed as far as maintenance. She said that the biggest problem was because of the erratic electricity only 3 of 16 computers worked. The

kids use the computers to do homework, especially during Covid. I asked my guide John about the possibility of buying a computer. He said on sale you could get a desk top model for a good price. Done! I wrote out a check to John to buy the computer and a surge protector.

Basically, done our shopping, we picked up lunch and went back home to eat. I had \$165 left. John's wife Rosario is a principal in an all girl's school. She told me that one of her students needed eye surgery and could I help. I wrote another check for the remaining \$165, saying I don't know if this will pay for some or all of the surgery. If there is money left over, use it for something else good.

People of First Church, this is what YOU have done. I was only the facilitator and I thank you for the chance to do so.



Me with the translators I worked with



One of the nuns that works at the orphanage.



*Some of the food taken to the orphanage.
Gave them pizza for dinner, a real treat!*



The waiting room



One of the "clinics" we worked out of

A VERY SOUPER THANK YOU!

Dear Church Family, Friends, Outreach Committee and Chapel School Staff, Students and Families:

First Church's 2023 Souper Bowl of Caring, in memory of Ray to benefit Neighbors-In-Need, has been etched in my brain and in my heart and I will never forget this extraordinary act of kindness. You will never know how much it meant to my family and me that you chose to honor Ray in this manner. We are so grateful to the Outreach Committee for continuing to include him in this project even when he was no longer physically able to participate but you always found a way.

You set an enormously lofty goal of \$2,000.00 and 2,000 cans of soup, which in my wildest dreams I would never have dreamed possible. But I should have known better since First Church members and friends have always come through when there has been a need and this was no exception. Our church's emphasis on Outreach was one of the main reasons that we joined First Church nearly 20 years ago. We were overwhelmed by your determination, your generosity and your love for Ray.

With deepest gratitude, much appreciation and our love...

Anne Benedix, Cyndy & Paul McDonnell

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The Chapel School



Raising children today has become the biggest challenge for families. Today's world, although more high tech and progressive which you would think would be an asset is really not the case. We always want a better life for our children, giving them more opportunities than we had as children. For some families it is not as easy or mainstream as you would hope. Children are coming to school with more issues than ever before. Home life is not as happy and carefree as one may think for many children. The challenges are many. Single parent households, split households, extended households with grandparents and significant others. The nuclear family is evolving and changing to adapt to everyone's specific needs.

It's a simple expectation when a child is registered for school that Mom is Mom, but Dad is not always Dad. Sometimes Dad is not even listed on the registration form. That term is often used interchangeably with boyfriends, stepdads etc. As children enroll here at Chapel, reading an application can involve several last names and interpretations as to who is the primary parent and how many days does a child spends at which parent's house.

A child's backpack, which we highly encourage here at Chapel to store an extra change of clothes and transport their school papers, now becomes an overnight bag to stay with the secondary parent and/or grandma's house. Often times that includes transporting medications which are not allowed to stay in children's backpacks but often times the only means to travel with the children from one house to the next. This has become the new normal for many children. Communication between parents is often done through texting. Not a great parenting model. Grandmas are often stuck in the middle of this parenting dilemma. They are often charged with transporting their grandchild at least one way and caring for them part of the day.

Simple parenting expectations and routines like an early bedtime and eating schedules are often disconnected when a child is living in multiple locations. Arriving at school on time, rested and with a good breakfast in their bellies is not the norm. The good news is that once children are here at Chapel having fun and learning, they are in a happy and safe zone. They form a bond with their teachers and friends as a class which is another level of routine and security in their sometimes unpredictable little worlds. Our job has become helping the whole family to learn to cope and keep consistency for the child.

We hope that we can help these families through their challenges and provide the respite they need with the hope that once they leave us for elementary school that they have a better handle on what it takes to provide consistency and structure for their child to be successful despite all the odds.

Cindy Mazella
Director

PLEASE HELP SHARE THE WORD!!



The Chapel School

Where a Lifetime of Learning Begins

Register Now for our 2023-24 School Year



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

Fun Learning Environment for Everyone!

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



Contact us for more information or to schedule a tour:

978-689-8414

chapelschoolmethuen@gmail.com



www.chapelschoolmethuen.com



Located at:
First Church Congregational
26 Pleasant Street, Methuen





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.

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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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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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.



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – April 2023 (Year A)

Sat., Apr. 1

Psalm 31:9-16
Lamentations 3:55-66
Mark 10:32-34

Sun., Apr. 2

Palm/Passion Sunday

Palms:

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Matthew 21:1-11

Passion:

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14–27:66 *or*
Matthew 27:11-54

Holy Week**Mon., Apr. 3**

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15
John 12:1-11

Tues., Apr. 4

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 71:1-14
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 12:20-36

Wed., Apr. 5

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 70
Hebrews 12:1-3
John 13:21-32

Thurs., Apr. 6

Maundy Thursday
Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Fri., Apr. 7

Good Friday
Isaiah 52:13–53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25 *or*
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1–19:42

Sat., Apr. 8

Holy Saturday
Job 14:1-14 *or* Lamentations
3:1-9, 19-24
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16
1 Peter 4:1-8
Matthew 27:57-66 *or* John
19:38-42

Sun., Apr. 9

Easter
Acts 10:34-43 *or* Jeremiah
31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4 *or* Acts
10:34-43
John 20:1-18 *or* Matthew
28:1-10

Mon., Apr. 10

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21
Colossians 3:5-11

Tues., Apr. 11

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Exodus 15:1-18
Colossians 3:12-17

Wed., Apr. 12

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Joshua 3:1-17
Matthew 28:1-10

Thurs., Apr. 13

Psalm 16
Song of Solomon 2:8-15
Colossians 4:2-5

Fri., Apr. 14

Psalm 16
Song of Solomon 5:9–6:3
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Sat., Apr. 15

Psalm 16
Song of Solomon 8:6-7
John 20:11-20

Sun., Apr. 16

Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

Mon., Apr. 17

Psalm 114
Judges 6:36-40
1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Tues., Apr. 18

Psalm 114
Jonah 1:1-17
1 Corinthians 15:19-28

Wed., Apr. 19

Psalm 114
Jonah 2:1-10
Matthew 12:38-42

Thurs., Apr. 20

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Isaiah 25:1-5
1 Peter 1:8b-12

Fri., Apr. 21

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Isaiah 26:1-4
1 Peter 1:13-16

Sat., Apr. 22

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Isaiah 25:6-9
Luke 14:12-14

Sun., Apr. 23

Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

Mon., Apr. 24

Psalm 134
Genesis 18:1-14
1 Peter 1:23-25

Tues., Apr. 25

Psalm 134
Proverbs 8:32–9:6
1 Peter 2:1-3

Wed., Apr. 26

Psalm 134
Exodus 24:1-11
John 21:1-14

Thurs., Apr. 27

Psalm 23
Exodus 2:15b-25
1 Peter 2:9-12

Fri., Apr. 28

Psalm 23
Exodus 3:16-22; 4:18-20
1 Peter 2:13-17

Sat., Apr. 29

Psalm 23
Ezekiel 34:1-16
Luke 15:1-7

Sun., Apr. 30

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

Happy Birthday!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

03 Hanson Causbie
05 Michael Alaimo
06 Justin Hodgkins
08 Anne Benedix
12 Meredith Wright
14 Andrew Clark-Hodgkins
16 Josh Ferry
19 Alaina Romano
20 Kim Kowal
21 Pauline Hamilton
25 Audrey Lang
26 Diane Alaimo, Jennifer Borislow
30 Janet Tashjian



MAY BIRTHDAYS

02 Susan Newton
05 Robyn Sliney

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APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4/7	Kevin & Brenda Adametz	Married 22 years
4/12	Dennis & Brenda Michaud	Married 20 years
4/20	George & Patricia King	Married 49 years
4/22	Thomas & Roberta Jurovich	Married 28 years

<div>  <h1>April 2023</h1>  </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship Service Sundays at 10:00 AM In-Person & on Facebook Live www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen						1
2 Communion Palm Sunday 11:15 AM Fellowship	3 ALL Committee Annual Reports Due 6:30 PM Finance	4 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park)	5 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM Church Board 6:30 PM Lent Book Study (Zoom)	6 Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM Service	7 Good Friday Chapel School & Church Office Closed	8
9 Easter Sunday 11:15 AM Fellowship 	10 6:30 PM Outreach	11 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 4:00 PM Chapel Staff	12 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Diaconate	13 6:30 PM First Church Bells	14	15
16 11:15 AM Fellowship 12:00 PM Walking Group (Methuen Rail Trail)	17 6:30 PM Stewardship	18 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park)	19 May BEACON Deadline 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM MDCC	20 6:30 PM First Church Bells	21	22
The Chapel School Closed - MA School Vacation Week						
23	24	25 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park)	26 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl	27 6:30 PM First Church Bells	28	29
30 11:15 AM Fellowship Mental Health Sunday						

Dates and Times Subject to Change

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

Address Service Requested