

NOVEMBER 2023



THE BEACON



First Church Congregational
United Church of Christ
 26 Pleasant Street
 Methuen, MA 01844-3199
 Telephone: (978) 687-1240

Rev. William D. Ingraham, Senior Pastor
pastor.bill.ingraham@gmail.com

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

Mike Boutin, Minister of Music
boutinerjr@gmail.com
www.firstchurchmethuen.com

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

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“GETTING PARSONAL” *Rev. William D. Ingraham*

One Sunday in October I made an orange hibiscus potted plant the central focus of my time with the children in worship. The plant had been struggling in the parsonage for *months*, and I'd grown weary of its yellowing leaves and buds that shriveled and died, every one, before they opened. One day I decided to throw the plant away! I picked it up and carried it out the back door. But arriving at the trash can in the garage, I decided I needed to chop it up before putting it in the trash, so I left the plant on the back steps of the parsonage until I could dig up and find my pair of hand-held gardening sheers.

Two weeks later, the plant was thriving! The leaves had all turned green. Two weeks after that, it had buds. I brought it over to my office at the church, and the plant continued to thrive, with a new bud opening almost every day. The plant has continued to thrive in the bright office and brings me joy

every day. I'm thankful for it! And thankful, too, that I didn't manage to throw it out when I had the chance.



I've been feeling particularly thankful these past few months. I was thankful on sabbatical for each of the places I got to go, and see, and explore. I was thankful that Pastor Lauren was here, living in my house and serving our church. And when I got back, I was thankful to have several weeks with her before she returned home to Hawaii.

There are other things I'm thankful for. I'm thankful for the beautiful autumn leaves, and for the shifts to cool days, then to warmer days and back to cool. I'm thankful for long walks in and around Methuen and in other places here in New England. I've been thankful for time with friends, for memories made and memories shared. I've been thankful for health, healing, and wholeness. I'm thankful for so much!

And I'm thankful for this church. We've a lot to be thankful for! Week after week, we gather for worship that is lovely, rich with music, prayer, thoughtful words and even laughter. Afterward we have time for food and friendship, also peppered with thoughtful words and laughter. And in the days in between, we serve our neighbors. The Chapel School is thriving with a full house! The food pantry reaches so many families that we worry some weeks about whether we'll have enough food. We've collected books for students at the Comprehensive Grammar School, clothing for children at the Methuen and Lawrence YMCAs, and have shared school supplies, clothes, backpacks, and shoes with kids in our neighborhood. Week after week, both within our walls and across our community, we make a difference. It is a wonderful thing! And I am thankful.

Our annual Stewardship Campaign starts at the end of October, and completes with a luncheon on Sunday, November 12th. This is our opportunity to pledge our support of First Church Congregational in the coming year through our tithes and gifts.

Together we make a difference. And your pledge makes it all happen.

That's one more thing that I'm thankful for. I hope you are, too.

See you in church.

~Bill



Sunday Worship

10:00 AM

We hope you will join us!

For those who cannot attend in person, worship continues to be broadcast each Sunday, at 10:00 AM, on Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/FirstChurchMethuen) and posted after the service on our YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLSjhXs9UG8yC89aB8evrA). The service can be viewed at any time on either platform. An Order of Worship will be emailed out each Friday before the service.

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Weekly Bulletin Prayer List

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

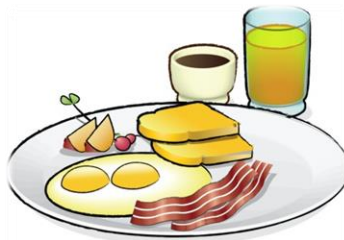


If you, or someone you know, is in need of a pastoral visit, please contact Rev. Ingraham at pastor.bill.ingraham@gmail.com or 978-687-1240.

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Breakfast with Bill

Join Pastor Bill for **“Breakfast with Bill”** – an informal time for friendship and conversation on any topic. We will gather on **Wednesday, November 8th at 8:00 AM**, at Ellie’s Farmhouse, 436 Broadway in Methuen. And remember, it’s dutch treat!



From the Chair of the Church Board...

Happy days everyone! With the beginning of November upon us, we are busy getting ready for the winter season, Thanksgiving with the family, and enjoying the last of the milder temperatures. As always, with the change of seasons, we have a lot of energy here at First Church Congregational. This means that we have plenty going on, including:

- The Chapel School and the community celebrated Cindy Mazella's retirement after 35+ years of service to our preschool. It was a wonderful event for Cindy's whole family as well as the community, church family and all of the teachers. Thank you, Cindy!!!
- Our annual *Ham & Bean* supper was a big hit! We had a great fellowship dinner, with lots of salads, hot dogs, home cooked beans, great ham, and ice cream sundaes!! A big thanks to all of you that worked on the food, decorations, serving, and cleaning. Such a wonderful fellowship event.
- The First Church choir is in full swing! It is definitely worth coming in person to our Sunday service and listening to the dedicated singers. Also, with Advent coming soon (December 3rd), now is a great time to join them. Thank you to Mike and all the choir members that contribute to Rev. Bill's worship.
- The Capital Campaign continues, with the Narthex project continuing. The demolition of the damaged areas is complete, but the rebuilding will start soon. We have quotes being finalized, so work should commence soon. Thanks, Allan!!!!
- Our Outreach group is hard at work (as always!). We have just completed the book drive – "*Let's Book It*" – that contributed 100's of books for the local school. Also, the clothing drive to the YMCA received 100's of garments for the needy of our community. With November comes our annual turkey dinner drive, so please reach out to one of the faithful Outreach team members to see how you can help. Between the focused projects and our continuing food pantry, helping so many in our community, there are numerous ways to make an impact.
- ...and so much more!

So, if you're looking for some way to help our church and our community, there's plenty of options. Also, there's always the prayer shawl ministry, other outreach projects, singing or ringing in one of our outstanding choirs, or just joining the walking group to help yourself. There are so many new opportunities available through our historic congregation, so feel free to seek out what you would like and help our neighbors & neighborhood at the same time.

As always, all are welcome to chat anytime with me. I love to hear your ideas and suggestions. We also have a lot of other activities and missions scheduled, so I would love your input. I know you all work so hard to make our church a blessing to our families and neighbors, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Let's keep the energy and drive rolling, continuing to seek God, care for each other, and improve our community.

God bless!!!

Josh Ferry



Stewardship Ministry Team...

Our Stewardship Campaign theme for this year is **TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE**. During the next few weeks, we will hear about the many ways First Church makes a difference in our lives and the lives of our neighbors. We will hear about the importance of our pledges in making it possible for us to offer a safe and well-maintained place where people can gather together for worship, fellowship, caring and learning. We will hear speakers from our community talk about the impact our outreach programs have as we work together to make a difference in the lives of our members and neighbors.

As our campaign continues in November, we hope you will join us for the following occasions:

- November 5th: During the sermon time we will hear from speakers from Neighbors in Need, MAN, Inc., and the Chapel School.
- November 12th: Pastor Bill's interview with a church member and blessing of pledges.

This year's Stewardship Campaign materials have already been mailed out. If you do not receive yours soon, please contact the church office or a member of the Stewardship Team and we will send it to you. We will also be sending out separately an updated Narrative Budget to show how our budget is spent in stories and pictures.

We ask that you faithfully consider how you can support **TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE** with your weekly pledge or monthly e-gift. Your gift will help us to make a difference as we continue to praise God, love each other, and help our neighbors in support our mission of "Seeking God, Caring for Each Other, and Improving Our Community." Please return your pledge card to the church office or place it in the offering plate by Sunday November 12th. After this service we will celebrate with a luncheon which will include the Chicken Pot Pie meal which we prepare for Bread and Roses each month. We will be *Together* and ready to *Make a Difference*.

YOUR PLEDGE MAKES IT ALL HAPPEN

Stewardship Ministry Team:

Kathy Romano – Chairperson

Rev. Bill Ingraham, Irene Maggio, Ken Peck, Marilyn Peck, Robyn Sliney and Kim Valcourt



The Stewardship Ministry Team

*cordially invites you to a luncheon
following worship*

on

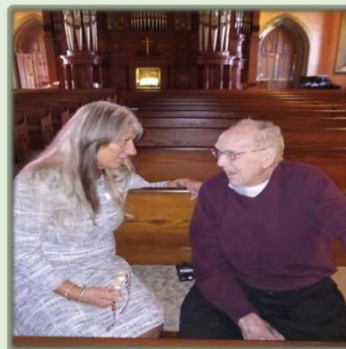
Sunday, November 12, 2023

*Come join us as we share a meal together
in fellowship to celebrate and give thanks
for all of God's promises and blessings
to us at First Church!*

Together We Make a Difference



We Praise God



We Love Each Other



We Help Our Neighbors

Your Pledge Makes It All Happen

Musical Musings

How did we already get to November? By the time you read this, I will have already put away my Halloween decorations, put out my Thanksgiving pumpkins, and started thinking about when to put up my Christmas decorations, which is my most "favorite time of the year!"

November is an interesting month: it begins with a remembrance of the saints-our family in the faith who have gone before us to glory, showing us the way. November 2nd is the Dia de Los Muertos, the Day of the Dead, whose memory we recall and for whom we pray. The art for this day from Mexico is quite interesting, with lots of skeletons doing lots of very human things. I have a collection of a whole symphony of skeleton musicians, with a singer skeleton, with a scarf around her skeleton neck! Mexicans know how to poke fun at death, which is grounded in an amazing belief in resurrection glory. We end the month in Thanksgiving, grateful for all of God's blessings to us in this life. The music this month will reflect all those themes: life, death, service, and thanksgiving...um, just no skeletons....

I hope many of you will join in my November digital music project. On Saturday, Nov. 4, beginning at 10 am in the parlor, we will be digitizing the music library. Anyone with a laptop or tablet can help. It's all VERY easy to do if you have decent computer skills and can log in wirelessly to the church WIFI. Each person with a laptop will get a stack of folios to enter into the Google spreadsheet. Multiple people can be working in the spreadsheet at the same time. All you have to do is input data from boxes of music: title, author, publishing company, # of copies, voice parts, instruments, Scriptural references, liturgical season, special notes. Here's the link, so you can get an idea of what's involved:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YwwG3JL3IIBhZ0xDrbhE5d8qG41D77DqqdQ84nP00Bk/edit?usp=sharing>

We'll order out for pizza for lunch. Bring your kids or your neighbors... as long as each person has their own laptop or tablet to work on!

See you on Saturday, Nov 4th at 10:00 AM!

Peace and all good things,

Mike Boutin



From the Outreach Ministry Team

Clothing Drive for Youth



Our first clothing drive to support the Merrimack Valley YMCA's "My Kids Closet" was a wonderful success. Under the leadership of John and Carole Silva, we collected 670 pieces of children's clothes and pairs of shoes! Clothing sizes ranged from 3T up through small and medium adult sizes. A special thanks to Forest Street Union Church in Methuen for donating hundreds of articles of clothing following their recent rummage sale. My Kids Closet provides children's clothing free of charge, but families involved are encouraged to donate clothing that their children have outgrown, as a way of giving back. You can read more and watch a short video about My Kids Closet at <https://mvyymca.org/program/my-kids-closet/> Thank you to all of you who donated clothing to this great cause!

"Let's Book It!" Book Drive for Comprehensive Grammar School

The Let's Book It! Book Drive kicked off on Sunday, September 17th and ended on Sunday, October 22nd. Once again, First Church members and friends rose to the challenge, and we collected a total of 456 new and gently used children's books! This year the books were given to students at the Comprehensive Grammar School who need books to help boost their literacy skills. Thank you to everyone who donated books or money to buy books.



Samaritans Walk for Hope 2023



The Family Services' Samaritans for Merrimack Valley Walk for Hope (1.5K Walk) was held on Saturday, October 21, 2023, at 10:00 AM at Willow Park in North Andover. First Church was represented by a Team of enthusiastic walkers and generous supporters and raised \$200 dollars. Family Services' Samaritans program works tirelessly to address and prevent suicide among youth and adults in our community. Thanks to all who walked or donated.



NIN Tuesday Evening Food Pantry



The Food Pantry at First Church continues to give out close to 400 bags of groceries per week thanks to the many volunteers who give their time and work very hard. We are doing our annual Thanksgiving bags again this year, see next page for more details.

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





Thanksgiving Food Pantry

for Neighbors in Need

2023

We need your help! The number of families coming to our Neighbors in Need (NIN) Tuesday Evening Food Pantry is now **over 300 families** each week. These families need as much food as we can provide. **So in lieu of the usual Thanksgiving groceries you would usually provide, we are asking you to provide items, your choice, from the following shopping list for food distribution on Tuesday, November 21st, in addition to the food NIN will provide that day.**

You may bring your donations on **Sunday, November 19th**, before or after the worship service (10:00 AM), and place them on the tables against the wall in the Parish Hall. **We will also accept donations on Saturday, November 18th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.** If you would prefer to donate money instead of shopping, you can mail a check to First Church Congregational, 26 Pleasant Street, Methuen, MA 01844, **or** you can drop it off in an envelope marked **“Thanksgiving Food Pantry”** at church weekdays (9:00 AM to 2:00 PM) or before or after worship on Sunday mornings. **Deadline for donations is Sunday, November 19th.**

Shopping List

- **Canned Vegetables** – *Corn, Green Beans, Peas, or Carrots*
- **Canned Beans** – *any variety*
- **Canned Fruit** – *Pineapple, Peaches, Pears, etc.*
- **Canned Soup**
- **Canned Tuna or Chicken**
- **Peanut Butter**
- **Macaroni & Cheese**
- **Pasta**
- **Pasta Sauce**
- **1 or 2 lb. Bags of Rice**
- **Any other non-perishable food items you wish to donate**



Thanksgiving Donation for Neighbors in Need

(Print) Name: _____

Donation: \$15 _____ \$25 _____ \$35 _____ \$50 _____ other \$ _____

Please make your check payable to “First Church Congregational”, write “Thanksgiving Food Pantry” on the memo line and return no later than Sunday, November 19th. Thank you!

Thank you.

The Outreach Ministry Team

Open and Affirming (O&A) Committee

The following stories are written by members of the O&A Committee. We want to share with you why we are on this committee and why inclusion is important to us and the church. We invite you to read these personal stories as we continue this journey together.

“I grew up in the Catholic church and attended Catholic schools my whole life. As I got older, I began to question the church’s doctrine of excluding women from fully participating in the church’s sacraments and began to feel like a “second class citizen.” This led me to leave the Catholic church and to seek out a religion where I would be appreciated and celebrated for who I am. I attended a UCC church where I was welcomed with open arms, included in all aspects of church life, and was made to feel that I mattered.

The feeling of not being equal and not as important as others is why I feel strongly that our church should never make anyone feel this way. To me, it is important that we become an Open and Affirming church so that everyone who walks through our doors feels valued for who they are. I believe that becoming an Open and Affirming church will make us stronger as we appreciate our differences and celebrate the fact that we are all people of God. “

~ Sue Newton

I am a part of the Open and Affirming Committee because I believe in equality for all. For too long our state of being has been ingrained in only thinking about ourselves and how we can further our personal goals. While that is important, I also believe that helping others and bringing others’ needs to the forefront is an urgent issue that needs to be addressed. By becoming open and affirming we can help others and let it be known that we are not only accepting, but WELCOMING all. By “all” I’m not only referring to the LGBTQ+ community (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, + more!), but BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color), veterans, homeless people and many more! We as a church just need to make it known that we accept AND welcome all. I am very passionate about civil rights, and I want that to trickle down into the church as well. Personally, I don’t want to be involved in a church that is not accepting of all people, LGBTQ+, or BIPOC, or anyone else for that matter! We as a church should show compassion and love toward all people, and that starts with becoming open and affirming, and letting everyone know it!

~ Makayla Lo Cicero
she/her

“I am neither pro-LGBTQ nor anti-LGBTQ. I think orientation is a personal choice, and I will accept whatever choice people want to make. I think a significant percentage of our church members think like I do, so in a sense I can represent them. I also think I can help ease the tension among those who don’t like the O&A idea. I think I am viewed as a conservative, thoughtful person and one that can be trusted. Admittedly, I grew up in a Marine Corps that would Dishonorably Discharge anyone LGBTQ in a heartbeat, but I never really agreed with that, and I am glad that all changed.”

~ Bob Donaghue

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

Walking Group for Fitness and Fellowship

Tuesdays in November

Please join us as we transition through the end of fall along the Merrimack River! We will be walking at Riverside Park (960 Riverside Drive) in Methuen on the following Tuesdays: **11/7, 11/14, 11/21 and 11/28** at 10:00 AM. Remember to dress warmly. It can be cool and breezy along the water. Hope to see you there!



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 invite you to join us on **Wednesdays from 1:00 - 3:00 PM**,
in the parlor of First Church Congregational.

*Note: There will be no Prayer Shawl on Wednesday, November 22nd,
due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.*



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The Chapel School

The seasons are getting ready to change and the days are getting shorter. The clocks are going to change on Nov. 5th! The leaves are falling, and the chill is in the air of colder days ahead.

The children have been busy preparing for the upcoming *Methuen Festival of Trees*. Our theme this year is *The Great Outdoors*. They have been making camping ornaments, pond animals and lots of other surprises to make this a completely made by children tree. Hopefully everyone will be able to visit the Festival of Trees and see our tree on display. It opens Saturday, November 18th and runs till Saturday, December 2nd.

Thanksgiving is quickly approaching too. We will continue with our annual Turkey Feast! This has to be one of the best events we celebrate here at Chapel. Everyone comes together and we all learn the importance of sharing, giving, and being thankful for our families and friends. Our feast will be held on Monday, November 20th, and Tuesday, November 21st.

We continue to improve our enrollment and are just a few children away from full capacity! Our Lunch Bunch program is also booming, we keep adding kids by the day.

We will be having an early dismissal on Wednesday, November 22nd, and we will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24.

As we enter into the busy season, please take time to spend with your loved ones.

Gina Colarusso
Director

The Chapel School participated in Methuen Day – 10/7/23





The Chapel School

We will be participating in a candy collection to send to our Soldiers overseas.

TREATS FOR TROOPS



Let's make them feel like kids in a candy store!



Did you get candy that your child is allergic to?

Did your child collect so much candy and you don't want it in your house?

Did you not get as many trick-or-treaters as you thought and have bags of candy left over?

**We will be collecting candy from
Wednesday November 1st – Wednesday November 8th**

Bring your donations to the school office.

We are excited to see how much we can send!

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the school office at
chapelschoolmethuen@gmail.com.



<https://soldiersangels.org/volunteer/special-campaigns/treats-for-troops/>

Thanks to all who helped celebrate
Cindy Mazella
at her Retirement Luncheon
Saturday, October 7th





The
Cindy Mazella
Scholarship
Fund

For more than 35 years,
Cindy Mazella has devoted her time
and shared her love of learning
to provide the children of
the Chapel School
a solid foundation on which to
build the rest of their lives.

Donations to this fund will be used to
provide tuition assistance to prospective
students in need who want to learn,
continuing Cindy's legacy and inspiring
generations of Chapel students.

Scan Here to Donate



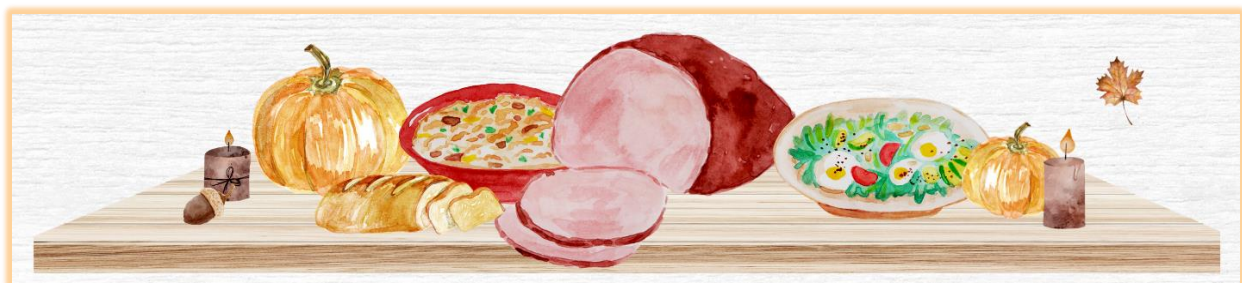
Thank you.



Thanks to all who attended the Ham & Bean Dinner Saturday, October 14th



Thank you to all who volunteered at the Ham & Bean Dinner Saturday, October 14th



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 – November 2023 (Years A&B)

Wed., Nov. 1

Psalm 119:41-48
Deuteronomy 26:16–27:7
Matthew 19:16-22

Thurs., Nov. 2

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Joshua 1:1-11
Romans 2:17-29

Fri., Nov. 3

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Joshua 2:1-14
2 Peter 2:1-3

Sat., Nov. 4

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Joshua 2:15-24
Matthew 23:13-28

Sun., Nov. 5

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

Mon., Nov. 6

Psalm 128
Joshua 4:1-24
1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

Tues., Nov. 7

Psalm 128
Joshua 6:1-16, 20
Acts 13:1-12

Wed., Nov. 8

Psalm 128
Joshua 10:12-14
Matthew 15:1-9

Thurs., Nov. 9

Psalm 78:1-7
Joshua 5:10-12
Revelation 8:6–9:12

Fri., Nov. 10

Psalm 78:1-7
Joshua 8:30-35
Revelation 9:13-21

Sat., Nov. 11

Psalm 78:1-7
Joshua 20:1-9
Matthew 24:1-14

Sun., Nov. 12

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

Mon., Nov. 13

Psalm 78
Joshua 24:25-33
1 Corinthians 14:20-25

Tues., Nov. 14

Psalm 78
Nehemiah 8:1-12
1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Wed., Nov. 15

Psalm 78
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Matthew 24:29-35

Thurs., Nov. 16

Psalm 123
Judges 2:6-15
Revelation 16:1-7

Fri., Nov. 17

Psalm 123
Judges 2:16-23
Revelation 16:8-21

Sat., Nov. 18

Psalm 123
Judges 5:1-12
Matthew 12:43-45

Sun., Nov. 19

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

Mon., Nov. 20

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18
Judges 4:8-24
Romans 2:1-11

Tues., Nov. 21

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18
Exodus 2:1-10
1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

Wed., Nov. 22

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18
Esther 7:1-10
Matthew 24:45-51

Thurs., Nov. 23

Thanksgiving
Psalm 100
Genesis 48:15-22
Revelation 14:1-11 **OR**
Deuteronomy 8:7-18 and
Psalm 65
2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Luke 17:11-19

Fri., Nov. 24

Psalm 100
Isaiah 40:1-11
Revelation 22:1-9

Sat., Nov. 25

Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34:25-31
Matthew 12:46-50

Sun., Nov. 26

Reign of Christ
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

Mon., Nov. 27

Psalm 28
Numbers 27:15-23
2 Timothy 2:8-13

Tues., Nov. 28

Psalm 28
Zechariah 11:4-17
Revelation 19:1-9

Wed., Nov. 29

Psalm 28
Jeremiah 31:10-14
John 5:19-40

Thurs., Nov. 30

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Zechariah 13:1-9
Revelation 14:6-13



Rejoice and Come Home...

Advent & Christmas 2023

First Church Congregational

Methuen, MA

Sunday, December 3rd:

10:00 AM – Worship – *1st Sunday of Advent* ~ Communion Sunday

Sunday, December 10th:

10:00 AM – Worship – *2nd Sunday of Advent* ~ Gifts to the Manger

Sunday, December 17th:

10:00 AM – Worship – *3rd Sunday of Advent* ~ Music Sunday

Sunday, December 24th:

10:00 AM – Worship – *4th Sunday of Advent*

7:00 PM – *Christmas Eve Service* ~ Candlelight & Carols

Sunday, December 25th:

Merry Christmas to All!



Our worship services are held in person. We hope you can join us!

Though, worship will continue to be broadcast each Sunday, at 10:00 AM, and others times as listed on Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/FirstChurchMethuen) and posted later on YouTube (www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLSjhXs9UG8yC89aB8evrA).

Happy Birthday!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 10 Christine Gatulis
- 25 Kacey Buck
- 26 Amanda Gable, Peter Koop, Glenn Sprague
- 27 Jamie Conner-Myers
- 30 Lyn Kimball

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Mary Simonian
- 04 Michelle Wright
- 06 Neil Bateson, Susan Kerr

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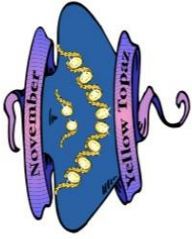


NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 11/8 | Michael & Jennifer Borislow | Married 37 years |
| 11/24 | George & Caroline Rollins | Married 38 years |

November 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship Service <i>Sundays at 10:00 AM</i> In-Person & on Facebook Live www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen			1 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 4:30 PM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Church Board	2 6:30 PM First Church Bells	3	4 10:00 AM Digitizing the Music Library
5 Communion Daylight Savings Ends (Fall Back) Stewardship Sunday 11:15 AM Fellowship Time	6 6:30 PM Finance	7 10:00 AM Walking Group (Meet at Riverside Park) 4:30 PM Food Pantry	8 8:00 AM Breakfast w/Bill (Ellie's Farmhouse/Methuen) 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Diaconate	9 6:30 PM First Church Bells	10 Church/School Closed (Veterans Day Observed)	11 Veterans Day
12 Stewardship Sunday 11:15 AM Stewardship Luncheon	13 1:00 PM Cook for Bread & Roses 4:00 PM Chapel Staff 6:30 PM Outreach	14 10:00 AM Walking Group (Meet at Riverside Park) 4:30 PM Food Pantry	15 December BEACON deadline 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM MDCC	16 6:30 PM First Church Bells	17	18 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Thanksgiving Donation Drop-Off
19 Final Thanksgiving Donations Due 11:15 AM Fellowship Time	20 Chapel School Thanksgiving 6:30 PM Stewardship	21 Chapel School Thanksgiving 10:00 AM Walking Group (Meet at Riverside Park) 4:30 PM Food Pantry Thanksgiving Distribution	22 Chapel School Closes at 11:30 AM	23 Thanksgiving Church/School Closed 	24 Church/School Closed	25
26 11:15 AM Fellowship Time	27	28 10:00 AM Walking Group (Meet at Riverside Park) 4:30 PM Food Pantry	29 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl	30		

Dates and times are subject to change

First Church Congregational

United Church of Christ

26 Pleasant Street

Methuen, MA 01844-3199

Address Service Requested