



January 2024

THE BEACON



First Church Congregational *United Church of Christ*

26 Pleasant Street
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Telephone: (978) 687-1240

Rev. William D. Ingraham, Senior Pastor
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firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com

Mike Boutin, Minister of Music
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www.firstchurchmethuen.com



Worship on Sundays at 10:00 AM



“GETTING PARSONAL”

Rev. William D. Ingraham

The gentle days between Christmas and New Years always come as a welcomed break. Things slow down for a gentle pause as our hard work and preparation for the holidays have come to fruition. The busy rush to get ready for Christmas is over and done, giving us time now to enjoy the holiday and savor our days a little differently. True, for some of us, it's a busy break marked with travel to see family, or the hosting of house guests, or both! And some of us continue to work all the way through. But even then, the time between Christmas and New Year's Day can provide a moment for pause, to give thanks, and ponder the future.

The week between Christmas and New Year's always affords a little break at the church. Chapel School is on holiday and the church office is closed. Even the food pantry takes a week off! And in that time, as we step back from the normal busyness of our life and ministry together, we have a moment to express gratitude for our life's many blessings.

I celebrate our life together as a church. From September through December, we experienced a lot of joy, prayed a lot of prayers, accomplished a lot of outreach and mission, and touched many,

many lives. But shining most brightly for me, at least in this moment, is our remarkable celebration of Advent and Christmas.

So many people contributed to our church's life and ministry throughout this season. I'm so grateful! From the first Sunday of Advent, we were welcomed in a beautifully decorated sanctuary, with greenery having found its way throughout the rest of the church, too, setting the tone for a lovely season together. Week by week, our bell choir and chancel choir practiced and polished, sharing beautiful music every Sunday. While special every week, their efforts culminated both in the lovely cantata on the third Sunday of Advent and during our inspiring Christmas Eve worship service on the 24th.

All around the edges of worship, other special efforts brought us joy, too, extending out to the community as well. Our weekly coffee hour, always a treat, became even more special on the Sundays of Advent. And the generosity of our church made a real difference for individuals, families and children throughout the community. Through toys, hats, mittens, and food, we offered our best gifts. We spread around cheer, both within and beyond our church's walls. Our love of God, our care for each other and our concern for the community brought many blessings. We accomplished a lot. We always do. I'm so grateful for that!

These things have been much on my mind as I spend time with my family in Tennessee during this week's break. I'm grateful for our life and ministry at First Church Congregational, and eager to see what the new year will hold. No doubt God will continue to bless us, offering hope and inspiration, and guiding us in service that makes a real difference in the world.

Happy New Year! And thank you for your love and faithfulness.

See you in church,

- Bill



Sunday Morning Worship

10:00 AM

Hope you will join us!



Welcome!

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

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

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Breakfast with Bill

Join Pastor Bill for ***“Breakfast with Bill”*** – an informal time for friendship and conversation on any topic. We will gather on **Wednesday, January 10th at 8:00 AM**, at Ellie’s Farmhouse, 436 Broadway, Methuen, MA. And remember, it’s dutch treat!



Breakfast Group from December

Prayer Requests/List



To have someone included on the bulletin prayer list, or need to have removed from the list, please let Roberta in the Church Office know at 978-687-1240 or 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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2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2024 offering envelopes are available. Please contact the Church Office, at 978-687-1240 or firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com, if you would like to receive pledge envelopes. They can be left for you to pick-up at check-in.



Pledge cards and e-pledging forms are still available.

Thank you.

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IN CASE OF SNOW...

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

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



From the Chair of the Church Board...

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! What a beautiful Advent season we just had thanks to the beautiful music of our choir, the wonderful decorations everywhere, and the true spirit of Christmas we could all share together. I thank you all for your extra efforts to spread cheer and the hope the manger brings us all. With the dawn of a new calendar year, we have a lot of energy here at First Church Congregational. This means that we have plenty going on, including:

- Chapel School is continuing to go strong. I would like to thank Gina Colarusso for fulfilling the vision of excellent preschool for our community. This also could not be the success without our dedicated teachers and our school administrator, Roberta. Thank you all!!!
- The Festival of Trees showcased two entries this year. One was from our Chapel students, teachers, and parents, and another was from the congregation spearheaded by Lori Bennett and her family. Thank you all for your diligence, beauty, and design for this worthwhile organization.
- The First Church choir was so fabulous that it merits a second thank you for all of your efforts! Throughout Advent, it was a beautiful contribution to the Christmas spirit, but there's still room to join them for the coming new year. Thank you to Mike and all the choir members that contribute to Rev. Bill's worship. Also, it is so wonderful that the bell choir is back! Thank you to the outstanding bellringers for keeping the beautiful music coming.
- 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 Stewardship drive is complete, and I would like to thank all of you for pledging. If you haven't gotten in your pledge forms or e-tithing forms in, there is still time. The finance committee will begin our budgeting process soon, so please do not delay.
- Our Outreach group is hard at work (as always!). Thank you to all those that helped continue our traditions of the mitten tree, gifts to the manger, and more. 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 & Happy New Year!!!

Josh

Musical Musings

Happy New Year....my wish for you all is a year filled with joy and peace, music in your hearts, and when the trials come, faith in a God who walks with us, especially in the dark valleys.

I'm writing this the day after our amazing Advent Cantata, so today, my thoughts are all about our choir and musicians. I wonder if you appreciate how blessed we are at First Church to have a choir at worship each week with at least 12 singers? Many churches today have had to abandon their choir programs for lack of committed singers on a weekly basis: many churches with which I am familiar have a choir once a month, or a few times a year, and if they have a weekly choir, it's often 3-4 singers, many of whom, suffice it to say, lead people to pray: "*Dear God, make this end, soon!*"

Yet, here at First Church, each week, we have a choir of at least 12 people, many of whom have sight reading skills, are vocally trained, or sing in other musical ensembles and choirs. For events like the Cantata, we attract singers who don't regularly sing with us, but who welcome the opportunity to sing with us for special events. Your choir works REALLY HARD: hours of rehearsals at church on Sunday mornings, and at home. For each of our choir anthems, I create rehearsal recordings that allow the choir members to learn their parts on their own at home, to sing along with me, to sing along with the other parts, or to just sing along with the accompaniment. They tell me they spend hours practicing with those recordings: and, yesterday's Cantata is a real testament to that hard work. Handbells, recorders, flutes, congas, claves, shakers, soloists, mom and daughter duets, and even a small schola group doing really serious 16th century polyphony. Amazing!

I am honored to collaborate with this choir....and humbled to be their leader.

Only one thing would make it better: more people in the pews to appreciate how good they really are. Yesterday, it seemed to me that we had nearly as many people in the choirs as we did in church! You see, listening on Facebook or YouTube is just not the same. The quality of the sound isn't the same, the resonance in the room isn't the same, and certainly the experience of listening to music and worshipping together in person isn't the same. If you love the choir and the music that we perform, please, come back and listen in person!

Peace and all good things,

Mike Boutin



Pictures from Music Sunday, 12/17



From the Outreach Ministry Team

Souper Bowl of Caring 2024

We will again be collecting cans of soups leading up to the **Souper Bowl 2024**, to be donated to the Neighbors in Need Food Pantry. For more information, look at the full-page flyer included in this month's Beacon.

NIN Christmas Food Pantry

The Christmas Neighbors in Need Food Pantry took place at First Church on Tuesday, December 19th. Fuller than usual bags of groceries were packed and handed out to close to 400 families. There will not be a food pantry held between Christmas and New Year's, as per usual. Bag contents included peanut butter, a roast beef, canned vegetables, canned or frozen fruit, canned beans, rice, oatmeal packets, bagged fresh sweet potatoes and onions, or regular potatoes, fresh bagged apples, a cake mix and frosting or brownies, and Lindor truffles. Funds left over from our generous Thanksgiving donations allowed us to buy rice, cake mixes, frosting and brownies to supplement our food coming from Neighbors in Need, so that we would have enough for 400 families. Thanks to all our volunteers on both A and B Teams who selflessly donate their time throughout the year!

Gifts to the Manger and Adopt a Child

Thanks to everyone who donated Christmas gifts for the children at Methuen Area Neighborhood (MAN), Inc. as part of our **Gifts to the Manger** program. Parents were able to choose gifts from our donations, and wrap them with donated Christmas wrapping paper, bows and tape. Thanks also to all who participated in **Adopt-a-Child**, buying gifts for specific children from provided wish lists. All the gifts were delivered to MAN Inc. by Lori Bennett.

Hat and Mitten Tree

First Church Congregational and the Chapel School put up their **Mitten Tree** again this year. Hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves were placed on the tree during the Christmas season. The tree was very full and there were several boxes full of knitted and purchased items around the tree. Thanks to everyone who knitted, crocheted, or purchased items to keep the children in Methuen warm in the cold winter months. All items will be delivered to the Methuen Public Schools Parent Resource Center by Chapel Director, Gina Colarusso, to be given out to students in need.

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



From the Outreach Ministry Team



The 2024 Souper Bowl Challenge

The Outreach Team will once again be participating in the **Souper Bowl of Caring** this year and we hope you can help. Last year we honored the memory of Ray Benedix, a long-time church member and Souper Bowl Team Leader for many years. We will continue to honor Ray's memory through our donations of soup and money in 2024. Many of us remember his dedication to and enthusiasm for this outreach project which helps to feed the food insecure in the Merrimack Valley.

For 2024, we have set our Souper Bowl goals at 1500 cans of soup and \$1500 in monetary donations. All cans of soup and monetary donations raised will go to the Neighbors in Need Food Pantry, including the one held here at First Church each Tuesday evening.

We will be kicking off the Souper Bowl on Sunday, January 14th with an announcement and introduction to our "score board" which will track our progress. We will celebrate the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters on the following Sundays: January 21st and 28th, and February 4th and 11th. We will hold a half-time celebration on January 28th with lots of "tailgate snacks", and possibly a repeat corn hole competition, during coffee hour. Don't forget to wear your game jerseys!

Cans of soup and monetary donations can be brought to church each Sunday before and after church until 12:00 noon, from January 14th to February 11th. Each Sunday, from January 21st to February 11th, during announcements, we will report on the number of cans received, enabling us to more down the "field" toward our goals. In achieving our goals, we will be honoring Ray's dedication and commitment to the Souper Bowl of Caring Outreach Ministry. 1...2...3...HIKE!

2024 Souper Bowl Challenge

Print Name: _____

Donation Amount: _____

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

Respectfully,

Your Outreach Ministry Team

Walking Group for Fitness and Fellowship

Tuesdays in January

Winter is here and our group **will** still be walking, weather permitting. **We will be walking at the Loop through the months of January and February.** The sidewalks are kept cleared of snow and ice so it's a safer, as well as sunnier, place to walk. We meet in front of the AMC Theater at 10:00 on the following Tuesdays in January: 01/02, 01/09, 01/16, 01/23, and 01/30. Don't forget your hat and gloves! Contact Cindy Bateson if you would like to be added to the walking email group.

Sunday Walk on the Methuen Rail Trail

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



Open and Affirming (O&A) Committee

The Open and Affirming Committee will hold our first education session on Sunday, January 28th after church. We will present a brief introduction to the O&A process and where the church is in the process. We will then open up the meeting to questions. We encourage you to read the material we distribute, take part in the discussions, and talk to a committee member as we go through this journey together.



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



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Estate Planning Seminar

Hello Church Family,

Estate planning is incredibly important and is an often misunderstood and complicated process. I feel it's vital to have a good understanding of what's involved and to get the right plan in place for you and your loved ones. Because of that, I'll be hosting a free estate planning seminar after church on Sunday, February 18th, at 11:30 AM, for all members, friends, and any others who are interested.

For additional info, talk to me at church, or feel free to contact me.

See you there.

Scott Sanborn

PS. Carol said she'll bring snacks. 😊



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.*



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Artwork by Nico Jurovich

The Chapel School



Our Tree, *The Great Outdoors*, won second place in the "Tree Done by Children" category. Many Chapel families visited the Methuen Festival of Trees to see our Tree. The children did a great job making ornaments and the. Many thanks to them for supporting our tree.

We have also created our own *Chapel Festival of Trees* here in the school. You can see all our trees on the next page in this bulletin!

We were then in Holiday mode, preparing one of a kind gifts and treasures for the children to give to their parents. It's busy merriment every day leading up to Santa's arrival. We will all need our long winter's nap after Christmas to rest, regroup and refresh.

The Mitten Tree has been filling up during the month of December. All the donations of hats, scarves and mittens will once again be delivered to the Methuen Public Schools Family Resource Center. Their staff there will distribute the items to children in need of these warm articles of clothing. Working together both First Church and Chapel School helps to pay it forward to those who need it the most.

Staying healthy is still the number one priority. We need to continue to take care of ourselves, eat healthy and get plenty of sleep so that we all enjoy the Holidays with family and friends. Enjoy these special times!

Chapel School had a half day on Friday, December 22nd and will remain closed until Monday January 1st. We will reopen on the Tuesday the 2nd of January 2024.

Gina Colarusso
Director



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Chapel School - Our Own Festival of Trees



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

The Mitten Tree was quite overflowing this year!

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



All the mittens, gloves, hats and scarves were donated to the Methuen Public Schools Family Resource Center for their families in need.



Christmas Giving

2023



Poinsettias given in loving memory of:

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

Raymond Benedix by Anne, Cyndi & Paul

Scott Brown by Debbie Brown & family

Marilyn & Robert Blaser and Agnes & Edwin Riedel by Susan & Bob Riedel

Marge Newton by Wayne Newton

Anne & Edward H Lemieux, Edward B & William Lemieux and Kristyn B Stevens by Jean Lemieux & family

Mary Parker by Mary Simonian

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

Louis Laorenza by Cindy Laorenza

Jack, Helen & Fred Darlington by Helen Darlington

Poinsettias given in celebration/honor of:

Mike's Music Ministry by Susan & Bob Riedel

My Fellow Outreach, Diaconate & Board Members by Becky Smith

Family & Friends by Pat Moss-Newbury

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

Arthur Gray by Carol Gray

Donations to the Capital Campaign given in loving memory of:

George King by Pat King & family

Raymond Benedix by Anne, Cyndi & Paul

Arthur & Barbara Sprague and Ward & Betty Maue by Glenn & Deb Sprague

Alexander, Alice & Ann Boyko and Hans & Marie Schnetter by The Boyko Family

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

Raymond Benedix by Anne

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

Scott Brown by Debbie Brown

Donations to the Capital Campaign given in loving memory of:

George King and Margaret Kurth by Glenn & Deb Sprague

Richard & Marcelle Gingras by Debbie Brown & Family

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

Donations to the General Fund given in loving memory of:

Harold & Marjorie Brown by Debbie Brown & Family

Richard Drummond by Nancy Drummond

Donations to the Kurth Legacy Fund given in loving memory of:

Margaret & Wil Kurth by The Kurth & Borislow Families

Donations to the Operating Expense given in loving memory of:

Arthur Gray by Carol Gray

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

Arthur Gray by Carol Gray

Bill & Lucille Moran by Pat King

Jason Romano by Kathy Romano

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

Anita, Eileen & Donald Watson, Marcelle & Richard Gingras, Scott Brown and Margaret Kurth by
Dorothy Watson

Donald Owen Peck, Megan Marie Tripp, Hannah Taylor, Jeffrey Taylor and John Sargent by Ken
& Marilyn Peck

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

Donations to the Outreach Fund given in memory of:

Scott Brown and Anita Watson by The Borislow Family

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

Raymond Benedix by Glenn & Deb Sprague

Thank You



Christmas Food Pantry Distribution ~ 12/19/23



What's the REACH Ministry?



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

Maybe this person is you?

If so, we can help. Our new REACH Ministry wants to make sure that members of our community have a place to turn for support in their time of need. The term REACH stands for -- Reliable, Engaging, Able, Caring and Heartfelt support.

Contact Judi Boyko or Pat King for more information.

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Need Financial Help?

If you, or another member of First Church you know, is need of some temporary financial assistance, please contact Rev. Ingraham at pastor.bill.ingraham@gmail.com 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 – January 2024 (Year B)

Mon., Jan. 1

New Year's Day
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm 8
Revelation 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46

Tues., Jan. 2

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

Wed., Jan. 3

Psalm 110
Proverbs 1:20-33
James 4:1-10

Thurs., Jan. 4

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

Fri., Jan. 5

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

Sat., Jan. 6

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

Sun., Jan. 7

The Baptism of Christ
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

Mon., Jan. 8

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

Tues., Jan. 9

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

Wed., Jan. 10

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

Thurs., Jan. 11

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

Fri., Jan. 12

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

Sat., Jan. 13

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

Sun., Jan. 14

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

Mon., Jan. 15

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

Tues., Jan. 16

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

Wed., Jan. 17

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

Thurs., Jan. 18

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

Fri., Jan. 19

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

Sat., Jan. 20

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

Sun., Jan. 21

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

Mon., Jan. 22

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

Tues., Jan. 23

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

Wed., Jan. 24

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

Thurs., Jan. 25

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

Fri., Jan. 26

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

Sat., Jan. 27

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

Sun., Jan. 28

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

Mon., Jan. 29

Psalm 35:1-10
Numbers 22:1-21
Acts 21:17-26

Tues., Jan. 30

Psalm 35:1-10
Numbers 22:22-28
1 Corinthians 7:32-40

Wed., Jan. 31

Psalm 35:1-10
Jeremiah 29:1-14
Mark 5:1-20

Happy Birthday!

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

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

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JANUARY

1/6 Robert & Susan Newton

Married 45 years

| | |  January 2024 | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|-----------|---|
| | |  | | | | |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| Worship Service <i>Sundays at 10:00 AM</i> In-Person & <i>on Facebook Live</i> www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen | 1 Church Office & Chapel School Closed  | 2 10:00 AM Walking Group (The Loop) 4:30 PM Food Pantry | 3 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM Church Board | 4 6:30 PM First Church Bells | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Epiphany (observed) Communion Questions for the Pastor 11:15 AM Fellowship | 8 4:00 PM Chapel Staff 6:30 PM Finance 6:30 PM Outreach | 9 10:00 AM Walking Group (The Loop) 4:30 PM Food Pantry | 10 8:00 AM Breakfast with Bill (Ellie's Farmhouse) 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Diaconate | 11 6:30 PM First Church Bells | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Souper Bowl Kick-Off 11:15 AM Fellowship | 15 MLK Day Church Office & Chapel School Closed 6:30 PM Stewardship | 16 10:00 AM Walking Group (The Loop) 4:30 PM Food Pantry | 17 February BEACON deadline 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl | 18 6:30 PM First Church Bells | 19 | 20 |
| 21 11:15 AM Fellowship | 22 | 23 10:00 AM Walking Group (The Loop) 4:30 PM Food Pantry | 24 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl | 25 6:30 PM First Church Bells | 26 | 27 |
| 28 11:15 AM Fellowship 11:15 AM Open & Affirming Presentation | 29 | 30 10:00 AM Walking Group (The Loop) 4:30 PM Food Pantry | 31 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl |  | |  |

Dates and times are subject to change

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

Address Service Requested