

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

*Worship on Sundays at 10:00 AM*



## ***“GETTING PARSONAL”***

***Rev. William D. Ingraham***

Not a day has passed since March 23 that I haven't felt deep gratitude. That was the day my right knee was replaced. Performed as outpatient surgery, I was home before noontime, having climbed the stairs into the parsonage myself. Within a few days I was using neither a walker nor a crutch, or even a cane. I had more pain walking into the clinic that day, before surgery, than I have had at any moment since. As I said, I am grateful. Exceedingly so.

My weeks are now peppered with two sessions of outpatient physical therapy, along with daily exercises at home. The tenth session was, without doubt, the most difficult therapy session I've had to date. My usual therapist was out so I was working with somebody new. Having finished my warmup on an upright bicycle, she was leading me to the back for massage and manual manipulation of my knee's muscles. "I noticed as you walked in," she said, "you're walking all wrong. We're going to work on that today."

I was surprised, to say the least. Even a little frightened? I walk incorrectly? My eyes tinged with the start of tears as I recognized some feelings of panic in my chest. She turned and saw the look on my face and immediately intervened. "Don't worry! You're going to be OK. It's nothing bad. It's just, through all these years of pain, your body adjusted how you walk to protect you from it all." That made sense to me. I took a deep breath and let it out slowly. "We just need to edit your walk. That's all."

That was a new idea to me. *Editing* my walk. Taking what I do well and building on it. Taking what I do poorly and helping me to do better, to do it in a helpful way. Taking what's not helpful and coaching me so that I can learn *not* to do that.

The idea of *editing* has been in my mind ever since. Editing my walk, yes. I'll have help with that! But what other things in my life might benefit from some editing about how? I'm into my 60<sup>th</sup> year, with lots of good yet to do ahead of me both in my work and in my personal life. What adjustments might I make? Things to change, even things to eliminate?

I am also pondering *editing* with regards to First Church. We continue to inhabit a crucial moment in history and will for some time now. Nearly two years beyond the darkest days of the pandemic, we are well on the path of emerging among the consequences and implications of a months-long lockdown. Individuals and families, young and old, have changed their patterns. That effects participation in worship, Sunday school and the like.

I hasten to say, we've made remarkable progress in so many ways! We've managed to reestablish our in-person worship while continuing a high quality online presence, broadening our ministry locally and beyond. There's joy in worship! Our music program is healthy and strong, perhaps more so than it has been in recent memory. Sunday school has been reestablished and is small but mighty, meeting two Sundays monthly. Our children are learning, and their faith is growing. Bit by bit, little by little, we're finding our way. We are far and away better off than so many churches. We should be grateful. But we've still a long way to go.

What other things might we need to *edit* about our life and ministry as a church? What might you be able to do to help us strengthen who we are and what we do? Each of us has a part to play as we stay true to our mission:

*Seeking God. Caring for each other. Improving our community.*

See you in church!

Faithfully,  
*Bill*



# 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](https://facebook.com/FirstChurchMethuen)). It will also be posted following the worship service on our YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLSjhXs9UG8yC89aB8evrA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLSjhXs9UG8yC89aB8evrA)).

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

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## *Breakfast with Bill*



Join Pastor Bill and friends for some good food and conversation on the next ***“Breakfast with Bill”*** on **Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM**, at *Ellie’s Farmhouse*, 436 Broadway, Methuen, MA. And remember, it’s dutch treat!

\* \* \* \* \*

## *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](mailto:firstchurch.roberta@gmail.com). No request is too big or too small! Thank you.



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

# WARRANT

## *First Church Congregational*

United Church of Christ

### **294<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

**Sunday, May 21, 2023**

The 294<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of First Church Congregational, Methuen, Massachusetts, will be held in person, at 11:00 AM, on Sunday, May 21, 2023. Business to be conducted at the Annual Meeting is outlined below.

1. Welcome and Call to Order by the Chair of the Board ~ Josh Ferry
2. Opening Prayer and Necrology ~ Rev. William D. Ingraham
3. Old Business
  - Review of Minutes of the May 15, 2022, Annual Meeting
  - Board Report
  - Pastor's Report
  - Treasurer's Report
4. New Business
  - Adoption of 2023-24 Budget
  - Nominating Committee Report
  - Election of Officers
  - Other Business
5. Closing Prayer and Benediction ~ Rev. Ingraham
6. Call for Adjournment ~ Josh Ferry

*Christine Bane*  
Church Board Secretary

# From the Chair of the Church Board...

With the season of Lent behind us, the Board and I hope you had a prayerful time to reflect. With wonderful services, filled with voices, bells, and poignant sermons, it was a truly amazing time to contemplate what being a Christian means. As part of the First Church community, this season was a perfect time to focus on our core – *Seeking God, Caring for Others, and Improving our Community*.

Moving forward, there are so many more ways to continue our faith journey through action. These items include:

- 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 project continuing. The demolition of the damaged areas is complete, but the rebuilding will start soon. 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 needed, but there may be other ways to help.
- Our Outreach group is hard at work (as always!). There are several projects in process, including our Back-to-School program returning this August. There are so many elements that need your help, 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.
- The Annual Meeting is scheduled for this May 21<sup>st</sup>!! Please plan on attending to get even more insight into how the business of your church is conducted. As members in Christ of your church, your input is vital to the success of every aspect.
- ...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*





# UPDATE ON THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

I am pleased to report that the first phase of our capital campaign is nearly complete. With the help of more than sixty families and friends of First Church, we have raised more than \$250,000, which has allowed us to replace our heating system, repair the bell tower, and remove the damaged walls, ceilings and floors in the narthex. As a result, we have eliminated the leaks in the bell tower, which plagued us for more than a century. These leaks compromised the safety of the tower and greatly accelerated the wear and tear on our organ. This is a major leap forward for us in securing the integrity of our building.

While we have made great progress, we still have work to do. Before we can open up our front doors again, we need to rebuild the walls, ceiling and floor of the narthex. We also need to raise the funds to complete these repairs, which we estimate will cost approximately \$20,000.

Once we complete this phase of the capital campaign, we will take the opportunity to celebrate completion of the repairs and those who have contributed to the success of our capital campaign.

Please reach out to me with any questions about the campaign, the status of the repairs, and the ways in which you can give. We are seeking 100% participation. Every bit helps.

Thank you for your continued support (and patience).

Warmly,



Stephen Boyko  
Vice Chair, Church Board



To make an electronic donation today, please scan the QR code:



# *Musical Musings*

I've been doing a lot of walking lately....My partner, Rich and I are training to walk 100km of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Spain in June. We will be walking some of the Camino Frances, the most popular of a series of ancient pilgrimage routes that all lead to the church of St James in Spain. Pilgrims have been walking this route since the 9th century! We will be walking about 75 miles over the course of 5 days, so we've been trying to walk at least 8 miles a day in order to get ready to walk as much as 15 miles in a day, only to get up and walk another 13 miles on average daily for the 5 days! Thank God for good sneakers!

Walking really does provide some perspective...it allows me to breathe differently, to listen to nature speaking to me, to talk about important things that can't be communicated in a quick conversation on the fly but takes more time and attention...Walking encourages me to look up, to look around, to look ahead, and sometimes, to just look to the next step...

I've been thinking a lot about my first year at First Church and all that I have learned and experienced. I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity to minister here: to work with Pastor Bill, and all our really talented musicians and singers. I'm grateful to worship in our truly beautiful space, in the light of the LaFarge window, and while playing the Treat organ.

I'm grateful to sing and pray with all of you each week in person and online, to get to know you, and learn about your lives and your families and all that matters to you. I'm grateful for your welcome, and your comments, and your suggestions. I'm really grateful for all the firsts: my First Advent Cantata, my first Christmas, my first Palm Sunday Cantata, Holy Week, and Easter: so much learning, so much joy, so much great music....

Thank you for all of it....I look forward to the next steps ahead....

Peace and all good things,

*Mike Boutin*



# From the Outreach Ministry Team

## Busy Start to Year

The beginning of this year has been quite a busy one for the Outreach Team and First Church. We kicked off the year with the 2023 Souper Bowl of Caring in memory of Ray Benedix. You helped us reach our goals by donating 2,225 cans of soup and \$2,300 in monetary donations. We all celebrated our mutual success with a Souper Bowl Party on February 12<sup>th</sup>, during Coffee Hour.

In March, we held the 2023 Lenten Diaper Drive where we collected diapers and baby wipes to give to area organizations who provide them to families in need. Both activities were very successful thanks to your generosity. On Mental Health Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed the Rev. MaryAnn Thibeault-Vandette to preach on “grief.” Her sermon was titled “Even Jesus Grieves,” and her scripture was from the Gospel of John, Chapter 11, Verses 1-6 and 28-45.

The Outreach Team has expanded over the past year, adding new events such as the “Book It” book drive for children at the Tenney School last fall. We’ve added members who have provided new ideas and energy and enjoyed a lot of fun and fellowship. We always welcome new members and suggestions to add activities to our calendar. The following are a couple of items that will occur before and during the summer.

## 2023 Outreach Flag Replacement Team




The first event is the annual Flag Replacement Day for the City of Methuen. This is the third year in which we participated in this event. Volunteers under the direction of the City’s Director of Veterans Services, Paul Jensen, replace worn flags on veterans’ graves throughout the many cemeteries located in Methuen. A large number of volunteers also assist at the Bellevue and St. Mary’s cemeteries in Lawrence. The event provides us an opportunity to honor those who have served our country while helping our community. Last year our team contributed to the replacement of over 5,000 flags as part of a volunteer force of over 200 strong in just under 2 hours.

Although our team has been assigned to Walnut Grove Cemetery; volunteers are welcome to sign up for any location.

If anyone is interested, please contact Barbara Donaghue for sign-up information. Coffee and donuts are provided to begin the morning.

## Back to School Program

In May and June, Lisa Yarid Ferry and Linda Soucy will begin obtaining sponsors for First Church’s Annual Back to School Program. In July, volunteers size each child for jeans, shirts, fleece hoodies and sneakers. Mall Day Set Up and Mall Day will be held in August at the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood, MAN Inc.’s Tenney Street Park. 

## Methuen YMCA



The last activity still in the planning phase is collaborating with the Methuen YMCA to support their summer programming. On March 31<sup>st</sup>, a few of our team members toured the site and were left amazed and impressed by all the activity that takes place there every day. We saw their gym, classrooms with children who are there all day and those who came in for the after school program, Kids Clothes Closet and music room. We sat down with Cathy Bedard, executive Director of Child Care & Methuen YMCA, and had an extensive conversation about a variety of activities which can provide us with possible future outreach activities. More information will follow in future *Beacons* as our plans develop as to how we can enhance their programming.



## 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. The volunteers never know how many families will come. The number of families served by the Food Pantry can range between 280 and 375 families. On Tuesday, April 18, the Pantry served 400 families. We are very appreciative of the dedicated volunteers who faithfully come each week, rain or shine, and work to see that everyone gets their bag of food.



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

\* \* \* \* \*

### **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY**

**Happy Mother's Day to everyone:  
Mums, Dads, Daughters, Sons.  
We're all related to mothers  
and there are some special ones.**

**Some who take on a mothering role  
are not related through birth  
but love as much as any mother could.  
That type of love sustains our earth.**

**Some men take on a dual role,  
as "stay-at-home" Dads they excel,  
which gives mothers opportunities  
to have an outside career as well.**

**Adoptive parents are special,  
they open their home and heart,  
providing a child with a loving bond  
and a family in which they are part.**

**Mothering is tender, loving care,  
a strong desire to guide and protect,  
to keep their children safe from harm.  
Mothers of all kinds deserve respect.**

**Happy Mother's Day**

**Jean Kay**



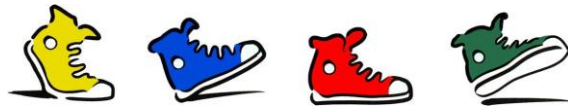
# Walking Group for Fitness and Fellowship

## Tuesdays in May

The grass is green, and the trees are blossoming along the Merrimack River! Come join us walking at **Riverside Park** at 960 Riverside Drive in Methuen! We will be walking at 10:00 AM on the following Tuesdays: 5/2, 5/9, 5/16, 5/23 and 5/30. 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

We're back on the Methuen Rail Trail for our once-a-month Sunday walk! Please join us on **Sunday, 5/28 at 12:00 PM**. It's a beautiful walk with water views and artwork along the way. We meet in the back of the MSPCA parking lot where we can access the Rail Trail and 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 the beauty of 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 for more information.

Prayer Shawl 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  
(Featured in the Maine College of Art & Design Merit Art Show)

# The Chapel School



Springtime is always the busiest time here at The Chapel School. We are winding down with 6 weeks till the last day of school for the Summer. The children have grown in so many ways both socially, emotionally, intellectually, and physically. I never tire from seeing their growth and know that we have made a difference and have provided them with the foundation to move on to “The Big School” in September. The teachers feel like proud mamas sending their flock off.

The children will once again be potting flowers for Mother’s Day gift giving. They will choose from a selection of flowers to pot and present to their moms. It is one of the most heartwarming activities and tradition we have here at Chapel.

The annual Art Show is almost ready. We will be displaying the children’s artwork in the Parish Hall the week of May 21<sup>st</sup>. I hope you will take the time to stop in and view “one of a kind” creations from the children.

Outdoor play is enjoyed by both children and teachers at this time of year. The weather allows us more time outside to explore, strengthen our large motor development and enjoy the fresh air!

Enrollment continues for September. We now have over 60 children registered for the Fall! This is good news. We haven’t had this many children registered this early since before Covid.

We are in the planning stages of our Summer renovations. We hope to have this work started once school ends on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Quotes are still coming in and the Trustees will be busy again this Summer coordinating all the phases of the work. The hardwood floors will be refinished, along with new counter tops and painting. It will be a long awaited facelift refurbishing these last two classrooms and completing all the upgrades necessary to keep Chapel the best it can be for children and their families.

It’s all good!! Working together for positive change keeps us all moving forward in our work here at First Church and The Chapel School.

Enjoy Spring!!

*Cindy Mazella*  
Director







# 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](mailto:chapelschoolmethuen@gmail.com)**



**[www.chapelschoolmethuen.com](http://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.*

## *My friend, I care*

by Joannetta Hendel

*Don't tell me that you understand,  
don't tell me that you know.  
Don't tell me that I will survive,  
how I will surely grow.*

*Don't tell me this is just a test,  
that I am truly blessed,  
that I am chosen for this task,  
apart from all the rest.*

*Don't come at me with answers  
that can only come from me,  
don't tell me how my grief will pass,  
that I will soon be free.*

*Don't stand in pious judgment  
of the bonds I must untie,  
don't tell me how to suffer,  
and don't tell me how to cry.*

*My life is filled with selfishness,  
my pain is all I see,  
but I need you, I need your love,  
unconditionally.*

*Accept me in my ups and downs,  
I need someone to share,  
just hold my hand and let me cry,  
and say, "My friend, I care."*



## Affirmations

**Affirmation:** A positive statement that is repeated or written to oneself until it has “taken root” or is established in the mind.

At first, you may not believe that you have large amounts of the qualities listed below. Nevertheless, begin by assuming that you do have some of all of these qualities – enough to have brought you this far. Picture what life will be like if you possess them to an even greater degree.

### **Courage**

Acknowledge the courage which has enabled you to face your feelings. Courage is being afraid, but doing it anyway. Keep the courage!

### **Patience**

Accept that you will not always be strong and that grief will take time

### **Resilience**

The capacity to bounce back from stress and go on is something that can be learned; ability increases with experience and age.

### **Perseverance and Endurance**

Have the faith that lasting through the pain will get you through.

### **Capacity to Distance**

It can be helpful to step back and view life from afar, see what has happened, is happening and can happen. Move ahead!

### **Sense of Humor**

Regaining your ability to smile and laugh is not a betrayal of your pain; grief is a curious mixture of many emotions. Laughter and humor may provide some necessary relief and strength for the suffering you are experiencing.

### **Openness to Others**

Many people say that without friends and relatives to support them, they would have had far more pain and loneliness during their period of grief. Choose your confidants carefully and use them. You may be wise to choose more than one.

Writing down affirmations seems to have certain advantages. When we write affirmations, the mind, hand, and eye are all involved. Many people resist the notion of writing because it sounds so simple, but it is perhaps because of simplicity that this method often works so powerfully for many people.

These are some possible affirmations you may choose to guide your approach to life from now on. Try creating some of your own:

- I cherish each moment of my life.
- I am not hiding my love from people.
- I resolve to help my friends in need of support.
- I am strong. I can grow from pain.
- I intend to live my life to the fullest; my time is precious.
- I will become open to new pathways and new relationships.
- I am learning.





**VNA Hospice Care**

VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION  
OF BOSTON & AFFILIATES

## NORMAL GRIEF RESPONSES

Grieving over the loss of a loved one is very painful and at times may seem overwhelming. Many of us wonder whether we are grieving the “right way” and worry whether the feelings being experienced are “normal”. The following are common feelings which you may encounter now and in the coming months.

- Feeling emotionally numb.
- Knowing that the death has occurred, but having difficulty believing that the death has really happened.
- Feeling tightness in the throat, heaviness in the chest or heaviness in the pit of one’s stomach.
- Having a loss of appetite or a desire to eat more than usual.
- Having a desire to smoke, drink, or use drugs (especially tranquilizers) in a greater amount than before.
- Feeling restless and looking for activity and finding it difficult to concentrate and to complete tasks.
- Having difficulty sleeping, waking in the middle of the night, and often dreaming of your loved one.
- Being overly concerned with your health and even developing symptoms similar to those of your loved one.
- Feeling exhausted and lacking in energy.
- Feeling low at times of birthdays, holidays, and special occasions.
- Spending money on things usually not purchased.
- Talking things over with the deceased person.
- Feeling mood changes over the slightest things.
- Feeling guilty for what we may have said or not said.
- Feeling guilty for not having done enough for our loved one.
- Being angry or irritated at the wrong person, the wrong circumstances or at the world in general.
- Feeling intensely angry at your loved one for leaving 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 **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.

\* \* \* \* \*

## ***Need Financial Help?***

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

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

\* \* \* \* \*

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



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

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

*Thank you for your support.*



## Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

### Daily Lectionary Scripture References – May 2023 (Year A)

**Mon., May 1**

Psalm 100  
Ezekiel 34:17-23  
1 Peter 5:1-5

**Tues., May 2**

Psalm 100  
Ezekiel 34:23-31  
Hebrews 13:20-21

**Wed., May 3**

Psalm 100  
Jeremiah 23:1-8  
Matthew 20:17-28

**Thurs., May 4**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
Genesis 12:1-3  
Acts 6:8-15

**Fri., May 5**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
Exodus 3:1-12  
Acts 7:1-16

**Sat., May 6**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
Jeremiah 26:20-24  
John 8:48-59

**Sun., May 7**

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 7:55-60  
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-14

**Mon., May 8**

Psalm 102:1-17  
Exodus 13:17-22  
Acts 7:17-40

**Tues., May 9**

Psalm 102:1-17  
Proverbs 3:5-12  
Acts 7:44-56

**Wed., May 10**

Psalm 102:1-17  
Proverbs 3:13-18  
John 8:31-38

**Thurs., May 11**

Psalm 66:8-20  
Genesis 6:5-22  
Acts 27:1-12

**Fri., May 12**

Psalm 66:8-20  
Genesis 7:1-24  
Acts 27:13-38

**Sat., May 13**

Psalm 66:8-20  
Genesis 8:13-19  
John 14:27-29

**Sun., May 14**

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 17:22-31  
Psalm 66:8-20  
1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 14:15-21

**Mon., May 15**

Psalm 93  
Genesis 9:8-17  
Acts 27:39-44

**Tues., May 16**

Psalm 93  
Deuteronomy 5:22-33  
1 Peter 3:8-12

**Wed., May 17**

Psalm 93  
Deuteronomy 31:1-13  
John 16:16-24

**Thurs., May 18**

*Ascension Day*  
Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Luke 24:44-53

**Fri., May 19**

Psalm 93  
2 Kings 2:1-12  
Ephesians 2:1-7

**Sat., May 20**

Psalm 93  
2 Kings 2:13-15  
John 8:21-30

**Sun., May 21**

*Seventh Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 1:6-14  
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35  
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11  
John 17:1-11

**Mon., May 22**

Psalm 99  
Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24  
1 Peter 4:1-6

**Tues., May 23**

Psalm 99  
Numbers 16:41-50  
1 Peter 4:7-11

**Wed., May 24**

Psalm 99  
1 Kings 8:54-65  
John 3:31-36

**Thurs., May 25**

Psalm 33:12-22  
Exodus 19:1-9a  
Acts 2:1-11

**Fri., May 26**

Psalm 33:12-22  
Exodus 19:16-25  
Romans 8:14-17

**Sat., May 27**

Psalm 33:12-22  
Exodus 20:1-21  
Matthew 5:1-12

**Sun., May 28**

*Pentecost Sunday*  
Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21  
John 20:19-23 or John 7:39

**Mon., May 29**

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Joel 2:18-29  
Romans 8:18-24

**Tues., May 30**

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Ezekiel 39:7-8, 21-29  
Romans 8:26-27

**Wed., May 31**

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Numbers 11:24-30  
John 7:37-39



## **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

02 Susan Newton  
05 Robyn Sliney  
24 Jennifer Dockham  
31 Ethan Bennett

## **JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

01 Tosh Napier  
03 Stephen Boyko, Justin Napier  
t05 Donna Zacharias  
06 Cindy Bateson

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## **MAY ANNIVERSARY**

5/21 Richard & Lynn Dewhirst

Married 34 years



		<h1>May 2023</h1> 				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Worship Service</b> <i>Sundays at 10:00 AM</i> <b>In-Person &amp; on Facebook Live</b> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen">www.facebook.com/firstchurchmethuen</a>	<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 4:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	<b>3</b> 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM Church Board	<b>4</b> 6:30 PM First Church Bells	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b> 
<b>7 Communion</b> 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:15 AM Fellowship	<b>8</b> 4:00 PM Chapel Staff 6:30 PM Outreach	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 4:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	<b>10</b> 8:00 AM Breakfast with Bill at Ellie's Farmhouse 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Diaconate	<b>11</b> 6:30 PM First Church Bells	<b>12</b> 	<b>13</b> 
<b>14</b> <i>Mother's Day</i> 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> 6:30 PM Stewardship	<b>16</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 4:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	<b>17 June</b> <a href="#">BEACON Deadline</a> 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 6:30 PM MDCC	<b>18</b> Chapel Art Show Set-up 6:30 PM First Church Bells	<b>19</b> Chapel Art Show Set-up	<b>20</b> 
<b>21</b> Chapel Art Show 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM <b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>22</b> Chapel Art Show	<b>23</b> Chapel Art Show 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 4:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	<b>24</b> Chapel Art Show 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl	<b>25</b> Chapel Art Show 6:30 PM First Church Bells	<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b> 
<b>28</b> 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:15 AM Fellowship 12:00 PM Walking Group (Methuen Rail Trail)	<b>29</b>  <b>Memorial Day</b> Church/Chapel School Closed	<b>30</b> 10:00 AM Walking Group (Riverside Park) 4:30 PM Methuen Food Pantry Distribution	<b>31</b> 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl			

*Dates and Times Subject to Change*

*First Church Congregational*

*United Church of Christ*

*26 Pleasant Street*

*Methuen, MA 01844-3199*

**Address Service Requested**