



The Messenger



First Parish Congregational Church, Saco
"A Christ-centered Inclusive Community of Faith
with Love and Hope to Share"

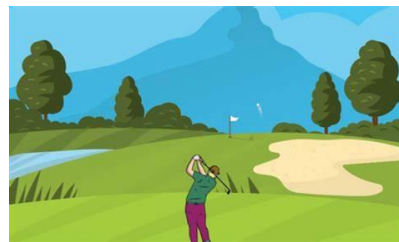
July 2023



Church Family Picnic Sunday, July 30 Ferry Beach State Park 95 Bayview Rd, Saco

It is summertime and time for some summer fun! Join us for an all-church family picnic at Ferry Beach State Park following the worship service on Sunday, July 30. The church will provide hamburgers and hotdogs for the grill and a container of lemonade. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share.

There is admission for the park. The park staff suggested carpooling. Cars (no limit on passengers) with passes can get in free. Otherwise, payment is per person. Seniors are free. Adults (Maine residents) are \$5.00, Children 5-11 are \$1.00 and children under 5 are free. Dogs are allowed (leashed) in the picnic area and on the paths. No dogs are allowed on the beach.



New Member Classes

Learn more about our church and its ministries.

We will be offering two opportunities for people to learn more about First Parish Church and its ministries on Sundays, July 16 and July 23, following the 10:00 AM worship service. Those who are interested need not attend both sessions, although you are welcome to do so. We will welcome new members on Sunday, July 30. If you are interested in joining the First Parish family, but these dates do not work for you, we will be offering another class in September. For more information about joining the church, please speak with Pastor Scott or one of our Deacons.



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Keep your eye
out and mark
your calendar!
Something
special will be
happening on
September 17!



Rev. Scott W. Cousineau, Senior Minister
Kristine Galasyn, Director of Christian Education
Jacqueline Savage, Music Director
Sue Burgess, Office Administrator

12 Beach Street,
Saco, ME 04072
207-283-3771

www.firstparishsaco.org
email – office@firstparishsaco.org
Facebook – First Parish Saco UCC
Instagram – @FirstParishSaco



Pastor Scott's Message...



The Pastor's Perspective ...

One part of my seminary education was a program called Field Education. It is precisely what the name implies ... becoming educated by working in the field. It is the seminary equivalent of an internship. I do not know if it is still the case, but my Field Education experience had several components. There was the ministry itself in a church setting. There was the Teaching Parish Committee which was a group of people at the church with which I met on a regular basis. There was also my supervisor who was one of the members of the church staff. And finally, there was a peer group of fellow seminary students that met weekly to discuss our experiences.

I was surprised when some of the members of my peer group complained that they "got stuck working with the kids" at the church. Got stuck?! Clearly, some of my colleagues may not have responded to the same call to which I responded. Ministering with the children and youth is a blessing. So much so, in fact, the I decided to do a second year of Field Education with a second church so that I could get a broader experience. (Don't hurt yourself patting yourself on the back, Scott.)

I spent this morning with the Vacation Bible School children. I love Vacation Bible School. I am sharing the Storyteller role with Peter Gray. Today I told the story of Moses and Miriam. I put on a costume and naturally some of the children were saying, "We know it's you, Pastor Scott!" As I told the story, some of the children watched with their eyes wide open and looks of wonder on their faces. Got stuck?!?! That look of wonder is one of the favorite things that I have the privilege of experiencing in my ministry. A few minutes earlier, one of the children came up to me in the sanctuary and reached up and held my hand. I held his hand as we walked down the aisle so that he could take his seat with the other children. GOT STUCK?!?! That was the most precious thing that happened to me all day!

You know what might be fun to try some day? Vacation Bible School for adults!! Would you like to play, and sing, and do crafts like you did when you were a kid? Would you like to put on costumes and act out the Bible stories? Would you like to see the world and hear the stories through wide open eyes of wonder? Hmmm ... Let us think of all the possibilities!

In the meantime, I am so thankful to serve a church family that values every child. I am grateful for a church that truly believes that each child is a precious child of God and embraces every child in arms of loving welcome. I cannot wait to see what wonders and blessings tomorrow brings.

Peace,
Scott

By the way ... I would love for First Parish Church to become a Field Education site. Let us work on that too.





Vice Moderator Update...



The month has been busy in the church.

We are advertising for a new Sexton. Guy completed his work with us on May 31st. He worked hard supporting our church along with Spurwink in Sexton duties. He will continue to help us with building infrastructure (Heating, vent, A/C) issues.

The Facility team has been given the Compliance of Appropriateness from the town of Saco to install solar panels on the church roof. Saco has approved our request. Revision Energy will be making a presentation to Council at our next meeting. Revision Energy has provided us a quote for install and the payback numbers. We need to review this, ask any questions of the Council and decide if this is a good opportunity for the church. Next would be some form of fundraising effort to cover the costs.

Bill Donoghue and Bob Mohlin attended a security conference put on by Homeland Security and the State of Maine. A visit of First Parish was set up with Homeland Security to perform a walkthrough and advise on additional safety measures we may want to take. The discussion was extensive and well-received and we await the report. Because the building is so expansive, the list of suggested improvements could be extensive. As TJ, from Home Security, said we get to choose what options we would like to implement. Each year, we can implement a few items and then request grant money to cover the cost.

The review of the Bylaws has begun and we will be assembling a team for that review. If you have any suggestions for changes or additions, please send me an email or speak to me in coffee hour.

We will be starting the budget review in the late summer and have an earlier Stewardship period so we won't be racing through the holidays to be prepared for Annual Meeting in January. You will be hearing more in the coming months. If anyone would like to help with stewardship this year, please let the Finance Team know. (Glenys Salas, Dale Siulinski, Patrice Tripp, Amy Chute, Bob Condon)

Have a good summer!!

Bob Condon
Vice Moderator






Deacon Ministry

As members of the Diaconate, we all strive to be a welcoming presence to members, friends, and visitors on Sunday mornings. As we extend a friendly greeting, we are grateful for the beautiful church we have, that serves as a beacon of light, and welcomes all!

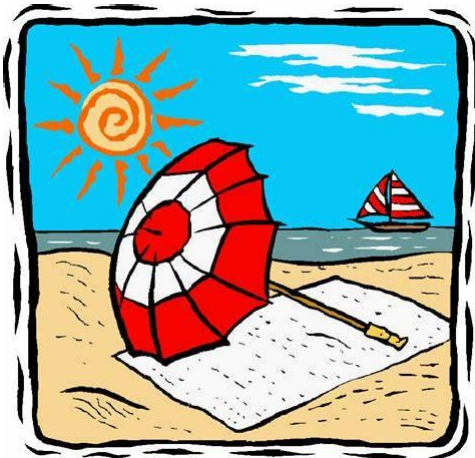
Such a spacious facility takes much to keep it clean and shining! And so, I want to take this opportunity to do a big "shout out" to the members of First Parish's Top of the Hill Gang!

For the last two months, since our former sexton needed to step down, the Top of the Hill Gang has been cleaning and maintaining our church! Did you know that our Acting Moderator and member of the Finance Team, has been cleaning the church bathrooms each week? Others have been wet mopping floors, vacuuming, setting up and breaking down tables for events, etc.!

These men have been generously giving of their time and talents to First Parish! When you see any of the Top of the Hill Gang, please make sure to thank them! They include: Sorren Arneson, Phil Blood, Wayne Carlson, Bob Condon, Ken Maclay, Peter Gray and Paul Martin.

It takes a village...all of us!

Margery Condon and Dan Carter,
Diaconate Co-Chairs





This article in "The Messenger" will focus on our different teams and groups here at First Parish. We hope this will bring more understanding to you and provide information as to what each team does, when they meet and the current members of the team. Perhaps it may pique your interest enough to join a team and help First Parish keep the light shining for all to see.

~~~~~

### Counters Team

On every Monday morning, unless Monday is a holiday, then it's Tuesday, First Parish Counters are upstairs in the conference room taking care of the money that you lovingly give to First Parish Church. The counters are a very dedicated and organized group, that carefully count every check and cash contribution and then record each offering to the designated giver. Each week one counter fills out a General Offering sheet that records the Envelope number, name of the family, check number and the amount. We also do the same for the cash offerings if they have a family name or envelope number associated with it. The checks are thoroughly examined to make sure the date, amount and signature are correct and hopefully the envelope number listed on the memo line. Loose offering is an offering that we do not know who donated it, but it is put into the general fund or discretionary fund. All recording sheets are sent to Amy Chute, the church treasurer.

Not only do we count and record the offering, but we count money that has come in for the bean suppers, concert series, diaper fund, memorial gifts and other fundraisers. We also record any rent checks that come in each month to the church for the use of the church facilities.

Each group of counters, painstakingly, count and recount all the cash and checks before we take it to Saco & Biddeford Savings to be deposited. That way, when the counters go to the bank, they can almost guarantee our adding machine slips and the bank will match. It's a good feeling when you walk away from the bank knowing everything is correct and you have done your duty as a church counter. Don't think this is a dry and boring time counting money. Far from it. There is always lots of laughter. We enjoy each others company and have plenty of time to tell stories and catch up on what's going on in everyone's life. It's a great way to contribute to the church in a behind the scenes activity.

All Counter's Reports are kept in the Church Office should there be any discrepancies with the statements that are mailed to contributors semi-annually.

Nancy Twomey – Chair, Susan Anton, Joyce Bissell, Jean Johnson, Susan Marston, Nadine Russell and Rick Twomey.





# Music & Arts Ministry

From Our Music Director  
Jacqui Savage

## Summer Pick-Up Choir

July 9th - August 27th

All Are Welcome!! Rehearsals are  
9AM on Sunday Mornings!







Summer is in full swing here at Saco First Parish UCC. June was a very busy month with Confirmation Bibles presented at the 10AM

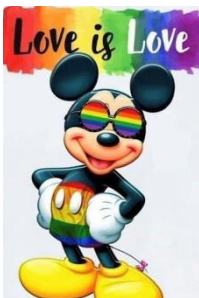
and offer a good selection of children and adult resources in our library. There is so much more that we would like to do.



If you know someone or maybe you are that someone that might help First Parish be more openly visible please share that with Pastor Scott, Freddie Connelly or myself.

This month our Christian Education Team will be scooping out ice cream cones at the Sunday July 2<sup>nd</sup> Fellowship time after the 10AM worship. The Christian Education team had their annual end of the year gathering. It is nice just to relax and enjoy each other's company. By the time I remembered to take this picture, Linda and Tracy had left. Thanks for all the amazing programs we were able to provide and especially to our fabulous teachers. Church school classes will resume in September.

See you at Church,  
*Kris*



Abbie and Lucas receiving their Confirmation Bibles



worship service on

Sunday. What a fabulous day as we celebrate Love in all its forms. Many wore rainbow colors to celebrate the day. For the past two years we have been intentional about our commitment to the LGBTQ community. We have designated a Sunday morning worship, have incorporated the use of Pronoun buttons,





## Pilgrim Lodge

Saco First Parish UCC has the following people going to Pilgrim Lodge this month

Camp Pride- July 9-15

**Alexis Brochu & Dexter Roberge**



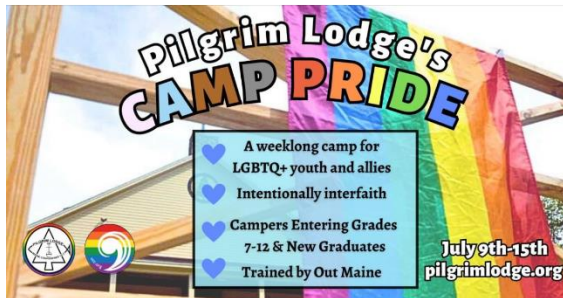
**Pilgrim Lodge**

2h · 🌐

You are welcome here!

Come be part of an affirming camp community! Find out more about this program here: <https://www.pilgrimlodge.org/camps/camp-pride/>

There are still scholarships available! <https://www.pilgrimlodge.org/summer-camp/scholarships/camp-pride/>



## Vacation Bible School

**WAS June 26-30**

**Monday – Friday**

More information and pictures will be in the August 2023 Messenger.



*Jesus says:  
“Let the little  
Children come*

*to me*

-Matthew 19:14

Helping **Lisa** and **Mary** in the Nursery for the month of **June** was:

4<sup>th</sup> **Lindsey Martel**  
11<sup>th</sup> **Kelsey Jackson**  
18<sup>th</sup> **Glenys Salas**  
25<sup>th</sup> **Lindsey Martel**

Thank you to all who have signed up for helping in our Nursery. Our sign-up sheet for the Spring and Summer is up and we hope you will continue your generosity by signing up.

*“It’s Only One Sunday!”*

First Parish Christian Education Team appreciates your time.



**Baptism**  
**May 28**

**Ava Delaney Morin**  
Catherine Morin





## Fellowship Workshop formerly known as Women's Fellowship UPDATE

We meet every Tuesday morning. You can drop in anytime between 9:00-11:30. The time is flexible to accommodate everyone! Some people knit, crochet, cross stitch, chat, color, enjoy tea or coffee...please join us!

June projects included: cleaning out the closets, planning for the fair, donating \$1,000 to the discretionary fund, and several funeral receptions.

We will continue to meet each Tuesday throughout the summer with the exception of June 27th during VBS week.

Jim W. is offering to mentor people in counted cross stitch. These workshops/lessons are open to all who are interested.

Patrice T. got some great ideas to repurpose wine corks into ornaments...so please save some!

This group is welcoming to all, and several new people are becoming regulars. It's a great time to socialize and enjoy each other's company. We meet in the atrium by the windows. See you there!!!



~~~~~

Anyone who may be interested in starting to do counted cross-stitch, please let me know.

This craft does require (as most) patience and close working eyesight. All ages can do it if they have the time and effort. I am a DMC-USA Mentor for this.

Jim Wheeler - JRWheater@aol.com



Flower and Altar Update

Thank you to those who provide flowers for the altar.

Altar flowers for the month of June:

June 4th given by Patrice & Richard Tripp in memory of Patrice's parents, Irene & Clayton Hoak.

June 11th given by Charles & Debra Clark Memorial Flower Fund in memory of Constance Clark.

June 18th given by Edward Olsen in memory of and Happy Father's Day, Uncle George.

June 25th given by Mari Warner in memory of Vera & Bob Warner



Sundays in July & August are open for altar flowers. If you would like to provide flowers on a Sunday, you can sign up (sheets are hanging outside the office). You can also contact Marcia Lord @ 207-768-1699 or Patrice Tripp @ 207-590-1109.

Members of the Flower & Altar Team have weeded and mulched the gardens on Beach & Main Streets. We are in the process of clearing, weeding and mulching the gardens on the parking lot side of the church. If anyone would like to assist, please contact Patrice or Marcia.



Mission Team Update

FMI – Carol Spencer-Lemay

Saco Food Pantry



Thank you for your support of the Saco Food Pantry!

Don't forget to donate to the Saco Food Pantry if you are able. The need is great.

Thank you for leaving your non-perishable donations in the shopping cart in the Atrium!

All non-perishable food donations or hygiene items are gladly accepted. Summer items needed are mayo, salad dressings, pancake syrup, complete pancake mix, canned meat, boxed mac and cheese and peanut butter.

The Saco Food Pantry, located at 67 Ocean Park Road, is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM, and the last Tuesday of the month from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM.



The Mission Team is Collecting Donations of Back to School Items! We need clothing *in excellent condition* in all sizes, *sturdy, clean* shoes in all sizes (especially children's shoes), and school supplies like backpacks, scissors, pencils, pencil sharpeners, pens, crayons, markers, binders, notebooks, glue sticks, paper, and boxes of tissues.

If you could save your items and deliver them to church starting **JULY 30**, that would be most appreciated. We also need volunteers to help us sort and organize items, and we need volunteers who are able to cut hair. Know any retired barbers or beauticians? See if they would be willing to donate 3 hours of their time to cut children's hair.

The date of the **Back to School Giveaway** is **Saturday, August 19, from 10 am to 1 PM**, but if you can't volunteer that day, check the sign up sheet for other days to volunteer. The Sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board near the office under Missions, or you can contact Carol SpencerLemay at 207 229-1902. We need your help!



There are numerous free events available during July & August.



Sunday evenings: Ocean Park

Bring your lawn chair to the bandstand for a concert!

<https://oceanpark.org/>

Mondays: beginning July 10th - Saco

Bring your lawn chair to the Burns School field - 6 pm concerts

Saco Main Street - <https://www.sacomainstreet.org/>

Rain location - First Parish Congregational Church - 12 Beach St



Tuesday: July 4th-Seaside Pavilion, OOB

7 pm - 195th Army National Guard Band

<http://www.seasidepavilion.org>

Thursdays: July only (6, 13, 20, 27)

Sanford - 6 pm - Water Ski Show!

Bring a chair & a picnic... Food trucks may be available!

<http://maineattractionwaterski.com/schedule.html>



Saturday: August 5th Ocean Park

Illumination Night

Biddeford, Mechanics Park, will also have a

Concert series (Wednesdays) check the city

Website for time and scheduled performances.

Heart of Biddeford - <https://heartofbiddeford.org/>

Scarborough Concerts in the Park Series

Thursdays beginning at 6:30 pm in Memorial Park

<https://scarboroughcommunitychamber.com/concerts-in-the-park/>

Look for your friends...meet new people...wear your FPC t-shirt to

"SHARE THE SECRET"!!



Looking for things to do in the area?

Check out www.pressherald.com/things-to-do/do-this-calendar

You can search by date, within a number of miles... you'll be amazed at what is happening in Maine!

Join us for a First Parish Bean Suppah!!

Mark your calendars!

July 8, 2023

Serving from

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

\$10.00 Adults

\$5.00 Children 6-12



Menu will be:

Pea Beans	Kidney Beans
Mac N Cheese	Hot Dogs
Coleslaw	Breads
Desserts	Beverages

W AND A ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY PRESENTS...

THE WANDA KIDS SUMMER THEATER CAMP

FOR AGES 7-17

JULY 17TH-AUGUST 11TH, 2023
M-F, 8AM-4PM
FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN SACO

Give your kids the tools they need to
succeed in any career.
WandaA Summer Theater Camps can help:

- Nurture positive self-esteem
- Strengthen friendships & community
- Foster independence

**Multi-week discounts available
&
Early Bird Pricing before May 1st**



**ENROLL YOUR KIDS
TODAY!**

SUMMER CONCERTS

First Parish Saco, Maine

Buy tickets ahead at firstparishsaco.org



PORTLAND BRASS

Independence Day Pop Concert

Sunday July 2nd

2PM

\$10.00



DENNY BREAU

Saturday July 15th

7PM

\$15.00



NIGHT OF TALENT

Saturday July 22nd

6:30PM

Donations Accepted



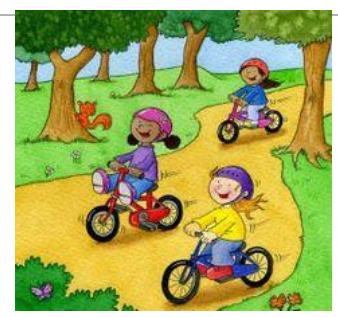
RAY CORNILS

Organ Concert

Sunday August 6th

2PM

\$10.00



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10am Service 1pm TV Service 2pm Concert	3 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30pm Big Book	4 OFFICE CLOSED 	5 9am Counters 4pm Diaper Bank	6 9am TOHG 5pm SoME Dance	7	8 5pm Bear Suppah 
9 8:30am Sacred Conversations 10am Service 1pm TV Service	10 9am Counters 6:30pm Big Book	11 9:30am Fellowship Workshop 5pm SoME Dance 7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom	12 4pm Diaper Bank 6:30pm Finance Team via Zoom 6:30pm Mission Team	13 9am TOHG 3pm Guiding Eyes for the Blind 5pm SoME Dance	14	15 7pm Concert
16 8:30am Sacred Conversations 10am Service 1pm TV Service	17 7am WANDA Camp 9am Counters 6:30pm Big Book	18 7am WANDA Camp 9:30am Fellowship Workshop 5pm SoME Dance 7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom	19 7am WANDA Camp 4pm Diaper Bank 6:30pm Mission Team 6:30pm Finance Team via Zoom	20 7am WANDA Camp 5pm SoME Dance 7:00pm GNT	21 7am WANDA Camp	22 
23 8:30am Sacred Conversations 10am Service 1pm TV Service	24 7am WANDA Camp 9am Counters 6:30pm Big Book	25 7am WANDA Camp 9:30am Fellowship Workshop	26 7am WANDA Camp 4pm Diaper Bank 6:30pm Council	27 7am WANDA Camp 9am TOHG 3pm Guiding Eyes for the Blind 5pm SoME Dance	28 7am WANDA Camp	29
30 8:30am Sacred Conversations 10am Service 12pm Diaconate 1pm TV Service	31 7am WANDA Camp	 				

The Messenger
First Parish Congregational Church
12 Beach Street
Saco, ME 04072

