



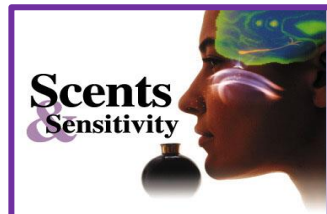
The Messenger



First Parish Congregational Church, Saco

*"A Christ-centered Inclusive Community of Faith
with Love and Hope to Share"*

June 2023



Some of our employees and guests of First Parish Church have a sensitivity to perfumes, colognes and other scented materials. For this reason, we ask that fragrances not be worn when visiting First Parish. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

First Parish Book Club

Meet in the Church Parlor

June 5, 2023 6:30 pm
Geraldine Brooks' "Horse"



Rev. Scott W. Cousineau, Senior Minister
Kristine Galasyn, Director of Christian Education
Jacqueline Savage, Music Director
Guy Rochefort, Sexton
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 ...



This is a BIG month for me. At some point in the month of June 2023 I will turn sixty years old. Each time we hit one of those milestone birthdays with a zero at the end we pause for a moment. (Maybe you do not pause, but I do.) That zero is like the looking glass through which we gaze and ponder where we are and how we are doing. As I begin my sixty-first year on earth, the view through the looking glass looks pretty good. I am happy. I am healthy. And I am serving a wonderful church family. Other than the occasional moan or groan that emanates from mouth when I stand or sit, I do not feel like I am sixty. Or maybe I do. I do not know. I have never been sixty before.

Just as I feel the need to stop and take stock in my personal life, the church family needs to do the same from time to time. First Parish Church is much older than I am, but we do not feel old. As we continue to emerge from the COVID pandemic, and as churches everywhere are trying to determine how best to manifest God in the world today, we should pause and consider how we are doing.

From my desk overlooking Beach Street, it looks like we are doing really well. Yes ... we have challenges, but overall we are trending in a positive direction. I love the energy and the spirit that I feel on Sunday morning. I love seeing the children jockey for space in the pews because so many of them come forward for children's message. I love seeing the Sunday school classrooms and the choir loft full. I love that the bean suppers are back, and our diners have enthusiastically returned. I love that the concert series has become so popular in only our first full year that performers are reaching out to us about being a part of the series. I love all of that, and so much more!

The first Sunday of this month, June 4, my sermon title will be, "Where Do We Go From Here?" Then, after we celebrate the Lord's Supper together, we will engage that question. We will consider what it means to be a gathered community of God's beloved children in the world today. We will consider what metrics we will use to measure success, or if we even need to measure "success" at all. For example, in a book that I read many years ago, it suggested that churches stop taking attendance on Sunday morning as a measure of their 'success,' and instead look at how many meaningful interactions they have during the week. We will consider if there may be some new, innovative, creative ways to follow the Way of Christ. After worship, we will carry the conversation and celebration into our fellowship hour. I will take all of your "Dancing Into Joy" ideas from the Sunday after Easter and post them on the wall. I will then invite you to add to that wall of ideas. All of that will lead us into a time of visioning and dreaming as we consider the aforementioned questions.

This is an exciting time in the life of First Parish Church. I am so glad that we are on this journey together!

Grace and Peace to you all!

Scott





Vice Moderator Update...



It is nice that the warm weather upon us except the frost last week got my tomato plants!!

The month has been busy in the church.

We will be advertising for a new Sexton as Guy has given his notice due to medical issues.

The Facility Team has been given the Compliance of Appropriateness from the town of Saco to install Solar panels on the church roof. This is the first solar opportunity in a Saco historic district. We thank Saco for their efforts to help us.

The Facility Team has produced a Building Usage Document as we may, in the future, look for an additional tenant. Currently we are not looking for a tenant as we need to make sure the building can be cleaned and serviced.

We have opened an account with Schwab to provide better interest rate than our local bank. This will add about \$12,000 to our operating fund. The account will hold the majority of our operating funds and we will keep approximately 1 months of working capital in our checking account. If we are going to be making any out of the ordinary spending, then I need to be notified so we can transfer additional funds into the bank checking account.

Bill Donoghue and Bob Mohlin attended a security conference put on by Homeland Security and the State of Maine. A visit has been set up with Homeland Security to perform a walkthrough and advise on additional safety measures we may want to take. A secondary security walkthrough may be made by the Saco Police. They did a walkthrough last year but never sent us a report. When asked for the report recently, they advised that they may need to do an additional walkthrough.

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.

Have a good summer!!

Bob Condon
Vice Moderator





This new 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.

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## **Diaconate**

### **What is the Diaconate?**

The Diaconate is a team of Deacons, with the minister, charged with the religious oversight of the Church, and doing our best to live that spirituality at home, work, in the community, and at First Parish Church.

### **Deacons at First Parish Church:**

- Help anyone who comes through our doors to feel welcomed and spiritually uplifted
- Assist the Senior Minister in ministering to the needs of the Church and the community
- Prepare the sanctuary for services, usher, serve Communion, receive new members, and collect the offering during the worship service
- Support church projects and missions, such as the Shepherding Project
- Operate within the Diaconate annual budget

### **Who can be in the Diaconate?**

- A member or friend of First Parish may serve on the Diaconate (Co-chairs must be Members or Associate Members of the Church, and at least three Deacons must be Members or Associate Members.)
- Someone who regularly attends church services
- Someone who is on a faith journey, and seeks to grow as a spiritual person

**Meeting Time:** We meet on the fourth Sunday of the month (except in July) at 12:00 noon, in the Conference Room.

**Current Diaconate Members:** Linda Carroll, Dan Carter (co-chair), Julie Carter, Margery Condon (co-chair), Chris DiMatteo, Karen Donoghue, Jen Erickson, Lorie Faubert, Jean Johnson, Susan Loker Schneider, Nadine Russell, Russ Tremblay, Aldene Walters, Peggy Warden

*We currently are seeking additional Deacons, and would love for you to consider joining with us! Our Diaconate currently consists of people relatively new to our church who have never been Deacons, members who have previously served as Deacons at former churches, and those who have formerly been Deacons at First Parish, and are returning to the Diaconate! Our Diaconate consists of a group of dedicated Deacons who enjoy each other's company, and provide a friendly and supportive environment!*

*Please contact Margery Condon for more information.*



# 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!



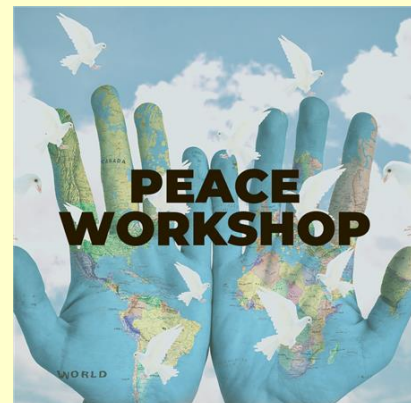
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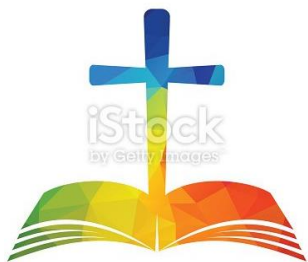
The third peace workshop is scheduled for **Sunday, June 11th from 1:30-4:00**. The theme for this time together is **Sowing Seeds of Peace**. As we've done for the past two workshops we will look at artworks, have a discussion and choose from a variety of art activities to explore and create our own works. At the end of the session there will be a sharing time.

This is an inter-generational activity for ages eight and up. Children eight to twelve must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is limited to fifteen people.

This is a free workshop funded by the Atkinson-Johnson Spiritual Growth Fund.

Register on the sign up sheet outside the office or see Judy Foote after church to find out more.





Welcome to June!

It is hard to believe that another program year is in the books. What a wonderful year it has been. We have seen new families come into our church. Therefore, we have seen growth in our Church school, our Nursery, our Junior choir and in our congregation. Thank you to all our families. Thank you to parents, grandparents and everyone that brings children to church. You are welcome here.



affirming extravagant welcome.

Thank you to our amazing Christian Education Team and our Church school teachers. They work tirelessly to provide meaningful, fun, and inclusive programming. Our teachers are in their classrooms from September through May.



Missing from this picture, Lisa Edstrom and Tracy Seymour, (they were in the nursery), and Karen Brann and Heather Nolette.

See you at Church,

Kris



Pilgrim Lodge

Saco First Parish UCC has eleven people going to Pilgrim Lodge this camping season.

Women's Spring Retreat- June 2-4

Lu Kachmar & Cathie Westcott

Faith Foundations- June 21-24

Ava Morin & Emily Savage

Camp Pride- July 9-15



Pilgrim Lodge

1h •

Check it out, Friends! Pilgrim Lodge is listed as one of America's Best Summer Camps for 2023 by Newsweek. Thank you to staff and volunteers who have created this legacy of excellence over many years!

<https://www.newsweek.com/rankings/americas-best-summer-camps-2023>



Alexis Brochu & Dexter Roberge
Ligten Up,
Loosen Up-
Aug. 7-11
Jamie Beals & Lynn Beals
Women's
Fall
Weekend-
Sept 15-17
Hope Guerrette
Lu Kachmar



High School and College Graduations

High School

Jamie Johnson

Graduate-Thornton Academy
Future-University of Southern Maine
Mother: Jean Johnson

Hope Poore

Graduate-Thornton Academy
Future-University of Southern Maine
Major-Vocal Performance
Parents: Jennifer and Nathan Poore
Grandparents: Susan and Alan Marston

Dexter Roberge

Graduate-Biddeford High School
Future- Southern Maine Community College
Major-Criminal Justice
Parents: Danielle and Marc Roberge
Grandmother: Denise Bilodeau

Alex Savage

Graduate-Casco Bay High School
Future- Georgia State University
Major-Music Production
Parents: Jacqui and Steve Savage
Amanda Romero
Grandparents: Ken and Paula Squires Maclay

Gabriella Amanda Walters

Graduate-Thornton Academy
Future- Marymount Manhattan College, NY
Major-Musical Theater
Minor-Business Management
Parents: Karen Hanna and John Walters
Grandmother: Aldene Walters

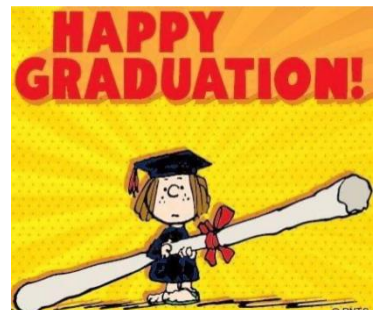
College

Kaeley Brann

Graduated from the University of Maine at
Orono
Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts
Future: Managing Casco Variety, Old Port
Parents: Karen and David Brann
Grandparents: Polly and Phil Curry

Anna DiMatteo

Graduated from Community College of
Vermont
AAS in Design and Media Studies
Parents: Allison and Chris DiMatteo



Vacation Bible School

June 26-30

Monday – Friday
9-11:30 AM



Children 4 years through 5th grade

Our theme for this year is **Hero Hotline:
Called Together to Serve God.**

Our Bible Verse is:



This summer at Hero Hotline VBS, your children will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible based good time as they are called together to serve God. After the daily Bible story, the children will expand on what they've discovered by making their own art projects at the Craft Station, singing new songs at the Music Station, exploring the wonders of God's creation at the Science Station, playing games at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty treats at the Snack Station. Along the way, the Heroes will hear about our service project as they respond to a call for action. Registration is open and on the website as well as hard copies at the VBS table in the atrium.

Our VBS team is back for another year ready to go.

FMI: kris@firstparishsaco.org



*Jesus says:
"Let the little
Children come
to me"*

-Matthew 19:14

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

7th	Tracy Seymour
14th	Cathy Baillargeon
21st	Tracy Seymour
28 th	Glenys Salas

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.



Baptisms April 30th



Oliver Reid Worster

Savannah and Joshua Worster

Grandparents: Sue Worster and Cleve Worster

Great Grandmother: Aldene Walters



Sophie Joyce Matula

Abigail and Paul Matula

Grandparents: Sue Worster and Cleve Worster

Great Grandmother: Aldene Walters

May



7th **Chloe Remillard**

14th **Jo Fitzgerald**

21st **Dexter Roberge**

28th **Cameron Wiggins-Mehlman**



Fellowship

So far we have received over \$400 to buy
Blankets from Church World Service

(CWS) This is much less than the last few years. These Blankets are \$10 each and provide relief in times of disasters. If you have not had a chance to donate, please do. Checks can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to FPUCC, 12 Beach St., Saco, ME 04072.

Please make checks payable to First Parish UCC with Blankets in the memo line. Envelopes will also be available. Thank you so much. Please remember that because Saco First Parish takes this offering we are gifted blankets for our MLK Day of Service to hand out to those in need.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPDATE



The Gingerbread Fair December 2, 2023!!!



The date is set for the 2023 Gingerbread Fair: December 2nd from 9:00 -2:00

We are in the planning stages during the Tuesday morning workshop sessions. Several people gather between 9:00-11:00...men and women...our group is growing each week. Some of us knit, sew, do needlework, drink coffee, tea, and discuss local issues. We are looking to use the space in the church in a safe and creative manner. After some time off, we had a very successful event in 2022 with lots of new people involved! Do you have some new ideas? Let us know. Are you willing to do what you did last year? Let us know.

The proceeds from the fair allows Women's Fellowship to sponsor Camperships to Pilgrim Lodge, support H.E.A.L., support the Diaper Bank, and get gift cards for groceries for our neighbors in need. Coffee, tea, and punch provided at funeral receptions along with flowers, plates, and napkins are also purchased.

Basically, everything comes back to help the needs of the community, so it really is an ALL CHURCH event!!!

Questions or ideas????? Contact us!!!

FAIR PLANNERS:
Glen Ellen Roth & Sue Neumyer



Flower and Altar Update

We have had a busy month, celebrating music, moms and children.

Thank you to:

Judy Klingensmith for the lovely banner celebrating Music Sunday.

Marston Poore for the banner celebrating Children's Sunday.

Marcia Lord for the banner in the Atrium celebrating children.



Altar flowers for the month of May:

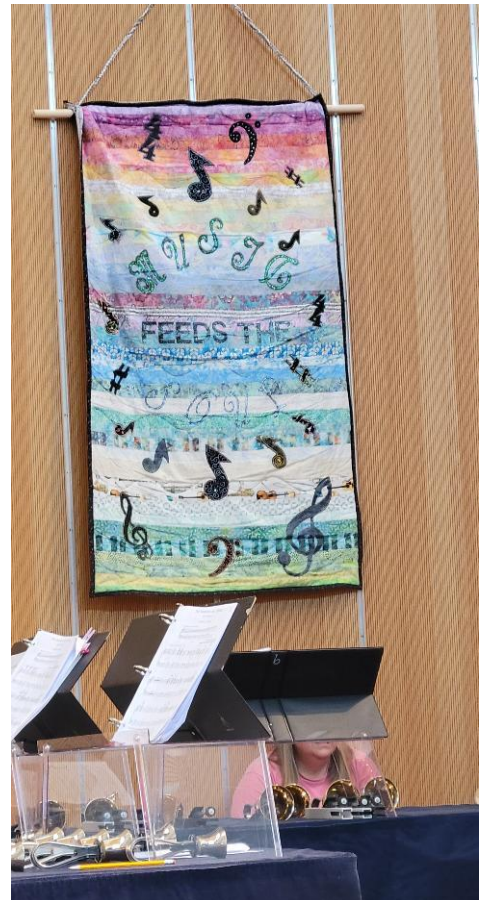
May 7th given by Edward Olsen in memory of all mothers.

May 14th given by Kathy Angel Lee in celebration of her 80th birthday and in memory of Tom Lee whose birthday would have been May 19th.

May 21st given by Wayne Larochelle in memory of Valerie Larochelle on the first anniversary of her passing.

May 28th given by Marcia Lord in Memory of her father and all who served in our military.

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.



How can YOU help feed the hungry? Here are 3 ways..

1



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!

Spring and Summer needs at the Food Pantry are: mayonnaise, salad dressings, complete pancake mix, syrup 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.

2

Volunteer at **Bon Appetit, Second Congregational Church, Biddeford** on the fifth Friday of the month, **June 30, starting at 3 pm or 4:20 pm**. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board near the office. Bon Appetit is a community meal program in which volunteers serve a free hot meal every weekday evening. Volunteers may help prepare the meal (starting at 2 or 3 PM). In addition (starting at 4:20 pm) volunteers serve drinks, salad, the entree, and dessert, and also help with the clean-up after the meal. Please introduce yourself to Jim Cortwright, the manager.

Directions to Second Congregational Church, 19 Crescent St, Biddeford, Maine: *From Alfred Street onto Jefferson (at the 7-11), Crescent St is angled left at the five corners. The Church is the large white building at the corner of Crescent and Graham. Park on the Street. Enter by walking up the left hand driveway (facing the church); then go up the narrow cement stairs on your right to the small door at the end of the sidewalk.* Please contact Carol SpencerLemay at (207) 229-1902 if you would like to share a ride.

3

Be prepared! Sharon Beckwith is coming on **June 25** to give us an update on **Daisy's Children**. Their feeding center in Concepcion del Norte, Honduras, was reopened in 2023 to provide nutritious meals to impoverished children. Sharon Beckwith started **Daisy's Children** in memory of Deysi Suyapa, a 24 year old mother who starved to death because she chose to feed her children instead of herself. To donate online, visit daisyschildren.org. Cash (labeled for Daisy's children) or checks may be donated at church. Make checks out to First Parish Congregational Church, with **Daisy's Children** in the memo line. For more information, contact Sharon Beckwith at daisyschildren@gmail.com.

Do you have shoes or clothing (in excellent condition) that you no longer need or that your children have outgrown? Can you donate backpacks or other school supplies? If you could hold onto those items until August 13, and then bring them to church between August 13 to 17 that would be a huge boost for our **BACK TO SCHOOL GIVEAWAY** scheduled for **August 19 from 10 AM to 1 PM**. If you are able to help set up and sort clothing and school supplies starting on August 13, please contact Carol SpencerLemay at 207 284-9088. Watch for the sign up sheet in the Atrium.

The **Strengthen the Church** special collection happened on Pentecost Sunday, May 28, but you may give to this special UCC Ministry at any time by leaving your donation in the office, in the collection plate, or online at ucc.org/stc. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.

**Tri City Community Chorus returns to
First Parish for its
25th Anniversary concert!
SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2023**



It feels like the blink of an eye since we stood on the risers in your beautiful sanctuary and celebrated our 20th Anniversary with song and memories that we still cherish.

So much has happened.

For 2+ years, we neither performed nor rehearsed together. The very thing that would have given us joy during the pandemic suddenly became the most unsafe thing we could do.

When we did perform again, we (reluctantly) left First Parish and moved to the stage at the Performing Arts Center at Biddeford Middle School, along with our director at the time, who was the choral teacher at Biddeford High School.

But for a lot of us, it never felt like "home."

On Saturday June 3 at 7:00 pm, we're coming full circle as we return to First Parish to present our 25th Anniversary concert, "Awake My Soul and Sing! The Year of Silver Jubilee."

We are thrilled to be back at First Parish, and we hope you'll join us in celebrating a quarter of a century of bringing music to our community.

Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$10 (seniors \$8) on our website, www.tricitycommunitychorus.com, or at Hannaford in Biddeford and Community Pharmacy in Saco. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$12 or \$10 for seniors.

Please come share this special evening with us and enjoy a program of old favorites and new compositions. It will be glorious!

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!

The First Parish Bean Suppahs are back!!!

Mark your calendars!

June 10, 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

SUMMER CONCERTS

First Parish, Saco Maine
For Tickets go to Firstparishsaco.org



Catie Curtis

**Saturday June 10th
7PM
\$15.00**

Portland Brass

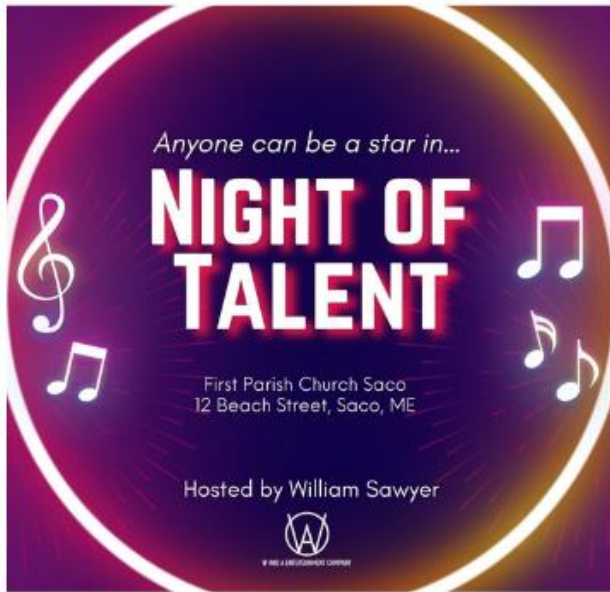
**Independence Day
Pop Concert**

**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
August 6th
2PM
\$10.00**



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

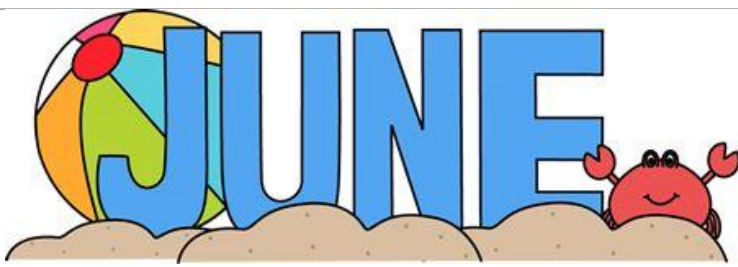
Give your kids the tools they need to
succeed in any career.
WandaA Summer Theater Camps can help:





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

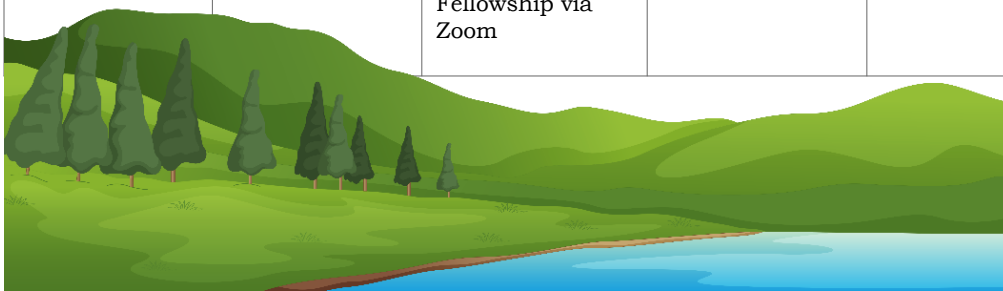
**Multi-week discounts available
&
Early Bird Pricing before May 1st**



**ENROLL YOUR KIDS
TODAY!**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9am TOHG 3:30pm Guiding Eyes 5pm SoME Dance	2 5pm Tri City Rehearsal	3 7pm Tri City Concert 
4 8am Sacred Conversations 10am Service 1pm TV Service	5 9am Counters 6:30pm Book Club 6:30pm Big Book	6 9:30am Women's Fellowship 5pm SoME Dance 6:30pm Facilities via Teams 7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom	7 4pm Diaper Bank	8 9am TOHG 5pm SoME Dance	9	10 5:00pm Bean Suppah  7pm Catie Curtis Concert 
11 Pride Sunday  8am Sacred Conversations 10am Service 1pm TV Service	12 9am Counters 6:30pm Big Book	13 9:30am Women's Fellowship 5pm SoME Dance 7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom	14  4pm Diaper Bank 6:30pm Finance Team via Zoom 6:30pm Mission Team	15 9am TOHG 4:30pm Smarty Pants Graduation 5pm SoME Dance	16	17 2pm Memorial Service for Rosemary Worth
18  8am Sacred Conversations 10am Service 1pm TV Service	19  6:30pm Big Book	20 9am Counters 9:30am Women's Fellowship 5pm SoME Dance 7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom	21  10:00am Theological Grp 4pm Diaper Bank	22 9:00am TOHG 5pm SoME Dance 7:00pm GNT	23	24 12pm Jacqui's Piano Studio Recital 
25 8am Sacred Conversations 10am Service 12:00pm Diaconate 1pm TV Service	26 9am Counters 6:30pm Big Book	27 9:30am Women's Fellowship 5pm SoME Dance 6:30pm Personnel Team 7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom	28 4pm Diaper Bank 6:30pm Council	29 9:00am TOHG 5pm SoME Dance	30 	



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