



The Messenger



First Parish Congregational Church, Saco

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

March 2023



Asking for everyone's help...

The January & February CMP bills have totaled more than \$6,300.00 for FPCC!!! If you are here for a meeting or working on a project, please consider alternate lighting methods e.g. lamps. We are working with CMP to inquire about the rate, and are looking into solar panels, but in the meantime, please help us cut back on electricity usage. **THANK YOU!**

We are getting BUSY!!!

What a blessing to have so much happening here at First Parish!! Keep that First Parish light shining bright!

If you or your team are planning on having a meeting, event, etc. **PLEASE** fill out the Building Use Form and turn it into the office so that we can ensure everyone has the space needed and we have the systems in place for comfort and safety.

First Parish Book Club

Meet in the Church Parlor

March 1, 2023 6:30 pm
Jane Healey's
"The Beantown Girls"

April 5, 2023 6:30 pm
Octavia Butler's
"Parable of the Sower"

May 3, 2023 6:30 pm
Matt Haig's
"The Humans: A Novel"

Do we have your current address, phone, email information? If not, or you're not sure, please fill out an Update form located on the table outside the office. You can leave the completed form in the box. Thank you!

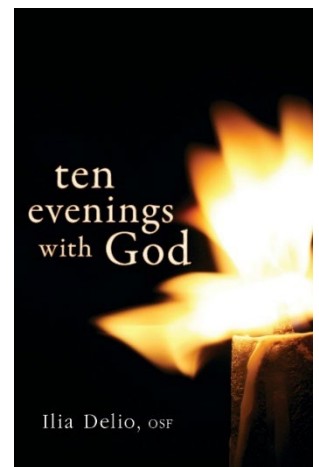
Winter Book Retreat Ten Evenings With God, by Ilia Delio

"...the source of our happiness and freedom lies in God when we come to know ourselves in God. To discover our identity is to find God, and to find God is to discover happiness in which lies our freedom."

With these words from the Introduction, author and theologian Ilia Delio invites readers to walk with her through ten short reflections on discernment as framed by fundamentals of the Christian life.

Wondering about where you are at in life? Or where you are headed? Join in this Winter book retreat to share questions, thoughts, and ideas! The group will meet January – March 2023 by ZOOM on Sunday evenings. Come for one or two meetings, or all ten. All are welcome.

FMI contact Tom Kircher at tomkircher999@gmail.com



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

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Saco, ME 04072
207-283-3771

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Instagram – @FirstParishSaco

The Season of Lent



Pastor Scott's Message...

The Pastor's Perspective ...



We began the season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service of worship. We had nearly fifty people attend. To be honest, that is the largest Ash Wednesday service that I have led in all the years of my ministry. When I got home that evening, I spent a few minutes on social media as I sipped my coffee. I saw some posts from people asking why some churches were observing Ash Wednesday because it is a "Catholic" thing. In the past, I have also had people tell me that the season of Lent is really more of a "Catholic" observance. It got me to thinking ... why are they perceived to be a season and a service primarily observed by one particular faith tradition?

Admittedly, I do not have any answers to the question, and I am not going to do a deep dive into the internet searching for related articles or journal entries. Instead, I will tiptoe down the path of speculation. Care to join me?

I wonder if the perception is based upon the way that many people view the season of Lent. We often hear people talk about giving up this or that for Lent. People give up chocolate, or dessert, or coffee, or television. Some people change their diets, fasting during Lent or giving up meat on Fridays. Having said that, there are those who talk about adding some sort of discipline or practice during this season or seeking to perform acts of kindness during Lent.

Some view Lent as a season of deprivation. There are churches that remove all of the decorations from their sanctuary, and others that do not celebrate communion. And there are others that walk through this season dedicating themselves to making positive choices in the things that they say and do.

As I drove home for lunch this afternoon, I contemplated what it would mean to make Lent a season of joy. Yes ... we know that we are journeying to Jerusalem with Jesus as he prepares for his crucifixion, but we know that horrific event is followed by Easter joy. What if we were to spend Lent preparing for Easter joy rather than the death on the cross. During the first couple of days of Lent, I have shared reflections about seeing the season as a time to encounter God in new ways. What is more joyful than walking hand in hand, heart in heart with God?! What is more joyful than listening for God's Voice and hearing God call you "Beloved"?

Let us not give Lent away. Let us not say, "Well, that is for someone else. That is their observance." May we look forward to this special time that we can spend with God. May we look forward to the loving and intimate conversations that we can share. May we journey with joy as we develop an ever-deepening appreciation for that sacred Easter morning. If you are on Facebook or Instagram, look for my daily Lenten Reflections on the First Parish Church pages.

Reminder ... I hope that you will plan to join me for lunch on Sunday, March 19, following the 10:00 AM worship service. I am looking forward to these fellowship opportunities at which we can deepen our relationships by sharing your stories.

May God bless you all on your Lenten journeys.
Scott



Vice Moderator Update



As we finish up the month of February, we see and feel signs of spring coming upon us.

We thank Dale for all of his work as Moderator providing leadership for all the ministries, working out legal matters and signing all of the checks!

We are looking for someone to step up and take the Moderator's leadership position. I will be the Interim Moderator for the time being. The perfect candidate would be a member of the church for an extended time and has served on one or more teams.

As a continuation of our efforts to meet our key outcomes from the annual meeting, we are asking teams to provide a monthly update including tasks their teams are working on, where they found success and challenging tasks. Thanks to Marianne Cook for requesting, collecting, summarizing and distributing each team's updates.

I wanted to thank everyone for returning their pledge card and prayerfully considering their contribution. Several of us reviewed the membership rolls after phone conversations to those we haven't seen or heard from recently. We pay a membership to the UCC Conference for each member so we wanted to have an accurate count of active members.

An important financial note is that our electric and propane bills have exponentially escalated. As a result, we are asking individuals responsible for the use of the building to keep the lights off especially in the Sanctuary and the Atrium. The small spotlights in the Atrium have been converted to LEDs, but the mercury vapor lights near the ceiling need fixture replacement which is expensive, due to their location (height) and cost of the new fixtures. Thank you for your consideration!

We are lucky so far that the lack of snowstorms has meant that our snow removal budget has not been hit hard!!

THANK YOUs

Thank you to the Good News Team for reorganizing our bulletin boards. The concern was that new members did not know where to go for up to date information on activities and team information. There is also a section for new ideas. Please write down ideas to be considered for the future!!

MY WISH

Last Sunday in service we had great attendance with loads of kids during the 10:00 AM worship service. You could feel the positive energy in the Sanctuary! If you are able, please have Sunday worship service in person as a community. Although attending worship virtually in your PJs and coffee cup may be convenient, being part of the community in the worship is the BEST!

Blessings,
Bob Condon
Vice Moderator





Dear Friends,

As we eagerly head towards spring, we've been happy to meet and greet many new faces to our church community! The overall feedback we've received repeatedly, is that people are looking for a church home where *Everyone* is welcomed, and they're finding it at First Parish!

Please keep wearing your name tag, to help in being part of our welcoming community! And if you've been waiting for your permanent name tag, please check at the Welcome Station. (Sue Burgess is printing them in batches, so as not to waste the card stock, but with our recent increased demand for them, many will be ready.)

On another note, I'd like to now profile another of our dedicated Deacons. Karen Donoghue, began attending First Parish with her husband, Bill, in September 2019, following their move to Maine from New Hampshire. They then joined the church in November 2019.

Karen is a retired registered nurse, and she and Bill have three children and two grandchildren.

Karen has been a member of the Diaconate since 2020. As part of the Diaconate, she was an active participant in the Anti-racism book group that was held via Zoom during the Pandemic.

Besides participating in worship services, she is involved with the inventory and ordering of Diaconate materials, along with Nadine Russell. Karen's favorite part of being a Deacon is greeting members, friends, and visitors to our church.

Karen's public health experience was a valuable asset during her participation on the task force charged with reopening First Parish safely during the Covid Pandemic.

Karen has also been involved with Women's Fellowship, two book groups, the Gingerbread Fair, and the Martin Luther King Day of Service at First Parish.

Please thank Karen for her dedicated service on the Diaconate when you see her!

Blessings to you,

Margery Condon and Dan Carter
Diaconate Co-Chairpersons





Director of
**CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**

The month of March brings new life as the days grow longer and warmer. With March comes a



new quarter for our Church school. Spring quarter consists of the next three months, March, April and May. We will continue with our stories of Jesus' ministry. The season of **Lent** is upon us. Many people give up something for Lent. Maybe this year we could emphasize **Kindness**.



Instead of giving up something let's do something extra. It is hard to believe, but the conflict in Ukraine has been happening for over a year now.

Lent would be a good time to PRAY for Ukraine, its people and for PEACE. Please let the sunflowers on our sanctuary windows and around our church remind you that this conflict is not over.



The **Pilgrim Lodge** schedule is out and looking awesome. So many cool camps, for the week, weekend, and half week

adventures. For more information go to www.pilgrimlodge.org. Pilgrim Lodge camperships will be available soon.

We have many PL alumni in our church family so if you have any questions, please ask. There are camping opportunities for ALL ages.

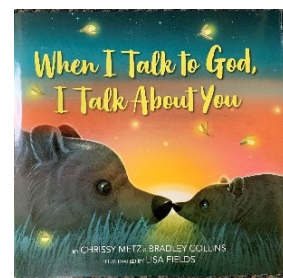
The Christian Education team is focused on helping everyone, regardless of age, to have the opportunity to attend Pilgrim Lodge. We will have camperships available to all who want to go.

Sunday, April 23, we will be singing camp songs and the new director, Liz Charles McGough, will be with us. We will have lots of information regarding PL at that time.

PILGRIM LODGE Summer 2023			
June 2 - June 4 JUMP START WEEKEND Ages 12-18	June 5 - June 6 CLERGY PRAYCATION Ages 18+	June 7 - June 8 WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL WIND Ages 18+	June 9 - June 10 CIT TRAINING Ages 18+
June 11 - June 12 ARTS ALIVE! FILM ADVENTURES! Ages 12-18	June 13 - June 14 CAMP PRIDE / MIDLER ISLAND CAMP Ages 12-18	June 15 - June 16 DESTINATION: HOGWARTS Ages 12-18	June 17 - June 18 PRIDE ACROSS THE AGES Ages 12-18
June 19 - June 20 CLERGY PRAYCATION Ages 18+	June 21 - June 22 WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL WIND Ages 18+	June 23 - June 24 CIT TRAINING Ages 18+	June 25 - June 26 ARTS ALIVE! FILM ADVENTURES! Ages 12-18
June 27 - June 28 CAMP PRIDE / MIDLER ISLAND CAMP Ages 12-18	June 29 - June 30 DESTINATION: HOGWARTS Ages 12-18	July 1 - July 2 PRIDE ACROSS THE AGES Ages 12-18	July 3 - July 4 CLERGY PRAYCATION Ages 18+
July 5 - July 6 WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL WIND Ages 18+	July 7 - July 8 CIT TRAINING Ages 18+	July 9 - July 10 ARTS ALIVE! FILM ADVENTURES! Ages 12-18	July 11 - July 12 CAMP PRIDE / MIDLER ISLAND CAMP Ages 12-18
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July 21 - July 22 CIT TRAINING Ages 18+	July 23 - July 24 ARTS ALIVE! FILM ADVENTURES! Ages 12-18	July 25 - July 26 CAMP PRIDE / MIDLER ISLAND CAMP Ages 12-18	July 27 - July 28 DESTINATION: HOGWARTS Ages 12-18
July 29 - July 30 PRIDE ACROSS THE AGES Ages 12-18	August 1 - August 2 CLERGY PRAYCATION Ages 18+	August 3 - August 4 WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL WIND Ages 18+	August 5 - August 6 CIT TRAINING Ages 18+
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Library News

We have a new book in our Church library. Teaching our children to Pray is very important. Sometimes we feel like we can't make a difference in this world but we can, we just need to PRAY. We just need to believe that God loves us and hears us. Thank you Glen Ellen Roth for donating this beautiful book to our library.



See you at Church,
Kris



Jesus says: "Let the little
Children come to
me" - Matthew 19:14

Helping Lisa and Mary
C. in the Nursery for the
month of February was:

5th Tracy Seymour
12th Mercy Hayward
19th Carol Spencer Lemay
26th Glenys Salas

"It's Only One Sunday

First Parish Christian Education Team
appreciates your time. **Thank you**

February



February 5 Emily Savage
February 12 Dexter Roberge
February 19 Connor Remillard
February 26 Jo Fitzgerald



Saturday, March 4th is
Vacation Bible School virtual
workshop for the 2023 theme:
Hero Hotline - Called Together to Serve
God.

We've learned to fly the air like birds,
we've learned to swim the seas like fish,
and yet we haven't learned to walk the Earth
as brothers and sisters.
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

you - you - youth



Thank you to all who supported our
Super Bowl fundraiser.

We sold over 100 subs and handed them
out after worship. Many thanks to all
those who helped prep and assemble.

We raised \$579.00. Our Souper Bowl
offering brought in \$371.00. "I was hungry
and you fed me." --- Matthew 25:35,

The Message by Eugene Peters. This money
went to **The Saco Food Pantry**





SUNDAY VALENTINES
FUNDAY



We Love because God first Loved us.
-1John 4:19

Music Ministry

From Our Music Director

jacqui@firstparishsaco.org



"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"
<https://youtu.be/H0tQYZUSkGA>

"You Do Not Walk Alone"

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=RDHZVGj5IzHxo&playnext=1>



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

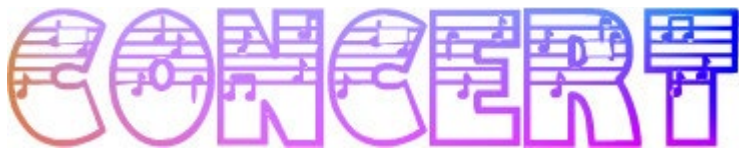
Give your kids the tools they need to
succeed in any career.
WandaA Summer Theater Camps can help:

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

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



**ENROLL YOUR KIDS
TODAY!**



2023 Concert Series

Looking for Sponsors

The 2022 Concert Series was a wonderful success. Attendance at the concerts increased as the series progressed. People in the area are starting to talk about First Parish Church as "that church with the concerts." Performers are beginning to reach out and inquire about being a part of the series.

We thank you for all of your support for the 2022 season. The 2023 Season is underway. We have the first six months scheduled. The performers include:

University of Maine Singers (3/16)
Pihcintu Chorus (4/23)
Local Music Live! Coffeehouse (5/6)
Catie Curtis (6/10)

In addition, we plan to conclude with the Chris Humphrey Big Band Christmas again.

As we begin this season, you are all aware that the church is running with a deficit budget for 2023. We really need the concert series to be a revenue stream to support our budget. If you are able, please consider becoming a sponsor for one (or more) of our concerts. Perhaps you, your business, or a group of friends could do it together. Sponsorships would enable all of the ticket revenue for the performance to go toward the church budget.

If you are interested in sponsoring a concert, please speak with Pastor Scott or with Jacqui Savage.





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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### **Women's Fellowship**

**When did the Women's Fellowship group officially start?** In the year 1909! At that time, the title of our group was "The Madisses", which represented the *madams* and *misses* of the congregation.

**Who are the members?** All the women of the church belong to this group. Glen Ellen Roth is the chair. Maureen O'Donnell has been the vice-chair, and Carol Spencer-Lemay has been the secretary. Sue Neumyer was not the chair of the fair(!), but was in charge of advertising the church fair.

**When does this group meet?** Women meet Tuesday mornings in Fellowship Hall starting at about 9:30 am to talk, or knit, or sew, or drink some coffee. We usually end at about 11:00 AM.

**What is the purpose of this group?** We have many roles! Our biggest emphasis is on loving one another and learning about each other in order to strengthen the community of God. Although we stopped meeting during COVID, we hope to start resuming fellowship brunches or lunches at a time when all may attend. We give back to our church and the community in many ways, which will be outlined below. We organize (at minimum) one large fundraiser per year on the first Saturday of December, which is the Church's Gingerbread Fair. We are usually involved in hosting the receptions after a funeral.

**How does Women's Fellowship Support the Church financially?** We pledge income to the church every year. In addition (this past year alone), we paid for the new refrigerator for the kitchen and bought an air hockey game for the Youth Room. We provide the coffee for Coffee Hour. (Women's Fellowship likes to supply whatever equipment or supplies may be needed for the kitchen or funerals.) Every year we provide scholarships for Pilgrim Lodge campers. For the next year, we plan to pay for the church's Google advertising campaign. We can't even recall all the items or monetary support we have given to our church over the years! We never ask for any money from the church's budget. All our income is from our fundraising activity.

**In what ways does Women's Fellowship support our broader community?** In the past we donated funds to many and varied philanthropic organizations. Most recently, we supported H. E. A. L., (*Health, Education, Ample Nutrition, Love*) which is an orphanage in Kenya. <https://healraisingourworld.org> We also encouraged people to knit blue hats for #HATNOTHATE, which works with schools to encourage kindness through creativity. <https://hatnothate.org> We gave away yarn to anyone who requested it, and sent yarn to a church that wanted to start a knitting group for prayer shawls.

**Who is the contact person?** You can contact Glen Ellen Roth at [droth@maine.rr.com](mailto:droth@maine.rr.com) or (207) 229-3196.

# Flower and Altar Update

## Easter Flowers

Members of the Flower and Altar Team will be taking orders, after Sunday service, for Easter Lilies, in honor of or remembrance of loved ones, on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>. You may also contact Marcia Lord at [mvlord@aol.com](mailto:mvlord@aol.com) or 207-768-1699.



## Banners for Lent

Following the fire in 2000, seasonal paraments were made for the reopening of our church on December 5, 2004. The paraments were made by Shirley Gibson, Donna Goulding, Kathy Angel Lee, Prue Nemes, Karen Nielsen, Natalie Skelton and Phyllis Wood. Gisele Cantin and Martha Curtis assisted in the design. Phyllis Wood donated the backing fabric, which came from Hawaii.

Members and friends signed the blocks as a commemorative gesture. On Homecoming Sunday, the altar cloth was used as a banner when we walked from Thornton Academy to the church.

As purple is the color for Lent, as well as Advent, Flower and Altar will be using the paraments as banners this Easter season. A piece of our past that gives us hope for our future.



## Sunday Flowers

Thank you to everyone who continues to provide flowers for the altar on Sundays. If you want to provide flowers on a Sunday, you can sign up (sheets are hanging outside the office). You can also contact Marcia Lord @ [mvlord@aol.com](mailto:mvlord@aol.com) or 207-768-1699 or Patrice Tripp @ [rtripp@maine.rr.com](mailto:rtripp@maine.rr.com) or 207-590-1109.

Flowers were provided in February by

- Glen Ellen Roth in memory of Donald Roth, Sr.
- Charles & Debra Clark Memorial Flower Fund in memory of Fred Clark, Sr.
- Edward Olsen in memory of his grandfather, George Olsen, Sr.
- Martha & Bill Conlan in memory of Charles Smith





# Mission Team Update

FMI – Carol Spencer-Lemay  
SpencerLemay2@gmail.com



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.

The Saco Food Pantry staff and volunteers are grateful for all the donations from First Parish Congregational Church. **Peanut butter, jelly, complete pancake mix and syrup** have been hardest to keep on the shelves recently. **All** donations of food and hygiene items are gladly accepted. (Place the donations in the shopping cart located in the FPCC Atrium.)

The Saco Food Pantry is careful about not wasting food, if at all possible. The pantry strives to minimize waste and local farmers collect the expired produce to feed their livestock. If the pantry has an excess of certain items, those foods are put outside for anyone to take during business hours.

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.

## MARVELOUS MARCH MISSIONS:

### Help feed the hungry during Lent!

Join Lorie Faubert and Carol Spencer-Lemay in serving patrons at **Bon Appetit, Second Congregational Church, 19 Crescent St, Biddeford, Maine** from **4:20 pm until 6pm on Friday, March 31**. Please sign up on the bulletin board under MISSION, or contact Carol SpencerLemay at [spencerlemay2@gmail.com](mailto:spencerlemay2@gmail.com) or (207) 284-9088.



The Mission Team is planning to assist at Bon Appetit on the 5th Fridays of the month since the number of volunteers is usually low on those Fridays. Bon Appetit is a community meal program in which volunteers serve a free hot meal every weekday evening. Volunteers may help prepare the meal, if needed. From 4:20 PM until 6:00 PM, volunteers serve drinks, salad, the entree, and dessert, and also help with the clean-up after the meal. If you would like to help at a different date or time, contact the manager, Jim Cortwright on the website: <https://www.bonappetitmealprogram.com> or go to Second Congregational Church, Biddeford, on any weekday between 3 and 4 pm to introduce yourself.

## PLAN AHEAD FOR APRIL:

The **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** at First Parish Congregational Church, Saco, is occurring **Saturday, April 22 from 9 AM to 1:45 PM**. To make an appointment to donate blood, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter our 04072 zip code, or call **1-800-RED CROSS**.

### Help Clothe the Needy

The Mission Team accepts donations of shoes or boots in excellent condition all year long. In addition, we are asking for donations of socks to help those who need them. Your donation of socks may be left on or near the shoe display.

The Mission Team is interested in input from other members of the Congregation about how best to serve our community. Join us on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Parlor of First Parish Congregational Church.

How your donations help the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This letter was received from a couple who we were able to help thanks to your contributions. THANK YOU!

February 8, 2023



Dear wonderful friends,

I know we don't know each other and that, to me, makes your generosity so astounding.

We were in need for the first time in my sixty-five years.

My husband and I have both worked very hard over the years. We thought we were working toward a modest retirement. But, as life goes, we got a few speed bumps that really changed everything.

After working as a florist for forty years I took time away to care for my Dad who suffered from Alzheimer's and terminal cancer. Then my husband was injured at work. He was sent to rehab after having surgery. A year later his job was terminated because he would never be able to work again. That left us in financial turmoil.

Not long after that my husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. We were in trouble. 3 years later my Dad passed away at the age of 96.

We sold our home (had to) and were going to build a modest home. Everything was set to start when prices of wood and such skyrocketed. Then COVID came and we were sunk.

We ended up living in an RV with no heat or water. We had a generator and were trying to stay warm in the hope that COVID would end and prices would go down.

We ended up being told to leave the RV. That was eleven days before Christmas. God smiled down and we were able to rent in Sanford.

We have been here about 4 years now. Our nest egg dwindled. My husband got disability but the amount hardly covered the rent.

I was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and needed heart valve surgery. It took a while but I am much better now.

We looked for help and got rental assistance. It surely helped us and was a real lesson in humility! Never did we imagine that we would fall so far.

Our landlord, a nice man, raised our rent. A couple of days later we were told that rent assistance was over. We were in total panic. That panic has not stopped.

We sold things to pay the rent for a couple of months. That is done.

We were at a doctors appointment and my husband's doctor told us about the lend a hand program. That led us to you.

A true miracle. We were days away from eviction. I was at the end of my rope. Then the phone rang and there you were, willing to help 2 complete strangers.

And help us you did! We are still here in a safe place for this month.

There are no words to express to thank you all for your amazing help. Please know how much this means to us. Please believe how thankful we are and how you have helped us. God Bless.



# Ways you can help in our communities...



Greetings,

I'm a coordinator for our two senior volunteer programs at the Opportunity Alliance, Senior Companions and Foster Grandparents.

For more than 30 years, our senior (55+) volunteers have been serving their local communities—Foster Grandparents offering individualized attention to students in their classrooms, Senior Companions supporting their peers in maintaining their independence at home and in the community.

In the process—as participants in this AmeriCorps-sponsored program--our volunteers (who are qualified under federal income guidelines) earn a small non-taxable stipend and mileage reimbursement for their 10-40 hrs/wk served. In this way, they benefit both from a structure (including extensive training and background checks) that supports their sense of purpose and giving, as well as providing funds that help them manage their own living expenses. This stipend also does not count against any benefits a volunteer may receive such as subsidized housing, food stamps, LIHEAP, Social Security, etc.

Based on being an area of high community need, at this time we specifically are trying to make inroads with finding interested and qualified volunteer applicants in Saco.

For this reason, I wanted to try contacting you to see if you might have any ideas for identifying potential candidates for our volunteer programs from within your congregation. I have attached a flyer that can be used to let folks know about this opportunity either at church or to forward via email.

If you do not have printing capabilities, please let me know and I would be happy to send printed flyers to your church!

I would be grateful for any suggestions you may be able to offer. I also am happy to answer any questions you may have.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider whether any members of your extended community might qualify for and be well suited to participation as volunteers in our program.

Sincerely,

**Kathy**

Kathy Kigin she/her/hers ([why pronouns matter](#))  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions  
222 St. John St. Suite 302B  
Portland, ME 04102

[kathy.kigin@opportunityalliance.org](mailto:kathy.kigin@opportunityalliance.org)  
<http://www.opportunityalliance.org>

direct 207-553-5972  
office 207-773-0202  
fax 207-874-1182

**My work schedule is Monday through Thursday, 9am-5:30pm.** If you need assistance on a Friday when I am not in the office, please call (207) 773-0202 and ask to speak with one of the available senior volunteer coordinators or email [fgp@opportunityalliance.org](mailto:fgp@opportunityalliance.org)

Welcome  
Spring

## Who do you know?

The Opportunity Alliance  
needs older adults to join  
our team of volunteers!

**(207) 773-0202**

[fgp@opportunityalliance.org](mailto:fgp@opportunityalliance.org)



AmeriCorps  
Seniors

The Opportunity  
Alliance

### Foster Grandparents

provide children with academic and social support in schools and child development centers.

### Senior Companions

provide transportation and home visits to isolated older adults.

- Receive \$3.15 tax-free stipend, meals, paid mileage, training, and more
- Must be age 55+ and meet income guidelines to apply



## Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland is looking for families to own new homes in Standish.

Habitat homes are for affordable, energy-efficient and for people who never thought they could own a home!

***Think you don't qualify? A family of four can earn up to \$73,255!***

Future homeowners must make no more than 65% of the area median income and demonstrate a need for affordable housing, an ability to pay a low interest mortgage, and a willingness to partner with Habitat.

### **How to Apply:**

1. Download an application or request a mailed copy online at [habitatportlandme.org/apply](http://habitatportlandme.org/apply) **OR** pick it up at 659 Warren Ave, Portland, ME
2. Ask questions and get help filling out your application:  
Group sessions available:  
March 4-7 (Scarborough)  
March 8-9 (Standish)  
March 13-14 (Gorham)  
March 15-16 (Windham)  
One-on-one meetings available by request
3. Completed applications due by noon on April 5, 2023



Questions? Email Family Services Director, Molly, at [molly@habitatme.org](mailto:molly@habitatme.org) or call 207-772-2151 x 104.

Looking for things to do in the area? Check out [www.pressherald.com/things-to-do/do-this-calendar](http://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!

March 11, 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    |



**FIRST  
PARISH  
SACO**

**2023**  
*Concert  
Series*



**U-Maine  
Singers  
March 16th  
@ 7pm**

**\*Special Price!  
\$10 Tickets**

**Local Music LIVE**



**@  
First Parish  
May 6th**

**\*Free Admission**

**A place where local artists can  
show their stuff! More Details  
Coming Soon!**

**Pihcintu  
Multinational  
Girl's Chorus  
April 23rd  
@ 4pm**



**Catie Curtis  
June 10th  
@ 7pm**



**\$15 online  
+applicable fees**

**\$20 @ the door**

**Tickets available at  
FirstParishSaco.org**



# HOLY WEEK



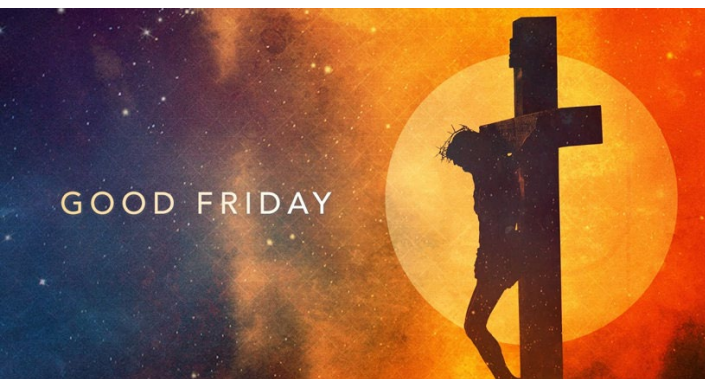
Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
10:00 am Service

**MAUNDY  
THURSDAY**

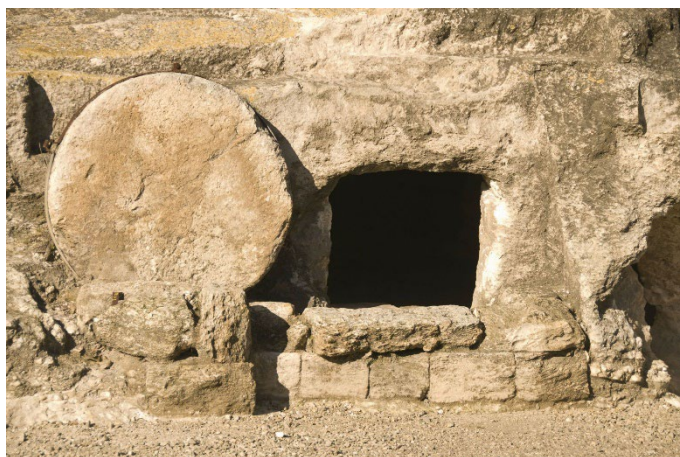


Maundy Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 pm Service

GOOD FRIDAY



Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
Sanctuary will be open  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm



Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am Service





# March Events



| Sunday                                                                                                                                                   | Monday                                                                                                                                            | Tuesday                                                                                                                            | Wednesday                                                                                                                            | Thursday                                                                                                | Friday                                                                                      | Saturday                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                    | 1<br>4pm Diaper Bank<br>5:15pm Jr Choir<br>6pm Girl Scouts<br>6:30pm Book Club<br>7pm Sr Choir                                       | 2<br>9am TOHG                                                                                           | 3                                                                                           | 4<br>10:00am VBS Workshop                                                                                       |
| 5<br>8am Sacred Conversations<br>8:50am CE Team<br>10am Service<br>11:30am M&A<br>1pm TV Service                                                         | 6<br>9am Counters<br><br>6:00pm Bell Choir<br>6:30pm Big Book                                                                                     | 7<br>9:30am Women's Fellowship<br><br>6:30pm Facilities Team via Teams<br>7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom                            | 8<br>4pm Diaper Bank<br>5:15pm Jr Choir<br>6:00pm Girl Scouts<br>6:30pm Finance Team via Zoom<br>6:30pm Mission Team<br>7pm Sr Choir | 9<br>9am TOHG<br><br>3:30pm Guiding Eyes                                                                | 10                                                                                          | 11<br>5:00pm Bean Suppah<br> |
| 12<br><b>Daylight Savings Begins</b><br>8am Sacred Conversations<br>10am Service<br>11:15am Youth Choir<br>1pm TV Service<br>3:00pm – Guerrette Function | 13<br>9am Counters<br><br>6:00pm Bell Choir<br>6:30pm Big Book                                                                                    | 14<br>9:30am Women's Fellowship<br><br>7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom                                                               | 15<br>10:00am Theological Group<br>4pm Diaper Bank<br>5:15pm Jr Choir<br>6:00pm Girl Scouts<br>7:00pm Sr Choir                       | 16<br>9am TOHG<br><br><b>7:00pm – Concert UMaine Singers</b>                                            | 17<br>  | 18                                                                                                              |
| 19<br>8am Sacred Conversations<br>10am Service<br>11:15am Youth Choir<br>11:30am Lunch with Pastor<br>1pm TV Service                                     | 20<br>9am Counters<br><br>6:00pm Bell Choir<br>6:30pm Big Book | 21<br>9:30am Women's Fellowship<br><br>7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom                                                               | 22<br>4pm Diaper Bank<br>5:15pm Jr Choir<br>6pm Girl Scouts<br>6:30pm Council via Zoom<br>7pm Sr Choir                               | 23<br><b>Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00 pm</b><br>9:00am TOHG<br><br>3:30pm Guiding Eyes<br><br>7:00pm GNT | 24<br><b>Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00 pm</b>                                                 | 25<br>11:00am Shower                                                                                            |
| 26<br>8am Sacred Conversations<br>10am Service<br>11:15am Youth Choir<br>12:00pm Diaconate<br>1pm TV Service                                             | 27<br><b>Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00 pm</b><br>9am Counters<br>6:00pm Bell Choir<br>6:30pm Big Book                                               | 28<br><b>Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00 pm</b><br>9:30am Women's Fellowship<br>6:30pm Personnel Team<br>7pm Men's Fellowship via Zoom | 29<br><b>Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00 pm</b><br>4pm Diaper Bank<br>5:15pm Jr Choir<br>6pm Girl Scouts<br>7pm Sr Choir                 | 30<br>9:00am TOHG                                                                                       | 31<br> |                                                                                                                 |

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

