



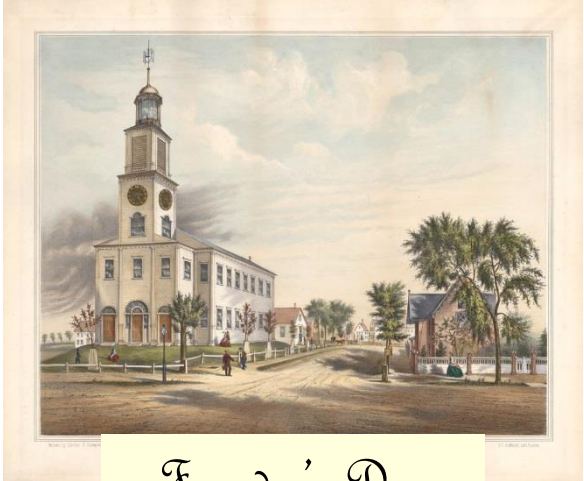
The Messenger

*F*irst Parish Congregational Church Saco

The Church with Love and Hope to Share



October, 2021



Founder's Day
October 13th



Help Needed...



Disabled gentleman is looking for help with vacuuming and dusting in his home once a month. Please contact the Church office if you would be willing to assist.



Looking for volunteers to come into the office to cover phones Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. All that is needed is to answer the phone and forward emails if necessary. If you're willing to assist please contact the Church office or Sue Burgess sueb1972@gmail.com.

Let that First Parish Light shine brightly.

Scott Cousineau, Senior Minister
Kristine Galasyn, Director of Christian Education
Jacqueline Savage, Music Director
Nadeen DeSilva, Office Manager
Guy Rochefort, Sexton

12 Beach Street,
Saco, Me 04072
207-283-3771
www.firstparishsaco.org



Pastor Scott's Message...



The Pastor's Perspective ...

I hate to wheel out the old trope ... but ... Time certainly does fly! It is hard to believe that we are already flying into October. Vacation Bible School was just yesterday, and Easter was the day before that. People are already setting out their mums and pumpkins. We might as well put the shepherds and the magi into our Halloween displays!

However, the old trope is true. We just began our new program year, and we are already planning for Advent and Christmas. Time does fly when we are having fun!

And we are having fun. Homecoming Sunday was a wonderful, joyful celebration! Our hearts and spirits were filled and lifted to the rafters with the sounds and sights. We offered our first live and in-person Children's Message in a year and a half. It was an emotional day as we remembered what we had missed and looked forward to bright new possibilities.

Last month, I offered some of the things that I am excited about in the coming year. I can now add a little more detail.

New Member Classes ... We are offering sessions for three consecutive weeks, September 26, October 3 and 10, following the worship services so that new members can learn about the church and also meet one another. New members need not attend all three meetings, but you are welcome to do so. We hope to have a New Member Sunday ... or two ... in November.

Advent Bible Study ... Advent begins on Sunday, November 28. (Move your shepherds and magi from your Halloween display into the Thanksgiving cornucopia.) The challenge with offering anything new is WHEN will we have it? We have a very full calendar at First Parish Church. After looking at the calendar, we will offer the sessions on Sundays following the worship service. We will take a quick break, perhaps grab some light refreshments and then jump in. The study will be utilizing "Light of the World" by Rabbi Amy-Jill Levine. Rabbi Levine will help us journey through the Nativity stories in Matthew and Luke's Gospels.

Worship Planning Group ... I would love to engage you and encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas about worship. We will begin by looking at our Advent and Christmas services. The worship planning group is open to any that would like to attend. We will meet on Sundays following the worship service beginning on Sunday, October 17, and meet for four weeks through Sunday, November 7. (A new planning group will begin meeting in February.)

Adult Bible Study ... Beginning in January, we will offer another Bible Study option. Join me after worship on Sunday to discuss the scripture passages for the day as well as the message from the service. I will provide the outline of the scripture readings ahead of time so that you will have an opportunity to read and explore them. All are welcome to attend.

That should keep us busy for a while. It will be Easter before we know it!

Peace,

Scott

Moderator Update



From the Moderator...

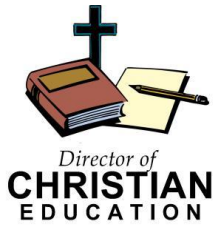
As I write this month's message, the Autumn Equinox is upon us. Mainers invariably ask the same question every year where did the summer go? Fall means a return to responsibility ... school, work, home chores, etc. Lazy summer days are behind us. Time to prepare for the busy season that lies ahead. But that doesn't necessarily imply the thrill is gone. Fall is stunningly beautiful in Maine. We are extremely blessed to live here. I hope you all can get out, find a serene place and take in the beauty that surrounds us here in Maine.

If you happened to miss Jen Fulmer's message in the September Messenger, she had to step aside as Moderator. Jen is very busy doing other very important work that she is passionate about... helping a good friend and his family from Afghanistan find refuge. We should all applaud Jen's commitment to doing the right thing. I want to thank Jen Fulmer for her time, energy and vision as Moderator. I will serve as Moderator until Annual Affirmation in January 2022. Bob Condon has graciously stepped up to serve as Vice Moderator. I want to thank Bob for his service to First Parish Church.

The Church Council has received and reviewed the results of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) survey that many of you completed and returned in the spring. Those results, along with Mission and Visioning exercises that we will be performing in the coming months will help us better define our path and priorities. The Council will be mindful to share progress in regular communication with the congregation and seek your insights and guidance.

Blessings and peace, Dale Siulinski





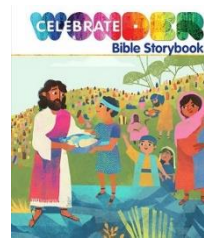
Homecoming Sunday was fabulous. Seeing so many of our Church school families present was truly the best gift ever. We have missed having children and youth in our midst. We have missed our acolytes, we have missed our nursery being open and our classrooms bursting with laughter. Thank you to all who were able to be here. If you were unable to be with us this past Sunday we hope to see you soon. **In the meantime, we would like all our parents to fill out Church school registration forms for their child(ren). We ask that you fill out a form for each child, birth (nursery) through Twelfth grade.** This is helpful for many reasons.

1. It helps us in the purchasing of curriculum
2. Helps us determine class size vs. room vs. adults needed
3. Helps to organize age level events, Bible Sunday, VBS, Youth Fellowship.
4. Helps us report attendance to our Church conference.
5. Helps us to know if there are parents wanting their children Baptized
6. **It gives Saco FPUC permission to video/take pictures of your child(ren) to use on our website, FB page and for other church use.**

Please register your child(ren)

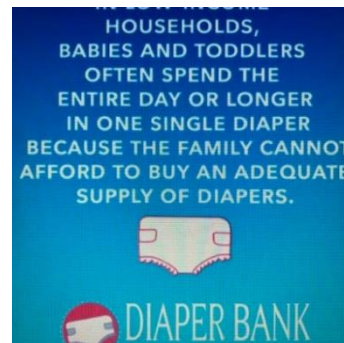
For those families who have registered your child(ren), **Thank you so much.** You can find this form on the Church website under Christian Education, click on

Christian Education and then Christian Education Registration. Thank you. We do have a hybrid option available to those families who are still uncomfortable venturing back to church due to covid. Please let me know if you are interested in that option..



We continue with **Celebrate Wonder** this fall. The lessons will be incorporated into our worship service through our Children's Message.

Our Wonder Word for this month is "Awe" and our lessons will focus on the story of Moses.



Our Service Project this fall will be the **First Parish Diaper Bank**. We invite our Church school families and our congregation to donate. As of Aug. 25th, 10,480 diapers have been distributed to the tri-town community since the programs start on May 12th of this year. On average, 15+ family units use the diaper bank each week. Most popular sizes are 4,5,6, but smaller sizes are also needed as the bank grows. Checks to the PDF are encouraged due to storage limitations. Please put in the memo line "diaper bank".

I look forward to seeing you at Church. Stay safe,

Kris

The Christian Education Team



Many thanks to the team for getting our Church school classrooms ready for the program year.

Homecoming Sunday found them scooping ice cream to celebrate the beginning of our 2021-2022 program year and being together again. Thanks team, the ice cream was delicious. Thank you to Saco Scoops for obtaining it for us.



The CE team is actively looking for teachers for our 5,6 & 7 graders. If you are interested in working with this age group please let me know kris@firstparishsaco.org We have a fabulous curriculum that is easy to use and tells the teachers everything they need to know to teach the lesson. We have a room all ready to go and we have a wonderful group of younger youth to fill it.



Jesus says:

“Let the little Children come to me”

-Matthew 19:14

Helping **Lisa** in the Nursery for the month of **September** was:

19th **Mary Coyne**

26th **Jay Salas**

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

“Its Only One Sunday!”

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



Baptisms

Welcome to the UCC

September

Elijah Alan Abbott

Parents: Arianna and Brandon



Bible Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, October 24th during the 10am worship service. All third graders will receive their Bibles.



September Acolytes

September 12 Alex Savage

September 19 JoJo Fitzgerald

September 26 Cameron Wiggins-Mehlman





Prayer Group Ministry Update

The prayer group continues holding church family members and friends in prayer.

Brenda MacDonald continues to send grief booklets to those in need. If you are in need of a prayer shawl or grief booklets, please contact Brenda.

Our knitters have blessed us with beautiful prayer shawls. The shawls are truly a blessing and a heartfelt show of love. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!

If you have a prayer need, please contact Debbie Grew, debgrew1@gmail.com. There is no prayer too small to be given over to God! We are here for you, your family, friends and loved ones. If you would like to join our group, please let Debbie know.

This prayer was in the Sunday bulletin earlier this summer. I kept it and love the message. We are all vulnerable and human in need of prayer! ❤️🙏



WE PRAY FOR

All those whose speech betrays them into misunderstanding
All those who have wrapped themselves in a cloak of humiliation
All those who struggle vainly for attention
All those who shrink with fear at another's touch
All those whose faces we forget from one meeting to the next
All those whose outer awkwardness blinds us to an inner grace
All those who never seem to find a resting place
All those whose ambition exceeds their skill
All those whose minds are clouded or weak
All those who stumble when others seem to fly
All those who bear the burden of broken bodies
All those who wait in pain only for death
All those who wait for news which never comes
All those who are unloved, unloving, along
All those who have been lifted high are fallen to the dust

WE PRAY FOR THEM....

Chaim Stern, adapted

Flower and Altar

Sunday Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for a future Sunday Service please fill in the sign up sheet outside the Church Office or contact:

Patrice Tripp at 207-590-1109 or rtripp@maine.rr.com

or

Marcia Lord at 207- 468- 1699 or mvlord@aol.com.

Upcoming open Sundays are November 14th and November 28th



Altar Flowers given for the Month of September

Thank you to all who provide flowers for the altar.

September 5th - Kris & Jim Galasyn
in Celebration of Their 40th Wedding Anniversary

September 12th - Edward Olsen
in Memory of Mary Agnes Hayes (1927 – 2006)

September 19th - Hewes Flower Fund
in Memory of John Hewes

September 26th - Charles & Debra Clark Flower Fund
in Memory of Doris Clark



From Our Historian for Founders Day - 2021

October 13th has been recognized as the founding day of our church. It was the day we were formally established. In reviewing our files I found this from Roy Fairfield, a Saco historian and about the 5th great grandchild of Rev. John Fairfield.



Rev. John Fairfield: 1762 to 1798

I am Rev. John Fairfield, a descendent of the Puritan John Fairfield, admitted to the Church in Salem in 1639 and a Freeman of the Colony in 1640.

I was born in Wenham, Mass 1737.

After graduation from Harvard in 1757 I taught School in Manchester and Georgetown.

In 1760 I started preaching in Roxbury, Mass and Leominster, also the First Parish Scarboro. In 1762 I was called to the First Parish Cong'l Church in Saco.

In Saco I married Mrs. Mary Curtis Cutts, a widow. We have 5 girls and one boy. Mrs. Fairfield died at the age of 37.

I was minister of the Firs Parish for 37 years. I loved this Church and the people who were my dear friends.

Because my sermons lasted four hours – 2 hours in the morning and tow hours in the afternoon, I had to know the bible thoroughly, from cover to cover. My interpretations of it had to be intelligent and understandable to my audience.

During my long ministry I baptized 776 persons, 220 Half-Covenanters – (all benefits except Holy Communion) and 9 full communicants, under the strictest of examination.

Because of blindness I had to request my retirement at age 82. I remained in Saco until the end of my life.

I hope this gives everyone a glimpse into our first minister.

Historian,
Tony Nero

Top of the Hill

Top of the Hill Gang is Back and we're looking for members to join our team. We meet every Thursday morning at 9:00 am. All are welcome to join. If you want more information feel free to call the church office at 207-283-3771



MISSION TEAM UPDATE

We thank everyone who donated to the Saco Food Pantry!! The Pantry accepts donations of non-perishable food and toiletry items, which can be placed in the shopping cart at church.

The Food Pantry is still in need of volunteers weekday mornings from 9 am to 10:30 am. Please call Lynn Steed at (207) 494-8662 or email lsted203@gmail.com.

Carol



From Our Mission Team

spencerlemay2@gmail.com



Bob Greene

Retired
Journalist



Pat Wall

Educator /
Author



Maulian Dana

Tribal
Ambassador



**Rachel
Talbot-Ross**

Dem. House
Representative



Kate McMahon

Museum
Specialist



Claudia Sayre

Community
Project Lead



**Lisa
Simpson-Lutts**

ED of
Historical Society

-----KEYNOTES-----

ANTI-RACISM ORGANIZING IN MAINE AROMgathering2021

October 16, 2021- 9am-4:30pm - **UPDATED: FULLY VIRTUAL EVENT**

REGISTER HERE

featuring:



MAINE YOUTH
JUSTICE



MAINE **inside out**



REVEALING **COMPLICIT HISTORIES**
UPLIFTING **BIPOC RESISTANCE**
SHAPING **TRANSFORMATIVE FUTURES**



The Mission Team is donating funds to the **Anti-Racism Organizing in Maine 2021 (AROM)**. AROM Gathering 2021 is being sponsored by Community Change, Inc. (CCI). CCI has worked to educate teachers and the public about how to involve and respond to the needs of black students. Visit <https://communitychangeinc.org/our-history/> for more information.

If you would like to donate to this non-profit organization, you can make a check out to First Parish Congregational Church, Saco with **AROM** in the memo line, or you can donate via the church's website and designate your gift to AROM. If you would like to participate in the **ZOOM AROM Gathering on October 16 from 9:00 am to 4:30**, please register at <https://communitychangeinc.org/our-history/>

The Mission Team is accepting donations of sturdy sneakers and work boots and shoes **in excellent condition**. Please leave them near the table of shoes.

Sharing Circle – Winter 2021 Program Offering

“Perhaps the secret of living well is not in having all the answers but in pursuing unanswerable questions in good company.”

— *Rachel Naomi Remen*



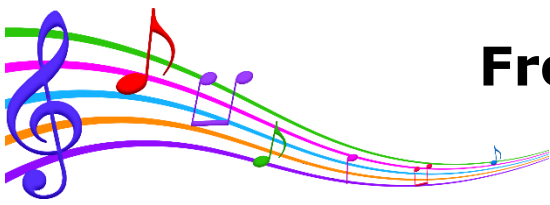
Photo by [Josh Hild](#) from [Pexels](#)

The pandemic has resulted in widespread social disconnection. Are you interested in journeying through the Winter season with fellow pilgrims from the First Parish community? A new program, Sharing Circle, offers space for telling and hearing our collective stories in this confusing and uncertain time. Schedule will be one Sunday evening a month from November to April.

All that is required is a certain hunger to gather in circle with others and offer a small glimpse of who we are or where we are, as we are led, without pressure from the expectation of others. This is not about fixing or finding answers, only being present for each other in mutual respect, confidence, and wonder.

FMI contact Tom Kircher at:

tomkircher999@gmail.com



From Our Music Director

jacqui@firstparishsaco.org

☆☆ Email Jacqui for more information ☆☆

Senior Choir

*Thursdays 6:30-8:00
On-line or in-person*

Youth Choir

*6th Grade and Up
After church every Sunday except the
first Sunday of the month*

Junior Choir

*Pre-K - 5th Grade
Thursdays 4:00-4:30*



*Come Sing
with us!!*

First Parish Saco

Senior Choir starts Thursday September 16th
Youth Choir starts on Sunday September 19th
Junior Choir starts on Thursday September 30th
Singers Masks will be provided





OCTOBER 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 ME Music Teachers Conf	2 ME Music Teachers Conf
3 10 am Service 1 pm TV Service	4 9am Counters 7 PM Big Book	5 6:30 PM Facilities	6 4 PM Diaper Bank 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	7 4:00 pm Jr Choir 6:30 PM Choir	8	9
10 10 am Service 11:30 am Youth Choir 1 pm TV Service	11 9am Counters 7 PM Big Book	12	13 4 PM Diaper Bank 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	14 4:00 pm Jr Choir 6:30 PM Choir	15	16 6:30 pm Coffee House
17 10 am Service 11:30 am Youth Choir 1 pm TV Service	18 9am Counters 7 PM Big Book	19	20 10 am Theology Group 4 PM Diaper Bank 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	21 4:00 pm Jr Choir 6:30 PM Choir	22	23
24 10 am Service 11:30 am Youth Choir 1 pm TV Service	25 9am Counters 7 PM Big Book	26 6:30 pm Personnel	27 4 PM Diaper Bank 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 PM Council	28 4:00 pm Jr Choir 6:30 PM Choir	29	30
31 10 am Service 11:30 am Youth Choir 1 pm TV Service						

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