

First Parish Church



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

BRUNSWICK, MAINE

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The First Parish community is committed to justice, kindness, and humility in our connections to each other and the wider world. In our worship and ministry, we process the challenges of the modern world by remembering the kindness and love of Jesus and the justice that he advocated for everyone. We are not arrogant in our faith or judgmental of others, and we seek to welcome anyone interested in learning more about our community and Christ's presence in our lives.



We promise to do justice
We promise to love kindness
We promise to walk humbly with God



The town was settled in 1628 and incorporated in 1738.

Brunswick is home to Bowdoin College, a nationally-recognized small liberal arts college

Welcome to Brunswick, Maine!

Brunswick, a picturesque New England town, is a community of 23,000 residents, located in Midcoast Maine, 25 miles up the coast from Portland. Bordered by the Androscoggin River and Atlantic Ocean, it has 67 miles of coastline. Access to the ocean allows for kayaking, boating, and fishing. Lobster rolls, clams, and oysters are sold in abundance!

Brunswick boasts a vibrant downtown, highly rated public schools, a thriving senior and teen center, a terrific public library, a first-class summer music theater, active farmers' markets, a state of the art medical complex, and beautiful and plentiful hiking trails, among other wonderful amenities. Today's Brunswick area has a very active arts and entertainment culture.

Brunswick also supports the Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program, a community homeless shelter, and a daytime gathering place for those who are homeless or experiencing loneliness.

Overseeing acres of land and facilities left vacant by the closing of the Naval Air Station in 2011 is a dedicated group called the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority that has encouraged many new business and housing developments.

Amtrak's Downeaster train service originates at Brunswick Station and connects the midcoast area to the Portland Transportation Center and Boston's North Station.



*The Brunswick Downtown Association produced the following video about our beautiful town called, “A Day in the Life of Brunswick, Maine”:
<https://youtu.be/su-8pC3oasQ>*

Learn About Us!

First Parish Church has a rich history. We celebrated our 300th anniversary in 2017.

- Harriet Beecher Stowe was sitting in Pew 23 on March 2, 1851 when she had the vision that led her to write her influential novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which portrayed the evils of slavery.
- Poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow read a poem from the pulpit when the Bowdoin College Class of 1825 held its 50th class reunion in the sanctuary.
 - In 1968 Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke at First Parish.
- Our current building, constructed in 1845 in the neo-Gothic style, is on the National Register of Historic Places, occupying a prominent spot marking the border of downtown and the campus of Bowdoin College. This is our church's second location and third building. Pilgrim House (across the street from the church) was constructed in 1955 to house our offices and church school space.
- Joshua Chamberlain was a Civil War general, Bowdoin professor, and Maine governor. He was a faithful member of First Parish for much of his life, eventually donating the East Window behind the pulpit in memory of his father-in-law, First Parish minister Dr. Adams.



Worship with Us!



Worship is held once a week on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and follows a traditional UCC format. Communion is held on the first Sunday of each month. Sermons are based on scripture which is read each Sunday by a different member of the congregation. Sermons often include reflections based on personal stories or commentary on how these words from the Bible can be seen today in our modern world.

Labyrinth Ministry is a focus of our congregation. Once a month we lay out a 30' indoor Labyrinth for members of our church and the wider community to walk in silence. In 2015, in partnership with the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust, we helped to create the Labyrinth in the Woods outdoors on the grounds bordering a Community Garden 1.5 miles from our sanctuary.



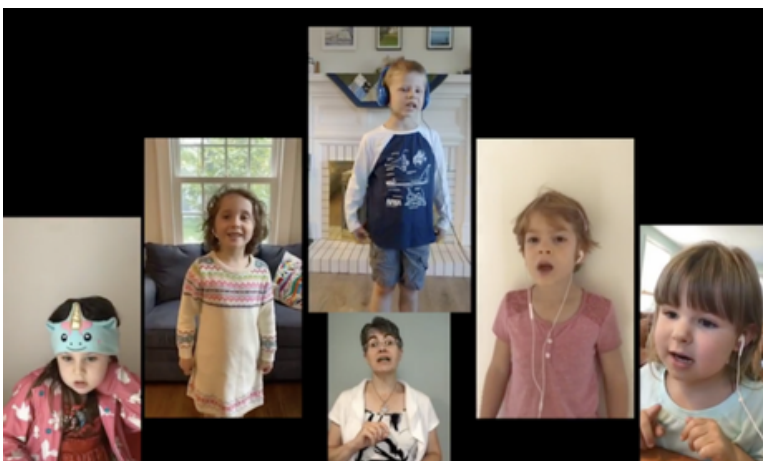
Sing with Us!



Our church is blessed with a strong music program. We have an adult choir of approximately 50 members, two handbell choirs, three youth choirs, a world percussion ensemble, and a liturgical dance ensemble that meets a few times a year.

There are also special musical services during the year and a spring concert with professional soloists and instrumentalists.

Music is an integral part of our worship, with organ being the primary accompanying instrument. Our musical style is eclectic, drawing from the Renaissance, the classical masters, the spiritual tradition, world music, gospel music, and justice music.



Join Us!

Our congregation values a Senior Pastor who is a strong preacher. We appreciate a style of preaching that is inspirational, intergenerational, and worldly. The sermon messages should relate Biblical text to daily life, be spiritually challenging, and be understandable and interpretable to a wide range of congregation members. The congregation appreciates preaching with stories that are relatable, and occasional humor is a nice addition! Caring for all creation is something we deeply value. We are also working as a congregation to strive for increased justice in our world and to all walk humbly with God. We would like our new Senior Pastor to continue our commitment to intergenerational services as well as provide programming for our outdoor Labyrinth in the Woods.





First Parish Church
(Front entrance on Maine St.)



Pilgrim House
(Church office, community meeting space,
and Church school)
Renovated in 2018 with elevator and new entry.

"First Parish Church is an anchor to beautiful downtown Brunswick, especially during these difficult times. The design of the church adds so much much to our historic downtown and the rich history of the church has played an integral role in the development of our community."

DEBORAH KING, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, BRUNSWICK
DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION

Tour Our Town!

Brunswick Downtown Association

<http://brunswickdowntown.org>

People Plus

<http://peopleplusmaine.org>

Curtis Memorial Library

<http://curtislibrary.com>

Maine State Music Theater

<http://msmt.org>

Bowdoin College

<https://www.bowdoin.edu/>

Midcoast Hospital

www.midcoasthealth.com

Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program

<https://www.mchpp.org/>

Midcoast Senior College

<https://midcoastseniorcollege.org/>

Brunswick Executive Airport

<http://mrra.us/brunswick-executive-airport/>

Amtrak Downeaster

<https://amtrakdowneaster.com/>

Brunswick International Music Festival

<https://www.bowdoinfestival.org/>

Pejepscot History Center

<https://pejepscothistorical.org/>

