

PROJECTS AND RESOURCES SUPPORTED BY

**Falmouth Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
267 Falmouth Road
FALMOUTH, MAINE 04105**



Mission Statement

Falmouth Congregational Church United Church of Christ is a Christian community of faith which:

- ✝ Serves God with love and worship:
- ✝ Serves our church family with loving mutual support and provides opportunities for spiritual growth:
- ✝ Serves all of God's creation with compassion, generosity, justice, and stewardship.

January 2011

TO OUR READERS

The Ministry of Justice and Outreach has assembled this booklet for the members and friends of our church. Under the Church by-laws, the Ministry of Justice and Outreach is "responsible for social concerns and mission interpretation." Our church contributes to many different mission projects. Some are local, and others are world-wide. We contribute financially to some groups, make donations of items to other groups, and give our time and energy to still others.

As you read this booklet, you will discover more of the various ways our local church ministers to our community and our world. You may be inspired to become more involved in one or more of these projects. As a member of our church, you are now contributing to many of these groups.

Our church's Web site includes articles and information about the various projects our church supports. The Web site is updated weekly. Check it out for the latest information.

Web site: www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org

Rev. Deborah Breault's e-mail: dbreault@maine.rr.com

Church Office e-mail: FCCdesk@maine.rr.com

Office Manager's e-mail: ginifcc@maine.rr.com

Phone: (207) 781-3413

ANGEL TREE PROJECT

We help children who are less fortunate have a special Christmas. The children create a wish list and church members shop for gifts from the wish list taken from the Angel Tree. The gifts are then delivered to The Root Cellar and to Long Creek Youth Development Center.

Root Cellar	Long Creek Development Center
94 Washington Avenue	675 Westbrook Street
Portland, ME 04101	South Portland, ME 04106
(207) 774-3197	(207) 822-2600
www.therootcellar.org	
www.state.me.us/corrections/juvenile/Facilities/LCYDC/index.htm	

BANGOR THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

There are seven seminaries of the United Church of Christ and two are in New England: Andover Newton Theological School in Massachusetts and Bangor Theological Seminary in Maine. As a church in the United Church of Christ, we support Bangor Theological Seminary with a gift each year. By contributing to the operating expenses and/or scholarships of BTS, we can impact a reduction in tuition. Many seminarians are graduating with significant debt, making their placement in small congregations in Maine with lower salaries difficult. Maine churches can provide for the future of all congregations in the United Church of Christ by supporting education.

Bangor Theological Seminary
2 College Circle
Bangor, ME 04402-0411
(207) 942-6781
www.bts.edu

THE CHRISTMAS FUND APPEAL

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a United Church of Christ annual Advent offering. It helps to meet a variety of compelling needs, including emergency grants for active or retired clergy at times of financial crisis as well as gift checks at Christmas to low-income retired clergy and widowed spouses. With our gifts to this offering, we are also able to assist lay and clergy retirees by supplementing their unusually low pensions and by providing needed assistance with health insurance premiums for those with low retirement incomes.

CHURCH SCHOOL MISSIONS

These are all story-driven and vary from year to year.

ECUMENICAL EPIPHANY WORSHIP SERVICE

This is an annual event featuring the choirs of the Falmouth churches, hosted by a local congregation. The churches represented are Falmouth Congregational Church UCC, Foreside Community Church UCC, Emmaus Lutheran Church ELCA, Holy Martyrs Roman Catholic Church, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, and West Falmouth Baptist Church ABC. The Falmouth clergy hold a monthly meeting and fellowship time.

EYEGASSES RECYCLED

Donations of no-longer-used eyeglasses and eyeglass cases are left in a designated container in Fellowship Hall. These are picked up routinely and taken to our drop-off at the Falmouth Vision Center on U. S. Route One. These are then picked up by the Lions Club, which sends them out of state to be refurbished for use by other people.

Falmouth Vision Center
204 US Route One
Falmouth, ME 04105
(207) 781-2600
www.falmouthvisioncenter.com
www.falmouthlions.org

FALMOUTH FOOD PANTRY

Serving the needs of families in Falmouth and nearby communities, the Falmouth Food Pantry is organized and run by volunteers with the support of Town officials and the Town Council. It receives donations of supplies through government donations, "Food Rescue" from the Wayside Soup Kitchen, and the generosity of many organizations and individuals. Tax-deductible monetary donations are used for medicines, electric bills, heating oil, kerosene, and rent assistance.

Falmouth Food Pantry
271 Falmouth Road
Falmouth, ME 04105
(207) 632-2687

GLOBAL AWARENESS SUNDAY

Past worships have included information about Tengo Voz and "Be a Good Apple" (buying local food). Future worship about UCC's emphasis on Honduras is planned. Information about world needs such as Haiti, Africa, and other countries and continents continue to be presented.

HEARING AIDS RECYCLED

An audiologist and a speech language pathologist, the Fagans have refurbished and repaired hundreds of hearing aids for people in the Dominican Republic. Donated hearing aids and batteries are collected for this project in a basket in Fellowship Hall.

Roger and Liz Fagan
985 Forest Avenue
Portland, ME 04103
(207) 797-8738
www.faganhearing.com/locations

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical Christian ministry that began in Americus, Georgia, in 1976, and is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing throughout the world.

Habitat For Humanity of Greater Portland, Inc. is an affiliate of this international ministry. Its purpose is to address the problem of affordable housing for families in the Greater Portland area. It is a non-profit tax-exempt corporation.

Recipient families are chosen based on need and ability to make the mortgage payments. The selection process is non-discriminatory. Each recipient family contributes at least 500 hours of their personal time in helping the construction of their home. Habitat utilizes volunteer labor and donated materials whenever possible. Each house is then sold to the qualifying family, at cost, by means of a no-interest 20- to 25-year mortgage.

Our church has participated in the Annual Falmouth Habitat Walk. The date of the springtime event is determined by the Falmouth ecumenical network. Organizers add variety through bake sales, pet walks, and other fun activities. Volunteer walkers obtain pledges from sponsors; others prepare and serve a pancake breakfast.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland
Mailing address: PO Box 10505 Physical address: 83 A Bell St.
Portland, ME 04104 Portland, ME 04103
(207) 772-2151
www.habitatportlandme.org

HOMELESS DRAMA PROJECT from the Maine Council of Churches

We often hear stories of poverty, but we are separated from the experience by distance and class. Homelessness reaches all levels of people and stereotypes follow them.

Utilizing an initial development grant, theatrical coaching, and in-kind donations, this project enlisted people to share their experiences of poverty through a drama they wrote, created, rehearsed, and performed.

The first drama *Hear Our Stories! Know Our Names!* gave more than 50 live performances statewide to raise awareness and initiate dialogue with viewers about many issues facing the homeless. In 2009, *Cast-Off* was also scripted and performed by those who have experienced homelessness.

Maine Council of Churches
Economic Justice Program
15 Pleasant Avenue
Portland, ME 04103
(207) 772-1918
www.maineCouncilofchurches.org

HONDURAS

Following the rich tradition of the Maine Conference United Church of Christ, members of our church participate in mission trips to Honduras, one of the poorest countries in the Western hemisphere. Following Hurricane Mitch, fourteen members of our church went to Savoy and built three homes in 2001. In 2006, we were part of the Cumberland Association Mission Trip to Yoro with medical clinics and a building project to replace the roof on a pastor's home. In 2008 our church teamed with other area churches to serve small villages around El Trumfo in far southeastern Honduras. Our host was the Christian Commission for Development (CCD), a non-profit ecumenical organization dedicated to matching short-term missions like ours to communities most in need. Working shoulder to shoulder with Hondurans, the construction crew helped build the foundation of a bridge over a stream that was impassable during the rainy season and the medical team held clinics and tended to 668 patients! With the support of our church families, we raised \$2,500 for bridge construction supplies and \$3500 for medicines and medical supplies. Including members of the Foreside Community Church and ours, the current Honduras Mission Team is actively fund-raising and planning for future similar mission trips and between-trip support through CCD.

HOSPICE OF SOUTHERN MAINE

Hospice of Southern Maine, a non-profit agency serving Cumberland and York Counties, believes that helping people live through the dying process and comforting those who have been left behind to grieve are ways to live as fully as possible.

Although Hospice of Southern Maine (HSM) is not affiliated with any faith community, the focus of its work and the work of its volunteers touch deep spiritual roots.

For 25 years, the volunteers of HSM have cared for individuals and families as they cope with dying, death, grief, and bereavement throughout the process. Volunteers care for those living through the dying process with listening and conversation, running errands, respite care, or simply sitting in silence with client and/or caretaker. After a client's death, families are followed with bereavement care for 13 months. That care may include their choice of mailings, letters, phone calls, referral to other services, participation in a grief support group, or assignment of a volunteer to partner with them through the grieving process.

Hospice of Southern Maine educates and supports the community on the issues of death, loss, grief, hospice, and related topics.

Hospice of Southern Maine
180 US Route One
Scarborough, ME 04074

Gosnell Memorial Hospice House
11 Hunnewell Road
Scarborough, ME 04074

(207) 289-3640 or (866) 621-7600
www.hospiceofsouthernmaine.org

INGRAHAM VOLUNTEERS

The mission of Ingraham Volunteers is to assist persons in crisis; to provide people in need with a safe environment, access to services, and the opportunities and means to help themselves; to identify unmet human needs; and to act as a catalyst for the development of new social policies and resources in the state of Maine.

Ingraham Volunteers
237 Oxford Street
PO Box 1868
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 774-4357
www.yimaine.org

LONG CREEK DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Long Creek Development Center is the Maine State rehabilitation center for youth. During Advent, the Church receives names and a wish list from the children at the Root Cellar and youth from Long Creek Development Center. We call these children "angels," and Church families choose and provide gifts for the angels. Over the years, there has been an outpouring of gifts, ensuring that as many as 60 children and youth have a Merry Christmas.

Long Creek Development Center
675 Westbrook Street
South Portland, ME 04106
(207) 822-2600
www.state.me.us/corrections/juvenile/Facilities/LCYDC/index.htm

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Through this offering, the UCC expresses its deep commitment to reaching out and touching neighbors throughout the United States with justice and compassion. One-third of the Neighbors in Need funds support the council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM.) Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

Supporting this mission allows the UCC to speak to those in power to advocate for a society in which all people have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Through this annual Lenten offering, the UCC supports ministries of disaster relief, economic development, refugee resettlement, health care, and social service in over 80 countries, including the U.S. and Canada. Gifts to this offering provide the hope and help that keep individuals and communities working to transform the quality of their lives. It is indeed remarkable what a gift can do in providing blankets, water purification, immunization, antibiotics, and much more.

OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION

Our congregation is in covenant with other congregations in Maine and across the country who form the United Church of Christ. Just as our own church has a budget to which each of us pledges, so does the Maine Conference. It has been the understanding of our congregation that 10% of what we receive in pledged income is given to OCWM, a line item in our budget.

Our gift to OCWM helps to support outdoor ministry at Pilgrim Lodge and Rockcraft in Maine, as well as provide for media resources for church school teachers. OCWM pays the light bill in the conference office in Yarmouth and the salaries of our conference ministers. OCWM also reaches the national level where curriculum is written and missionaries are called and sent all over the world. At the national level, OCWM also pays light bills and salaries.

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund reaches out to church members and people in the community and surrounding area by helping with:

- Prescriptions
- Rent or mortgage payments during illness or unemployment
- Utility bills, especially fuel oil in the winter for some elderly people in Falmouth.
- Gas vouchers
- Hotel room for a night in an emergency
- School clothes

PEOPLE'S REGIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

People's Regional Opportunity Program (PROP), a community action agency, addresses social, economic, educational, and health needs of eligible homeowners, youth, seniors, women, and children, and low income families in Cumberland County.

Programs are offered in several categories:

FAMILY: Early Head Start, Head Start, WIC (Women, Infants, and Children)

HOME: energy assistance, central heat, weatherization, electrical, phone, or water conservation programs, affordable rental housing, housing rehabilitation

SENIORS: foster grandparents, family friends

YOUTH: Youth Action Network, Company of Girls, Community Arts, Champs (summer camp) Parkside Neighborhood Youth

COMMUNITY: Women's Project (substance abuse services), Social Services Team

People's Regional Opportunity Program (PROP)
510 Cumberland Avenue
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-1140
www.propeople.org

PREBLE STREET RESOURCE CENTER

People who are homeless come from every background. Some were born into poverty, drug addiction, and abuse. Others were born into a loving and stable family, but life's circumstances dictated a wildly unanticipated course.

Preble Street Resource Center has a *Soup Kitchen* staffed with community volunteers, serving meals three times a day, seven days a week, to homeless and low-income adults, families, and young people each year. Its *Food Pantry* collects and distributes donated food to low-income individuals and families.

Preble Street Resource Center's *Day Shelter* provides not only the necessities of daily life, food, and shelter, but also a staff of caseworkers, legal advocates, and employment and education counselors who assist people in securing and maintaining employment and shelter. *The Teen Center* and 16-bed *Lighthouse Shelter* assist homeless teenagers. Food, clothing, and personal hygiene product donations are some of the items accepted by this non-profit agency.

On the third Sunday of every month, our Soup Kitchen coordinators enlist 9 volunteers from our church to help with the noon lunch at Preble Street and deliver brownies baked by church members. FCC members have participated in this mission for nearly 20 years.

Preble Street Resource Center
197 Oxford Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-6560
www.preblestreet.org

Teen Center
343 Cumberland Avenue
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-1197
www.preblestreet.org/teen_center.php

PROTESTANT HOSPITAL MINISTRY

The Pastoral Services Department of the Maine Medical Center is available to minister to the spiritual needs of patients who come from some geographic distance or who live locally. The bulk of the ministry is carried out by a full-time, salaried chaplain along with a staff of volunteer chaplains – pastors of local churches, clergy serving outside the local church setting, and retired clergy – who provide coverage for emergencies, including a salaried secretary for the department. Supervision of the Protestant Hospital Ministry is provided by the PHM Board of Directors. The bylaws allow for a board of up to 15 members. Representation has come from the Evangelical community, the United Church of Christ, the American Baptist Churches, the United Methodists, Lutherans, Unitarian/Universalists, and Nazarenes. Protestant Hospital Ministry depends upon churches and individuals to meet its budget and to increase its endowed funds.

The FCC office staff provides assistance with PHM mailings every year.

Protestant Hospital Ministry
157 Foreside Road
Falmouth, ME 04105
(207) 781-2051
<http://protestanthospitalministry.org>

THE ROOT CELLAR

The Root Cellar is a Christian mission to support families in greater Portland. During Advent, the Church receives names and a wish list from the children at the Root Cellar and youth from Long Creek Development Center. We call these children “angels,” and Church families choose and provide gifts for the angels. Over the years, there has been an outpouring of gifts, ensuring that as many as 60 children and youth have a Merry Christmas.

The Root Cellar
94 Washington Avenue
Portland, ME 04103
(207) 774-3197
www.therootcellar.org

SEAFARER’S FRIEND

When sailors are in port, Seafarer’s Friend lives up to its name.

Seafarer's Friend is a maritime ministry to extend the ministry of churches by providing pastoral and social services for the welfare of seafarers. Port Chaplain Nash Garabedian and volunteer ship-visitors befriend crewmembers arriving onboard foreign commercial ships in the Portland and South Portland terminals. Assistance is provided when crises arise as well as when help is needed with transportation for errands, shopping, or visits to the Visitor Center on the Portland Fish Pier.

Seafarer’s Friend
2 Portland Fish Pier
Suite 103
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 871-7699
www.seafarersfriend.org

THE SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.--The Salvation Army Mission Statement

The Senior Center program in the Greater Portland Area allows for people 60 years and older to drop in five days a week. In addition to noontime meals, field trips, classes, and study programs are offered.

Our church has donated household goods left over from our Annual Yard Sale to the Salvation Army Thrift Stores. Income from their stores is used to support local and international projects for needy people.

The Salvation Army Senior Center
297 Cumberland Avenue Portland, ME 04101
(207) 774-6974
Located directly across from Portland High School
www.retirementcommunity.com

STATE STREET CLOTHES CLOSET

Clothes, shoes, linens, towels, small toys, pans, and dishes are donated by members of the congregation and delivered to the State Street Church monthly throughout the year. Just drop them off in the sturdy box in the hallway opposite the choir room and a church member will deliver them.

State Street Church
159 State Street Portland, ME 04101
(207) 774-6396
www.statestreetchurch.org

SOUTHERN MAINE AGENCY ON AGING

This agency provides older people in Southern Maine, especially those who are frail, isolated, or living on low income, with the support needed to maintain independence and an active and healthy lifestyle.

Programs include:

- Adult day center to give caregivers respite time
- Advocacy Legal services
- Congregate Housing Program
- Education seminars
- Meals on Wheels
- Money Minders Program
- Noontime Dining Centers
- Resource information sharing
- Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
- Senior Solutions: (fee for service) staff assists arrangement of nursing, meals, transportation, housework, and personal care

Southern Maine Agency on Aging
136 U.S. Route One
Scarborough, ME, 04074
(207) 396-6500 or (800) 427-7411
www.smaaa.org

THE WILSON CENTER

The Wilson Center, home of the Maine Christian Association, is an interdenominational student ministry open to everyone interested in exploring the meaning and practice of the Christian faith while at college. It is committed to creating an atmosphere of respect, tolerance, and spiritual support, which celebrates human diversity.

Worship is held every Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. during the academic year when classes are in session. The schedule of events/programs at the Wilson Center varies depending on student interest. The Center currently provides a Thursday Community meal, bible study, and retreats. The Wilson Center sponsors student programs that focus on its commitment to social justice, diversity, and spiritual growth, including SCOPE Projects, The Dorothy Clarke Wilson Peace Writing Competition, and the Elizabeth A. Morris Peacemaker Award.

The Center is open daily for study, meetings, quiet meditation, or visiting with friends.

The Wilson Center
67 College Avenue
Orono, ME 04473
(207) 866-4227

<http://www.umaine.edu/studentaffairs/home/religious-affairs/#8>

MORE MISSIONS WE SUPPORT

We respond to emergencies through **Church World Service:**

- Health Kits
- School Kits
- Baby Layettes
- Gift of the Heart Kits

We provide scholarships for children and youth in our church to **Pilgrim Lodge.**

We periodically support projects such as purchasing phone cards for members of our armed forces.