



**Inside this issue:**

Pastor Amelia	1
COVID-19	2
Council Corner	3
Ministry of Missions	4
Church Family News	5
Worship Attendants	6
Calendar	7

## From the Pastor:

This spring has been a time of uncertainty and anxiety. The COVID-19 virus has caused cancellations and closures, and made us all newly aware of how quickly life can change. Since we cannot gather in person we are finding new ways to worship, logging into Facebook Live and watching service on Youtube—who knew FCC would be on “TV” in 2020!

During this same time we have experienced the loss of longtime beloved community members, as well as many poignant anniversaries from losses in previous years. Many in our church family have been ill, injured, or undergone medical procedures and the long periods of recovery that follow.

As we walk through these changes and challenges, I am reminded of wisdom from the author Barbara Brown Taylor, who wrote that to understand the truth of the resurrection “you do not have to die... you only need to lose track of who you are, or who you thought you were supposed to be, or how you thought things were supposed to go, so that you end up lying flat on the dirt floor basement of your heart.”

Perhaps you have had moments of laying in your heart’s basement this spring, moments of worry where the darkness seemed to be overtaking the light. These feelings are a valid part of our experience—the church honors and acknowledges this, especially during Holy Week, when we spend time in contemplation, acknowledging the reality of the tomb.

But the Christian story does not end there. It pulls our attention, again and again, to the light at the edges of the door, to the cracks in the stone over the tomb. It insists that there is more to the story—more hope than we dream possible, more love than we can comprehend. Just as the flowers break through ground that was once covered in ice, and birds sing where the forest was silent, Christ arises from the tomb, and reminds us that there is nothing—no darkness, grief, virus, or shortcoming—that will separate us from the love of God.

Whether we are meeting in person or virtually, on Easter morning we will cry out, as our Christian ancestors did before us, “Death, O Where is your victory? Death, O Where is your sting?” and we will remember together that Easter promise, that we will be risen, risen indeed!

~ Reverend Amelia  
Email: [Pastorameliafcc@gmail.com](mailto:Pastorameliafcc@gmail.com)

Please see next pages for  
COVID-19 Resources and  
updates



## *Ways to Stay Connected*



As we adjusting to a new normal of spatially distancing ourselves, there are many ways to stay connected:

### **Virtual Worship**

Each Sunday morning in March, starting 22nd, we will be livestreaming worship at at 9:30 AM from our Facebook Page: You can access that here: <https://www.facebook.com/falmouth.ucc/>. Notice that the link will not go "live" until worship starts at 9:30 AM- we will really be doing this in real time, with all of you! We will also send out a video with the worship on Mondays.

### **Virtual Church School**

Kristen Coleman is gearing up with some fun virtual church school lessons. She is communicating with families on a separate thread, but if you aren't on the Church School list and want to be, please email her ([davinci.experience@gmail.com](mailto:davinci.experience@gmail.com)).

### **FCC Phone Team**

We are starting an FCC phone team in order to check in with each other in the weeks ahead. Please make sure the church office has your updated information so that we can check in with you.

### **Grocery Ministry**

People in the congregation have offered to pick up groceries and drop them off on doorsteps for any in our community who cannot go out. If this would be helpful to you please call the Church Office and leave a message: (207) 781 3413.



### **Soup Ministry**

If you or a loved one need a pre-made meal there are people in the congregation who have volunteered to make chicken noodle soup and drop it off curbside. Especially in times of stress, or when feeling under the weather, brothy and protein-full hot soup can be just the thing. Note that, for now, this soup does have chicken and gluten in it and that it should be boiled before consumption to maintain our good health directives. If a quart of chicken noodle soup would brighten your day please contact the Church Office (207) 781 3413.

### **Card Ministry**

There are people in our congregation who practice a beautiful and tender ministry of card writing. If someone in our community would benefit from receiving a card, please let our Office Manager Kat Roderick know ([FCCOffc@gmail.com](mailto:FCCOffc@gmail.com)).

### **Prayer**

Please hold one another, and yourself, in prayer during this time. We all need the peace and love of Christ that is with us through all of life's challenges and triumphs. If you or someone you know would like to be added to the prayer list, please let the church office know.

## *Council Corner*

I am sure you have been getting many, many emails on what is going on in our community about containing the spread of the COVID 19 virus. As most of you know, we took the advice of Governor Mills and the Maine UCC Conference and will be worshiping virtually on Sunday mornings for at least the next two weeks (more info on how to join in coming soon!).

The church is closed, but we are operating remotely and supporting our community in many ways during this challenging time, including checking in on the vulnerable among us, offering remote worship and church school opportunities, and working together to make sure that all have the emotional and practical support they need. For the safety of our community the Forever Growing children's program, Aerobics, Fiddle-icious, and other rental activities that contribute to the church have been temporarily suspended.

This is a difficult time for all of us. **If you are able, please continue to make your offering to the church remotely, either through a check mailed to the office, or electronically:**

<https://www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org/donation>.

Electronic giving is an easy and secure way to donate and will be easiest for the church office in the days ahead. We have many challenges as we all cope with this health situation, but we as a church will continue to work and pray together, and there will be a shining light at the end of this challenging time.

Kim Hendry, Church Moderator, Falmouth Congregational Church

## *Annual Egg Hunt Cancelled*

The event is traditionally held the day before Easter Sunday, which this year would have been Saturday, April 11th. Event coordinator, Craig Page, stated, "Cancelling the event is in line with both CDC guidance and guidance of Maine's Governor. The egg hunt typically draws a crowd in excess of over 600 people." The CDC has issued coronavirus guidance of not holding events which exceed 50 people for the next 8 weeks and Governor Janet Mills stated that events which exceed 50 people should not be held until further notice.

The Church's pastor, Amelia Edison, said, "While disappointing, we have a responsibility to do what we can to protect our attendees, volunteers, and vendors. We have to do our part to be responsible to the public." She optimistically added, "However, the reason for the Easter Season has not been cancelled. As it has been for the past 2000 years, we will all still have a Happy Easter!"

Page said the church is already planning for next year's egg hunt. He says the church will be a doubling down due to the cancellation of this year's event resulting in a Super Egg Hunt next year. Falmouth Congregational Church is not alone in cancelling an Easter Egg event. The White House recently announced the cancellation the its traditional Easter Egg Roll.

## *Ministry of Missions*

### THANK-YOU NOTES RECEIVED

Our church has received several letters of thanks for our end-of-the-year charitable donations.

**From Mark Swann, Executive Director of Preble Street:**

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and the hundreds of Mainers we serve each day at Preble Street, thank you for the Falmouth Congregational Church gift of \$500.00. Because of your kindness and generosity, more of our most vulnerable neighbors are fed, safe, and warm, even on the coldest nights. Thank you!

**From Anne Hendrix, Office Administrator of the State Street Church:**

On behalf of the State Street Church UCC and the Clothes Closet, I would like to thank you for all the clothing donations over the past months and thank Ted Vail for delivering them to our Clothes Closet. Your continued generosity is truly a blessing and greatly appreciated. Thank you!

**From the Maine Conference United Church of Christ:**

Thank you for your financial support. Your church's gifts support the many ministries of the Maine Conference, as well as the national and world ministries of the United Church of Christ.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RUN AND WALK ON GOOD FRIDAY

Has been postponed, we will let you know when a new date has been set.

### WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL BOOK GROUP

The Book Group is reading Holy Envy, by Barbara Brown Taylor. While we don't expect to meet in person at this time, we hope you greatly enjoy this book!

### FAMILY PROMISE PROGRAM

The next time that our church serves as a host congregation will be from Sunday evening May 3, 2020, through Sunday morning May 10, 2020. Future sessions will be the weeks of August 2 and October 25. Please consider volunteering for this exciting outreach program. If you can help and/or would like to attend an upcoming volunteer training class, please contact Steve at [stevrunn@gmail.com](mailto:stevrunn@gmail.com). Thank you. **We will keep you updated about scheduling changes.**

### THE FALMOUTH FOOD PANTRY

The Falmouth Food Pantry will be closed until further notice. If you have questions or know someone with a pressing need, please call Nancy Lightbody.



# Church Family News ...



*We lift in prayer ~*

Maureen Grubb  
 Ginny Hamilton  
 James Klenk  
 Zack Couture  
 John Graustein  
 Pauline Kauffman  
 Ellen Simmonds

Joan Bamel  
 Bee O'Brien  
 Myron Krueger  
 Maytha Southard  
 Peggy Halleck  
 Chaz Roth  
 Bill Graves

**Ken Bowden**

**Family & Friends or Rev. Beinema, Passed into eternal rest March 8<sup>th</sup>**



## Holy Week Services

**Sunday, April 5 - Virtual Palm Sunday Service**

**Thursday, April 9 - Maundy Thursday Service**

**Friday, April 10 - Good Friday Service**

**Sunday, April 12 - Easter Service**

**We will send updates about how we will gather for  
 Holy Week- Stay Tuned!**



We hold the Beneima Family in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

Rev. Ronald Beinema, passed into his eternal rest March 8th.

*"In life and in death we hold fast to the promises of the Gospel."*

## April Birthdays

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 - Jeff Howland        | 22 - Kaye Macgowan     |
| 2 - Melissa Morganstern | 22 - David Horne       |
| 3 - Felicia Garant      | 23 - Aaron Paul        |
| 3 - Kristen Coleman     | 24 - Katrina Greenwood |
| 6 - Caitlin Howland     | 25 - Darla Williams    |
| 10 - Alan Mathieu       | 28 - Cheryl Olen       |
| 12 - Liz Murray         | 28 - Adeline Ziobro    |
| 12 - Ashleigh Howland   | 30 - Joey Han          |



*Happy Birthday!*

## *April Worship Attendants*

### *Liturgists*

- 5** - Join us Virtually!
- 12** - Steve Hendry
- 19** - Jim Parr
- 26** - Nancy Lightbody



Please contact Larry Perry at 797-2928 if you would like to serve the church by participating in the morning worship service in the summer months.

Thank you.

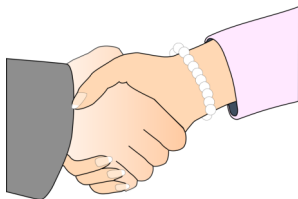
### *Ushers*

- 5** - Virtual Worship!
- 12** - Dolores Vail, Ted Vail, John Boothby, and Tyler Henderson
- 19** - Paul Davis, Steve Hendry, Mark Horton, Peggy Horton
- 26** - Larry Perry, Sue Perry, Phil Pierce, Rae Pierce

Please contact Ministry of Worship and Covenant, if you would like to be added to the Usher rotation. Ushering isn't a huge commitment of time and is a very much appreciated service to your church.

### *Greeters*

- 5** - Virtual Worship!
- 12** - Carol Dow
- 19** - Phil and Rae Pierce
- 26** - Louise and Jerry Caruso



If you would like to be added as a Greeter: please contact a member of the Ministry of Community Life: Rae Pierce at 781-3769, or Ann Sanborn at 781-2833. Thank you.

## *Communion Sunday, April 5 Will be a Virtual Worship*



We will send updates about worship as we know more.



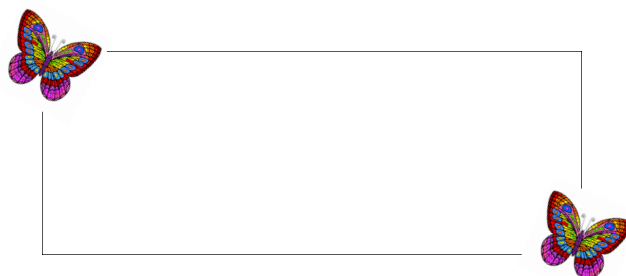
**Please note that our  
April Worship  
Schedule is subject to  
change and may move  
to a virtual format.**

# TENTATIVE Falmouth Congregational Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
<b>5</b> <b>Virtual Worship!</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Tentative)	<b>9</b>  Holy Week Updates  Maundy Thursday Service	<b>10</b>  Coming Soon  Good Friday Service	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9 AM Choir Practice 10 AM Worship & Kids' Church 11:15 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Council of Ministries  <b>Deadline for May Congregator Submissions</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9 AM Aerobics (Tentative)  7 PM Scout Committee Meeting	<b>15</b> 9 AM Aerobics (Tentative)  7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9 AM Aerobics (Tentative)	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9 AM Choir Practice 10 AM Worship 11:15 AM Coffee Hour	<b>20</b> 6:00 PM Fiddle-cious (Tentative)	<b>21</b> 9 AM Aerobics (Tentative) 10 AM Bible Study at OceanView 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack Meeting	<b>22</b> 9:00 AM Aerobics (Tentative) 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 7 PM Boy Scouts	<b>24</b> 9 AM Aerobics (Tentative)	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9 AM Choir Practice 10 AM Worship & Kids' Church 11:15 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 PM Ministry of Christian Education	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9 AM Aerobics (Tentative)  10 AM Bible Study at OceanView	<b>29</b> 9 AM Aerobics (Tentative)	<b>30</b>  7 PM Boy Scouts		

Falmouth Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
267 Falmouth Road  
Falmouth, ME 04105

Office phone: 207-781-3413  
Office e-mail: [FCCOFFFC@gmail.com](mailto:FCCOFFFC@gmail.com)  
Web site: [www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org](http://www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org)



’ **God is Still Speaking!**

## Falmouth Congregational Church United Church of Christ

### MINISTRIES

Kim Hendry  
**Chair, Council of Ministries**

Kristen Coleman  
**Chair, Ministry of Christian Education**

Rae Pierce & Ann Sanborn  
**Co-Chairs, Ministry of Community Life**

Eunice Wilcox  
**Ministry of Facilities**

Steve Hendry  
**Chair, Ministry of Missions**

Larry Perry  
**Chair, Ministry of Worship & Covenant**



### CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Amelia Edson  
**Settled Pastor**

Doris Krueger  
**Minister of Music**

Kristen Coleman  
**Christian Education Administrator**

Matthew Strobel  
**Sexton**

Kat Roderick  
**Office Manager, Newsletter Editor**

Laura Rosenberg  
**Office Assistant**

### OFFICERS

Kim Hendry, **Moderator**

Anne Coleman, **Vice Moderator**

Laurie Davis, **Clerk**

Pam Carroll, **Treasurer**

Gini Medford, **Financial Secretary**

Carol Kauffman MSN, RN, **Faith Community Nurse**