

THE CONGREGATOR



A Letter From The Pastor

Dear Falmouth Congregational Church,

It is easy to see that God's kingdom is not yet fully realized, on this side of the veil. There remains illness, evil, destruction, death. This past year we have been more aware of this than ever.

Our faith affirms that God has defeated these things, will defeat these things, is defeating these things. At the end of the age, at the end of the day, illness, evil, destruction, death—all of these will perish, like the nothingness they are, and God's limitless, powerful, eternal love will have the final and only word. At this time of year, Eastertide, we lean into this looking. We cover our church with white cloth and bright flowers, we hear our hallelujah hymns, we revel in the promises of the Gospel. The promises of God are easy to see, too- when we remember to look.

This Easter season I invite you to pay attention to where new life is springing forth, whether in nature, relationships, people, situations, or even your own hearts and mind. Spend time in gratitude, make way for joy. When we look out into the world with resurrection eyes- eyes searching for the good, the new, the unexpected- we can see the Easter promises all around us.

~Pastor Amelia
pastoramelia@falmouthcongregationchurch.org

Upcoming

Our Pentecost sermon series this year will be "Falmouth Congregational AMA ("Ask me anything.")" Pastor Amelia will collect questions from the Congregation and then preach on these questions on Sunday. Send in your spiritual quandaries to participate!

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COUNCIL Corner

A Message from our Moderator



Hi – I hope everyone is doing well and getting excited for Spring which appears to be (according to both the calendar and weather forecast) just around the corner!

I will start with a quick update on Church finances. As I mentioned in my last Council Corner, we were behind about \$7k in January and we were up about \$7k in February so YTD we are flat. We will take a close look at our financials after we close out March and Q1. We have seen an increase in pledges so thank you for the support. And with us being back in the church we are starting to see some plate offerings too. All positive news!

We resumed in-person worship on Sunday, March 7th. We have had between 20 and 25 people each week since we reopened. I was there both weekends and it was wonderful to see some faces I had not seen in a while. We are also offering coffee to-go right after the in-person service. I hope that you will all consider coming back in-person once you feel comfortable to do so. Until then, you can still watch on-line.

At the Council's March meeting we closely reviewed the plans for the Easter Egg Hunt. As you all know we had to cancel it last year due to the pandemic so we are excited to offer it again this year. It will be modified in order to be COVID compliant but we are excited, nonetheless, to welcome Easter Egg hunters back to the church.

After a somewhat lengthy search, we found our ninth member of Council. Tom Stegemann has agreed to join the Council for a 3-year term. We are looking forward to Tom's perspective and creativity. He will be a great addition to the Council.

I wish you all peace, happiness, and most of all, patience as we all continue to find our way through this challenging time.

Stay healthy!

~ Kim Hendry, Moderator

khendry1972@gmail.com

[207-756-9343](tel:207-756-9343)



HOLY WEEK ~ FALMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.FALMOUTHCONGREGATIONALCHURCH.ORG/EASTER

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28TH, 10:00 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1ST, 12:00 PM & 5:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2ND, 6:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH, 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM



EASTER EGG HUNT

On Palm Sunday,

March 28, 2021

267 Falmouth Road

Falmouth, Maine

Rain or Shine

Pre-Registration and Masks Required

www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org

Featuring Staggered Egg Hunts,

a Magic Show, Juggling,

Food and More!

MINISTRY OF

missions



What game do fish like playing the most?

NAME THAT TUNA.

What do you call a tuna with a tie?

SO-FISH-TICATED

What did the tuna say when he posted bail?

I'M OFF THE HOOK.

What a wonderful opportunity for all of us! Our church will be collecting cans of tuna fish during the months of April, May, and June. If you would like, please put cans of **TUNA FISH** into the collection bin outside Fellowship Hall, and they will be given to very grateful Food Pantry families. We are fortunate that so many of you want to help others, and we know that you have the **TUNAcity** to do so. Let's try this!

The Falmouth Food Pantry continues to do an entirely doorstep delivery distribution system. Boxes of food are being packed at the Pantry and delivered by volunteers to all area families. If you have questions or know someone with an urgent need, please call Nancy Lightbody at 781-4670. Thank you for your continuing strong support.



Last Chance to Create Hygiene Kits

The final due date for our mission kits is Sunday, April 25, so please don't forget to assemble your kit as soon as possible!

In the next month, we are hoping to complete as many Hygiene Kits as possible for Church World Service, which distributes them around the world to help with the health and recovery of people affected by disasters. Due to the pandemic, we are asking that each contributor create complete kits, which need to include:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel, or microfiber)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package

Please do NOT add any extra items or toothpaste. A tube of extended-expiration-date-toothpaste will be added to each hygiene kit just prior to its final journey.

The completed kits, in the Ziploc bags, can be dropped off in the bin outside of Fellowship Hall.

Here is the link for more information and to sign up as a contributor:
<https://bit.ly/2MKBV2E>

Thank you very much!

- One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package (either one is acceptable)
- One bath-size bar of soap in the original package
- One toothbrush in the original package
- Ten standard-size Band-Aids
- All items need to fit inside a one-gallon Ziploc type bag.



Pastor's Discretionary Fund

If you or someone you know has a financial need, please contact the Church office. There is limited funding in this account for just such a purpose.

MINISTRY OF

missions



*You can use
your landline
or cell phone
to call in and
listen to
worship*

For people who do not have smart phones or can't connect to the internet, you can dial (925)-205-6099 at 10 AM on Sunday and listen to the entirety of worship. This is similar to making a call to New York.

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 \$1,000.00. Because of your support, Preble Street has kept people fed, safe, and loved throughout this challenging year. Thank you for helping us get through it!

From Michelle Lamm, Executive Director of Family Promise:

Thank you for your congregation's donation of \$500.00 to Greater Portland Family Promise. Our partnership with your volunteers enables us to create a system of care for children and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Thank you for working with us as we adjust our programming to meet current conditions and needs.

From the Falmouth Food Pantry:

Thank you for your very generous donation of \$1,000.00 from your Priority Fund. This is such a wonderful treat! Recently there has been a big increase in the number of Food Pantry families who have asked for our help, so your gift will immediately be put to good use and directly benefit many in our community.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

As I reflect back on The Transfiguration Sunday Scripture reading from Matthew 17 : 1-9, I realized how the words Jesus said to the disciples, "Do not be afraid" helped me prepare for my first COVID-19 vaccination.

In my last letter I wrote about "Be Prepared" which also helped me as I waited for the 30 minutes after the shot before I could go home. Now I'm preparing this Lenten season for Palm Sunday and the events leading up to Easter!!

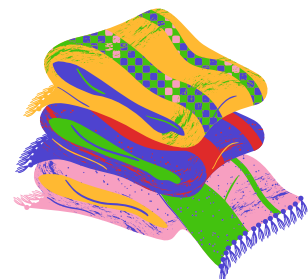
Last month we observed St. Patrick's Day, the first day of Spring on March 20th and Palm Sunday. April we start out with Easter and the celebration of Easter as we hear the words "He is risen." I'm sure Mary was not prepared for the event she experienced outside near the tomb.

Later on in the month we observe Earth Day and Arbor Day. All these signal new growth whether it be spiritual or actual visual growth in our environment.

Special thanks to all of you who are diligently knitting making this Ministry so valuable especially during this pandemic. We are also so grateful to Jane Stegemann for her willingness to deliver shawls to those who need one as she carries out her Visitation Ministry.

I'll close for now hoping our New Year's word or Lenten goal (with God's guidance) is helping us to stay Safe and Healthy as we navigate this new journey.

Happy Easter!!
Judy Nilsen



MINISTRY OF

community life

Photo Connection

We are asking all that are comfortable to send our church a casual photo of yourself individually and or your family. These photos will be displayed as part of our virtual church broadcast. Seeing each other's familiar faces once again will bring us all joy.

Please send your photo(s) with your name via email to Laura Rosenberg at fcc.ucc.desk@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org. Or if you are unable to take a photo or send it please contact Tom Stegemann at 207-838-5357 who will gladly come take your photo from a Covid-safe distance.

I look forward to seeing your smiling faces,
Tom Stegemann

From Your Minister of Visitation

As FCC folks are getting vaccinated and our church doors are open, I am letting you know that as of March 10th, I will be stepping from the pandemic crisis/emergent response back into my call of Minister of Visitation. In this role I visit with a small group of homebound individuals, helping them to feel loved and connected from afar. Pastor Amelia is available for other Pastoral Care needs and is happy to talk, meet, or visit in a COVID compliant manner. She can be reached at the office or via cell phone (207) 558 2243.

Most Gratefully,
Jane Hessemer Stegemann, Ph.D.
Commissioned Minister

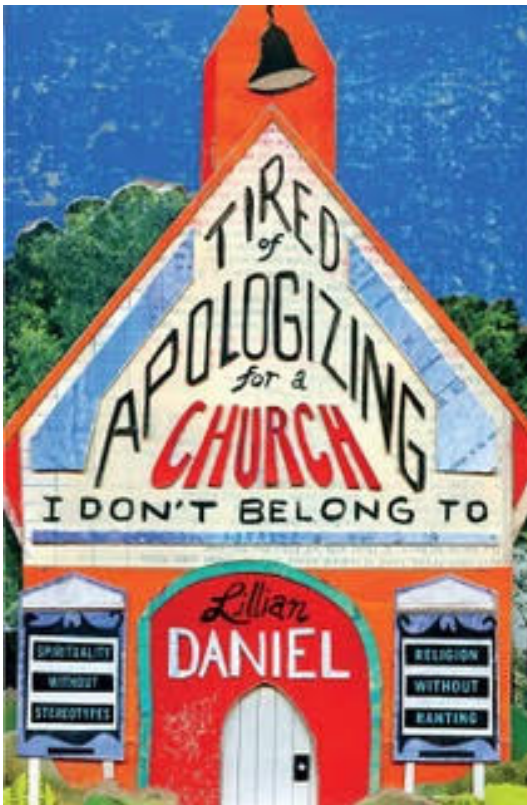


Women's Spiritual Book Group

April finds us taking a look at a book suggested by Pastor Amelia last month titled Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To by Lillian Daniel. This suggestion came following a conversation about responding to those - including many of our own children - who have stepped away from church membership and participation and question the role of church in their lives. We were searching for a way to lift up our own experiences as members of a church community without alienating or being perceived as judging. The back cover of the book offers this: "With her signature wit, [Daniel] shows open-minded Christians how to handle situations when Christians, by definition, are seen as judgmental, condemning hypocrites. She shares ways to talk without defensiveness about church and to share faith that is reasonable, rigorous and real."

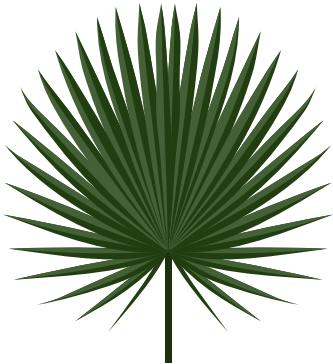
Eunice shared that this book is available in hard copy through BetterWorldBooks.com for only \$4.03 including shipping! Thanks, Eunice, for this great tip!

~Cathy B. Bowden



MINISTRY OF *Christian education*

BY KRISTEN COLEMAN



Early in Lent, the kids began learning about their words of the week, starting with Healing and Blessing. We talked about all the amazing miracles Jesus performed and we played Lent bingo. The next week, our words of the week were Family and Friends, and we discussed the 12 disciples.

During our 5th week of lent our focus was on Prayer and Breath. We also talked about the history of St. Patrick's Day, decorated cookies and made shaving cream art. In the last week of Lent we focused on the words Faith and Remember, and we filmed videos of the kids waving palms for Palm Sunday as they sang "Hosanna!"



PARKING LOT COFFEE HOUSE



Join us for music in the parking lot. Jeff Christmas will sing over loudspeakers and, via a transponder, car radios can tune in. For more information check out:

(www.jeffchristmasmusic.com.)

This is a family-friendly, weather permitting event. Coffee drinks will be available. Don't miss it!

Jeff Christmas: Outdoor and Livestreamed

Friday, April 9th, 6:00 PM

CHURCH family news

April Birthdays

- 1 Jeff Howland
- 3 Felicia Garant
- 3 Kristen Coleman
- 6 Caitlin Howland
- 10 Alan Mathieu
- 10 Nancy Merrill
- 12 Liz Murray
- 12 Ashleigh Howland
- 22 Kaye Macgowan
- 22 David Horne
- 28 Cheryl Olen
- 28 Adeline Ziobro
- 30 Joey Han

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



We Lift in Prayer...



- Please pray prayers of comfort for Pastor Geoff Parker and his wife, Julia. The baby they had been expecting later this month died Tuesday, March 2nd. Please hold in loving compassion our sibling church, the Foreside Community Church, as they grieve this loss.
- Please pray for James Smith and Jim and Kaye as they care for him.
- Please pray for Terri Collins as she continues to rest and recover from COVID 19. Cards may be sent to: 295 Falmouth Road Falmouth, ME 04105. The family thanks the church for the cards, prayers and food that people have provided and continue to provide.
- Please pray for Patrick Miele who is recovering from COVID 19 and gall bladder surgery at home. Cards of encouragement can be sent to: 130 Patternote Road, Mooresville NC 28117
- Please pray for Alan Mathieu's brother Wayne.
- Please pray for Richard Corey's daughter's wife, Kris, who is having cancer treatment.

- Please pray for Sarah Davis' mother, Sydney, and her father, Joe, as he adapts to his role as caregiver.
- Please pray for Dr. Myron Krueger and for Doris as she cares for him.
- Please pray for John Graustein's faithful PT work to strengthen himself.
- Please continue praying for Bee O'Brien, Norm O'Brien, Ginny Hamilton, Bill Graves and Sally Emery.

Please join together in prayers of joy

- We thank God that Alan Mathieu's mother, Anita, is happily settled into her assisted living home at Stroudwater.
- We praise God that Peggy Halleck reports that her hard work in PT is paying off as her leg is gradually improving.
- We praise God that MANY more of our parishioners have gotten the COVID 19 vaccine! Please keep advocating for yourselves and ask for help to get vaccines through your doctors or other resources!



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The Easter Flowers decorating our sanctuary are given:

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Robbie Coleman
Florence & Harvey McCann
Gladys & Everett Coleman
Myrtle & Edward Winslow
Dorothea & Harvey McCann
by Jeaneen Coleman

Charles L. Grubb
Florence & Harvey McCann
Heather May Grubb
by Maureen Grubb

Our Parents
by Joe & Jo Blinick

Rev. Milton & Mary Grant
by the Yarrison-Meyer Family

Harold W. Kauffman
and the friends and loved ones I lost this year.
by Carol Kauffman

Loved Ones
by Margaret Halleck

Warren & Constance Dufty
Charles & Stella Nugent
Julia Carolyn Prybylo
by Jake & Amelia Edson

Robert S. Graustein
Stuart G. Bradley
by John & Barbara Graustein

Cliff & Gerry Ashley
by Joan Ashley

Howard & Mildred Fleming
Harold & Thelma Sonnichsen
Nancy Fleming Bock
by Barbara Fleming and Eric Sonnichsen

Jack & Ginny Davis
Ted & Drummie Frost
by Jack & Laurie Davis

Jon & Jane Barton
Emagene & Heinz Wiesener
by the Hendry Family

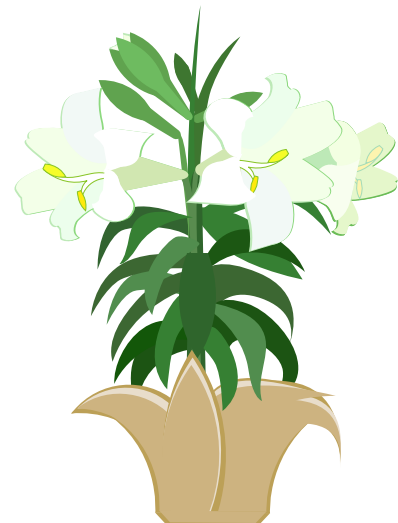


In Honor Of

In honor of my children and
grandchildren
by Carol Kauffman

My parents, Kim and Mollie Mason, for
their generosity and kindness.
by Lydia Hill

My dad, David Eldridge &
my mom, Cynthia Mahoney
by Lauren Jordy



April 2021 Calendar

Important Upcoming Dates:

May Congregator Deadline: April 15th

Maundy Thursday: April 1st, 5:30 PM

Good Friday: April 2nd, 6 PM

Easter: April 4th, 10 AM

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						3 6:00 PM Good Friday Service
4 Easter 10 AM Worship In Person or Online 10-12 Church School	5 12 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Ministry of Worship & Covenant	6 12 PM Women's Spiritual Book Club 6:30 PM Handbell Choir Practice	7 8:30 AM Écu Clergy 12 PM & 5:30 PM Maundy Thursday 6:30 PM Ministry of Missions	8 7 PM Finance Committee Meeting	9 6:00 PM Parking Lot Coffeehouse- Jeff Christmas	10
11 10 AM Worship In Person or Online 10-12 Church School 11:30 AM Council Baptism	12 Pastor Amelia: Out of Office through 4/19 12 PM Bible Study	13 6:30 PM Handbell Choir Practice	14 Congregator Deadline	15	16	17
18 10 AM Worship In Person or Online with guest Rev. Kelli Whitman	19 12 PM Bible Study	20 6:30 PM Handbell Choir Practice	21 22	22	23	24
25 10-12 Church School 10 AM Worship In Person or Online 10-12 Church School 11:30 AM Ministry of Education	26 12 PM Bible Study	27 6:30 PM Handbell Choir Practice	28	29	30	

Falmouth Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
267 Falmouth Road
Falmouth, ME 04105
Phone: 207-781-3413
Email: officemanager@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org
Website: www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org

Falmouth Congregational Church United Church of Christ

Ministries

Kim Hendry
Chair, Council of Ministries

Kristen Coleman
Chair, Ministry of Christian Education

Rae Pierce & Jane Stegemann
Ministry of Community Life

Matthew Strobel
Chair, Ministry of Facilities

Steve Hendry
Chair, Ministry of Missions

Carol Kauffman & Jim Parr
Ministry of Worship & Covenant

Church Staff

Rev. Amelia Edson, Settled Pastor
Katharina Roderick, Office Manager, Newsletter Editor
Laura Rosenberg, Office Assistant
Matthew Strobel, Sexton and Property Manager
Doris Krueger, Minister of Music
Jane Stegemann, Minister of Visitation
Kristen Coleman, Christian Education

Officers

Kim Hendry, Moderator
Anne Coleman, Vice Moderator
Laurie Davis, Clerk
Paul Davis and Pam Carroll, Co-Treasurers
Gini Medford, Financial Secretary
Carol Kauffman MSN, RN, Faith Community Nurse