



# THE CONGREGATOR

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 - Musings from Reverend Diane
- 2 - Council Corner / Holy Week
- 3 - Ministry of Missions
- 5 - Women's Book Group
- 7 - Egg Hunt / Christian Education
- 8 - Ministry of Facilities
- 9- Church Family News
- 10- Calendar

Art by Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

## *Musings*

April is such a transitional month for us Mainers. We go from some cold, blustery days to sun-induced warmth and the real greening of the landscape. In fact, I was awakened this morning by the folks who do landscaping around our building – much surprised to hear their equipment rushing the season. It isn't that I don't want spring (having not gone to Florida this year, my golf clubs have cobwebs) just that I'm still mentally and spiritually in Lent. But like everything else about life, I'm not as in charge as I'd like to think I am. Flexibility is called for....a willingness to roll with what comes. We've had to work hard on that during Covid. We've had to trust that, as Julian of Norwich said, "And all shall be well... all manner of things shall be exceedingly well." It seems we may be experiencing a sustainable turn in this pandemic. This is reminiscent of the rhythm of Lent – a long period of dormancy followed by unexpected, unparalleled joy. And we are now poised for that joy – the joy of Easter's resurrection and the joy of spring. There is much to look forward to in the life of this congregation, made known to you through this newsletter. Participate according to your comfort level; your church friends are looking for you!

Do you know Barrie Shepherd? I should say the Rev. J. Barrie Shepherd, Minister Emeritus of First Presbyterian Church in NYC? He is also a poet, author of numerous books and has lived in Maine for many years now. Following is one of his poems, written on "...an Easter Sunday afternoon when, after an exhausting morning and a refreshing nap, I decided to tackle some problems in the manse garden."

### Hope Weed

Our Christian symbols seem, at times, not quite appropriate to the meaning that they bear.

For instance, take the Easter lily, white and fragile sign of resurrection. Rare, its graceful silent trumpet greets the light of March or April only under glare of florists' lamps, unnaturally bright. You never find them in the open air

before July. A better flower for Easter Day would be, as every angry gardener knows, the dandelion, seeded by the gay abandoned wind that, as it listeth, blows. No matter how we weed out every stray, digging as deep, the root still deeper goes. And when, at last, we quit and go away the rain falls, and a host of fresh bright foes stands resurrected, and the garden glows.

## COUNCIL Corner

### *A Message from our Moderator*



Hi,

I want to provide an update on our COVID protocols going forward. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have been following the science and guidance of the ME CDC and aligning with our local community and schools. Given that the rate of transmission in Cumberland County and most of Maine is low, we are making some modifications.

- Masking is optional for our congregation during services as well as for our Church School.
- We are removing the social distancing requirement, and thus the tape, in the sanctuary with the exception of the front section of pews on the left side closest to Fellowship Hall. We will leave the tape there for those who wish to be distanced. The rest of the sanctuary will be open seating.
- The current protocols for singing will remain in place so no singing by the congregation in the pews. We will review that in a month's time in hopes of being able to sing soon.
- We are bringing back the prayer cards. Prayer cards will be available on the table just outside the sanctuary in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to complete one, please do so before the service and give it to one of the ushers.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Many blessings,

Kim Hendry, Moderator, khendry1972@gmail.com, 207-756-9343

CULTIVATING  
& LETTING GO

HOLY WEEK

Good Friday Tenebrae: 7pm, April 15th - Foreside Community Church

Palm Sunday: 10am, April 10th - Guest Organist, Nancy Wines-DeWan

Easter Egg Hunt: 11am - 1pm, Saturday, April 16th

Easter Sunday: April 17 - 6am Sunrise Service - Portland Yacht Club

10am with Rev. Diane Bennekamper and Guest Organist, Ray Cornils

Please know that if you are interested in an introspective service during Holy Week, the Rev. Geoff Parker would welcome your attendance at a service of Tenebrae on Good Friday at 7:00 p.m. at the Foreside Community Church UCC (340 Foreside Road, Falmouth.) AND if you are an early riser, Pastor Geoff will hold a Sunrise Service at 6:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday at the Portland Yacht Club (also off Foreside Road.) Both of these opportunities offer an experience that deepens the significance of Holy Week, one of the most sacred times in the liturgical year.



MINISTRY OF  
*Missions*



***Socks for the Homeless***

Thank you very much for continuing to contribute white cotton socks to the box in Fellowship Hall. You have made a BIG difference in helping people who benefit from the Preble Street Resource Center and would like warm dry feet without infections. Many many thanks!

***Loaves of Love: Yummy New Missions Project***



Loaves of love was a huge success on March 6th! In addition to providing donations of over \$400 to One Great Hour of Sharing, the baking took place in our newly remodeled church kitchen and was a fun community activity for the bakers. Church volunteers will continue to bake loaves of bread once a month to serve at Communion and also as a thank-you to anyone who donates to current 5-for-5 UCC missions.

By Wednesday, March 30th, please contact Alyce Graves if you would like to make a contribution and receive a loaf of bread, or sign up after church. The loaves will be available for pickup and your donation in Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning, April 3rd.

Please also contact Alyce if you would like to be one of the four volunteers who will be baking the bread with Alyce on Saturday afternoon, April 2nd.

Thank you for your interest in our church's newest community adventure and for your contribution to 5-for-5 missions!  
Alyce Graves: alycegraves8@gmail.com, cell: (774) 413-0547



Each church has been assigned a month to help Family Promise of Greater Portland support homeless families, many of whom are seeking asylum. Our month was March, but it is still not too late to donate QUARTERS for laundry as well as GAS CARDS and Hannaford gift cards. If you would rather donate money, our church will be able to acquire some items families need when they move in, such as tool kits and bed bug protectors. If you do write a check, please make it out to the church and put "Family Promise" in the subject line.

***Maine Needs: Items Needed in April***

Items may be left in the bin outside the church or in the bin in Fellowship Hall.

- Sneakers in GREAT condition!
- Soccer balls, basketballs,
- Bubbles, sidewalk chalk,
- Frisbees, jump ropes, flash cards,
- Small garden growing kits



Thank you for your donations and thoughtfulness!

MINISTRY OF  
*missions*



Many many thanks to all who have recently donated soup and dried beans to the Falmouth Food Pantry. We don't know who you are and we are sorry we aren't able to thank you personally, but please know you have BEAN good neighbors and many families have already appreciated your SOUPer help!

Speaking of which, how've ya BEAN?

I've BEAN thinking of you and wondering whether you might donate a bag of dried beans to the Falmouth Food Pantry during March or April. Popular kinds are black, navy, pinto, and kidney (dark and light red) beans.



If you would like, please put bags of dried beans into the collection bin outside Fellowship Hall (but don't spill the BEANS), and they will be given to grateful Food Pantry families. Thank you for BEAN so helpful!

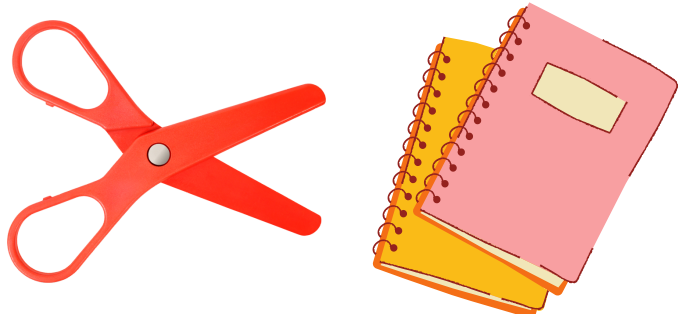
Don't you think I'm funny? I've BEAN practicing jokes all day!

The Falmouth Food Pantry continues to do an entirely doorstep delivery distribution system. Volunteers still deliver boxes of non-perishable food, fresh vegetables, eggs, and meat to families who need food assistance. If you have questions or know someone with an urgent need, please call Nancy Lightbody at 776-0081. Thank you for your continuing support!

*School Kits for  
Church World Service*

The only items still needed are 33 spiral notebooks (70-count each) and 2 pairs of blunt scissors. Many thanks to everyone for your wonderful support of the school kits that will be shipped to the Church World Service. Due to your generosity, we may be able to make 32 KITS!

Please put any donations into the bin under the Missions Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall by Sunday, April 10th. Thank you very much.



OFFERING DATE:  
MARCH 27, 2022

*Special Missions:  
One Great Hour of Sharing*

This important offering from our church is one of the "5 for 5" missions of the National United Church of Christ. OGHS supports international programs of health, education, agricultural development, relief, and refugee assistance in more than 80 countries (including Ukraine).

There is still time to consider making a contribution to this far-reaching ministry by sending a check to "Falmouth Congregational Church" (267 Falmouth Road, Falmouth, ME 04105) with "One Great Hour of Sharing" mentioned in the memo line. Dedication Day is on Sunday, March 27, 2022.

## Welcome New Members



Lydia Hill

After living in Vermont raising her two children, she decided to move to Maine to be closer to family members. "It is lovely to be part of such a wonderful community and I am so happy to be here at FCC."



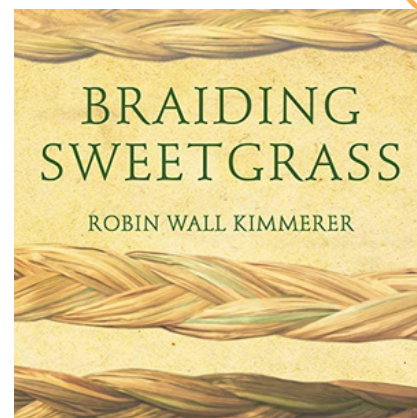
Jim Scherer

Boston was home to Jim and his wife Elena for some 45 years. When he retired from his career as a food photographer, they bought an old farm property in Falmouth, and last fall made it their permanent home.

Jim and Elena enjoy working on the house and gardens, as well as a never-ending list of projects. They have 3 grown kids and 6 grandchildren who are a joy. Jim is grateful for the welcome you've given him, and looks forward to getting to know more of you!

## MINISTRY OF *community life*

### *Women's Spiritual Book Group*



Last month, Pastor Amelia drew the connection between how we as non-Natives have oppressed Native Americans and our church's Lenten theme, "Cultivating and Letting Go"; that is, being humble before God and recognizing that we all worship our gods.

For April's Book Group at noon on Wednesday, April 6th, each of us will read a book about Native American culture. Pastor Nikira suggested Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Some said they would read about the history of Native American-White People. Each of us can decide what we want to read on this topic and how we might advocate for the rights of Native Americans. Pastor Amelia shared a website for such action here in Maine: <https://wabanakialliance.com/take-action/>.

The book for May will be Melinda Gates's A Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World.

We are a lively, engaging and welcoming group that enjoys new faces. Please feel free to join us or contact Cathy Bowden at [cathybbowden@gmail.com](mailto:cathybbowden@gmail.com) or 776-5543 with questions.

In March, the Ministry of Community Life invited the congregation to share Easter hope and joy by writing cards for FCC homebound folks and others.



## *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

Judy Nilsen submitted the following poem titled, "The Unison Prayer".

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end war,  
 For we know that You have made the world in a way  
 That man must find his own path to peace  
 Within himself and with his neighbor.  
 We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end starvation,  
 For you have already given us the resources  
 With which to feed the entire world  
 If we would only use them wisely.  
 We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to root out prejudice,  
 For You have already given us eyes  
 With which to see the good in all men  
 If we would only use them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair,  
 For You have already given us the power  
 To clear away slums and to give hope  
 If we would only use our power justly.  
 We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease,  
 For you have already given us great minds with which  
 To search out cures and healing  
 If we would only use them constructively.  
 Therefore we pray to You instead, O God,  
 For strength, determination, and willpower,  
 To do, instead of just to pray,  
 To become, instead of merely to wish.  
 For Your sake and for ours, speedily and soon,  
 That our land and world may be safe,  
 And that our lives may be blessed.  
 May the words that we pray,  
 and the deeds that we do  
 be acceptable before You, O God.  
 Amen.





# EASTER EGG HUNT

~ Saturday, April 16th, 2022 ~  
Volunteers Needed!

[Click here](#)  
[to sign up](#)  
[to](#)  
[volunteer!](#)

Or Contact  
Kristen Tripp  
207-615-3849



## MINISTRY OF *Christian Education*

During this Lenten season, the Kid's Church is focusing less on sacrifice and disparity and more on the budding possibilities of springtime. We have decided to model the behavior of the gardener in our parable of the fig tree. We have done this by making Lent jars. These beautifully crafted jars have a Lenten task the kids can pull each day to challenge themselves during the Lenten season. These tasks may tell them to give a friend a hug, help mom and dad with chores, watch a sunrise, and many other uplifting activities.

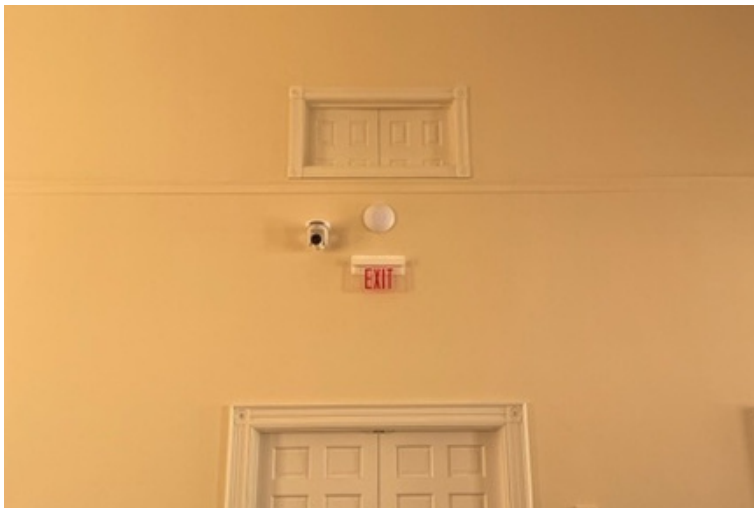
We have spent the last month really understanding what the season of Lent means and going deeper into our knowledge of Jesus and his miracles. We have acted out our favorite miracles, we have baked pretzels (a traditional Lenten snack), and we have played "Jesus Is My Jam Jeopardy." We have been working on our new song "Hosanna Rock", which has quickly become a class favorite. We are so excited to share this song LIVE IN CHURCH on Palm Sunday!!!!

MINISTRY OF  
*Facilities*

*Wireless and  
Construction Update*



Our new wireless system is up and running!  
The "Public" Wi-Fi password is falmouthucc.



Tom Stegemann, John Wilcox and Virginia Eddy have been busy working with various vendors to complete this project. The finishing touches will be done this month!



# CHURCH

## *family news*

## *We Lift in Prayer...*



### April Birthdays

- 3 - Kristen Tripp
- 3 - Felicia Garant
- 10 - Alan Mathieu
- 19 - Randy Boardway
- 22 - David Horne
- 22 - Kathryn MacGowan
- 23 - Lynne Downing
- 24 - Eva Howison
- 29 - Cheryl Olen
- 28 - Adeline Ziobro



### *Liturgists*

- 3 - Lydia Hill
- 10- Ann Sanborn
- 17 - Kim Hendry
- 24 - Jane Stegemann

### *Ushers*

- 3 - Virginia Eddy
- 10- The Blinicks
- 17 - The Perrys
- 24 - The Hendrys

- Please pray gratefully and joyfully as Pastor Amelia and her family welcome their new baby, William Sander Edson, born on Wednesday, March 16th! Let's welcome him with "open arms" by sending cards of joy to: 267 Falmouth Road Falmouth, ME 04105.
- Please pray for Carol Kauffman's lifelong friend, Abigail H. Leighton, as she adjusts to living in memory care.
- Please continue praying for James Smith who was admitted to Maine Medical Center on Wednesday evening, March 23rd and discharged on the 29th. Please pray for James' comfort and wellbeing and for his parents, Jim and Kaye, who need strength. Please send cards of encouragement, but no phone calls please: 127 Winn Road Falmouth, Maine 04105. Please contact Jane Stegemann (252-8272) if you'd like to reach out to them with additional support.
- Please pray for Erlon and Faith Varney, as they adjust to their new home at Harbor Chase Assisted Living in South Portland. Cards of encouragement may be sent to their new address: 25 Country Club Road Apt. 313 South Portland, Maine 04106
- Please pray for John Wilcox who appreciates our caring and prayers while he continues his safe, steady recovery from cardiac surgery. Cards can be sent to: 1 Alumni Drive Falmouth, ME 04105
- Please keep praying for Sally Emery who is working to regain mobility and adjust to life after two strokes.
- Please pray comfortingly for Janice Beinema as she settles into her new home at Gorham House. Cards may be sent to: Attn.: Janice Beinema Apt. 109 50 New Portland Rd. Gorham, Maine 04038
- Please pray faithfully for all in this world who suffer from violence in their homes and violence in their communities and countries. Please pray compassionately also for the persecutors, that they may repent and change their ways.
- Please thank God that Pastor Diane Bennekamper is our substitute Ordained Pastor!
- Please pray joyfully that Ruth Smith has started a new position with the Historic Charleston Foundation as The Event Coordinator. She is very well suited for this position and is loving it!
- Please pray welcomingly as John and Barbara Graustein transition from NM back to Maine on March 31st. John will continue to work on PT and OT and Barbara will rejoin church life in person!
- Please pray steadfastly for Terri Collins who notices a bit of improvement but has many significant symptoms of long-haul COVID. Please send cards to: 295 Falmouth Road Falmouth, Maine 04105



FALMOUTH  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH UCC



# EASTER EGG HUNT



Saturday, April 16th

11am - 1pm



~Free Outdoor Event~  
Bring Your Own Basket  
Enjoy Entertainment,  
Concessions, Bunnies  
and more!



ALL ARE WELCOME

267 FALMOUTH ROAD

PLEASE REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE:

[WWW.FALMOUTHCONGREGATIONALCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.FALMOUTHCONGREGATIONALCHURCH.ORG)

# April 2022 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
Lent 10 AM Worship In-person or Online 7 pm Troop 93	4 12 PM Bible Study 7 PM Fiddle-icious 7 PM Worship & Covenant	5 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM The Family Restored	6 12 PM Women's Spiritual Book Club 6:45 PM Private Group	7 8:30 Ecumenical Clergy Meeting 6:30 PM Ministry of Missions 7 PM Troop 93	8 7:00 PM Finance 7 PM Troop 93	9
Palm Sunday 10 AM Worship In-person or Online 11:30 Council of Ministries	11 12 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Scotland Fiddle-icious	12 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	13 6:45 PM Private Group	14 7 PM Finance meeting 7 PM Troop 93	15 7 PM Good Friday Tenebrae Service at Foreside	16 11 AM Easter Egg Hunt! 
Easter Sunday 10 AM Worship In-person or Online with Rev. Diane and Ray Cornils 	18 Congregator Deadline 2 PM Bible Study (zoom) 7 PM Fiddle-icious	19 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored	20 6:45 PM Private Group	21 7 PM Troop 93	22	23
10 AM Worship In-person or Online Kristen is out this Sunday - Church School staffed by volunteers	25 12 PM Bible Study	26 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored	27 6:45 PM Private Group	28 7 PM Troop 93	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 Tripp  
Chair, Ministry of Christian  
Education

Jane Stegemann  
Ministry of Community Life

Matthew Strobel  
Chair, Ministry of Facilities

Steve Hendry  
Chair, Ministry of Missions

Virginia Eddy & Larry Perry  
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  
Jane Stegemann, Minister of Visitation  
Kristen Tripp, Christian Education  
Anna Dube, Nursery Caregiver  
Jack Gervais, Tech Assistant

### Officers

Kim Hendry, Moderator  
Anne Coleman, Vice Moderator  
Laurie Davis, Clerk  
Paul Davis, Treasurer  
Gini Medford, Financial Secretary  
Carol Kauffman MSN, RN, Faith Community Nurse