



# THE CONGREGATOR

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## Advent: Say Yes

Advent is a time of waiting for God. It is also a time of God waiting for us. In Advent God waits for us to say Yes to Jesus's coming, and ready our hearts, lives, homes, and world for the Prince of Peace.

The Christmas story depends on ordinary people saying Yes. Mary said Yes to carrying God in her body. Joseph, warned only in a dream, said yes too. The shepherds saw angels in the sky and dared to believe the promise of their songs, leaving everything behind. The Wise Ones saw a star, and set out bearing gifts.

Advent invites us into the story: we are called to be brave like Mary, kind like Joseph, daring like the shepherds, and generous like the wise ones. Advent is a time for saying yes to God; a time of saying yes to finding our place in the story.

The Advent season here at Falmouth UCC offers many opportunities to say Yes. Each Sunday we will ready our hearts for Christmas through prayer, music, and worship. At home we invite you to travel with the **Advent: Say Yes** take home devotional and an [Advent spotify playlist](#). In addition you could Move through Advent with the Gospel of Matthew (more on next page). Our Church School Families will learn the Christmas story an envelope a day with their take home advent calendars. We will revel and sing at the second annual Christmas Spectacular and decorate the Sanctuary as we hang the Chrismons together. And, for those for whom this season is bitter sweet, we offer the contemplative Longest Night service as a salve against what can be a difficult season.

It is our hope that, together, we can say Yes to God, and let God's coming change us, so that we are ready to feasting at God's table, a table of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace without end.

*In Christ, Pastor Amelia*

# Advent

Advent: Say Yes Devotional: Pick up or download this seasons Advent Devotional with poetry, Scripture, coloring and reflection questions, and follow along through the season each week at home.

Advent Playlist: Enter into the season through a curated, contemplative mix.

Available on Spotify- search "Advent 2022 Falmouth UCC" or click here:

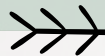
<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5XU69hNovZRbLCggUfpJCU?si=L-pZSxNRTKKDpsvuJoBviQ&pt=4d4bae493999c9169967b5ba86of279f>

Moving with Matthew: This year Advent is 28 days- and our focus Gospel, Matthew, has 28 Chapters. Read a Chapter a day during Advent and then come talk about it with Pastor Amelia after church on Sunday, December 18th at ~11:15.

Christmas Spectacular: Join us for the second Annual holiday caroling extravaganza! Come sing your favorite Christmas songs, check out the live petting zoo, have some hot cocoa, watch (or enter your a furry friend in!) the festive dog competition, and revel in holiday cheer: Sunday, December 11th 3:30 - 5:30 PM.

See page 11 for details.

Longest Night Service : Join in for this short service at which we recognize the grief, loneliness, and heartache that comes with this season. 5:30 PM on Thursday December 15th



# Christmas Eve

**4:30 PM All Ages Pageant Service**

Hear the Christmas story told anew through the eyes (and acting) of our church school children.

**7:00 PM Lessons & Carols**

Candle lit service with 20 min pre-service concert with flute, violin, saxophone and piano.

COUNCIL

# Corner Stewardship Update



From **BREAD** and **CUP** to **FAITH** and **GIVING**

## Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving – Communion to Stewardship

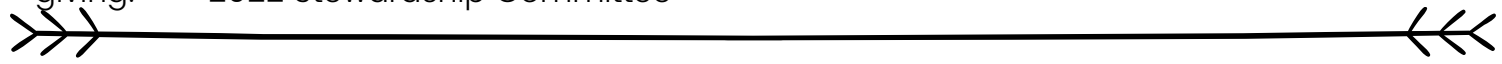
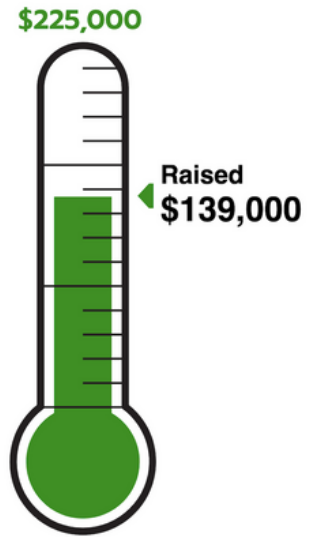
“Stewardship, simply put, is what we do with what we have. Stewardship is what we do with the resources over which we control or which we can influence. In stewardship, we manage the resources at hand in light of God’s purpose for all to experience abundance”

So far the 2023 Stewardship campaign has received 39 pledge units for a total of 137,655.00. In order to meet our budget we need to raise a total of \$225,000.

Laurie Davis did a wonderful job explaining where these valuable resources from the congregation are put to work for the betterment of our church and world community.

If you did not receive a pledge card, please contact the church office and we will send one out, or simply email Gini Medford with you pledge: [financial.secretary@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org](mailto:financial.secretary@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org)

May the Grace of God be with all of you during this Stewardship time of giving. ~2022 Stewardship Committee



Many, many thanks to all on this list that have pledged towards the 2023 Stewardship Campaign. Gini Medford, our Financial Secretary, does a great job receiving all your pledges and has provided this list of those who have generously donated as of November 23rd, 2022:

- Nancy Althaus
- Tom Crosby
- Lauren Jordy
- Joel Pond
- Janice Beinema
- Jack Davis
- Karin Kurry
- Julia Poppell
- Marilee Beinema
- Paul Davis
- Nancy Lightbody
- Ann Sanborn
- Lorraine Bergen
- Jacob & Amelia Edson
- Kaye Low-Smith
- Jim Scherer
- Joe Blinick
- Felicia Garant
- Kimball Mason
- Kathie Sinnett
- Betty Bois
- Barbara Graustein
- Judith Nilsen
- Thomas Stegemann
- Cathy Bowden
- Maureen Grubb
- Craig Page
- Elizabeth Stouder
- Gerald Caruso
- Mike Guippone
- James Parr
- Kathleen Towns
- Anne Coleman
- Charles Harriman
- Larry Perry
- Kathy Whitmore
- Jeaneen Coleman
- David Horne
- Philip Pierce
- John Wilcox





MINISTRY OF

*Music*

Growth in music participation since June 1 has been fabulous!

Singers singing

Players playing

Ringers ringing

... all for God's glory.



As we approach Advent, we sing:

“Christian’s all, your Lord is coming,

Drawing near in holy birth.

Ring the bells and sound the trumpets,

Let your music fill the earth.

Dance and move to show God’s glory;

Kneel and pause to hear God’s word.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Rise and let your songs be heard.”



~ Jan Stover, Minister of Music, [janiceleastover@gmail.com](mailto:janiceleastover@gmail.com)

# MINISTRY OF *Community Life*

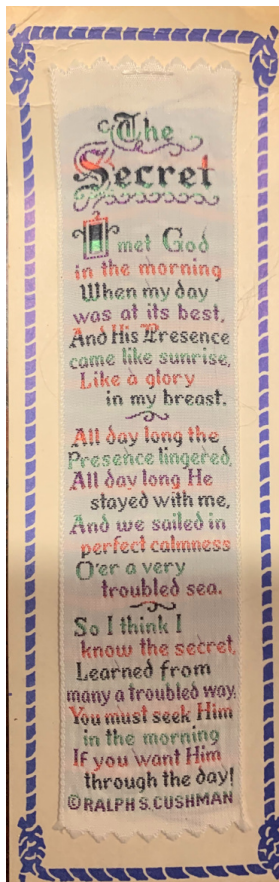


## Christmas Cards

The Ministry of Community Life is grateful to provide a time of gathering together to write Christmas cards to those of our beloved who work as our wonderful staff, are more homebound, and/or experienced grief this past year. Come one, come all on Sunday, December 11 right after church (and snacks) to create Christmas joy by sharing God's love through sending cards. All supplies will be provided. Please RSVP to Jane Stegemann (jhsteg@gmail.com) or call 252-8272 if you want to join the fun, please let me know and I will organize the recipients' cards so you get a batch to sign that day!

From  
Judy  
Nilsen

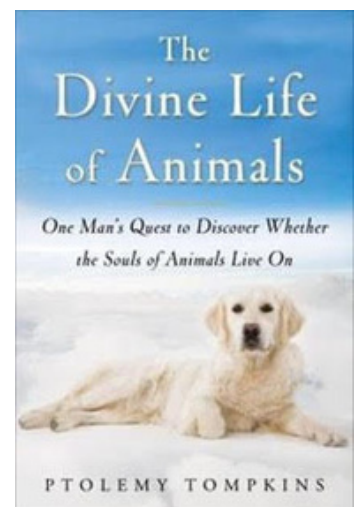
Gratefully  
Jane



## Women's Spiritual Book Group

The Women's Spiritual Book Group's next meeting is on December 7 at noon. Participants can meet in the Grant Room or attend via Zoom. December's discussion will be on 'The Divine Life of Animals: One Man's Quest to Discover Whether the Souls of Animals Live On' by Ptolemy Tompkins. Reviews suggest that in this "wise, immensely readable book, Tompkins embarks on a quest for the answer--taking us on a top-speed tour of the history of the animal soul. Equally at home with mainstream and alternative spiritual philosophies, Tompkins takes us from the savannas of Africa to the earth's first cities to the early days of the great faith traditions of both East and West."

All are welcome to join this lively group. Bring your lunch and get ready for great conversation and a few laughs! Questions? Contact Cathy Bowden at cathybbowden@gmail.com.



**MINISTRY OF**  
*missions*



What is an English teacher's favorite cereal?  
**SYNONYM TOAST CRUNCH**  
How does cereal pay its bills?  
**With CHEX.**

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?  
**Frosted Flakes.**  
What cereal is worth its weight in gold?  
**Golden Grahams**

Our church will be collecting COLD CEREAL for the Falmouth Food Pantry during December, January, and February. If you would like, please put boxes of COLD CEREAL into the collection bin outside Fellowship Hall, and they will be given to grateful Food Pantry families. Thank you very much, and Cheerio!

The Falmouth Food Pantry would not be able to do what it currently does without the support of so many members of our community. The Food Pantry has been extremely grateful for donations of Falmouth-grown fresh produce and eggs, volunteers who pack boxes of food, volunteers who deliver the boxes to families who are not able to get out of their homes, and monetary gifts that help purchase supplies. In addition, the Food Pantry has been able to get food free or at drastically reduced prices from Good Shepherd Food Bank, Wayside Food Rescue, and Cultivating Community on the Gray Road in West Falmouth.

If you have questions or know someone with an urgent need, please call Nancy Lightbody at 776-0081. Thank you for your continuing support!

## Maine Needs

DONATIONS TO MAINE NEEDS WILL BE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED FOR:

**Winter Coats \* Winter Boots \* Snow Pants**

Please be sure that the items are clean. Items may be left in the Mission Bin that is inside the side entry door (leading to the office) and will be delivered to Maine Needs.



## Love the Loaves?



Loaves of Love has returned! We will be baking for Communion Sundays and all who wish to take a loaf home. On December 3 we will be baking a holiday brioche with dried cherries.

Loaves of Love is a community effort. Even if you have no baking experience, please consider donating four hours of your time on a Saturday for this mission. Volunteers from nine to ninety have dug into the dough. The aromas are wonderful, and the fruits of our labor speak for themselves.

Please speak to Alyce at church or send an email if you would like to join in the fun. Alyce Graves: [Alycegraves8@gmail.com](mailto:Alycegraves8@gmail.com)

**MINISTRY OF***missions***Special Offering**

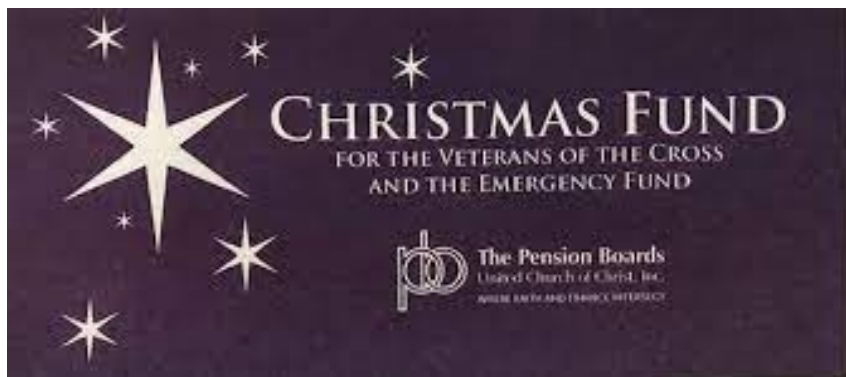
The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross is a United Church of Christ annual offering that supports ministries to lower-income retired clergy and lay employees as well as to active clergy facing unforeseen financial crises. Retired pastors, church office assistants, or ministers of music continue to touch the lives of all of us.

**Pastor's Discretionary Fund**

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



Please consider contributing to this ministry of the UCC by sending a check to "Falmouth Congregational Church" with "Christmas Fund" mentioned in the memo line. This appeal runs during Advent, beginning on Sunday, November 27, through Sunday, December 18.

**Angel Tree Gifts  
Due December 11th**

Once again generous church members have said they wanted to bring smiles to many young faces on Christmas Day. This year our Angel Tree gifts will meet the needs of 22 children in families identified by the Falmouth Food Pantry.

Please choose your gift on the following website:  
<https://tinyurl.com/yw7jc3mp>

We encourage all gifts to be returned to the large labeled bin outside Fellowship Hall no later than Sunday, December 11. Please wrap and label each gift.

The recipients are deeply grateful, and each year the families are very appreciative of our congregation for the thoughtful and generous response to the children's needs and wishes at the holiday season. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Lightbody at 776-0081. Thank you very much!

# HOLLY DAYS FAIR WREATH DECORATING WORKSHOP





## HOLLY DAYS FAIR



Thank you again for all your hard work and efforts the past couple weeks and for helping create a very successful fair. We have surpassed \$16K gross with some late purchases.

There are always ways to improve such as a card machine at each entrance/exit, a “food court” experience to allow better flow, etc.

We'll meet briefly after church on Sunday, November 27th in the sanctuary if you have some ideas or thoughts on adding to the fairs success.  
If you can't make it, feel free to email Matthew and I.

Best,  
Stephen Hendry ~ Cell: 207-333-8780

The fair was so much fun and really well attended. Great job everyone on exceptional planning, organization and follow through! The kitchen folks were giving it their all with smiles the whole time, the stations were headed up by kind and patient volunteers juggling people on all sides, coffee, treats and cookies were greatly enjoyed by all and the checkout was very efficient. We heard lots of people commenting on how wonderful it was. No suggestions here – this fair team aced it! ~ Fair Attendee, Chelsea Reid

MINISTRY OF  
*Christian  
Education*



Hello, Falmouth Congregational Church!

As we enter the season of Advent, we have much excitement, joy, and opportunities for celebration in store for us. I can hear the hustle and bustle of preparations for the Holly Days Fair as I write this, and can smell the beautiful scent of balsam from the wreaths waiting to be purchased in Beinema Hall. I already feel filled with the Christmas spirit, and it's only November!

In Kids' Church, the children are beginning to rehearse for the annual Christmas Pageant service, which will take place on Christmas Eve at 4:30pm this year. With the knowledge that some of our families travel for Christmas and in an effort to include all our young members who wish to participate, the pageant will be presented in a hybrid format this year, with some scenes pre-filmed and some performed live. Our youngest friends in the nursery will be invited to participate in the pre-filmed scenes, as well.

Additionally, we are bringing back the Christmas Spectacular this year! This fun-filled caroling event will take place here at the church on December 11 from 3:30 to 5:30pm with cider, hot chocolate, treats, music, the Most Festive Dog competition and more. Our friends from last year's petting zoo will also be returning! Keep an eye out for more information coming soon.

Warmly,

Hannah Daly  
Director of Youth and Family Ministries

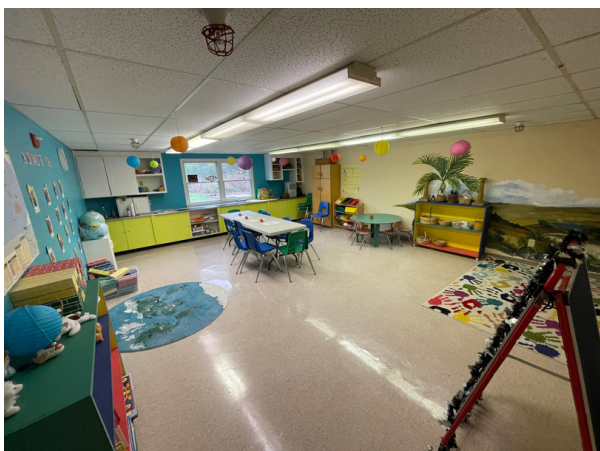


Hello, FCC!

We will be hosting another brainstorming session for our upcoming basement renovations on Sunday, November 27th. This will take place in the Kids' Church classroom from the end of worship until noon, and childcare will be provided. We had a fruitful discussion at the first session, and look forward to hearing more ideas of ways we can improve our Kids' Church space. Parents of children who currently attend Kids' Church are especially encouraged to attend.



Thank you!  
Hannah Daly  
Director of Youth and Family Ministries





FALMOUTH  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH UCC

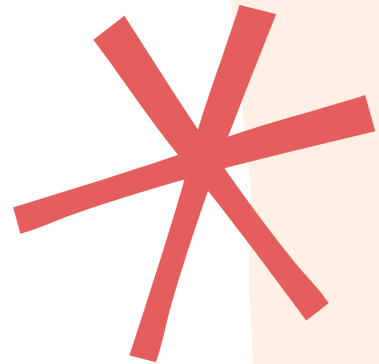


# Christmas Spectacular!

Sunday,  
December 11th  
3:30 PM to  
5:30 PM  
Caroling,  
Petting Zoo,  
Refreshments,  
Fire Pits and  
Most Festive  
Dog Contest

Falmouth  
Congregational  
Church  
267 Falmouth Rd,  
Falmouth, ME

More info:  
(207) 781-3413  
or scan QR Code  
above



MINISTRY OF  
*Worship &  
Covenant*



The Ministry of Worship & Covenant and volunteers participated in an Usher training with Pastor Amelia on Sunday, November 20th.

We learned about the importance of ushers as hosts of our worship space.

## **Falmouth Congregational Church Ushers are:**

### **Welcoming**

Greet, guide, welcome.

Always remember that coming to church is a tender and brave thing to do, for everyone.

### **Worshipful**

Model that worship is a set aside time for God.

FCC Ushers are quiet, reverent (but not too serious!) and calm.

### **Watchful**

The ushers are the host for that Sunday

Watch for needs- childcare, late arrivals, coloring, and anything that requires the attention of staff (or our local police)

## **Falmouth Congregational Church Ushers:**

- Greet and orient new people (bathrooms, nursery care, hello)
- Pass out bulletins
- Keep a count of how many people are in worship (done during first hymn)
- Pass the plates during the offering
- Help tidy the Sanctuary after worship

## **Interested in ushering?**

**Talk to Larry Perry or email/ call the church office.**

**PASTOR'S REPORT:***Next Generation Leadership Initiative*

In November I spent a week in Chicago receiving leadership training and professional development through the Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI). This is my second year of this five year program.

NGLI is a leadership development initiative of the national United Church of Christ that equips, energizes, and empowers younger UCC local church pastors to build vibrant congregations that change lives and further God's mission in the world. It seeks to honor and challenge clergy who have accepted the high calling to parish ministry, who demonstrate significant potential, and who view parish ministry as a career path and are willing to make a long-term commitment to service in congregational settings of the United Church of Christ.

My time in Chicago was energizing. We focused on Vitality, and what it means to be a vital church and a vital church leader. I relish being able to learn beside other dedicated, smart, and faithful Pastors.



I came away with a clearer understanding of what Vitality looks like: It is a spirit-filled, Christ centered place. It can get easy to get distracted by other things but, fundamentally, Jesus is what we have, in the Church; Jesus is the reason we exist. When we focus on that we are clear on our Why, and that makes the What is easier.

Visual notes/ doodles from one of the sessions.

# CHURCH

## family news

- Jim, Kaye and James Smith are grateful that James will be moving to an intermediate care group home in Scarborough. It is truly a miracle since there are 16 residents, a long waiting list, and James was chosen! They ask for continued prayers as they move through this transition.
- Ken and Cathy Bowden rejoice in the birth of their second granddaughter, Eloise Coulter Bowden, to Tom and Charlotte Bowden and big sister Genevieve on November 13.
- Carol Kauffman as she recovers from a medical procedure and waits for further information.
- Val Gray whose father, Ernest, went into his eternal rest on Nov. 9th. Cards of care may be sent to: Val Gray 38 Croquet Lane Portland, Maine 04103.
- Barbara Graustein and family as her husband, John Graustein, who entered God's eternal rest on October 23: 57 Waites Landing Rd, Falmouth, ME 04105.
- Joan Ashley as she recovers from a medical procedure.
- Elvine, Marcello and sisters Marcella and Amelia Kaluba who welcomed new baby Daniella into the world in November.



## We Lift in Prayer...



- Candice, daughter of Marshall and granddaughter of Eunice and John, as she continues to heal from medical challenges.
- Continued prayers for Kathleen Towns' brother, Mark. Cards of care for Kathleen: 11 Brookwest Lane, Westbrook, ME 04092
- Jan, Nancy Althaus' sister, whose husband died suddenly and unexpectedly. Cards of care for Nancy and Dave at: 10 Quaker Lane, Portland, ME 04103
- Randy Boardway's father, Paul, who is fighting liver cancer.
- Katie Howison's family supports her mother (and Eva and Grace's "mimi") through her cancer diagnosis.
- Norm O'Brien, who is 92 and in hospice care within his home: 130 Winn Road Falmouth, ME 04105.
- Bee, Norm's wife of 67+ years, who continues to live at Falmouth-By-the-Sea and will also benefit from cards: Room 103A 191 Foreside Road Falmouth, ME 04105.
- Ginny Hamilton who continues to enjoy hearing from you where she lives at her nursing home. This is Ginny's birthday month! Cards to 300 Spring Street Room King 4A Springbrook Center, Westbrook, Maine 04092.
- Sally Emery who is cared for in her home. Please give her joy by sending a card to: P.O. Box 102 Gray, ME 04039.

## Ushers

- 4 - Mark & Peggy Horton
- 11 - TBD
- 18 - TBD
- 24 - TBD

## Liturgists


- 4 - Lydia Hill
- 11 - Ann Sanborn
- 18 - Marilee Beinema
- 24 - Christmas

## December Birthdays

- 10 - Alan Doughty
- 12 - Chris Kittredge
- 17 - Nancy Kittredge
- 19 - Diana Wescott
- 21 - Virginia Hamilton
- 24 - Josephine Gibbons
- 24 - Sarah Lyons
- 27 - Caroline Riley
- 31 - Eunice Wilcox



# December 2022 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>First Sunday of Advent - Hope</b> 10 AM Worship In-person or Online 11 AM Building Brainstorming	28 12 PM Bible Study	29 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored	30 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	1 8:30 AM Ecumenical Clergy 6:30 PM Min. of Missions 5:30 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Troop 93	2	3 10 AM Loaves of Love Bread Baking Boy Scouts Event - All Day
<b>Second Sunday of Advent - Peace</b> 10 AM Worship* w/Communion 11 AM Men's Group 7 PM Troop 93	5 12 PM Bible Study 6 PM Fiddle-icious Potluck 7 PM Worship & Covenant 7 PM Cub Scouts	6 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored	7 12 PM Women's Spiritual Book Club 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	8 5:30 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Finance Committee 7 PM Troop 93	9	10
<b>Third Sunday of Advent - Joy</b> 10 AM Worship* 11 AM Christmas Card Writing 11:30 AM Council of Ministries 3:30 PM Christmas Spectacular	12 12 PM Bible Study 6 PM Snow date for Fiddle-icious Potluck	13 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored.	14 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 5:30 PM Longest Night Service 5:30 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Troop 93	16	17
<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love</b> 10 AM Worship* 11:15 AM Moving with Matthew	<b>Congregator Deadline</b> 12 PM Bible Study	20 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored	21 6:45 PM Private Group	22 7 PM Troop 93	23	24 4:30 or 5 PM Pageant 7 PM Lessons & Carols
<b>No Worship Merry Christmas!</b> 	26 12 PM Bible Study	27 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored	28 6:45 PM Private Group	29 7 PM Troop 93	30	31

\*All worship services may be attended in-person or viewed online.

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  
Laurie Logan, Office Assistant  
Matthew Strobel, Sexton and Property Manager  
Hannah Daly, Director of Youth and Family Ministries  
Jane Stegemann, Minister of Visitation  
Jan Stover, Minister of Music  
Gabby Colby-George, 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