

# THE CONGREGATOR

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## *Christmas: God's Revolution of Love*

This Advent we gather around the theme God's Revolution of Love. We will walk together towards Christmas Day remembering the promises of Jesus birth: that the lowly shall be lifted up, the hungry shall be filled up with good things, those in despair shall find hope, those in sorrow find joy, and places that are filled with hate will instead become filled with God's abundant love. Advent is our time to get ready for this new reality. We are invited to prepare our hearts, minds, and souls to play a role in God's coming revolution, readying our hearts for God's new world here on earth, the world as it already is in heaven.

The month ahead offers many opportunities to ready our hearts, our homes, and our spirits for the coming of Christmas. From The Luke Challenge to the pageant, the Chrismons to the Christmas Spectacular, read below to learn more about the Advent Season here at Falmouth Congregational Church.

*Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Amelia*

# Advent

**The Luke Challenge:** This season revisit the story of Jesus alongside the Gospel of Luke. The book of Luke has 24 chapters in it. You can read a chapter a day for the next 24 days, dwelling in God's word and preparing for Christmas. Pastor Amelia will offer two drop in discussions of the Gospel at 7 PM on Thursday December 2nd and 9th.

**God's Revolution of Love Devotional:** Pick up or download this seasons Advent Devotional & coloring pages, and follow along through the season each week at home.

**Christmas Spectacular:** Our holiday caroling is leveling up this year! Come sing your favorite Christmas songs, check out the live petting zoo, have some hot cocoa, and revel in holiday cheer: Sunday, December 12th 4- 6PM. See page 9 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 16th

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## Christmas Eve

### 5 PM All Ages Pageant Service

Hear the Christmas story told anew as members of our church school present their partial virtual fully delightful pageant!

### 8 PM Lessons & Carols

Experience the Christmas story in hymns and readings with music for choir and organ

**Note:** We will not be preregistering this year and we will be continuing with our current safety & spacing protocols. There will be overflow room in Beinema Hall & live streaming options.

If you wish to worship in the Sanctuary we encourage you to come early!

## COUNCIL *Corner*

### *A Message from our Moderator*

Hi everyone,

Happy Holidays! I have a lot of really good information to share with you this month.

First off, we closed on the sale of the parsonage last Friday, November 19th. It was bought by a couple from Utah. They intend to keep the exterior mostly the same but they do plan to do a lot of renovation to the interior of the house. The wife is a native of Maine and the husband is originally from Georgia. They are very excited to have the Church as neighbors. They would love to have some old pictures of the property so if anyone has some please let me know. And finally, a special thank you to Chris Davis of Vitalius Real Estate who stewarded us through the listing and sale of the property.

Second, I want to express my thanks to Stephen Hendry and his team of elves for organizing the Holly Days Fair this year. It was a huge success. We raised over \$9,000 through the sale of baked goods, hand knit items, candy/fudge, wreaths, silent auction items, lobster stew, boutique goods, and cookies! We even had a visit from Santa which was extra special. And I'd also like to thank all the volunteers who baked and baked and baked some more. Rumor has it that Bill Nugent cooked a dozen different types of cookies! Wow, if that is true, then he has set a very high bar for the rest of us for next year!

Third, we are doing very well on our stewardship pledge drive for 2022. As of last week, we were at 97% of our goal which is amazing. We are very close to our goal of \$200k. Remember every dollar pledged is another dollar we can count on for the budget. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or Paul Davis or Pastor Amelia. It is not too late to turn in your pledge card!

And fourth, we have two open spots on the Council that we need to fill. Mark Horton's and Carol Kaufman's terms are up at the end of 2021. If you are interested in joining the Council, please give me a call and I'd be happy to talk more about it with you. We love to have new voices helping us to guide the church forward.

Thank you all for helping us to make this Church the loving, caring and supportive place that it is. It takes a village and we have one of the best villages around!

Many blessings,  
Kim Hendry, Moderator  
[khendry1972@gmail.com](mailto:khendry1972@gmail.com)  
[207-756-9343](tel:207-756-9343)

# Holly Days Fair Update



We made over \$9,000! Thanks to everyone who contributed.



MINISTRY OF  
*missions*

*Special Offering: The Christmas Fund*

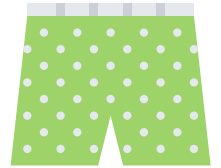


The Christmas Fund is a United Church of Christ annual offering that supports ministries to lower-income retired clergy and lay employees as well as to active clergy facing unforeseen financial crises. Retired pastors, church office assistants, or ministers of music continue to touch the lives of all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

Please consider making a contribution 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 28, through Saturday, December 24.

**THANK YOU FOR THE UNDERWEAR DONATIONS!**

The Preble Street Resource Center would like to thank all of you for the men’s and women’s underwear that you have donated over the past few months. The Center, which serves people who are homeless, does not have many laundry facilities, so your donations have allowed residents to go longer between washings. Thank you for your help!



*Angel Tree Gifts*

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 30 children in 14 families identified by the Falmouth Food Pantry.



Angel Tree Gifts Due on December 5th

[Please Click Here to choose your gift](#)

We encourage all gifts to be returned to the large labeled bin outside Fellowship Hall no later than Sunday, December 5. Please wrap and label each gift.

The recipients are deeply grateful, and each year the families are very appreciative of our congregation for our 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 781-4670. Thank you!



*Pastor's  
Discretionary  
Fund*

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

MINISTRY OF

*missions*



The Falmouth Food Pantry would not be able to do what it currently does without the support of so many members of our community. Thank you for your help!

Even though the Falmouth Food Pantry building is still closed, volunteers continue to deliver pre-packed boxes of non-perishable food to homes that need food assistance.

Many many thanks to those who have already donated cold cereal for the Falmouth Food Pantry. We wish we could thank you personally, but we don't know who you are. It's obvious, however, that you've all got some **TRIX** up your sleeves!

Our church is continuing to collect **COLD CEREAL** for the Falmouth Food Pantry during the rest of November and all of December. 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!**

If you have questions or know someone with an urgent need, please call Nancy Lightbody at 781-4670. Thank you for your continuing support!

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?  
**FROSTED FLAKES**

What cereal is worth its weight in gold?  
**GOLDEN GRAHAMS**

What is an English teacher's favorite cereal?  
**SYNONYM TOAST CRUNCH**

How does cereal pay its bills?  
 With **CHEX**.



*Maine Needs: Winter Gear (Newborn to Adult 5x)*

Our church has donated items to MAINE NEEDS for the last couple of months, and we have also received items from them to support our Family Promise family. The following is a link to their website, including their mission statement (entirely volunteers), where you can read much more about the program:

<https://www.maineneeds.org/>



Due to our space considerations, we will include specific high need items in the Congregator each month. However, if you have other new or gently used items that you would like to donate, you may contact Kathie Sinnett @ 207-749-3008 or [kathie.sinnett@gmail.com](mailto:kathie.sinnett@gmail.com). The demographic they are fulfilling is typically for infants, kids, or adults in their 20s & 30s and typically unhoused or newly housed. Please avoid dress clothes. Thank you!

- Winter Coats (no wool dress coats)
- Snow Boots (no dress boots)
- Snow Pants
- Long underwear (Adult large & XL)
- Waterproof gloves and mittens
- Balaclavas/neck warmers(no scarves)
- New underwear



**MINISTRY OF**  
*community life*



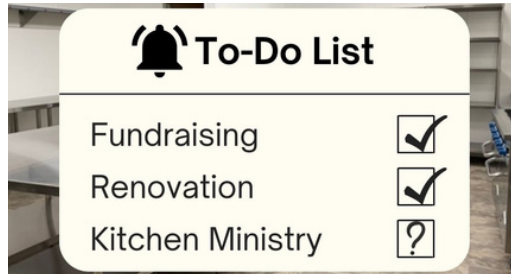
Seven years ago, this month, the church hosted the first Coffee House night in Fellowship Hall on a cool Friday evening. What followed was a schedule of evenings, always on the 2nd Friday of the month of musical entertainment open to all in the community.

It was a safe place for all to come and enjoy a cup of coffee, some cheese and crackers with some sweets on the side and relax and listen to local Maine musicians perform in a “living room like” atmosphere. Covid happened and the Friday night get togethers ceased until last year when the church introduced outdoor concerts weather permitting.

Paul Davis has been booking the artists for the last few years and at this point has asked the council to consider the future of these concerts. Paul has some other interests and would like the Council to see if there are other people in the congregation that would like to be on an ad hoc committee to evaluate this music ministry and see if there is an interest in continuing this offering in some format in 2022. If you are interested, please contact Kim Hendry: khendry1972@gmail.com.



***Kitchen Ministry***



The church would like to thank the many people that stepped up and contributed to the successful completion of the kitchen renovation. We would like to recognize the following individuals that made a financial commitment to this makeover to the church kitchen.

Jeanen Coleman, Maureen Grubb, Charlie Harriman, Ken & Cathy Bowden, Craig Page, Jane & Tom Stegermann, Kim & Steve Hendry, Larry and Sue Perry, Diana Westcott, Barbara Graustein, Paul & Sarah Davis, Vicky & Pat Miele, Carol Kaufman, Randy Boardway, Ann Sanborn, Jeff Howland, Alice Graves, Amanda Ouellette-Clark, Chan & Kathy Sinnett, Judy Nilsen, and Tom and Judy Crosby.

Two years ago, just a dream, today a have a safe, clean, commercial kitchen, that will serve many ministries in the church in the years ahead. Thanks to all that made this dream a reality.

To help plan the future activities and support the ministries that will be using the kitchen as well as the community, the Church Council would like to set up an ad hoc committee that will help manage the kitchen and the various uses that are proposed in the next 12 months. If you enjoy cooking and creating opportunities around food for those in our church community and beyond, email Paul Davis: Nevis56@gmail.com of your interest.



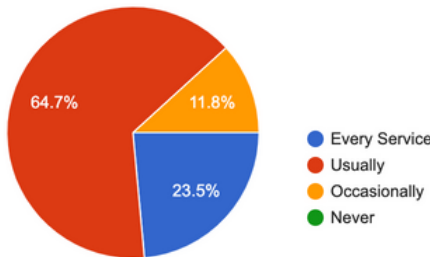
MINISTRY OF

Worship & Covenant

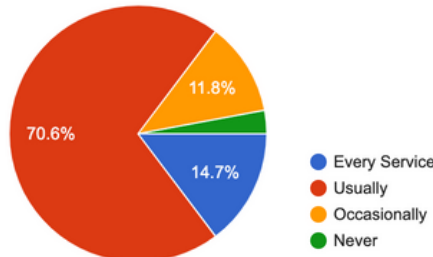
Update on Music & Minister of Music Search

The Ministry of Music and Personnel Committee have been working diligently on our search for a Music Minister. As a first step the congregation was invited to participate in a music survey. Thirty four people participated: Check out the results:

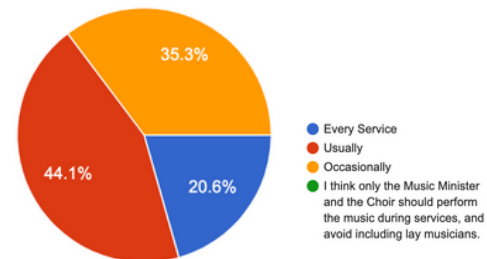
Question 1: I think professional-quality organ music belongs in the Church services:



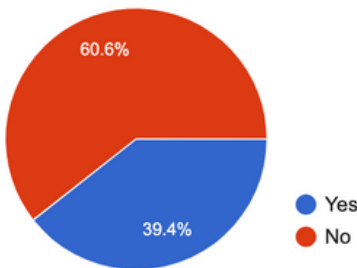
Question 2: Professional-quality traditional choral music belongs in our Church services



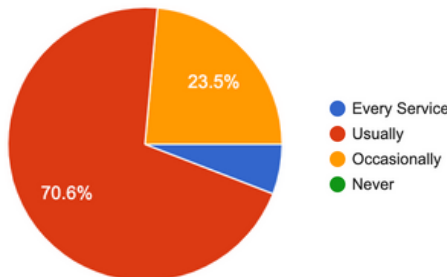
Question 3: Lay parishioners should have regular opportunities to sing or play instruments



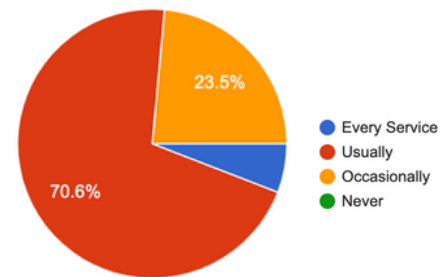
Question 4: Would your family be interested in singing or playing an instrument?



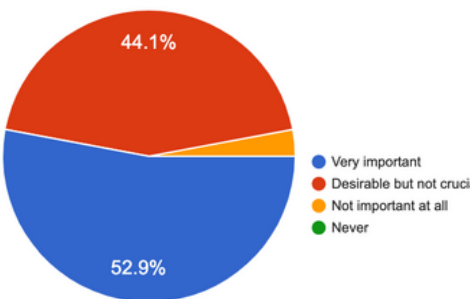
Question 5: Music in Church should primarily emphasize traditional, organ based hymns such as from our current Hymnal (Chalice Hymnal):



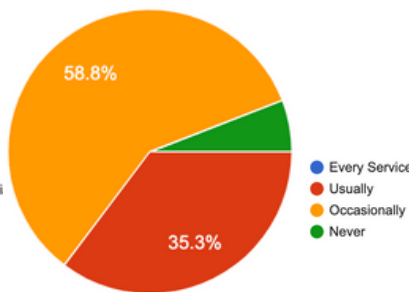
Question 6: Congregational singing be accompanied primarily by pipe organ



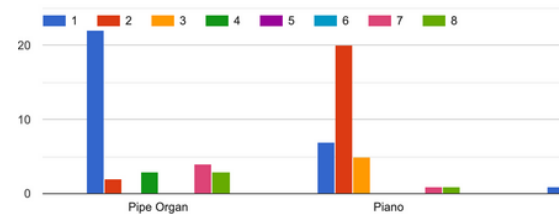
Question 7: Music program should offer opportunities for children and teens to perform during services.



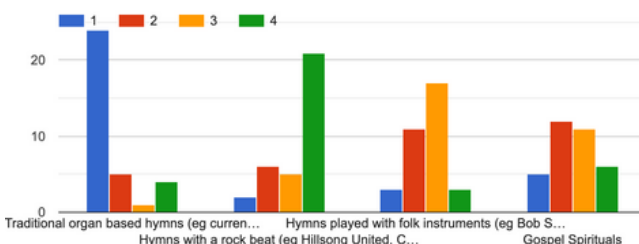
Question 8: We should have multi instrument band music (guitar, drums, keyboards)



Question 9: I would like to see the following instruments as a regular part of our music program



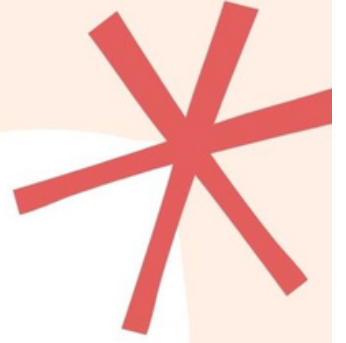
Question 10: These are styles of music I would like to have as a part of our worship (Please rank in order of importance)



The Personnel & Music Committee have met and reviewed the survey results. They are hard at work crafting a job description for our next Minister of Music: Stay tuned!  
 Ray Cornilis will be leading us for Sundays December 5th, 12th, and 19th.  
 Brian Wilson will lead us at the 8 PM Christmas Eve Service.



# Christmas Spectacular!



*Falmouth  
Congregational  
Church presents  
Christmas  
Spectacular*

*featuring:  
Caroling, Petting  
Zoo, Refreshments,  
Fire pit,  
Trivia and more!*

*Sunday, December 12th  
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM  
at Falmouth  
Congregational Church  
267 Falmouth Rd,  
Falmouth, ME*

*more info: (207) 781-3413  
officemanager@falmouthc  
ongregationalchurch.org*



# MINISTRY OF

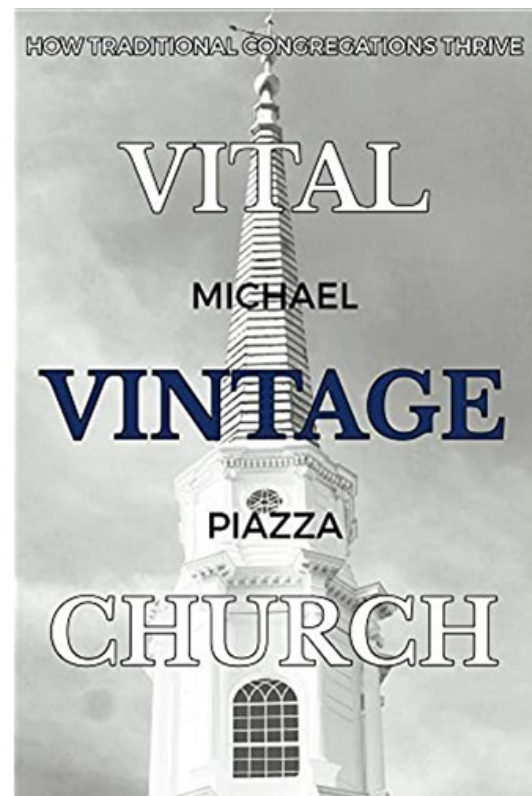
## *community life*

### *Women's Spiritual Book Group*

All are welcome to join the Women's Spiritual Book Group as it gathers December 1st at Noon to discuss 'Vital Vintage Church' by Rev. Michael Piazza. This inspiring read has captured our attention as it offers hope and direction for churches striving to be relevant and active at a time when many are facing challenges in growth and searching for their place in a world filled with so many options and commitments.



Participants can join via Zoom link (available thru the church office) or in-person in the Grant Room (wearing masks). Contact Cathy Bowden for more details at 207.776.5543.



Happy Thanksgiving everyone from FCC choir!  
We are grateful for bountiful gifts from Our Creator allowing us to make music to praise... amid a lovely Cornucopia of Plenty.

By the way, for precautions during photos, we removed our masks for 10 sec and held our breath!

God Bless, Eunice



Dear Church Family,

Special thanks to my church family for all the ways they have honored me for my leadership of the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

God gave me the wonderful gift of knitting and I grasped the opportunity to serve Him through the FCC Prayer Shawl Ministry. I feel so blessed Eunice Wilcox and Julia Poppell agreed to lead this ministry. It reaches out to so many people in ways and places we couldn't comprehend. I will continue to contribute to the Ministry as a faithful member.

God Bless all of you,

Judy Nilsen

MINISTRY OF  
*community life*

*Christmas Card Writing:  
Wednesday, December 8, 10:00am  
Sunday, December 12, 11:00am*



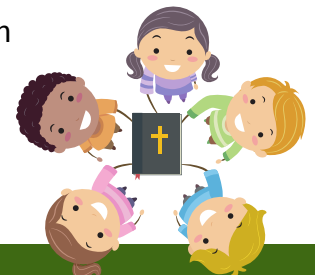
We have been thrilled to see such a surge in our Kid's Church Program. With our growing nursery and Sunday School, we now have over 20 children registered in our program!!! As a result, we are looking for volunteers to help with the program. It is very important our church family nurtures the positive growth we have been seeing within our church. Our children symbolize the future of our church and we need help to create a developmentally appropriate program and create multiple classrooms for the growing program. We have repainted and redecorated our Kid's Church Classrooms and we invite people to volunteer and check out our new space and see what we are all about in Kid's Church. If you are interested please contact me ASAP at [kristen.coleman@maine.edu](mailto:kristen.coleman@maine.edu)

~ Ms. Kristen Tripp, Christian Education Minister

MINISTRY OF  
*Christian education*



This fall the children have been working in their geography unit. We have made compasses, gone on a scavenger hunt, done trivia, played some fun games, and created our own landscapes and heart maps. We are now moving into the season of Advent and will be focusing on the Christmas story. We will be rehearsing the Christmas Pageant and will film it for the Christmas Eve church service.



## MINISTRY OF *Finance*



Many, many thanks to all on this list that have pledged towards the 2022 Stewardship Campaign. Our church is growing, and we are blessed to have so many people supporting the church ministries and the outreach programs in our community. We are at 98.6% of our goal! We all can be very thankful during this time of Thanksgiving.

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 21st.

- Alyce Graves
- Mary Graves
- Russ and Beth Anderson
- Nancy Wulbrecht
- John and Chelsea Reid
- Kristen Tripp
- Tom Simmonds
- Richard Corey
- Charlie Harriman
- Jim Scherer
- Kathleen Towns
- Michael Ryan and Linda McGill
- Rita Farry
- Cameron and Allyssa Mathieu
- Beth Stouder and Bill Nugent
- Nancy Merrill
- Rebecca Gibbons
- Jerry & Louise Caruso
- John & Eunice Wilcox
- Kim & Mollie Mason
- Mark & Peggy Horton
- Jack & Laurie Davis
- Diana Wescott
- Tom & Judy Crosby
- Terri & Dana Collins
- Jim & Kaye Smith
- Barbara & John Graustein
- Amelia & Jacob Edson
- Kathy Whitmore
- Chan & Kathy Sinnett
- Karin & Jorma Kurry
- Tom & Jane Stegemann
- Joan Ashley
- Janice Beinema
- Marilee Beinema
- Lorraine Bergen
- Joe and Jo Blinick
- Betty Bois
- John & Edith Boothby
- Ken & Cathy Bowden
- Maureen Grubb
- Felicia Garant
- Margaret Halleck
- Steve & Kim Hendry
- Dave & Phoebe Horne
- Lauren Jordy
- Carol Kauffman
- Alan & Diane Mathieu
- Judy Nilsen
- Julia & Jim Poppell
- Craig & Mary Beth Page
- Larry & Sue Perry
- Phil & Rae Pierce
- Joel & Joanna Pond
- Nora Quinn
- Ann Sanborn
- Robert Stakel
- Ted & Dolores Vail
- Lynn Downing
- Don & Marion Olen
- Joan Russell
- Jim Parr
- Mary Hart
- Anne & Rodney Coleman
- Jeaneen Coleman
- Paul & Sarah Davis



## December Birthdays

2 - Gini Medford  
 9 - Alice Kittredge  
 10 - Alan Doughty  
 12 - Chris Kittredge  
 17 - Nancy Kittredge  
 18 - Jason Cooney  
 18 - Allen Mazerolle  
 19 - Diane Wescott  
 21 - Virginia Hamilton  
 24 - Josephine Gibbons  
 27 - Caroline Riley  
 29 - Douglas Ertman  
 30 - Rachel Horton White  
 31 - Eunice Wilcox



## Liturgists

5 - Mark Horton  
 12 - Lydia Hill  
 19 - Virginia Eddy

## Ushers

5 - Jim Parr & Carol K.  
 12 - Lauren Jordy  
 & Karin Kurry  
 19 - Sue & Larry Perry



## We Lift in Prayer...



- John Graustein was hospitalized last week in Albuquerque where he and Barbara have been living near their son and grandchildren. John has been moved to a rehab facility but Barbara and the family are praying that he will be discharged and able to receive care at home- please join them in those prayers!
- Please hold Virginia Eddy in prayer as she recovers from a fall and concussion. Pray, too, for her wife Jennifer and she cares for Virginia.
- Please pray comfortingly for the Smith family. Kaye Smith had surgery on Monday, Nov. 8th and is healing. Jim and Kaye's son, James, is continuing to work with his care team as they search for a cause for his symptoms and pain. They thank you all for continuing to pray for them.
- Please pray for Joyce Harmon who has been moved by her hospice team to where she can be more comfortable. Please write to her where she will be grateful to receive your love: Joyce Harmon 1700 21st Ave. W Apt. 524 Bradentown, FL 34205
- Please pray joyfully with the Mathieu family since Alan's brother, Wayne, is doing well with his treatment.
- Please pray joyfully that Maureen Grubb just received excellent follow-up blood test results!!
- Please keep praying for Sally Emery who is working to regain mobility and adjust to life after two strokes. Sally loves getting cards and displays them in her room. Please give her joy by sending a card to: P.O. Box 102 Gray, ME 04039.

## CHURCH family news

- Please pray and send cards of encouragement to Lynne Downing as she transitions into her new home at: Falmouth House Assisted Living 32 Blueberry Lane Apt. #99 Falmouth, Maine 04105
- Please pray joyfully as Richard Corey's daughter's partner, Kris, is stable after cancer treatment.
- Please continue to pray for Val Gray's parents who are transitioning into a new lifestyle with his mother caring for his father. Val asks you to join him in praying, "God does not give us the spirit of fear..."
- Please pray comfortingly for Peggy Halleck who has fallen recently and wants to move beyond fear about being more active again.
- Please pray for Judy Crosby's sister-in-law, Sharon, who is awaiting test results.
- Please hold Laurie Davis in prayer as she awaits a small surgical procedure on her knee in mid-January.
- Please continue to pray for Terri Collins who suffers from neuro-cognitive and fatigue problems due to long-haul COVID-19 symptoms.
- Please pray for Ginny Hamilton who is in hospice care and share your love by sending cards to her at: 300 Spring Street Room King 4A Springbrook Center, Westbrook, Maine 04092
- Please pray for Norm and Bee O'Brien who have enjoyed over 60 years of marriage but currently, due to health difficulties, need to live apart with Bee at Falmouth By the Sea and Norm at their home in Falmouth.

# December 2021 Calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
10 AM Worship - First Sunday in Advent.	12 PM Bible Study	11 AM Staff Meeting	12 PM Women's Spiritual Book Club 6:45 PM Private Group 6:30 PM Choir rehearsal with Ray Cornils	8:30 AM Ecumenical Clergy Mtg 6:30 PM Ministry of Missions 7 PM Troop 93	3	4
5 10 AM Worship with Communion: Second Sunday in Advent 2 PM Morrill Rehearsal 7 PM Troop 93	6 12 PM Bible Study 7 PM Worship and Covenant	7 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored Meeting (parlor)	8 10am Card Writing 6:00 PM - 7:30PM Ministry of Missions Potluck 6:45 PM Private Group 6:30 PM Choir rehearsal with Ray Cornils	9 7 PM Finance Committee Mtg 7:00 PM Troop 93	10 6:00 PM Battleship Setup	11 9:00 AM Troop 93 Battleship
12 10 AM Worship: 3rd Sunday in Advent 11 AM Card Writing 11:30 AM Council Meeting 4 PM Christmas Spectacular	13 12 PM Bible Study	14 11:00 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored Meeting (parlor) 6:30 PM Cub Scout	15 Congregator Deadline 6:30 PM Choir rehearsal with Ray Cornils	16 5:30 PM Longest Night Service 7:00 PM Troop 93	17	18
19 10 AM Worship: 4th Sunday in Advent 11 AM Lattes & Littles 3 PM Morrill Recital	20 12 PM Bible Study	21 11:00 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored Meeting (parlor)	22 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal with Ray Cornils	23 7:00 PM Troop 93	24 Christmas Eve 5 PM Early Worship with Pageant 8 PM Worship with Lessons and Carols	25  Christmas Day
26 10 AM Worship - Choir vacation Kids' Church vacation	27 12 PM Bible Study	28 11:00 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored Meeting (parlor)	29	30 7:00 PM Troop 93	31 New Year's Eve 	

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Falmouth Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
267 Falmouth Road  
Falmouth, ME 04105  
Phone: 207-781-3413  
Email: [officemanager@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org](mailto:officemanager@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org)  
Website: [www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org](http://www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org)

## Falmouth Congregational Church United Church of Christ

### Ministries

Kim Hendry  
Chair, Council of Ministries

Kristen Tripp  
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 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