



THE CONGREGATOR

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LENT 2023



SEEKING: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith

Dear Falmouth Congregational Church,

I am still smiling after a fabulous Annual Meeting where we heard about the planned renovation of our downstairs classrooms, elected new officers, approved the budget, heard about the plans of our marketing committee and sang Amazing Grace— in 4 part harmony! Read all about it in the [Annual Report](#).

This Sunday we will bless our Guiding Words for the year ahead, praying that we will be led closer to wholeness, goodness, and peace (e.g. Christ) in 2023.

February 22nd is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of Lent. This year the Lenten Scripture readings offer us stories of Jesus encountering people who are seeking: Nicodemus, the woman at a well, a man in need of healing. Each of these people is longing for a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. In this season we, too, will engage in the spiritual practice of seeking, centering each Sunday around a question found in these Scripture Passages. All are invited to attend a Lenten Supper; over a simple meal of soup and bread meal we will take turns thinking with open ended questions and sharing our experiences of faith.

Our questions won't necessarily lead to answers, but they can help us find clarity and a new perspective. Ultimately, we pray that our insights might lead to a new beginning, a restoration, and a wider grace. That is the purpose of Lent—we seek so that we may find Easter. I look forward to journeying together.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Amelia

⇒STAY
TUNED

Lenten Suppers

Thursday March 9, 16, 23, 30

Stewardship Update



The stewardship goal this year was \$225,000 which was a 7% increase over last years \$210,000 successful campaign. To date, with 72 pledges, the church has received pledges of \$245,763, 109% of the goal!

We are blessed!

The church would like to thank the following people for their pledge for 2023. For any questions email Gini Medford at the church office financial.secretary@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org.



	Alyce Graves	Cameron & Allyssa Mathieu
Nancy & Dave Althaus	Betty Graves	Linda McGill & Michael Ryan
Russell & Beth Anderson	Maureen Grubb	Judith Nilsen
Joan Ashley	Mike & Sarah Lyons Guippone	Marion & Don Olen
Janice Beinema	Margaret Halleck	Craig & Marybeth Page
Marilee Beinema	Charles Harriman	James & Elba Parr
Lorraine Bergen	Joan Hardy	Larry & Susan Perry
Joe & Jo Blinick	Mary Hart	Philip & Rae Pierce
Betty Bois	Kimberly & Steve Hendry	Joel & Joanna Pond
John & Edie Boothby	Lydia Hill	Julia & Jim Poppell
Cathy & Ken Bowden	David & Phoebe Horne	John & Chelsea Reid
Gerald & Louise Caruso	Mark Horton & Peggy	Joan Russell
Anne & Rodney Coleman	McGehee	Ann Sanborn
Jeaneen Coleman	Mark & Katie Howison	Jim & Elena Scherer
Terri & Dana Collins	Michael & Alicia Johnson	Tom Simmonds
Tom & Judy Crosby	Lauren Jordy	Kathie & Chan Sinnett
Jack & Laurie Davis	Carol Kauffman	Thomas & Jane Stegemann
Paul & Sarah Davis	Tim & Joan Kaijala	Elizabeth Stouder & Bill Nugent
Rebecca & Ryan	Karin & Jorma Kurry	Kathleen Towns
Davis-Gibbons	Grace Lashua	Kristen Tripp
Virginia Eddy	Nancy & John Lightbody	Dolores & Ted Vail
Jacob & Amelia Edson	Kaye & Jim Low-Smith	Diane Wescott
Rita Farry	Jennifer Major	Kathy Whitmore
Felicia Garant	Kimball & Mollie Mason	John & Eunice Wilcox
Barbara Graustein	Alan & Diane Mathieu	Nancy Wulbrecht



WORSHIP Tech



Major congratulations are due Jack Gervais! He is staring down the barrel of graduation, taking one more step closer to spreading his wings and flying like the eagle he is.

With this in mind, the FCC Worship Tech group is actively recruiting for at least one (and better yet, even more) willing participants in this ministry. Expertise in AV and/or tech is NOT a requirement – we will not only provide training, we'll throw in mentoring to any and all who are interested. On the other hand, if you do have interest/ability in AV/tech, we would love to welcome you to the team. And let you teach us!

This is not a commitment to do tech every Sunday, unless that's what you want. This is a great opportunity for high school or college students, retirees, or anyone who feels a call to serve the Lord and has an interest in this area.

For more information, contact Tom Stegemann, Virginia Eddy, or the FCC Office.

There are ALWAYS opportunities to jump in and be a part of the music at FCC!

Consider these:

Chancel Choir, which meets on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. No audition required.

Pop-Up Choir on March 19 and June 4 with only one rehearsal on the previous Wednesday. ALL are invited!

Bell Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, March 1 at 6:30 PM to prepare for some beautiful Spring playing. Basic music reading is the only requirement. We are always looking for “alternate” players, who would like to come and learn and be ready to fill-in.



Jan Stover, our Minister of Music, is always open to suggestions and conversations about how we can make our worship awesome and accessible to everyone. Soli Deo Gloria!

~ Jan Stover, Minister of Music

MINISTRY OF

Music

Reminder: If there is a snow day for Falmouth or Portland schools the office will be closed. Most staff will be working from home, with or without small children underfoot!



MINISTRY OF
Community Life

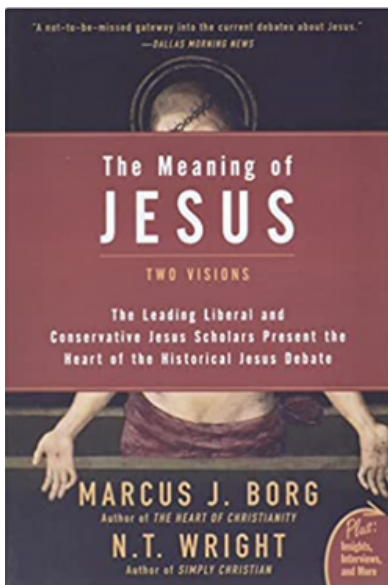
Thank you

Want to recycle your bows and pinecones from your Christmas wreath? Anne Coleman has placed a box at the entrance to the church to collect these items that can be reused at our Holly Days Fair in November.



Tom and I want to thank members of Called to Care, Community Life and the Missions Ministry and so many individual members of FCC for the outpouring of cards, notes and the lovely plant that were sent to us upon my father's passing. We knew he was surrounded by love and was in many of your prayers this past year. We want to thank you all for the care and love you have shown us this holiday season.

Sincerely,
Judy & Tom Crosby



Women's Spiritual Book Group

On February 1, the Women's Spiritual Book Group will gather to discuss 'The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions' by Marcus Borg and N.T. Wright. Book reviews offer the following questions and description: "Was Jesus born of a virgin? Did he know he was the Messiah? Was he bodily resurrected from the dead? Did he intentionally die to redeem humankind? Was Jesus God? Two leading Jesus scholars with widely divergent views go right to the heart of these questions and others, presenting the opposing visions of Jesus that shape our faith."

We meet monthly in the Grant Room and virtually by Zoom. All are welcome to join this lively and engaging group where new faces are always encouraged. Contact Cathy Bowden for more details and/or to join the email list where upcoming meeting details and Zoom links are shared.

MINISTRY OF
missions



What do you call someone who really likes to talk about cereals?
A KEEN OAT SPEAKER
What were the Founding Fathers' favorite cereals?
CHEX and BALANCE

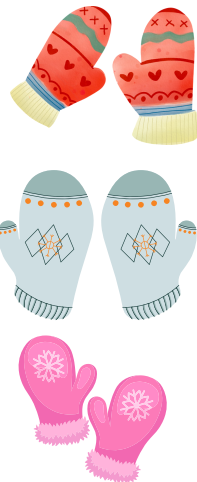
How can you tell if your cornflakes are counterfeit?
CHECK THE CEREAL NUMBER
What cereal makes fun of you but doesn't mean it?
WE TEASE

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

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. Thank you for your continuing support!

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.



Maine Needs

FEBRUARY WISH LIST

- Boots (children's and adults')
- Warm Gloves and Mittens (waterproof)
- Sweatpants (all sizes)
- Warm Winter Jackets (all sizes)

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?

Over the past year Loaves of Love has generated over \$2,000 to support the five special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ: Incredible! The bakings will continue for Communion Sundays and for all who wish to take a loaf home. The next Saturday we will be baking is Saturday, April 1, 2023, when we look forward to a parent-child baking effort for the Church School!

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 Graves at church or send an email if you would like to join in the fun.

MINISTRY OF *missions*



By the time you read this, the families will have left Williston Immanuel and moved to Trinity Episcopal. Although the volunteers heard from me soon after we housed the families through the 28 of December, I want to express my gratitude to the church for being so open and offering the space to these families. Many different people volunteered but not just from our church. We housed the families over Christmas with most of the kids participating in the Christmas pageant. We were able to provide gifts to each of the kids and parents (6 parents and 13 kids) when Santa visited on Christmas Eve.



When we found out that the shelter food was not that good and the families started cooking in our kitchen, many of you jumped in with Hannaford gift cards to help with groceries. You met the need when we needed more blankets and a few pairs of boots so their feet would be warm.



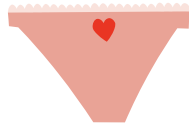
This was truly a great example of our mission work on a very local level. If you have access, there was an article written in the Forecaster: <https://www.pressherald.com/2022/12/27/room-at-the-inn-falmouth-congregation-takes-in-asylum-seeking-families/>

The problem of homelessness is getting worse. The family shelter in Portland is experiencing a tremendous overflow of families. There is a lot of work going on at the local as well as the state level. There is a lot of thought being given to larger spaces closer to Portland that could house more families. On a positive side, there is new housing coming available in early 2023. Until then, I fully expect that we will see these or new families again at Falmouth Congregational Church. It is always sad, as we grow close to the families staying at the church. If we see them again, it means they haven't found an apartment. The very best outcome is that we see new families.

As I'm sure we'll be asked to do another two weeks, I thank you in advance for the continued generosity of your time and participation.

Steve Hendry

MINISTRY OF
missions



Underwear for the Homeless

Last year the Ministry of Missions reached out to the church community asking for donations of socks and underwear for the Preble Street Resource Center, which serves the homeless community in our area. We had a wonderful response to our requests!

This year we are once again asking for your help as the Center has an ongoing need for many items. Currently they are not in need of socks but do need underwear for men and women.

The following are the sizes and styles most requested.

WOMEN - Traditional styles in cotton, sizes medium to extra large

MEN - Boxer style, sizes medium to extra large

Donations may be placed in the bin located under the Missions Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for your past generosity! We look forward to having another successful campaign to help with the needs of so many people at this time. Please contact Sue Perry if you have questions regarding this request.

We continue to be "5 for 5"

The Ministry of Missions has set a goal of our being a "5 for 5 Church." This means that our congregation stands with many other Maine churches as a true advocate of selected national and worldwide United Church of Christ missions. Because our church has been able to contribute to all four special mission offerings in the UCC (One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and The Christmas Fund) and also gives to Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support, we are a 5 for 5 church. Many thanks to the generous contributors who have continued to make this possible!

Priority Fund

From the money that was in the Church's Priority Fund at the end of 2022, \$1,000 will be sent to each of the following organizations: the Preble Street Resource Center, the Falmouth Food Pantry, and Maine Needs.



Preble
Street



MINISTRY OF

Christian Education

Dear Falmouth Congregational Church UCC,

We have a special invitation for you this month! We are so excited to be co-hosting a Winter Ball here at the church on February 4th from 3-5PM. We are partnering with the ASXL Rare Research Endowment (ARRE) Foundation on this fairytale-themed family fundraiser. Wear your favorite costume, meet our special princess guests, and rock the dance floor with your family and friends for a great cause! The ASXL Rare Research Endowment Foundation is a patient advocacy organization that raises funds to support research for ultra-rare genetic disorders of the ASXL genes. One of the estimated 500 individuals living with these complex neurodevelopmental disorders lives in our Falmouth community.

Date: February 4, 2023 (Snow date is February 11)

Place: Falmouth Congregational Church UCC, 267 Falmouth Rd, Falmouth, ME

Time: 3-5PM

Tickets are \$10/person or \$35/family, and can be purchased on our website, <https://www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org>

Admission includes:

- Crafts and activities
- A princess meet and greet with Brie's Best Guests
- Story time (in a quiet area)
- A red carpet walk
- Dance party

Snacks will be available for purchase. The ARRE Foundation is also hosting a silent auction featuring local businesses.

This event is a great opportunity for our community to connect with the greater Falmouth community, and to introduce many first-time visitors to our welcoming, warm home here. Please join us for what is sure to be an afternoon to remember!

Warmly,

Hannah Daly

Director of Youth and Family Ministries



CHURCH

family news

- Ed and Norm Varney as they grieve their father, Erlon, who passed away December 28th, 2022.
- Kathy Whitmore as she grieves her partner, John Main, who went into his eternal rest suddenly on December 27th. Read about John's life here. Cards for Kathy to: 102 Wythburn Road South Portland, Maine 04106-5321.
- Judy Crosby's father went into his eternal rest on Dec. 24th. Cards may be sent to: 150 Brook Road Falmouth, Maine 04105
- Russ Anderson's nephew, Jeff, passed away December 23rd, from injuries sustained from a car accident. Please send cards to Jeff's bereaved parents: Hugh and Marcia, 25 Buttercup Lane New Hartford, CT 06075
- Katie Howison's mom, Kathlene Morton, as she fights cancer. She appreciates cards and prayers: 1824 Mountainside Drive, North Augusta, SC 29841
- Jessica Collins as she works to get a diagnosis for pain.
- Owen Hill and soon-to-be big brother Callan- they are expecting a baby in 3 weeks!
- Benjamin Tripp as he recovers from back pain and illness and Kristen as she cares for him.
- Jim Scherer as he preserves through knee pain and works to find solutions.
- Alan Mathieu's mother who has been transferred to memory care and his brother who struggling with serious illness.

We Lift in Prayer...



- Joanne Varga, is having an MRI on Feb. 2nd to diagnosis her eye difficulty and create a treatment plan. Cards may be sent to: 149 East Side Drive Apt. 22B Concord, NH 03301
- James F. Smith and all those who live at Casa, Inc. as they weather a COVID exposure. P.O. Box 150 Westbrook, Maine 04098
- Continued prayers for Kathleen Towns' brother, Mark.
- Randy Boardway's father, Paul, who is fighting liver cancer.
- 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. Cards to 300 Spring Street Room King 4A Springbrook Center, Westbrook, Maine 04092.
- Sally Emery who is cared for in her home. 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.

HAPPY
Valentines
DAY

Due to ongoing phishing attempts, email and phone numbers have been removed from the Congregator. Please find contact info in our Church Directory, Breeze or contact the office for a directory.

Liturgists

- 5 - Lydia Hill
- 12 - Jim Scherer
- 19 - Ann Sanborn
- 26 - Marilee Beinema

Ushers


- 5 - Bill Nugent & Karin Kurry
- 12 - Jo & Joe Blinick
- 19 - Jim Parr & Julia Poppell
- 26 - Chan & Kathie Sinnett

February Birthdays

- 2 - Joan Ashley
- 2 - Harper Reid
- 12 - Josh Allen
- 13 - Aiden Hendry
- 14 - Val Gray
- 17 - Norm O'Brien
- 21 - Kathy Whitmore
- 23 - Chris Allen
- 28 - Mary Hart

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February 2023 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 12 PM Women's Spiritual Book Club 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 8:30 Ecumenical Clergy Meeting 6:30 PM Min. of Missions 7 PM Troop 93	3	4 3 - 5 PM Winter Ball 
5 10 AM Worship with Communion 11 AM Men's Group 4 PM Youth Group @ Foreside Com. Church 7 PM Troop 93 Com. Mtg.	6 12 PM Bible Study (Zoom) 7 PM Worship & Covenant 7 PM Cub Scout Com. Mtg.	7 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored	8 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	9 7 PM Finance meeting 7 PM Troop 93	10	11 Snow Date: 3 - 5 PM Winter Ball
12 10 AM Worship In-person or Online 11:30 AM Council of Ministries 4 PM Youth Group	13 12 PM Bible Study (Zoom) 7 PM Fiddle-icious Rehearsal	14 10 AM Bible Study @ Oceanview 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack Mtg.	15 CONGREGATOR DEADLINE 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	16 6:30 PM Writer's Group 7 PM Troop 93 Meeting	17	18
19 10 AM Worship In-person or Online	20 OFFICE CLOSED Presidents' Day 12 PM Bible Study (Zoom)	21 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored	22 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:45 PM Private Group	23 7 PM Troop 93 Meeting	24	25
26 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT 10 AM Worship In-person or Online 1 PM Roderick Birthday Party (Beinema Hall)	27 12 PM Bible Study (Zoom) 7 PM Fiddle-icious Rehearsal	28 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored	MAR 1 12 PM Women's Spiritual Book Group 6:30 PM Bell Choir 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	MAR 2 8:30 Ecumenical Clergy Meeting 6:30 PM Min. of Missions 7 PM Troop 93	MAR 3	MAR 4

Pastor Amelia will be out of the office and unavailable from Monday, February 6 through Monday, February 13. Jane Stegemann will handle any pastoral care emergencies. Our Minister of Music, Jan Stover, will be out on vacation from Sunday, February 19 through Monday, February 27. Matt Emkey will return as our guest organist for those two Sundays.

Falmouth Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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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

Steve Hendry
Chair, Ministry of Missions

Virginia Eddy & Laurie Davis
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
Tom Stegemann, Vice Moderator
TBD, Clerk
Paul Davis, Treasurer
Gini Medford, Financial Secretary
Carol Kauffman MSN, RN, Faith Community Nurse