

THE CONGREGATOR

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Pastor's Letter

I am writing this Congregator article Sunday afternoon after a fabulous Annual Meeting where we heard about the growth and future of the church school, made plans to revamp our tech setup, elected new officers, approved the budget, and ate cupcakes in honor of Ted Vail's 95th birthday—all in under an hour!

The Annual Report laid out the details of the proposals in a clear, concise, and easy-to-read manner. If you still need to read it is available [here](#).

Before it was sent out to your inboxes, however, the Annual Report had quite a journey:

Monday was the MLK Day holiday and the office was closed.

On Tuesday the office staff planned to meet bright and early to finalize the Annual Report. Except the Portland school buses never arrived. There was a staffing shortage of bus drivers and the school didn't let parents know. Kat, our Office Manager, arrived late— but we rallied and made a plan.

A few hours after Kat arrived Laura, our Office Assistant, got a call – her son had a slight fever and had to be picked up from school immediately. Laura then couldn't bring her son back to school until he had a negative PCR test; she was out for the rest of the week.

Tuesday night Jake and I got a call from Grandma Linda, our Wednesday childcare— she had gotten a flat tire while driving up to camp. Worse, the delivery truck with compact tires never arrived in Washington County. She could not drive home and so could not watch Julian. Jake and I took turns trading off Julian as we worked from home.

There have been several high-profile cancellations this month as organizations, musicians, and individuals have come up against the staffing and supply chain chaos of COVID. I am fiercely proud of how “normal” we have been able to keep things in our church community. We have not missed a Sunday of worship. We have offered in-person worship and children’s programs in a time when many congregations have cancelled these options. We have increased our communication and web presence. And, we got the Annual Report out on schedule.

Even while we celebrate these successes it is important that we take time to acknowledge that things are far from normal. Every part of our lives are being impacted by changes and challenges that are disruptive, chaotic, and exhausting.

The writer Glennon Doyle, whose book Love Warrior we will be reading in the Women’s Spiritual Book Group this month, recently said, “(it is not) a badge of honor to try to continue on as if nothing has changed... the honor is in adjusting. Loosening. Lessening. Choosing people over results.”

As we travel together through Epiphany and look towards the Lenten Season I hope we can both strive to do our best and be understanding of our own and others’ limitations. This is not a normal time, and we should not expect ourselves to be perfectly normal. Our expectations of what is possible, for ourselves and others, may need to change. In times such as this it is a mercy to remember that, as Christians, our intrinsic value and worth are separate from what we accomplish: we are beloved beings, created by God, and each of us is precious in God’s sight. Through all the disruptions and disappointments of this time, God’s grace truly is sufficient. I hope you can bask in it this month— it is never cancelled and always in supply.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Amelia



COUNCIL

Corner

A Message from our Moderator

Hi,

I want to thank everyone for attending the Annual Meeting either virtually or in-person. We just barely reached a quorum so thank you for making the effort to participate. Hopefully you found it informative. For those who couldn't make it, I highly recommend you read through the Annual Report. It is packed with great information. And hopefully you'll agree that we have so much to look forward to for our church in 2022!!

2022 Officers

Kim Hendry – Moderator

Anne Coleman – Vice Moderator

Laurie Davis – Clerk

Paul Davis – Treasurer

I'd also like to welcome our new members to the Council: John Reid, Joel Pond and Chan Sinnett.

As a reminder the other members of the Council are Tom Stegemann, Jim Parr, and Sarah Davis.

Happy wintering!

Many blessings,

Kim Hendry, Moderator

khendry1972@gmail.com

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

MINISTRY OF
missions

Socks for the Homeless

Please consider contributing some white cotton socks to the box in Fellowship Hall. The socks will be given to people who benefit from the Preble Street Resource Center and who would like to have warm dry feet without infections. 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.



**American
Red Cross**

To help provide shelter, food, and emotional support to families affected by the recent tornado in Western Kentucky, unusual storms in the Southeast, and major disasters in other parts of our country, consider making a donation to the American Red Cross. You may call them locally at (207) 874-1192, visit them at 2401 Congress Street in Portland, donate online at <https://www.redcross.org/donate/disaster-relief.html>, or mail a check to

American Red Cross
PO Box 37839
Boone, IA 50037-0839

Thank you for thinking about helping others in our country.



**Greater Portland
Family Promise®**
Building community, strengthening lives.

In March 2022 our church will be the lead sponsor for Greater Portland Family Promise. Each church participating in Family Promise has been assigned a specific month of the year to support some of the program's needs, such as bus passes and food. Stay tuned!

Greater Portland Family Promise, an affiliate of the national Family Promise program, is dedicated to addressing the needs of children and families experiencing homelessness. Through an interfaith network and connections with existing community resources, this important mission provides shelter, safety, and sustenance with a spirit of warmth and hospitality.

MINISTRY OF
missions



During the chilly month of February our church will be collecting **SOUP** for the Food Pantry! If you would like, please put cans of soup (but NOT cream soups) into the collection bin outside Fellowship Hall, and the soups will be given to very grateful Food Pantry families.

You are **soup-er** if you are able to bring a can of soup for the Food Pantry!

(If you have questions about the Falmouth Food Pantry or know someone with an urgent need, please call Nancy Lightbody at 781-4670. Thank you for your continuing strong support.)

My mother used to make the best soups. She was a real **SOUP-ERSTAR**
My father believed it was good to have soup once a day. He was very **SOUP-ERSTITIOUS**

Special Missions: 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 even during this very different and difficult time!

MINISTRY OF

Worship & Covenant

Parental Leave Coverage

Pastor Amelia will be out on Parental Leave beginning Sunday, March 20th, 2022 through Sunday June 12th. During this time the Reverend Diane E. Bennekamper will serve as our Pastor covering Parental Leave. She will be with us on a part-time basis (~10 hours/ week) and focus primarily on liturgy and worship. Our minister of Visitation, Jane Stegemann, will cover Pastoral Care during this time.

The Reverend Diane Bennekamper was ordained by the New Jersey Association of the Central Atlantic Conference, United Church of Christ on February 17, 1974; and currently holds standing in the Cumberland Association, Maine Conference, United Church of Christ

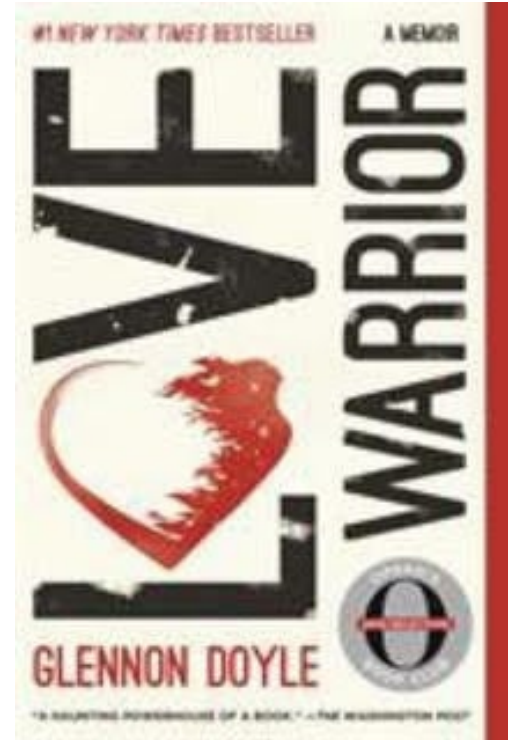
Education: Bachelor of Arts, McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland
Master of Divinity, Drew University Theological School, Madison, New Jersey



MINISTRY OF

community life

Women's Spiritual Book Group



We will gather via Zoom at noon on Wednesday, February 2nd, to discuss Love Warrior by Glennon Doyle. This memoir tells the story of her journey of self-discovery after the implosion of her marriage.

This book comes highly recommended by several in the group already and is an Oprah Bookclub 2016 Selection.

We are a lively, engaging and welcoming group that enjoys new faces. If you haven't already, please feel free to join us or contact Cathy Bowden at cathybbowden@gmail.com or 776-5543 with questions.



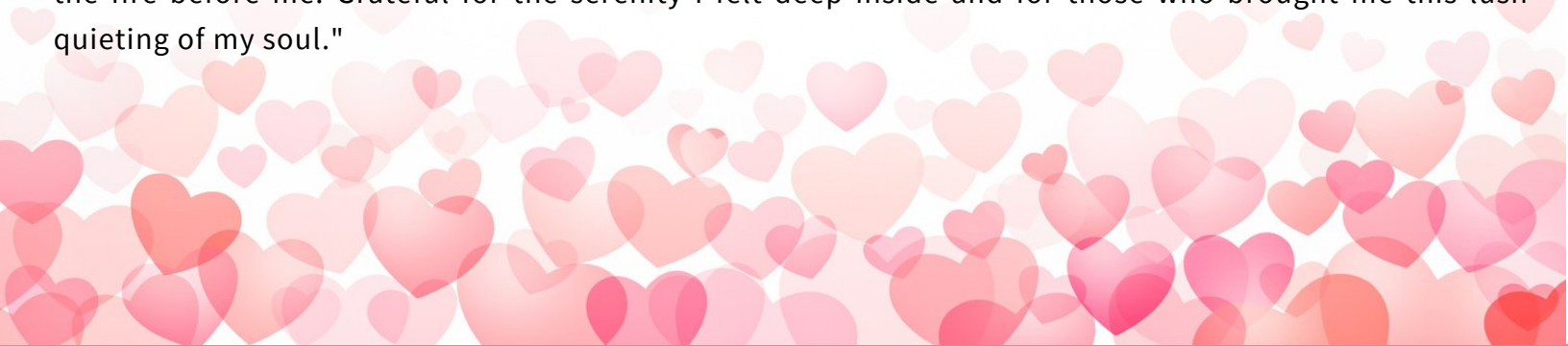
Junior B. wishes to share her thanks after receiving a prayer shawl following her knee surgery

"Never having been given a prayer shawl before, nor knowing what to do with one, I improvised. I wrapped it around my shoulders and sat in a room lit only by a dancing fire.

I offered a prayer of gratitude for the shawl's maker and for any prayers said on my behalf. Then, I sent all associated prayers, mine included, out to a world torn by a rising tide of hate and bigotry and sickened by a deadly disease.

I asked that peace, justice, and caring love fill the hearts of all the world's people, especially those who would do harm to others.

I sat quietly for quite a while with the shawl on my shoulders, soaking up both its warmth and that of the fire before me. Grateful for the serenity I felt deep inside and for those who brought me this lush quieting of my soul."



January Birthdays

2 - Joan Ashley
 2 - Elizabeth Barry
 2 - Ken Fasulo
 4 - Lauren Jordy
 13- Aiden Hendry
 13- Jen Morganstern
 17- Norm O'Brien
 19- Kristen Mazur
 19- Lance Wieland
 21- Kathy Whitmore
 22- Chris Whiting
 23- Chris Allen
 28- Mary Hart



Liturgists

6 - Mark Horton
 13- Ann Sanborn
 20 - Laurie Davis
 27 - Lydia Hill

Ushers

6 - Karin Kurry and
 Lauren Jordy
 13- Mark & Peggy Horton
 20 - Sue & Larry Perry
 27 - Jim Parr and
 Randy Boardway

We Lift in Prayer...



- Please pray joyfully with Lydia Hill, Mollie and Kim Mason's daughter, as she begins a new job as the receptionist at the Topsham office of Saco Bay Physical Therapy. She asks for prayers to be successful.
- Please pray comfortingly for Carol Kauffman who is suffering from GI symptoms with unknown cause and high blood pressure. Cards of comfort may be sent to : 33 Blueberry Lane C29 Falmouth, Maine 04105
- Please pray joyfully for Morgan (Allen) and Noah Barney who are expecting a baby!
- Please pray lovingly for Cathy Bowden's father who needs healing and resilience. Please pray comfortingly for her mother who is ill.
- Please pray joyfully for Allyssa, Cameron, and Lucas Mathieu: they are expecting a new baby!
- Please pray hopefully for Betty Shively who will be living permanently at Ocean View's Falmouth House Assisted Living. Also, pray for her family who is helping her get adjusted as they empty her cottage of many years at Ocean View. Please send cards of welcome to her new home to: Betty Shively 32 Blueberry Lane Apt. #221 Falmouth, Maine 04105
- Please pray gratefully with Virginia Eddy, her brother, Cole and sister-in-law, Dina, as they thank God for "prayer warriors" helping Cole and Dina in their recuperation.
- Please pray for patience and healing for Alyce Graves who needs to take it easy for another 4 weeks and then OT.

CHURCH family news



Barbara and John send their love from New Mexico where they are enjoying their grandsons and John is working on PT.

Thank you for all the prayers I received leading up to my knee surgery. I really felt them, and they made a difference. The surgery went very well, and my recovery is going smoothly.

Blessings to you all. - Laurie Davis



Please pray lovingly for Priscilla DePetris who passed into God's eternal rest on Saturday, January 15th surrounded by her children. Please pray comfortingly for her family and friends as they grieve. Cards of condolence can be sent to her daughter, Laura Kane at 68 Highland Rd. Standish, Maine 04084

We Lift in Prayer...



- Please pray hopefully for Judy Crosby's sister, Sharon, who will have surgery on January 27th.
- Please pray steadfastly for Terri Collins who notices a bit of improvement but has many significant symptoms of long-haul COVID. Please pray that her upcoming neuro-cognitive assessment will yield a treatment plan that will bring relief from suffering. Please send cards to: 295 Falmouth Road Falmouth, Maine 04105
- The Smith family is grateful for prayers and requests continued prayers. Their son, James, who has Cerebral Palsy, continues to suffer with pain and medical complications. Please pray for parents, Jim and Kaye, who need stamina, patience and hope. They are grateful for cards, but not phone calls: 127 Winn Road Falmouth, Maine 04105.
- Please pray for John Graustein as he continues to work towards recovery. He and Barbara are currently staying in Albuquerque near their son and grandchildren. John's address is: 11517 Sky Valley Way NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111
- Please continue to pray for Val Gray's parents who are transitioning into a new lifestyle with his mother caring for his father.
- Please pray for Ginny Hamilton. Ginny has stabilized and is out of hospice care. You may 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.
- 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.
- Please pray for the family of Richard Wheeler, who went to his eternal rest on January 8th.
- Please continue to praise God for the COVID 19 vaccine and boosters that are helping to keep us healthier!
- Please pray gratefully for our FCC employees and volunteers who serve God by serving in our church.



It's that special time of year when the Kid's Church gets to learn about Jesus and take an in depth look at his life. We will look at the basics of who Jesus was, where he traveled, who his followers were, the miracles he performed, and the parables he taught. We will be talking a lot about how Jesus would be received today. What would he wear, how would he communicate, what would his social media profile look like? We will be analyzing the Lord's Prayer and preparing ourselves for Lent. Some of our activities in this unit will include, "fishing," Lord's Prayer Memory, Bible Bound Board Game, Baking a cookie cake, acting etc.

MINISTRY OF *Christian Education*



February 2022 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
		<p>1</p> <p>11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored Meeting</p>	<p>2</p> <p>12 PM Women's Spiritual Book Club 6:45 PM Private Group 6:30/7:30 PM Choirs</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 AM Ecumenical Clergy 6:30 PM Ministry of Missions 7 PM Troop 93</p>
<p>6</p> <p>10 AM Worship in-person or online</p>	<p>7</p> <p>12 PM Bible Study 7PM Worship & Covenant</p>	<p>8</p> <p>11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored Meeting 6:30 Cub Scout</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 Bell Choir 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00 PM Ministry of Finance 7 PM Troop 93</p>
<p>13</p> <p>10 AM Worship in-person or online 11:30 Council Mtg</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day 12 PM Bible Study Congregator Deadline</p>	<p>15</p> <p>11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored Meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30 Bell Choir 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7 PM Troop 93</p>
<p>20</p> <p>10 AM Worship in-person or online</p>	<p>21</p> <p>12 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>22</p> <p>11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored Meeting</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30 Bell Choir 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7 PM Troop 93</p>
<p>27</p> <p>10 AM Worship in-person or online</p>	<p>28</p> <p>12 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored Meeting</p>	<p>Women's Spiritual Book Group 6:30 Bell Choir 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>8:30 AM Ecumenical Clergy Mtg 6:30 PM Ministry of Missions 7 PM Troop 93</p>

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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