



THE CONGREGATOR

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Guiding Star Words

Jesus is born at Christmas, but he begins his ministry at Epiphany. Each person who encounters Jesus must realize, for themselves, who he is and what that means. For some it is as instant as the voice of God proclaiming from the sky, and for others it takes following, observing, conversation. In Epiphany we, too, meet Christ again through paying attention. God doesn't give us just one chance at revelation, but a multitude— God's mercy is new every morning. There are signs aplenty—a star, a baptism, teachings and healings.

At FCC we will honor the process of Epiphany by entering into a process of our own: praying, thinking, and journeying to select our Guiding Star Words for the year. This is a four week process that will culminate on January 29th: journey with us as we search for the guiding star that will help us draw closer to Jesus in 2023.

Grateful to be journeying with you,

Pastor Amelia

COUNCIL

Corner

Stewardship Update

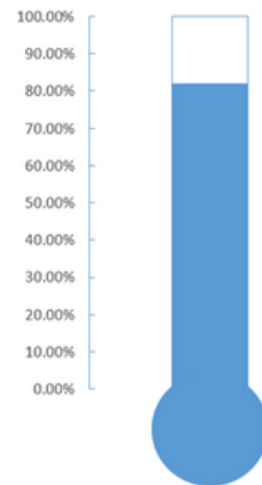


Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving – Communion to Stewardship

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 61 pledge units for a total of \$184,903. In order to meet our budget we need to raise a total of \$225,000.

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 your pledge:
financial.secretary@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org



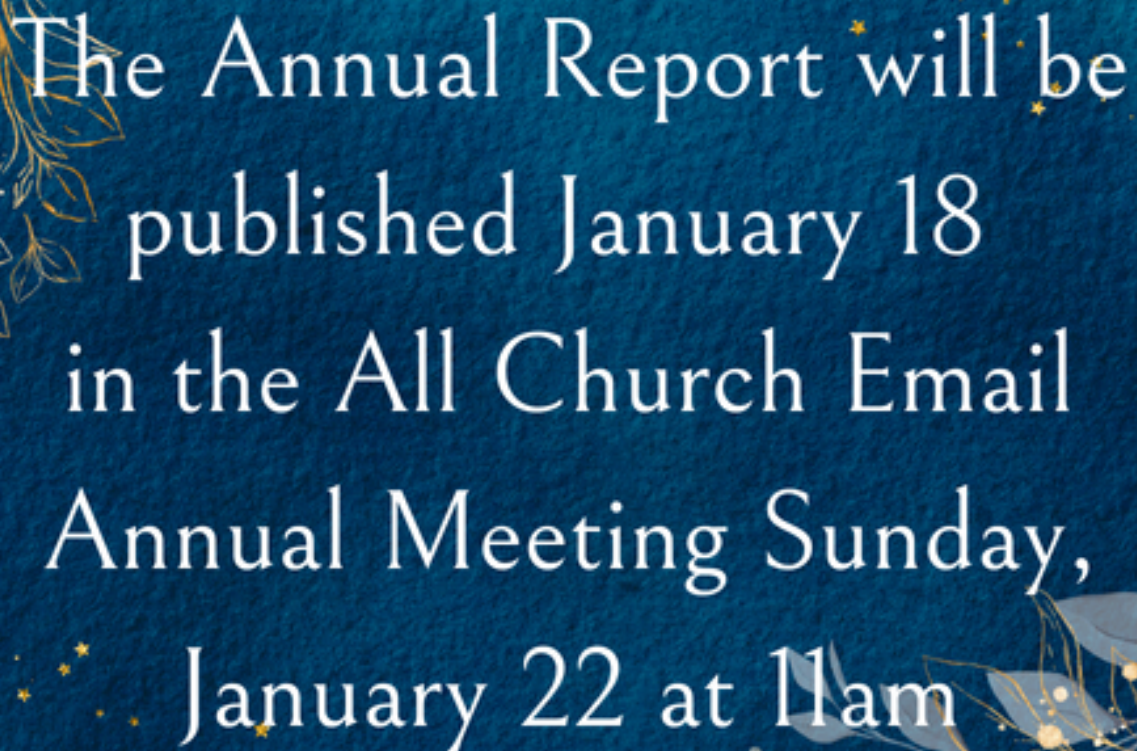
May the Grace of God be with all of you during this Stewardship time of giving. ~2023 Stewardship Committee



Many, many thanks to all who 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 December 29, 2022:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| • Nancy Althaus | • Jack Davis | • Mark Horton | • Phillip Pierce |
| • Russell Anderson | • Paul Davis | • Mark Howison | • Joel Pond |
| • Joan Ashley | • Jacob & Amelia Edson | • Lauren Jordy | • Julia Poppell |
| • Janice Beinema | • Felicia Garant | • Carol Kauffman | • John Reid |
| • Marilee Beinema | • Rebecca Gibbons | • Karin Kurry | • Joan Russell |
| • Lorraine Bergen | • Barbara Graustein | • Grace Lashua | • Ann Sanborn |
| • Joe Blinick | • Alyce Graves | • Nancy Lightbody | • Jim Scherer |
| • Betty Bois | • Maureen Grubb | • Kaye Low-Smith | • Tom Simmonds |
| • John Boothby | • Mike Guippone | • Allyssa & Cameron Mathieu | • Kathie Sinnett |
| • Cathy Bowden | • Margaret Halleck | • Jennifer Major | • Thomas Stegemann |
| • Gerald Caruso | • Charles Harriman | • Kimball Mason | • Elizabeth Stouder |
| • Anne Coleman | • Mary Hart | • Judith Nilsen | • Kathleen Towns |
| • Jeaneen Coleman | • Kimberly Hendry | • Craig Page | • Dolores Vail |
| • Terri Collins | • Lydia Hill | • James Parr | • Kathy Whitmore |
| • Tom Crosby | • David Horne | • Larry Perry | • John Wilcox |
| | | | • Nancy Wulbrecht |



The Annual Report will be
published January 18
in the All Church Email
Annual Meeting Sunday,
January 22 at 11am

We are currently looking for new members for Council, including a new Clerk. This is a very important role in the life of our church. If you are interested in the Clerk position or being a member at large, please contact me or Pastor Amelia.

~ Kim Hendry, Moderator, khendry1972@gmail.com

What a beautiful, worshipful, joyful candlelight Christmas Eve service it was! So good to experience it together as a body again after a couple seasons at home and apart. I am so grateful for and proud of the musicians who were such a big part of it.

There is always room for more musicians. Come and try just one rehearsal – you might like it!

The Chancel Choir returns to rehearsals again this week: Wednesday at 7:30 PM.

Bell Choir resumes on Wednesday, February 1 at 6:30 PM.

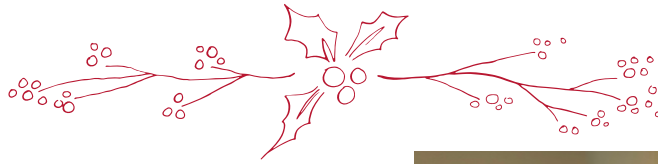
Just let me know if you are interested, so I can save a seat for you.

~ Jan Stover, Minister of Music, janiceleastover@gmail.com

MINISTRY OF

Music

MINISTRY OF *Community Life*



We are a fun, enthusiastic, and faithful group who enjoy sharing the love of God with our FCC community. In December 2022, just before Christmas, many from our group and some volunteers from our congregation gathered in Fellowship Hall to write 102 Christmas cards which were sent via postal mail or added to poinsettias with delicious cookies made by our Kids' Church for our homebound folks.



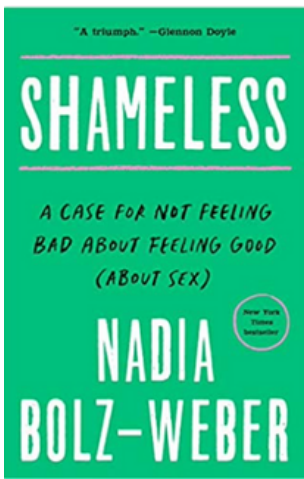
This outreach at Christmas brings joy, peace, love and hope from our God, and the congregation. We are grateful to serve in this way and thank God for this opportunity. Thank you all so much for making Christmas a brighter time of light for all!

~ Jane Stegemann, Chair of Ministry of Community Life

Women's Spiritual Book Group

FCC's Women's Spiritual Book Group met on Wednesday, January 4 to discuss 'Shameless: A Case for Not Feeling Bad about Feeling Good (About Sex)' written by Nadia Bolz-Weber.

Reviews suggest that this NYT bestseller is "raw, intimate and timely, and a no-holds-barred celebration of our bodies that flies in the face of antiquated ideas about sex and gender. Past authors we have enjoyed describe the book as "A triumph." (Glennon Doyle) and "One of the most important, life-changing books I have ever read." (Rachel Held Evans)



Reviews continue: "Negative messages about sex come from all corners of society: from the church, from the media, from our own families. As a result, countless people have suffered pain, guilt, and judgment. In this instant bestseller, Nadia Bolz-Weber unleashes her critical eye and her vulnerable yet hopeful soul on the harmful conversations about sex that have fed our shame."

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 at cathybbowden@gmail.com for more details and/or to join the email list where upcoming meeting details and Zoom links are shared.

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 in 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?

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.

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. In February look forward to a parent-child baking effort for the Church School!

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



MINISTRY OF
missions



Greater Portland
Family Promise®

Greater Portland Family Promise, an affiliate of the national Family Promise program, is dedicated to addressing the needs of families facing homelessness in the Greater Portland, Maine, area. Through an interfaith network and connections with existing community resources, Family Promise provides housing, meals, case management, and community for children and their families experiencing homelessness.

Due to an overflow at the City of Portland Family Shelter and a large number of families facing eviction from area hotels soon, our church helped with a small piece of a short-term emergency solution: From December 14 through December 28, we provided a warm safe place for three families (with 14 people, 2 families from Angola, 1 family from the Congo) overnight from 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 a.m.

We partnered with Foreside Community Church and the Congregational Church in Cumberland UCC. Thank you to all of our volunteers!



**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.

Thank you for all the Angel Tree Gifts!

This was a year of many firsts! The first year that every gift requested was provided! The first year that all the gifts were brought to the church on time! The first year that every single gift was wrapped! And the first year that every single gift had the name of the recipient already attached to it! Thank you very much!

This year our Angel Tree gifts met the needs of 30 children in 11 families identified by the Falmouth Food Pantry and Family Promise. Many angels appeared to make sure this year's Christmas would be a merry one for many children in our community. The generous gifts were beautifully wrapped and secretly handed out to very appreciative parents. Many many thanks to all our angels who gave so willingly and helped many celebrate Christmas!

MINISTRY OF *Worship & Covenant*



The end of the calendar year brings the beginning of the liturgical year. And especially during Advent, it seems like we've been in a state of anticipation for the last 3 years. Anticipating the end of the pandemic; anticipating having a full-fledged virtual service; anticipating worshipping in person together again; anticipating our new Music Minister; anticipating enjoying the covenant of fellowship in the homes of our FCC brothers and sisters in Christ.

As we've resumed the rhythms of the liturgical year in our worship, and the rhythms of the calendar year in our fellowship, we are also growing into the blessing of welcoming new members to FCC. So, this is a good time of year to reflect not only on where our journey has taken us but also on where we would like to go.



What are your thoughts? Would you like to pitch in to help with parts of the worship services? Do you have ideas for fellowship activities to deepen our bonds as siblings who worship a risen Lord? We want to hear from you. And if you'd like to serve on a committee whose focus is on the logistics of celebrating God's love each week, we'd love for you to join us. You can reach out to any of us

~ Larry Perry and Virginia Eddy (co-chairs),
Judy Crosby, Randy Boardway, Karin Kurry,
and Jim Scherer.



Santa (Jack Davis) greets Pastor Amelia before bringing Christmas Joy to our Family Promise families

MINISTRY OF
Christian Education



Hello, Falmouth Congregational Church!

What a whirlwind the Advent season was! Kids' Church was hard at work on their Nativity pageant from late November to Christmas Eve, and all of their hard work culminated in a creative, funny, joyful storytelling experience for our entire congregation. 40+ children contributed to the creation of the pageant, and it simply could not have been done without the aid of our incredible volunteers. We (I) would have been absolutely lost without their help, and we are so grateful to them.



We also had the chance to celebrate the season with a fun-filled Christmas Spectacular, led by our resident Christmas Fun-meister Craig Page. Our families gathered on a cold evening to sing carols, make ornaments, pet fuzzy animals, enjoy sweet treats, and spread Christmas cheer. We were excited to have some folks from the greater community join us, including some families who are new to our country, and a pair of tourists from Russia who wanted to experience an American Christmas. I think we gave them a great showing of the best of American Christmas traditions! Thank you to the many volunteers who helped make the Spectacular possible, and a special congratulations to Kinley Reid for winning the Most Festive Dog Competition!

As we move into the New Year, we are in need of more Kids' Church volunteers. Our volunteers are an essential part of Kids' Church, and it is a meaningful, fun opportunity for our adults to connect with our younger community members. If you haven't signed up before but are interested in volunteering, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. To sign up, please visit bit.ly/KidsChurchVolunteers.



There is much excitement to come in 2023, and I look forward to it all. Thank you again to all who helped make this season so wonderful!

~Hannah Daly
Hannah@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org
Director of Youth and Family Ministries

CHURCH

family news

- Alan Mathieu's mother who has been transferred to memory care and his brother who struggling with serious illness.
- Judy Crosby's father went into his eternal rest on Dec. 24th. Cards may be sent to: 150 Brook Road Falmouth, Maine 04105
- Kathy Whitmore's partner, John, went into his eternal rest suddenly on Dec. 27th. Cards may be sent to 102 Wythburn Road South Portland, Maine 04106-5321.
- Alyce and Betty Graves have covid. Cards may be sent to 39 Blueberry Lane C42 Falmouth, Maine 04105
- Jo and Joe Blinick have covid. Cards may be sent to 510 Blackstrap Road Falmouth, Maine 04105.
- Long-time member and current participant in zoom Bible Study, Joanne Varga, who is having eye difficulties. Cards may be sent to: 149 East Side Drive Apt. 22B Concord, NH 03301
- Lauren Jordy's mother, whose husband went peacefully into his eternal rest on December 14th.
- Carol Kauffman who is adjusting to health difficulties necessitating infusions for the next several months. She thanks you for love and support and really benefits from cards to be sent to: 33 Blueberry Lane C29 Falmouth, Maine 04105

We Lift in Prayer...



- Russ Anderson's nephew, Jeff, who is making a slow and steady recovery from a car accident. Keep the prayers coming!
- James Smith and his parents, Jim and Kaye, as James moves into his new home at Casa, Inc. Cards of welcome & delight for James: P.O. Box 150 Scarborough, Maine 04074.
- 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. 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. 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.

Ushers

- 1 - Karin Kurry
Jim Parr
- 8 - Jennifer Major
Bill Nugent
- 15 - Jo Blinick
Joe Blinick
- 22 - Peggy Horton
Mark Horton
- 29 - Judy Crosby
Tom Crosby

Liturgists

- 1 - Lydia Hill
- 8 - Mark Horton
- 15 - Nancy Lightbody
- 22 - Laurie Davis
- 29 - Cathy Bowden

January Birthdays

- 3 - Cathy Bowden
- 6 - Judy Nilsen
- 7 - Betty Graves
- 8 - Carol Carter
- 8 - Sue Perry
- 9 - Dolores Vail
- 16 - Kim Mason
- 17 - Ted Vail
- 18 - Ruth Smith
- 20 - Jim Scherer
- 27 - John Boothby
- 29 - Jerry Caruso
- 29 - Kathleen Henderson



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January 2023 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10 AM Worship with Communion 7 pm Troop 93	2 OFFICE CLOSED 12 PM Bible Study (Zoom) 7 PM Worship & Covenant	3 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored	4 12 PM Women's Spiritual Book Club 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 6:30 PM Ministry of Missions 7 PM Troop 93	6	7
8 10 AM Worship In-person or Online 11:30 AM Council of Ministries 4 PM Youth Group @ Foreside Com. Church	9 12 PM Bible Study (Zoom) 6 PM Fiddle-icious Rehearsal 7 PM Cub Scout Com. Mtg.	10 10 AM Bible Study @ Oceanview 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored	11 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 7 PM Finance meeting 7 PM Troop 93	13	14
15 10 AM Worship In-person or Online 11 AM Men's Group	16 OFFICE CLOSED 12 PM Bible Study (Zoom) 7 PM Fiddle-icious Rehearsal	17 CONGREGATOR DEADLINE 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored	18 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	19 7 PM Troop 93 Meeting	20	21 10 AM Erlon Varney Celebration of Life at Jones & Rich Funeral Home
ANNUAL MEETING 22 10 AM Worship In-person or Online 4 PM Youth Group	23 12 PM Bible Study (Zoom)	24 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored	25 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	26 7 PM Troop 93 Meeting	27	28
29 10 AM Worship In-person or Online	30 12 PM Bible Study (Zoom) 7 PM Fiddle-icious Rehearsal	31 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored	Feb 1 12 PM Women's Spiritual Book Club 6:30 PM Bell Choir 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	Feb 2 8:30 Ecumenical Clergy Meeting 6:30 PM Min. of Missions 7 PM Troop 93	Feb 3	Feb 4 Loaves of Love baking

**Monday,
January
16th
Office
Closed for
MLK jr.
Day**

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