Falmouth Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church
Falmouth, Maine

# The Congregator



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JANUARY Edition 2020

Volume 57 Issue 1

# From Reverend Amelia Edson

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January.

It's cold and dark outside and the world wants to sell us new versions of ourselves.

Top resolutions for the new year include starting a new diet (71%), exercising more (65%) or losing weight (54%). Others include quitting unhealthy habits, starting a new budget, or reading more.

The drive to improve ourselves—to draw closer to being the people God calls us to be—is a vital part of Christianity. It is why we confess each week, and why we take up spiritual practices, such as church attendance, prayer, meditation, and service.

So, too, is grace. The message that God loves us, without us needing to change, or earn it, is one of the most revolutionary parts of the Christian faith. It flies in the face of so many of the messages we receive, especially around this resolution-oriented marketing cycle.

As you go about your January routine, may you find the strength and support you need to keep growing into the person you are striving to become. May you find yourself drawing closer to yourself, your loved ones, and God (and, sure, that new exercise regime or budget limit if you've set your mind to it).

And, may you know that you are fully loved, cherished, and marveled over by God, who created you—just the way you are.

~ Reverend Amelia

Email: Pastorameliafcc@gmail.com



These numbers drawn from a study of 2,000 people and reported on at inc.com

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#### **COUNCIL CORNER FOR JANUARY**

Year-end FCC Council of Ministries meetings usually focus on financesthe stewardship campaign and the budget for the coming year.

This year, at our meetings in November and December we worked on those things, but spent even more time on an exciting new project--converting to solar energy to cover our electricity usage.

We have proposals from several solar energy installation contractors, and our plan is to present a concrete proposal for a solar installation to the Congregation at the Church's Annual Meeting in January. In fact, some generous Church members who support the solar project have made substantial pledges toward the cost of the project should the Congregation support it.

So stay tuned, exciting news coming. Our FCC is on the move, environmentally as in so many other ways!









#### FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Please note that donations given to the church by December 29, 2019, will be recorded and appear on your end of the year giving statement. These statements will be mailed/emailed, according to your preference during January.



For those of you who have requested envelopes, the boxes will be available after December 16th in Fellowship Hall. There are a few extra boxes if someone would like to have envelopes for your donations to the church.

Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at <a href="mainte:ginifcc@maine.rr.com">ginifcc@maine.rr.com</a>

or by phone at the church on Monday mornings.

Thanks, Gini Medford, FCC Financial Secretary 207-781-3413

# Ministry of Finance



#### Exciting news from a friend of our church!

This person wishes to give up her car and donate to the church, where the proceeds of the sale will be used amongst the church ministries.

The car is a 2010 Toyota Camry LE with 17,580 miles and in perfect condition but will need snow tires if your going to be driving this winter! We are first offering to the congregation before advertising outside the church. Asking price for church members is \$7,500.

Kelley Blue Book listing shows the Camry to be worth \$8,000 to \$9,000, private sale. If the car does not sell we will advertise outside the church with a price of \$8,000.

Please call the church office if you are interested and would like to see the car.







### **Stewardship Campaign 2020**



More exciting news on the stewardship 2020 campaign! As of today, we have received 60 pledges which puts us way ahead of last year at this time. Total amount pledged to date is \$170,000 or 84% of our goal of \$200,000!

Thank you all for making the effort to make a pledge before the end of the year so we can develop a budget for all the ministries in January.

If you have not sent in your pledge or do not really understand what pledging is all about, email the office at <a href="mailto:fccoffc@gmail.com">fccoffc@gmail.com</a> and request the letter and pledge card. There are also letters and pledge cards on the table just outside the sanctuary doors.

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# Ministry of Christian Education



# KIDS' CHURCH

This December was filled with giving, excitement, and holiday cheer at the Falmouth Congregational Church. The children learned the Christmas story while practicing for their pageant all month long. They had so much fun acting out their roles, picking out their costumes, working on musical numbers, and performing it all for the church at the 5 PM Christmas Eve service.

On December 15th, the kids decorated beautiful Christmas cookies for members of our congregation who can't make it to church to give them some holiday cheer. After church a big group of the congregation of all ages loaded in our Christmas caroling bus for our annual Christmas caroling event hosted by Craig Paige. It was so fun and we are so grateful to have Craig come back and host the caroling every year. What a perfect conclusion to another great year.

Looking forward in the promising year of 2020, the Christian Education Ministry will be throwing the annual Super Bowl Sunday Chili Fundraiser. We will have veggie, beef, and turkey chili that will come with corn bread muffins (we do have gluten free muffins). Chili is priced at \$8 for a pint and \$15 for a quart. We will be selling the chili on Sunday February 2.

Please get your chili orders in to Kristen Coleman by email at <a href="mailto:kristen.coleman@maine.edu">kristen.coleman@maine.edu</a> or put your order down after church in fellowship hall before it sells out! All proceeds go to Christian education.



Thank You,

Kristen Coleman Christian Education Administrator kristen.coleman@maine.edu



The Children's ministry and Elena Parr are still in need of volunteers to become "on-call" nursery helpers. Please sign up on the volunteer sheet on the CE bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Any questions, please contact, Kristen Coleman, Christian Education Coordinator at: davinci.experience@gmail.com

#### **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**



On December 15th Craig Page and friends organized a caroling charter bus to take members of the church around to different nursing homes and spread holiday cheer. Craig always does a magnificent job keeping the event lively and adding new music each year.

The residents and staff at the nursing home really enjoyed our Christmas car-

oling. Everyone, young and elder, had a wonderful time! Thank you everyone who helped or participated in the Christmas Caroling and for making it a fun and successful way to celebrate and share the Christmas Spirit.



# Ministry of Missions

#### THANK YOU FOR THE ANGEL GIFTS!

Thank you very much to all the angels who are making Christmas so merry for many in our community! Angels from the Falmouth Congregational Church are giving gifts to 20 children of Falmouth Food Pantry families. In many cases, these angels are providing at least two gifts per child. The gifts have not yet all been handed out, but they will certainly be appreciated when they are!



Thank you also to the Cub Scouts, who are giving personal gifts and cheery hand-written cards to 12 Falmouth senior citizens who are clients of the Food Pantry. These very needy clients would not have a Christmas if the Scouts did not offer to give them one.



#### **FAMILY PROMISE PROGRAM**

In the past year and a half, our church served as a Host Congregation for **SIX** different weeks of this exciting project. We could not have done it without you!

More details will follow, but the next time that our church will be a host congregation is from **Sunday evening**, **January 19**, **2020**, **through Sunday morning**, **January 26**, **2020**. Please consider participating in one of these many volunteer opportunities:

- Dinner volunteer (5:00 PM 6:30 PM
- Evening volunteer (6:30 PM 8:30 PM)
- Overnight and breakfast volunteer (8:00 PM 7:30 AM)
- Meal preparation
- Help with laundry
- Donation of non-perishable food items

If you can help, please contact Steve at 333-8780. Thank you!



#### MANY THANKS FOR ALL THE COTTON SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS!

On December 8, 2019, many of you brought to church cotton socks, which Pastor Amelia blessed and which will be given to people at the Preble Street Resource Center.

Thank you also for the socks in women's sizes: That was very thoughtful too!

Collecting cotton socks is one of our church's continuing local missions. If you happen to have more socks to donate, there is a collection box in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your help.



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# Ministry of Missions Continued...



#### **CONGRATUALTIONS EAGLE SCOUTS!**

Congratulations to our new Eagle Scouts ~ Zachary Derhak and Joseph Rouhan! Great Job!

We love hosting Troop 93 at the church and watching these Boy scouts grow up into strong, confident, conscientious young people!



### **Upcoming at the Coffee House!**

The FCC Coffee House hosts local musicians and admission is by donation. Please contact Paul Davis at: <a href="mailto:nevis56@gmail.com">nevis56@gmail.com</a> if you or your group would like to perform at the Coffee House.

Don't miss the amazing upcoming musicians at the next Coffee House:

January 10	Chris Kemp White	https://www.facebook.com/ chris.kemp.white/
February 14	Ken Myers	
March 13	Darlin' Corey	https://www.facebook.com/ DarlinCorey/

Relax, enjoy a hot beverage, support the arts and your church! The doors open at 6:30 PM and ends around 9 PM. Bring a friend and join us! All are WELCOME!

#### **FALMOUTH FOOD PANTRY**

For January 2020, the Falmouth Food Pantry is open on:

Monday, January 6, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM Thursday, January 9, 4:30 PM- 6:30 PM Tuesday, January 14, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM Thursday, January 16, 4:30 PM- 6:30 PM Monday, January 20, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM Tuesday, January 21, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

Thursday, January 23, 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM Tuesday, January 28, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

The Falmouth Food Pantry currently needs the following items:

- Cans of soup
- Tea bags
- Oatmeal and cold cereal

Thank you very much!



# Ministry of Community Life



**Mark your calendars!** The next Called to Care meeting is on January 8th 1:00 PM All are welcome. And the Ministry of Community Life will meet in February.

**Hospitality table:** On Communion Sunday, December 1st Rae Pierce and Judy Nilsen set up donations of Christmas cookies, homemade bars, quick breads, fruit, crackers and cheese to be en-

joyed by all! Special thanks to all who contributed to the occasion.

We look forward to contributions for our future Hospitality tables. A sign up poster is located in Fellowship Hall! Anytime you are baking, you may like to save a few contributions for our ongoing "Feed the Freezer" campaign.

The MCL truly appreciates your contributions and thanks you for support this past year.

### Happy New Year from The Ministry of Community Life!



We opened our December meeting with a meditation titled, "The Yarn's Journey." Afterwards everyone shared their latest project. While they were knitting I shared with them a brief history of the

ministry along with a couple special stories.

Our meeting closed with a circle prayer.

Looking forward to having you join us at **our next meeting January 9th** in the Grant Room from 1:30 - 3:00. *Weather permitting.* 

Happy New Year!! Judy Nilsen





It's that time of year....

Things you can do to FIGHT the Flu:

- Stay hydrated.
- Did you remember to get your flu shot?
- Remember to wash your hands often.
- Call on your elderly neighbors.
- Eat healthy! Remember to exercise prudently.
- Keep a positive mindset and an attitude of gratitude.







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# Ministry of Worship and Covenant



During the month of December the Ministry of Worship and Covenant worked on holiday preparations. The Chrismons were taken out of storage and checked prior to decorating the Chrismon tree. Families were contacted and asked to light the Advent candles. Jess kindly ordered Poinsettias. Between this ministry and Called to Care twenty plants were delivered to homebound persons. These are a few of the things our ministry has been doing to prepare for the Christmas season.

Chrismons

In the New Year a new schedule for ushering will be made up. If you would like to volunteer to usher in the regular rotation or as a substitute please contact Larry Perry or Jim Parr.

A new flower chart is up in Fellowship Hall please choose a date(s) to provide flowers for Sunday services.

We invite new members to participate in this very important group of people who support our minister in her work. We help with ushering, communion, supporting activities such as the Chismons, home communions, finding people to participate with Advent and other parts of the Christian calendar .We meet once a month in the Grant room for a usually short meeting.

Please contact Larry Perry if you have any questions or would like to join us.



#### **CHANCEL FLOWERS**

Would you like to provide the chancel flowers for a Sunday? Be the first to choose your date in 2020! Please sign up on the poster in Fellowship Hall. Fill out the information on a Chancel Flower form and place it in the offering plate or leave it in the church office. The office will order the flowers from Skillins unless otherwise specified. You may also supply your own.

Cost of chancel flowers from Skillins is \$45.00.



#### **ENVIRONMENTAL AND FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY**

The Ministry of Facilities raises funds in many ways. We invite you to pick up a green plastic **Clynk bag** with the FCC logo and fill it with your returnable bottles and cans and then return it to Hannaford. Every dime counts! The bags are located on the table in Fellowship Hall or in the Church Office.





# ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE FCC FAMILY?

**New Member Meeting on Sunday, January 12 at 11:30 AM in the Parlor.** Rev. Amelia will answer all your questions and share with you what membership means at FCC.

New Member will join during worship service on Sunday, January 26 at 10 AM.

Falmouth Congregational Church UCC Annual Meeting and Lunch

Sunday, January 26, 2020 11:30 AM Beinema Hall



### Reports for the 2019 Annual Report are due Now!

#### Reports still needed are:

- Minister of Music
- ◆ Clerk Report for 2018
- Annual Pledge Campaign
- Memorial Fund
- Nominating-Proposed Slate of Officers
- Ministry of Worship & Covenant
- Holly Days Fair

- 2018 Income Statement and 2020 Proposed Budget
- ♦ Comparative Balance Sheet 2018
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Coffee House
- Report of Review Committee
- Pastoral Search Committee

Please email reports as soon as possible

to: fccoffc@gmail.com

Thank you! Thank you!!







#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Falmouth Congregational Church United Church of Christ is a Christian community of faith which:

- $\hfill \square$  Serves God with love and worship.
- □ Serves our church family with loving mutual support and provides opportunities for spiritual growth.
- ☐ Serves all of God's creation with compassion, generosity, justice and stewardship.

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# January Worship Attendants

## Liturgists

- 5 Laurie Davis
- 12 Marilee Beinema
- 19 Virginia Eddy
- 26 Mark Horton



If you would like to be a Liturgist during Sunday Worship Service:

Liturgists

Please contact Jim Parr at <a href="mailto:jparr2@maine.rr.com">jparr2@maine.rr.com</a> or Larry Perry at <a href="mailto:LPerry@baystatefinancial.com">LPerry@baystatefinancial.com</a> or 797-2928 if you would like to serve the church by participating in the morning worship service. Thank you.

#### Ushers

- 5 Jack Davis and Jim Parr
- **12** Rodney and Anne Coleman, John Boothby and Tyler Henderson
- **19** Paul Davis, Steve Hendry, Mark and Peggy Horton
- 26 Joe and Jo Blinick, Kim and Mollie Mason

There are several openings for ushers on the schedule.

Please contact Mark Horton, if you would like to be added to the rotation.

It isn't a huge commitment of time and it is a very much, appreciated service to your church.

### **Greeters**

- 5 Carol Kauffman
- 12 Judy Nilsen
- 19 Ann Sanborn
- 26 Don and Marion Olen

# PLEASE FIND A SUBSTITUTE IF YOU ARE NOT AVAILABLE ON YOUR SCHEDULED SUNDAY

Contact the church office by Wednesday morning with the name of your replacement.
Thanks!!

# Communion Preparers Sunday, January 5

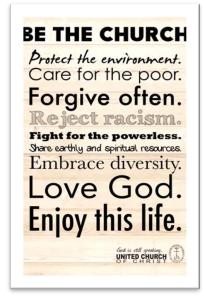
Eunice Wilcox, Laurie Davis Mollie Mason, Virginia Eddy



# Chancel Flowers

- 5 Carol Kauffman
- 12 -
- 19 -
- **26** The Olen Family

The beautiful Chancel flowers from Skillins start at \$45 ~ delivery fee included



# Church Family News ...



Congratulations! To Myron Hager who has been given the Golden Cane Award for being the eldest Falmouth Resident at 102 years young!



#### PLEASE REMEMBER ...

To be a good steward - We ask that the last person to leave a room/the building after a meeting, function, etc. to do these four things:

- 1. Sack any trash tightly and leave in the kitchen.
- 2. Turn down the heat to 62 degrees
- 3. Turn off the lights.
- 4. Lock the door(s).

Thank you!



### We lift in prayer







# Condolences and prayers

We hold Nancy Wulbrecht, David Wulbrecht and the extended family and friends of Katie Wulbrecht in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

Katie Wulbrecht passed into her eternal rest December 9, 2019

"In life and in death we hold fast to the promises of the Gospel."

# January Birthdays

- Cathy Bowden
- Judy Nilsen
- Susan Perry
- Dolores Vail
- 11 Zachary Wescott
- 11 Sarah Amato

- 16 Kim Mason
- 17 Ted Vail
- 18 Ruth Smith
- 22 Laurie Winslow
- 22 Elise Coleman
- 22 Audrey Murray
- 26 Kathie Sinnett
- 27 John Boothby

- 27 Jenna Page
- 29 Kathleen Henderson.
- 29. Gerald Caruso
- 29 Joe Horgan



# **Falmouth Congregational Church Calendar**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	_		_				
	**	RY*	1 Office Closed	2 8:30 AM Ecumenical Clergy Mtg. 6:30 PM Ministry of Missions 7 PM Boy Scouts	<b>3</b> 9 AM Aerobics	4	
5 Communion	6	7	8	9	10	11	
No Choir 10 AM Worship 11:15 AM Coffee Hour 7 PM Scout Committee Meeting	9 AM Food Pantry Open 6 PM Fiddle-icious 7 PM Ministry of Worship & Covenant	9 AM Aerobics 9:30 AM Food Pantry Open 10 AM Bible Study at Oceanview 11:30 AM Staff Mtg.	8:30 AM Aerobics  12 PM Women's Spiritual Book Group  1 PM Called to Care  7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	1:30 PM Prayer Shawl Mtg. 4:30 PM Food Pantry Open 6 PM Finance Com- mittee Mtg. 7 PM Boy Scouts	9 AM Aerobics 6:30 PM Coffee House Music by: Chris Kemp White		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
9 AM Choir Practice 10 AM Worship & Kids' Church 11:15 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Council of Ministries Mtg. 11:30 AM New Member Meeting February Congregator Deadline		9 AM Aerobics 9:30 AM Food Pantry Open 10 AM Bible Study at Oceanview 11:30 AM Staff Mtg. 12:30 PM Coffee with Rev. Amelia 6:30 PM Cub Scouts Pack Meeting		4:30 PM Food Pantry Open 7 PM Boy Scouts			
	20		22	23	24	25	
9 AM Choir Practice 10 AM Worship & Kids' Church 11:15 Coffee Hour	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY  9 AM Food Pantry Open	Open 10 AM Bible Study at Oceanview 11:30 AM Staff Mtg.	7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	4:30 PM Food Pantry Open	9 AM Aerobics	1 PM Private Event	
FAMILY PROMISE FAMILIES							
26 ANNUAL MTG. NEW MEMBERS JOIN 9 AM Choir Practice 10 AM Worship - New Members Join & Kids' Church 11:30 Annual Meeting & Lunch	9 AM Food Pantry Open 6 PM Fiddle-icous	9 AM Aerobics 9:30 AM Food Pantry Open 10 AM Bible Study at Oceanview 11:30 AM Staff Mtg. 12:30 PM Coffee with Rev. Amelia	8:30 AM Aerobics 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal		<b>31</b> 9 AM Aerobics		



There is something quite wonderful about starting over, isn't there?

Even if it's something as contrived as turning over a new date on the calendar, marking the passages of life and time with a promise to try harder this time has some meaning, purpose, and value.

We just came through the season of Advent, a time of deep reflection and introspection.

We have endured the longest night and come out the other side once again hopeful that the light will return.

We have celebrated the incarnation of God's love in the birth of a child.

The time is right for us to make new promises, renew old commitments that have gone stale, and wipe the slate clean on past transgressions. This isn't merely wishful thinking, nor is it a quick fix to matters we would just as soon forget.

I think there is something deeply spiritual and fundamentally theological about this. Our encounters with the Sacred have always put us in touch with one whose love abounds, whose invitation to become something new is always present, and whose graceful, forgiving spirit has humbled us and instilled within us a desire to do and be better than – well, better than we have been.

Self-reflection and introspection that centers us on both the presence of that graceful Spirit of the Divine and on our own frailty, vulnerability, and shortcomings are gifts that help us make the necessary adjustments in life. And while it may be an arbitrary and contrived mechanism to pretend that every time the calendar changes the world suddenly becomes receptive to considering a new start, but really – who cares?

It works. Just telling ourselves to randomly think about making positive changes whenever we think about it is a way to pretty much guarantee it won't happen. I have a basement full of promises I made to myself: a collection of unfinished businesses that I tell myself "I will get to sometime." There's that stained-glass window that cracked that needs repair; the table saw and router I bought to do my woodworking with when I get to; the hammer dulcimer that wants me to tune it and learn to play it better. Day after day goes by without me once thinking about any of those – or the dozen other – things that sit waiting for me to remember and to create time for them.

So, let it be that every January 1 we evaluate. We itemize and inventory our life and discover something that calls us to new commitments, new growth, new promise and new possibility.

It works. Left to my own devices, I will often think that I should do that – but will almost just as often move on to something else with the promise to get that done some day. I like it that the whole world takes a deep breath together, looks at the changing year, and agrees to make promises.

Will they all be kept?

We know they won't.

But come on – let's do this. Walk into the presence of a loving, forgiving, grace-filled and hopeful Spirit of God – and pause. Breathe. Listen. And then play.

Make a promise. See a future. Accept the invitation to be, to do, to act, to think in a way that opens up new horizons, new futures, new tomorrows. Let possibilities abound. And if you fail at it, at least you hoped. And you will get another shot at it next year. God will still be there. She will embrace every new promise you are willing to try.

Gentle souls, happy New Year. May this one open up for you roads of possibility and potential as yet unrealized. And may the abiding presence of the sacred fill you with hope and wonder as you continue your meanderings Into the Mystic<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Into the Mystic' is the Rev. John C. Dorhauer's weekly podcast on UCC.org. <a href="https://www.ucc.org/into">https://www.ucc.org/into</a> the mystic happy new year

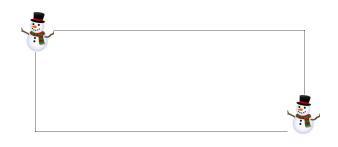
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God is Still Speaking!

# Falmouth Congregational Church United Church of Christ

#### **MINISTRIES**

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Chair, Council of Ministries

Kristen Coleman Chair, Ministry of Christian Education

Rae Pierce and Ann Sanborn

Co-Chairs, Ministry of Community Life

Eunice Wilcox

Ministry of Facility Stewardship

Steve Hendry Chair, Ministry of Missions

Larry Perry & Jim Parr Co-Chairs, Ministry of Worship & Covenant



#### **CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Amelia Edson

Pastor and Teacher

Doris Krueger Minister of Music

Kristen Coleman

Christian Education Administrator

Matthew Strobel **Sexton** 

Jess Dickson

Office Manager, Newsletter Editor

Kat Roderick

Office Assistant

#### **OFFICERS**

Mark Horton, *Moderator*Kim Hendry, *Vice Moderator*Carol Kauffman, *Clerk Pro-tem*Pam Carroll, *Treasurer*Gini Medford, *Financial Secretary*Carol Kauffman MSN, RN, *Faith Community Nurse*