

THE CONGREGATOR

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 - Letter from Reverend Amelia
- 2 - The Month Ahead
- 3 - Council Corner
- 4 - Ministry of Missions
- 5 - Ministry of Finance
- 6 - Christmas Spectacular
- 7 - Women's Spiritual Book Club
- 8 - Worship & Covenant
- 9 - Ministry of Christian Ed
- 10 - Church Family News
- 11- Calendar



Star Word Project

When I had Julian I didn't really specifically think about her for about 4 hours. I had expected to be instantaneously in love, but I was tired and disoriented and dehydrated instead. It wasn't until hours after her birth (and some Gatorade) that I realized: I have a daughter. I have a daughter and she's perfect.

Epiphanies and realizations are sometimes instantaneous but, more often than not, they take time. We need to adjust, take stock, have some (literal or metaphorical) Gatorade, and get our heads wrapped around things.

The coming of the Christ to earth is no exception. There were some who got it immediately- Mary, Elizabeth, the Shepherds in the field. They are the stars of the Christmas story.

For some it took a bit longer. For those of us who need a minute there is a season just for us: Epiphany.

Epiphany is the season of slow discovery, where we travel with those who didn't get the memo in time for the manger but got there, just the same. We are invited to travel with the magi, who wander in the wilderness and miss the birth. We attend the wedding where Jesus performed his first miracle and turned water into wine. We stand with the crowd on the river Jordan and see the Holy Spirit come down upon Jesus and declare him the Christ.

Continued on next page...

Here at Falmouth Congregational we will honor the process of Epiphany by entering into a process of our own: praying, thinking, and journeying with our Star Words, or guiding words, for the year. In the month of January we will spend time observing ourselves and our journey with God, and choose a word that will guide and center us during 2022.

We will also be in the process of thinking about the year behind, and the year ahead, as we approach the Annual Meeting. There we will reflect on some of the changes that this year has brought to our community, and how we wish to continue in the year to come. I am thinking, specifically, about the growth of our church school, now hosting 20-25 children consistently each week. The church leadership is discerning ways to support this program and considering building upgrades and increased staffing to support this growth. Church leadership will have more updates this month as we continue to observe, reflect, and pray on this.

The Season of Epiphany is all about slow realization through paying attention. It is a season in which we are reminded that God doesn't give us just one chance at revelation, but a multitude. If you missed the memo on Christmas there are more miracles to observe—a star, a baptism, even a boozy party. The Christian journey is full of wandering and many a missed cue, but God will keep working in our world, again and again, waiting for us to be ready to notice.

Grateful to be journeying with you,
 Pastor Amelia

From Jan. 3 - Jan. 10 Pastor Amelia will be out of the office participating in professional development with the Next Generation Leadership Institute. Preaching in her stead on January 9th will be the Rev. Kelli Whitman.

While Pastor Amelia is away our minister of visitation, Jane H. Stegemann, will be available for emergency pastoral care needs : (207) 252 8272.

COUNCIL

Corner

A Message from our Moderator

Hi everyone,

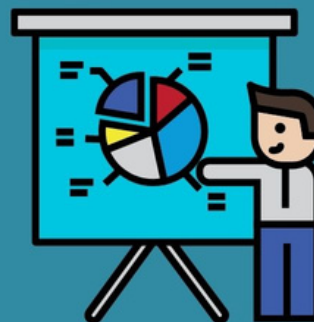
We have so much to look forward to for our church in 2022!! I am excited to see how the year unfolds!

Everyone should mark their calendars for our Annual Meeting which will be held on Sunday, January 23rd. We will hold it in-person in the sanctuary, starting around 11:15 am. We will also offer people the option to attend virtually via Zoom. It will work much the same as the special meeting we had in September on the parsonage. Unfortunately, due to COVID, we can't offer lunch as we've done in the past. Maybe we'll be able to bring that back next year!

This is the time to think about how you would like to serve your church going into 2022. Several ministries have openings including the Council. We need to fill three, yes that is three, spots on the Council. This is an extremely important ministry, and we'd love to have new voices helping us guide the church forward. The commitment is not as intensive a time commitment as you may think. We meet once a month, September through June (yes we take the summer off), and the meetings typically last about two hours. We hold them on the second Sunday of the month. 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.

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

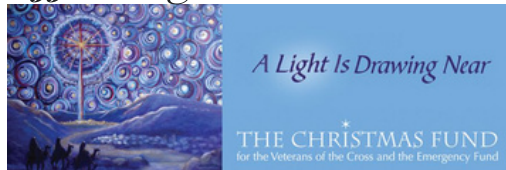
Annual Meeting
~Sunday, January 23~



Immediately Following
Church

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.

Thank you for your generosity in honoring their ministries in a way that will help them. Offerings may be placed in the purple envelopes that are in the pews, or you may send a check to “Falmouth Congregational Church” with “Christmas Fund” mentioned in the memo line.

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.

Angel Tree Gifts

This year our Angel Tree gift campaign helped make Christmas merry for 30 children in 14 families identified by the Falmouth Food Pantry and Family Promise. Many thanks to all who gave so generously!



Maine Needs

We are continuing to collect gently used winter clothing in ALL sizes:

Jackets, Hats, Waterproof Mittens, Boots, Pants, Sweaters/Shirts

Mini Warmth Kits are very much appreciated! Completed kits can also be put into the bin under the Missions Board in Fellowship Hall, or in the outside bin labeled “Maine Needs.”

Mini Warmth Kits

- Hand warmers
- Chapstick
- Mini hand lotion
- Dunkin gift card
- Tissues
- Band-aids

*package in a small ziplock

Stay tuned...In the New Year we will be sharing opportunities to volunteer together at Maine Needs.

MINISTRY OF
missions



During the chilly months of January and 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.

Remember, however, that soup and stew are very different:

While one is **stew-pendous**, the other is **soup-er**. 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

MINISTRY OF

Finance

A Note from the Financial Secretary ...

The last donations to the church for 2021 will be deposited on Friday, December 31, 2021. All donations up to that date will be included in your End of Year Statement which will be sent out mid-January.

I am still waiting for the offering envelopes to arrive. As soon as I get the envelopes, they will be on a table in Fellowship Hall.

Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at the church on Monday mornings or through email at ginifcc@maine.rr.com.

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations in 2021.

Christmas Blessings to You and Yours,
Gini Rhoades Medford
Financial Secretary



HOLIDAY cheer

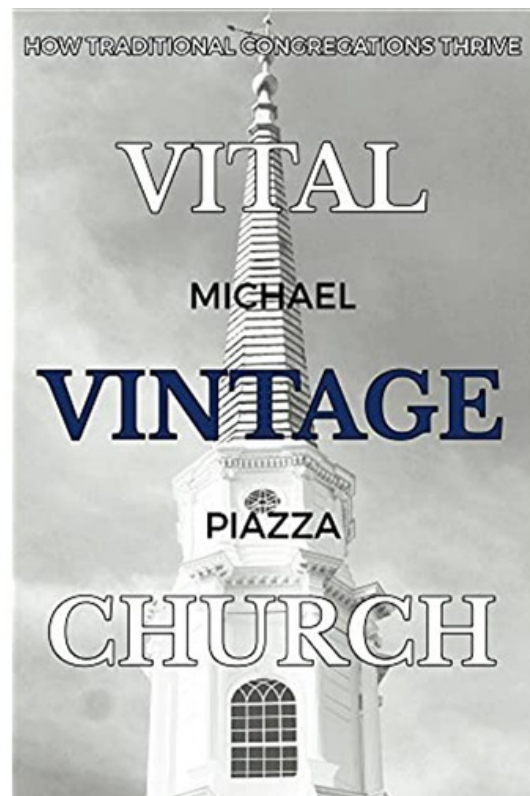
Christmas Spectacular December 12th



MINISTRY OF

community life

Women's Spiritual Book Group



January finds the Women's Spiritual Book Group meeting on Wednesday the 5th at noon via Zoom to continue our discussion on 'Vital Vintage Church' by Rev. Michael Piazza. We will be responding to three questions to prompt big thinking around our role as a Christian community within Falmouth and in response to the ways God is encouraging us to act on our faith:

- 1.) Currently, what do we claim as our strengths as a church?
- 2.) What do we identify as needs within the church and in the larger community?
- 3.) If there were no barriers to possibility, what would we wish for as part of our experience at FCC and in our relationship with our larger community?

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.

Thanks so much and hope all is well! - Cathy



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Dear Falmouth Congregational Church,
My father wants you to know how much he appreciates the beautiful prayer shawl and the prayers that came with it. His favorite color is blue and it goes perfectly with his blue chair. He is so happy with the soft texture and warmth of it, but most of all he was touched by the loving work of all the prayer shawl knitters.

Thank you!

Kenneth Jacobs (and Judy Crosby)

MINISTRY OF

Worship & Covenant

We are still seeking applicants for to fill Doris' shoes. If you know of anyone who may be interested please have them contact the office: officemanager@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org

Job Opening: Music Ministry Director



The position is a permanent part-time (averaging 10+/- hours per week) year-round position for someone of the Christian faith (as defined within the abundant diversity of the tradition), with four weeks of paid vacation, and a competitive salary. In addition to leading the choir and musicians and performing on the organ and piano at Sunday worship and special services, the Music Ministry Director would attend mid-week rehearsals with the choir (from September into June) and other musicians, short weekly meetings with the Pastor and staff, and quarterly meetings with the Music Ministry committee.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The Music Ministry Director would plan and lead music for weekly worship (offering hymns, prelude, postlude, benediction, offertory, introit, anthems, and prayer response) as well as special services (these could include Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Christmas Eve, etc.); play the organ and piano at the services; direct the choir and other volunteer musicians; help develop the youth music program; oversee maintenance of instruments and related equipment; and cooperate and collaborate with the Pastor, staff and the Music Ministry Committee. The Music Director would also be invited to play for funerals and weddings in our church community for additional compensation.

MINISTRY OF *Christian education*

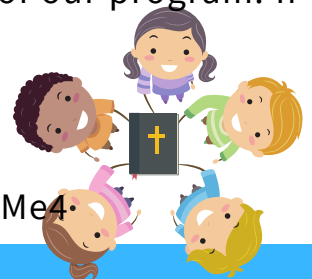
Christmas Pageant



The Kids Church program had an exciting Christmas Season! This year the kids pre recorded the pageant and aired it on the big screen at the 5:00pm service. During the month of December, we sang carols, made ornaments, decorated Christmas cookies, and tapped into our dramatic side to act out the amazing story of Jesus's birth.*

Now that the Christmas season is over, we will be diving back into our Geography unit, and will finish it off before the Lent season begins. As we continue to grow our Kid's Church, we are encouraging volunteers to help us during the first hour of our program. If you would like to be part of our volunteer rotation, please reach out to Kristen Tripp at kristen.coleman@maine.edu.

*Missed the Christmas pageant? www.youtube.com/watch?v=aN2ClmeFMe4



January Birthdays

- 2 - James Smith
- 3 - Cathy Bowden
- 6 - Judy Nilsen
- 7 - Betty Graves
- 8 - Susan Perry
- 8 - Carol Carter
- 9 - Dolores Vail
- 16 - Kim Mason
- 17 - Ted Vail
- 18 - Ruth Smith
- 22 - Elise Coleman
- 26 - Kathie Sinnett
- 27 - John Boothby
- 29 - Gerald Caruso
- 29 - Kathleen Henderson



Liturgists

- 2 - Ann Sanborn
- 9 - Laurie Davis
- 16 - Lydia Hill
- 23 - Nancy Lightbody
- 30 - Cathy Bowden

Celebration of Life

Please join us to celebrate the life of Joyce Harmon.

A Celebration of Life service will be held virtually at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Sarasota, Fla.

Friday, December 31st at 1:30 PM via zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86547771678pwd=aEdMQ2Vmd1VJaTU4OERuNkw3TTJQQT09>

We Lift in Prayer...



- Betty Shively who moved to Apt. # 221 Falmouth House 32 Blueberry Lane. She is unsure if she will return to her cottage in the Ocean View retirement community and would welcome your cards.
- Judy Nilsen who is having a procedure on Thursday, Dec. 30th. Her address is: 23 Merrill Rd. Falmouth, ME 04105
- Bette Lee and family as her sister, Jane, went into her eternal rest. Cards may be sent to: 42 Falmouth Road, Falmouth, ME 04105
- Almeda Hilton as she grieves her brother, Ted, who passed away. Cards may be sent to 345 Woodville Road Falmouth, Maine 04105.
- Allyssa, Cameron, and Lucas Mathieu: they are expecting a new baby!
- The Lotfey family and their son Everett who celebrated his baptism at FCC on Sunday, December 19th.
- John Graustein as he continues to work towards recovery John's address is: 11517 Sky Valley Way NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111
- The Smith family. 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. James is celebrating a birthday January 2nd and would love to receive your cards!
- 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..."
- Peggy Halleck who has fallen recently and wants to move beyond fear about being more active again.
- Judy Crosby's sister-in-law, Sharon, who is awaiting test results.

CHURCH

family news

- Join us on Sunday, January 16th, to celebrate the baptism of Bill Sandberg



Bill began attending the Falmouth Congregational Church early 2020, but generally virtually since the COVID pandemic began. He is the proud father of two children, one is in college and the other is senior in high school. He also has his dog, Maddie.

- Terri Collins who suffers from neuro-cognitive and fatigue problems due to long-haul COVID-19 symptoms.
- 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
- 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.
- Sally Emery who is working to regain mobility and adjust to life after two strokes. Sally loves getting cards: P.O. Box 102 Gray, ME 04039.
- Prayers of joy for Janie Anderson's 80th birthday on January 15th!
- Please continue to praise God for the COVID 19 vaccine and boosters that are helping to keep us healthier!

January 2022 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 10 AM Worship - in person or online	3 12 PM Bible Study Pastor Amelia at NGLI Fellowship 7 PM Worship & Covenant	4 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored Meeting 7:00 PM Troop 93	5 12 PM Women's Spiritual Book Club 6:45 PM Private Group 6:30/7:30 PM Choirs	6 8:30 AM Ecumenical Clergy Mtg 6:30 PM Ministry of Missions 7 PM Troop 93	7	8 ↑
9 10 AM Worship with Rev. Kelli Whitman - in-person or online	10 12 PM Bible Study 7 PM Fiddle-icious	11 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored Meeting 6:30 Cub Scout	12 6:30 Bell Choir 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	13 7:00 PM Ministry of Finance 7 PM Troop 93	14	15
16 10 AM Worship in-person or online 11:30 Council Mtg	17 Office Closed - MLK Day 12 PM Bible Study	18 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored Meeting Congregator Deadline	19 6:30 Bell Choir 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	20 7 PM Troop 93	21	22
23 10 AM Worship Annual Meeting	24 Pastor Amelia Away 12 PM Bible Study	25 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored Meeting	26 6:30 Bell Choir 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir	27 7 PM Troop 93	28	29 ↑
30 10 AM Worship Pastor Amelia Away	31 12 PM Bible Study	11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored Meeting				

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

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
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