



# THE CONGREGATOR

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Dear Falmouth UCC,

It is officially summer, this short, sweet season of sunshine and mowed grass, ocean spray and ripe corn. We sent our children, and many of you, off to summer adventures on Sunday, knowing that this season comes with opportunities for rest, relaxation and renewal that sometimes bring us far afield. So, **are you resting?** Are you delighting in the blessings of summer in Maine?

If you are like me, resting might not come easy. You might find the calendar filling up, along with the sink, laundry basket, and to-do list. Despite our best intentions, summer time can become just another time of rushing, running, crossing things off. But **the Christian tradition offers a powerful balm in its tradition of Sabbath keeping**, passed down through our holy books and woven, even, into the story of creation. Sabbath keeping, setting apart time to intentionally rest, play, and restore, asks us to believe God when God says that we are beloved for who we are, not what we can do. Sabbath pulls us from the market economy, where we are producers, into God's economy, where we are produced by God, a creator who delights in us, and declares us intrinsically sacred, . The things on our to do lists are the things of our lives-- and we are invited to savor them, marvel over them, thank God for them-- not simply cross them off.

In July we will be thinking, preaching, and praying about sabbath-- I hope that you will join us, whether in church, up at camp, or on a beach. This summer may we reclaim rest, a commandment and a gift.

*Pastor Amelia*



AMA (Ask Me Anything) August 20th & September 3rd-- get your questions to Pastor Amelia to hear her preach on them!

The Church Council met for the last time before summer on June 11.

- We are still looking for a builder for our first-floor renovation project.
- Pastor Amelia will be at the National UCC Synod in Indianapolis from June 29 – July 5. Her participation is funded through the Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI) program.
- July sermon series will focus on Sabbath
- August's sermon series will be "Ask Me Anything" so submit your questions ASAP!

*Corner*

Congregational Survey:

- We will be sending out a short survey regarding transportation needs this summer and will follow in 2024 with a broader survey in line with strategic visioning.

[The Annual Calendar Planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 21.](#) All heads of committees should plan on attending. More information will be sent directly to attendees.

The next Church Council meeting will be Sunday, September 10.

## Building Updates

There is much to be thankful for and one thing we can appreciate is the repair of the church exterior is underway! Work to replace the significant amount of rotted trim boards started last week. The entire exterior of the church will then get a fresh coat of paint. Hopefully, we will have all of this completed by church school kickoff this fall.

Another significant project is the repair of the church front steps. We are attempting to spread these repairs over the next couple of years. We have a beautiful church and our goal is to keep it that way for many years to come. ~Tom Stegemann

## Help Needed with Cleanout - July 26

There are a few areas of the church where stored items have been accumulating. We need them to be cleaned out ahead of programming this fall. These areas include the nursery, the copier room, the interior office, the family promise room and the purple theatre room. If you want to keep any particular items please speak with Kat in the office or Matthew before July 20th. Also, many hands make light work and we would appreciate any assistance in moving items on Wednesday, July 26.



## MINISTRY OF

*Music*

At the end of the Last Supper depicted in Matthew 26, the Bible says, "They sang a hymn and went directly to Mount Olives."

I wonder what that hymn sounded like? Imagine Jesus and His chosen twelve disciples worshipping together in song! Imagine Jesus singing! Kinda makes him real. Only 12 singers (I think Judas had already bolted.)

Or imagine what church will sound like when the Sanctuary is full and throbbing with sound as it was yesterday at the Linda Gouws Celebration of Life!

I personally, wouldn't want to miss worship in the summer, a chance to feel our heartbeats with each other and with Jesus.

Come. Invite your special people to join you.

These are some of the wonderful musicians lined up to lead us in worship:

Ann Sanborn, saxophone

Barbara Graustein, cello

Mark Howison, vocal

Erin McNeill, vocal

Guests Wendy & Ted Hagarty, trumpet & clarinet

Kendra Davis, vocal & Betsy Hooper, fiddle

Kathy Whitmore & Eunice Wilcox, vocals

Guest organist Mark Thallander

Alicia Johnson, vocal

Johnson & Howison families

Jack Gervais, vocal

Kristen Tripp & Jess Collins, vocals

Blessed to serve,

Jan Stover

Minister of Music



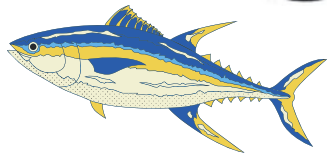


- Remember to sign-up each week in Fellowship Hall or with Jan Stover (603-978-3910)
- Check the FCC weekly email for important updates or changes
- For detailed description of trails: [www.outdoormovementproject.com](http://www.outdoormovementproject.com), click on "Trails By Town"

<u>Departure</u>					<u>Bath</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Parking</u>
6/30	8:30 FCC or 9:00 trail	PINE POINT BEACH Scarborough	5 mile loop (shorter options, if desired)	2 hrs Easy	Yes		Free
7/7	9:00 at the trail	PRESUMPCOT RIVER PRESERVE, Portland	3.5 mile network (shorter options, if desired)	2 hrs Moderate	No		Free
7/14	8:30 FCC or 9:00 trail	ROBINSON WOODS Cape Elizabeth	4.3 mile network	2 hrs Easy			Free
7/21	8:30 FCC/ 9:00 trail	HAWKE'S PRESERVE Gorham	1 mile loop	1 hr Easy			
7/28	9:00 at the trail	RINES'S FOREST Cumberland	2.5 mile network	2 hrs Moderate			Free
8/4	9:00 at the trail	UNDERWOOD SPRINGS Falmouth	1 mile loop	1 hr Easy			Free
8/11	8:00 FCC/ 8:45 trail	FERRY BEACH & PROUT'S NECK CLIFF WALK Scarborough (high tide 8:18AM)	3.7 mile RT	2½ hrs Moderate+	Yes		\$5 before 9 \$15 after 9
8/18	9:00 at trail	PRIDE PRESERVE Westbrook	3.5 mile network	2 hrs Easy/ Moderate			Free
8/25	8:30 FCC/ 9:15 trail	TWO LIGHTS STATE PARK Cape Elizabeth	1.9 mi network	1½ hrs Easy	Yes		Free?
9/1	9:00 at the trail	EVERGREEN CEMETERY Portland	4 mile network	1 hr Easy			Free



MINISTRY OF  
*missions*



What game do fish like  
playing the most?  
**NAME THAT TUNA**

What did the tuna say  
when he posted bail?  
**I'M OFF THE HOOK**

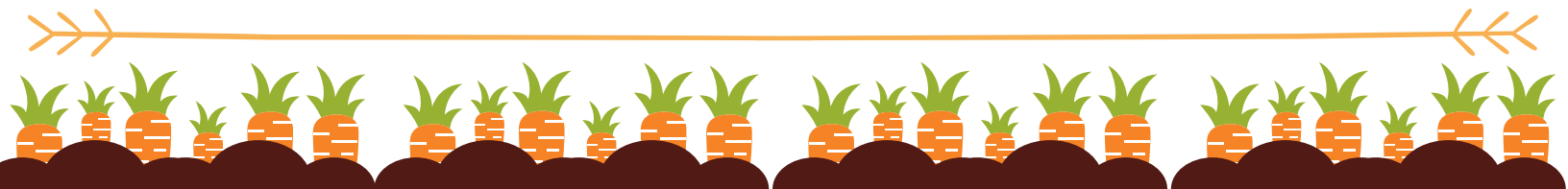
What did the tuna fish  
achieve after passing her  
exams?

**I'M AN HONORED  
ROLL**



YWhat a wonderful opporTUNAty for all of us! Our church will be collecting cans of tuna fish during the months of July, August, September, and October. If you would like, please put cans of TUNA FISH into the collection bin outside Fellowship Hall, and they will be given to very grateful Food Pantry families. We are forTUNAted that so many of you want to help others, and we know that you have the TUNAcity to do so. Let's try this!

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 contact Nancy Lightbody. Thank you very much for your continuing support!



## Plant for the Pantry

Families from all economic backgrounds appreciate fresh vegetables! This summer please consider planting a few more vegetables than you will personally need and sharing any extra garden produce with families in need. For more details, please contact Nancy Lightbody. Thank you!

## 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.

Dear Falmouth Congregational Church UCC,

**MINISTRY OF**  
*Christian Education*

Happy summer! We sent our Kids' Church members off with a fun-filled intergenerational worship on June 25th complete with a special song sung by our young friends, a scripture reading by Harper Reid, and a fun scavenger hunt lead by Pastor Amelia. The children also shared a prayer of thanks inspired by the gratitude lists they wrote this spring. For those who were unable to attend worship, here is the prayer:

Children: For the sun and the moon,  
All: We thank You, Lord  
Children: For the ones who take care of us,  
All: We thank You, Lord  
Children: For our homes and our schools,  
All: We thank You, Lord.  
Children: For our siblings and friends,  
All: We thank You, Lord.  
Children: For our bodies that carry us as we learn and play,  
All: We thank You, Lord.  
Children: For our strong hearts and minds,  
All: We thank You, Lord.  
Children: For this church and the love that fills it,  
All: We thank You, Lord.  
Children: Amen!  
All: Amen!



While we will not be running our usual Kids' Church programming during the summer months, we do have two pop-up events planned! On July 9th and August 13th, we will have intergenerational worship services followed by an hour of family fun. July 9th will be a tie-dyeing event with all materials provided by FCC UCC, so please email [hannah@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org](mailto:hannah@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org) to let us know if your family will be attending, how many people would like to dye a t-shirt (adults are welcome to dye, too!), and what size t-shirt each dyer needs. Programming for August 13th will be announced soon!

It has been a wonderful year with these kids, and we are looking forward to connecting with them this summer, too. Be well, enjoy this beautiful season, and stay in touch!

Hannah Daly  
Director of Youth and Family Ministries





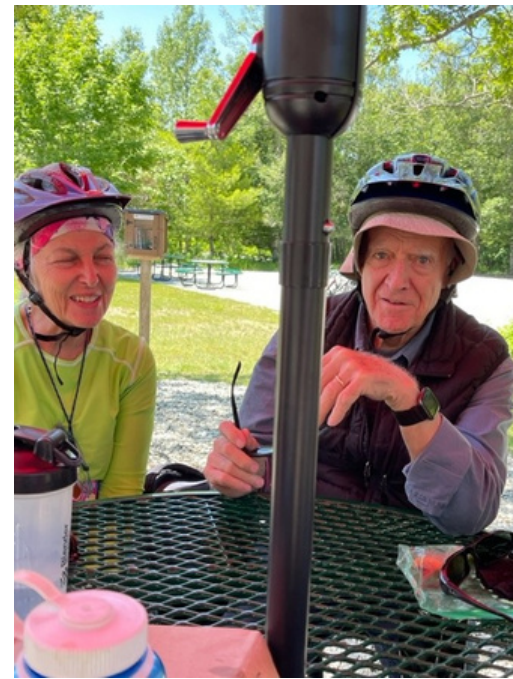
## *Chebeague Island*



### FCC Bike Group

Weather, scenery, and certainly the group camaraderie that made for virtual perfection. Thanks to all, and a “shoutout” to Jeaneen for offering her yard for parking.

Jane will be the leader on our next outing in mid-July; we look forward to her research and recommendations. Meanwhile... enjoy the warm days ahead



To all who supported and participated in the Maine Faith Communities gun safety advocacy to the Maine Legislature-- thank you, thank you, thank you.

A valiant advocacy effort was made, but alas, the bills that would have done the most to reduce gun violence failed to pass. It was close, however.

Unlike in 2019, in this 2023 legislative session, both the background check bill and the bump stock ban bill passed in the House-- but then they fell short in the Senate. One gun safety measure did pass both the House and Senate and was just signed by the Governor, however, and that was the bill to impede the sale of guns to felons and other prohibited persons.

There is more work to do in the 2024 legislative year, to persuade more legislators that the proposed gun safety measures are supported by the majority of their constituents; are effective to reduce gun violence; are constitutional, and are not unduly inconvenient for law-abiding gun owners. If you wish to continue with, or to join, our faith-in-action gun safety advocacy group, please e-mail me at [pmcgehee4@gmail.com](mailto:pmcgehee4@gmail.com), and I will send you a notice as to when we will meet again, later this summer or in September. Thank you again for supporting this most important safety effort.

# We Lift up Prayers for...



- Jennie and James Stephens for health and safety through their pregnancy and rejoice that Jennie is not on bedrest after a good ultra sound today! Cards: 24 Wildwood Drive Brunswick, ME 04011
- Janie Anderson, who is receiving hospice care. And Larry, who is caring for her. Cards: 44714 Audubon Square Apt. 105 Ashburn, VA 20147
- Carol Kauffman as she spends time healing, recovering, and enjoying our Maine summer.
- Prayers for Michael Johnson, Sr, Michael's dad (and Grace & Mickey's grandpa) as he was admitted to the hospital this week, June 25th.
- Jane and Tom Stegemann who are soon-to-be grandparents!
- Marion & Donald Olen who have moved to Bay Square in Yarmouth and are settling in to their new home.
- Jane Stegemann's sister, Marcia, who continues to await a diagnosis to provide clarity for significant medical problems. We pray also for her as she has a caregiving role with her husband.
- Joan Kaijala's dad (Theo and Kai's grandfather) Wesley.
- Nancy Althaus' 20 year old nephew, Josh for his health and his ability to keep up with his classes. Please also keep his mother, family and fiancé in prayer.
- Katie Howison's mom, Kathlene Morton, as she fights cancer. She appreciates cards and prayers: 1824 Mountainside Drive, North Augusta, SC 29841
- Alan Mathieu's brother who is struggling with a serious illness.
- Kathleen Towns' brother, Mark, and the family who are hopeful for good outcomes after a procedure.
- Randy Boardway's father, Paul, who is fighting liver cancer.
- 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.

## Liturgists

### July

2 - Alyce Graves  
 9 - Nancy Lightbody  
 16 - Jim Parr  
 23 - Laurie Davis  
 30 - Mark Horton

### August

6 - Alyce Graves  
 13 - Virginia Eddy  
 20 - Laurie Davis  
 27 - Ann Sanborn

## Ushers

### July

2 - Alyce Graves & Jim Scherer  
 9 - Jim Parr & Julia Poppell  
 16 - Laurie Davis  
 23 - Alyce Graves & Lydia Hill  
 30 - TBD

### August

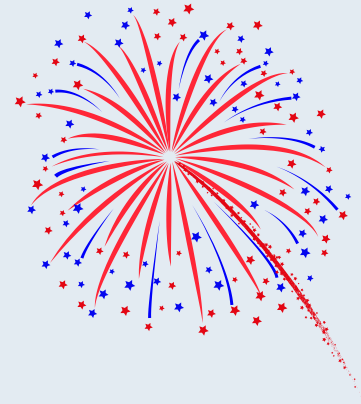
Ushers Needed for August. Please contact Jim Scherer if you are available to usher.



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# July 2023 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			28 6:45 PM Private Group Theater Camp	29 <b>Pastor Amelia leaves for National Synod through July 6</b> Theater Camp	30 <b>Minister of Visitation Out of Office Through July 12</b> Theater Camp	1
2 10 AM Worship w/Communion and Guest Rev. Mair Honan	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 3	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 4  6 PM The Family Restored	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 5 6:45 PM Private Group	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6	7 9 AM FCC Hiking Club	8 10 AM Eagle Scout Ceremony
<b>Pop-Up Kids' Church with Baptisms</b> 9 10 AM Worship In-person or online 11 AM Men's Group	10 7 PM Fiddle-icious Rehearsal	11 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored.	12 2PM Celebration of Life: Anna Fletcher 6:45 PM Private Group	13 7 PM Finance Com.	14 8:30 AM FCC Hiking Club	15
16 10 AM Worship In-person or online	17	18 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored	19 6:45 PM Private Group	20 6:30 PM Writer's Group	21 8:30 AM FCC Hiking Club	22
23 10 AM Worship In-person or online	24 7 PM Fiddle-icious Rehearsal	25 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored	26 10 AM Church Cleanup 6:45 PM Private Group	27	28 9 AM FCC Hiking Club	29
30	31					



## July Birthdays\*

- Marilee Beinema
- Lorraine Bergen
- Joe Blinick
- Rodney Coleman
- Ashley Collins
- Alex Han
- Cameron Mathieu
- Marion Olen
- Kat Roderick
- Barbara Roth
- Peter Stegemann

\*We want you to be able to wish happy birthday to your friends and keep everyone safe from online scammers-listing only names & months does both!

# August 2023 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored Meeting	2 6:45 PM Private Group	3 8:30 AM Ecumenical Clergy	4 9 AM FCC Hiking Club	5
6 10 AM Worship w/Communion in-person or online 11 AM Men's Group	7 7 PM Fiddle-icious Rehearsal	8 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored Meeting	9 6:45 PM Private Group	10 7 PM Finance Com.	11 8 AM FCC Hiking Club	12
<b>Pop-Up Kids' Church</b> 10 AM Worship in-person or online	14 5 PM Ministry of Worship & Covenant 7 PM Fiddle-icious Rehearsal	15 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored Meeting	16 6:45 PM Private Group	17 6:30 PM Writer's Group	18 9 AM FCC Hiking Club	19
20 10 AM Worship in-person or online	<b>Congregator Deadline</b> 5 PM Annual Calendar Planning Meeting (Offsite) 7 PM Fiddle-icious Rehearsal	22 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored Meeting	23 6:45 PM Private Group	24	25 8:30 AM FCC Hiking Club	26
27 10 AM Worship in-person or online	28 7 PM Fiddle-icious Rehearsal	29 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored Meeting	30 6:45 PM Private Group	31 7 PM Troop 93	1 9 AM FCC Hiking Club	2 10 AM Loaves of Love

## August Birthdays\*

Nancy Althaus  
Kaleb Barrett  
Jo Blinick  
Anne Coleman  
Dana Collins  
Georgie Davis  
Jeff Davis  
Amelia Edson  
Sydney Gibbons  
Cindy Han  
Phoebe Horne  
Mark Horton  
Iain Kurry  
James McNeill  
Donald Olen  
Dan Wiley  
Tim Ziobro

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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 &  
Kathleen Henderson  
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