



THE CONGREGATOR



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Dear Falmouth UCC,

Joan Daugherty Chittister, a Benedictine nun, writes, "it is an exercise in yes, this slip-slide from winter to spring.... We all come out of the tomb of winter, new and bright with promise." This year spring came upon us in perfect confluence with Pentecost, the celebration of the giving of the Holy Spirit. This month we will be celebrating the work of that Spirit in the world.

Sunday, June 4th

Come celebrate Trinity Sunday with Communion and Blessing of the Prayer Shawls.

Sunday, June 11th

Come honor our graduates! See their bios on page 13.

Sunday, June 18th

Special Father's Day service with dad and child of this church, Chris Davis, preaching a lay sermon on how his faith informs his parenting (and vice versa!)

Sunday, June 25th

Kids' Church Send-Off, Intergenerational service with games and ice cream truck to follow.

Come and celebrate our young folks, our community, and our good and grace filled God.

Let us say Yes to joy, to Jesus, and to June!

Pastor Amelia



Happy Spring!

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the warmish temperatures, blooming flowers and everything else that comes along with spring (ok maybe not the pollen)!

A few updates from the Council:

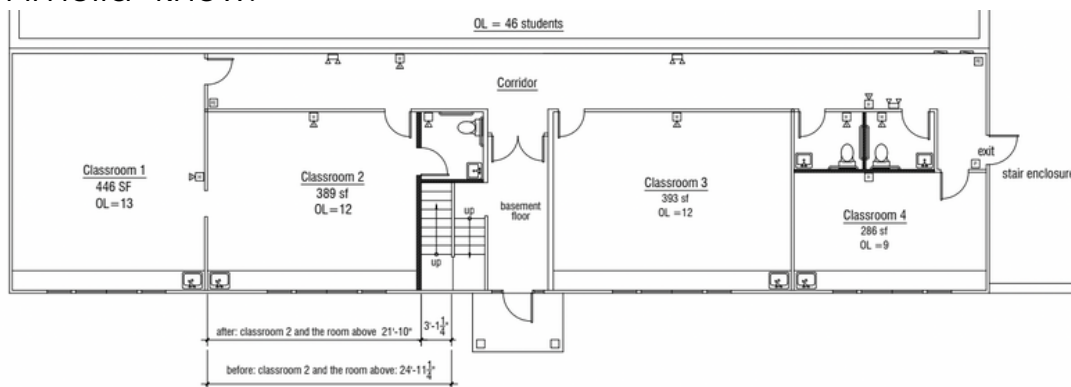
We brought back post-service snacks last fall. We are following a rotational model and each Ministry is responsible for a month (of Sundays). I want to thank everyone who is bringing in such scrumptious snacks including gluten free options. It appears everyone is enjoying them. At least the food seems to disappear rather quickly!

The Council is working on a survey to be sent out to all congregants in June to get feedback on the church as a whole so please keep your eyes out for that. We hope to send it out before everyone gets busy with their summer plans.

We have also had many discussions on building maintenance. We are close to having a plan and resources slotted to repair the front steps. There is also a lot of rot around the building which we also hope to repair this year.

We are also making slow but steady progress on the first-floor renovation project. We have a good plan now (from the architect) that we can take to builders in the hopes of securing a builder to work on the project. If you know of anyone who might be interested in taking on this project, please let Committee Chairs Mike Guippone, Kristen Tripp, or Pastor Amelia know.

Proposed building plan:



I will be sending out the letter regarding annual dues to the Maine Conference very soon. So please keep your eyes out for that as well.

Many blessings,

Kim Hendry, Church Moderator



MINISTRY OF
Music



Reflections from some of our
Music Team members:

"Standing shoulder to shoulder, singing the gorgeous music chosen for us, with the power of the organ or the more intimate tones of the piano fills me with joy and strengthens my belief. And that feeling carries me through the week, with musical phrases and harmonies in my head each day. I look forward to our Wednesday rehearsals, to hear and learn new music and to connect with each other."

"The choir welcomed me with such grace and their music made me feel more connected, both to God and to our church community."

Rehearsals: Wednesday, May 31, 7:30 PM
* Please let Jan know if you plan to attend *
and Sunday, June 4, 9:00 AM
Performance at Worship: Sunday, June 4

"Singing in the choir has drawn me into the worship experience. I'm constantly learning from fellow choristers. We are a close-knit group that opens our arms to newcomers. Our Music Director thoughtfully prepares for our arrival at each rehearsal and worship Sunday. Her experience, enthusiasm, and direction make it easy (easier) for the choir to sing at our best."

"I think Frederick Delius said it best: Sing! Music is an outburst of the Soul"

"The "pop-ups" are a nice feature for the Church, and the hook for me was the day we got 20+ up on stage, very impressive. If one can hum, they had to feel a little guilty sitting in the audience that day."

"To participate in the pop-up choirs has brought great joy as I love singing to praise God! When I worship God from the pews, the music always encourages me to glorify God and is a meaningful and faithful enhancement to the overall worship experience, since the words to hymns always coincide with the sermon and liturgy. Thank you very much for the amazing choir."

"Singing in the choir is like being in a small family, which is tucked inside the bigger church family."

~ Jan Stover, Minister of Music



Want to get moving and soak up the great Maine outdoors? FCC Hiking Club is your new opportunity!

13 varied hikes, each with a water feature of some kind, are planned for every Friday morning, June 9–September 1. Please sign-up in Fellowship Hall or with Jan Stover (603-978-3810 or janiceleastover@gmail.com). The summer schedule including difficulty level, time required, parking & bathroom info is available [here](#). One of the hikes will welcome furry friends & one of the hikes will especially delight children, although people of any age who can handle the hikes are always welcome.

The hikes will be led by Jan Stover and her daughter, Jill McMahon. Jill is an avid hiker, founder of Outdoor Movement Project, Membership & Outreach Coordinator for the Chebeague Cumberland Land Trust and author of “Southern Maine Trails, A Guide To 100 Hikes For Any Season, Any Age, Any Ability.”

Our first hike will be at the Broad Cove Reserve in Cumberland, where we will catch the end of the horseshoe crabs egg-laying season. On Friday, June 9, meet at the church at 8:30 AM to carpool or 9:00 AM at the trailhead. This is an easy 1.2 mile trail. The second trip will be walking the 3.7 mile loop around Peak's Island. We will carpool from the church, meeting at 8:15 AM, returning to the church by 12:30 PM.

Future trips are planned to: Mill Brook Preserve, Pine Point Beach, Presumpscot River Preserve, Robinson Woods, Hawke's Preserve, Rine's Forest, Underwood Springs, Ferry Beach & Prout's Neck Cliff Walk, Pride Preserve, Two Lights State Park and Evergreen Cemetery.



Bicycle Club



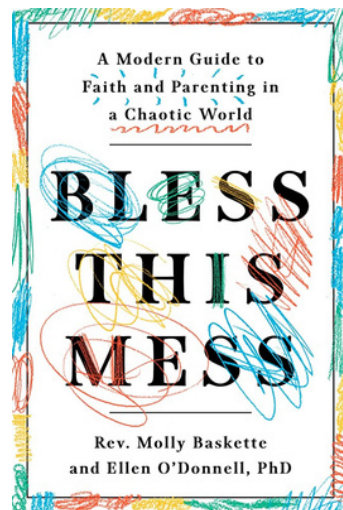
First meeting of the summer is Friday June 2. Meet at 10:30 AM at the public parking area in South Windham to ride the Sebago to the Sea trail. Bring a lunch; we will enjoy food at the end-point where there's a picnic table and a small pond - if you care to take a dip!!

For more information call Jim Parr

Parent's Book Club

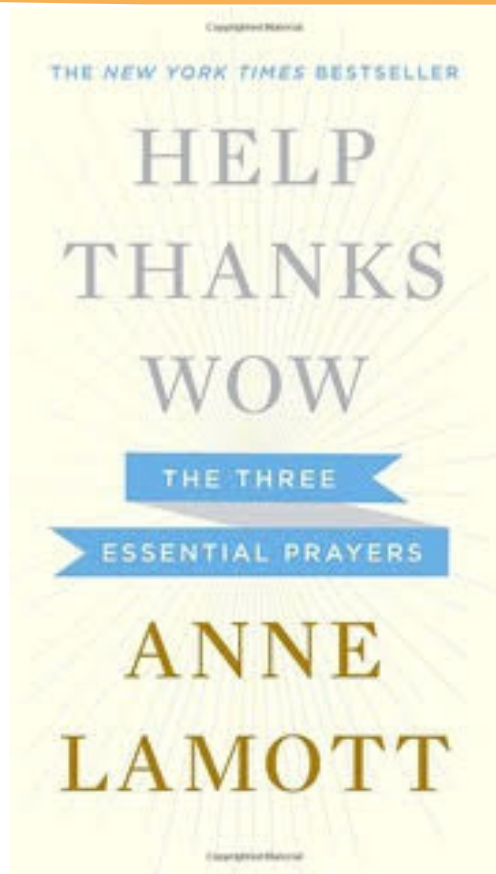
Meet in the Parlor on

Wednesday June 7 at 7:30 PM to discuss Bless This Mess with other FCC parents.



Women's Spiritual Book Group

The last Women's Spiritual Book Group gathering before a summer break will find us exploring Anne Lamott's Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers. According to its summary, this little book "coalesces everything Lamott has learned about prayer into three simple, transformative truths." We will meet in the Grant Room on June 7 at noon over a collective potluck lunch. For those who are able, plan to bring an item you would like to share. Not sure what to bring? Short on time? Come anyway! There is always more than needed and plenty to enjoy.



All are invited to join this dynamic and diverse group of women who meet monthly to explore a wide variety of books and topics. Meetings take place in person in the Grant Room on the first Wednesday of each month at noon or via Zoom. Contact the church office for the link or feel free to contact Cathy Bowden for further details. Happy reading!

Year-to-Date Donations to Our Church's Missions

So far in 2023 the following amounts have been donated to several of our church's missions:

Loaves of Love	\$873
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$193
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$ 60
Family Promise	\$250

Many thanks to all the contributors!

MINISTRY OF
missions



Special Offering: Strengthen the Church Dedication- June 4

This "5 for 5" mission offering helps develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults, establish new churches, and awaken new ideas in existing churches. Strengthen the Church funds will also be used to award grants to help congregations communicate the "God is still speaking" message.

Please consider making a contribution to this far-reaching ministry by writing a check to "Falmouth Congregational Church" (267 Falmouth Road, Falmouth, ME 04105) with "Strengthen the Church" mentioned in the memo line.



Maine Needs: May

Summer Clothing (clean, gently used):

- T-shirts, tanks, shorts, hoodies
- Baby clothes/ hats
- Children's clothes/hats
- Swim wear/Beach towels
- Adult sneakers/sandals
- Child sneakers/sandals

Summer Fun:

Soccer balls, basket balls, sidewalk chalk, jump ropes, bubbles, pails, shovels, frisbees

Cleaning Kits: All Purpose Spray, Toilet Cleaner and Brush, Dish Soap, Sponges, Trash Bags assembled in a bucket or bin

All items may be put into the Missions Bin inside the church. Thank you very much!

Thank you for 41 School Kits!

In May our church donated to the UCC, through Church World Service, 41 school kits filled with items contributed by members of our church. The kits will be given to children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, and other difficult settings around the world. Thank you for your generosity!



Greater Portland
Family Promise®
Building community, strengthening lives.

Stay tuned for information about upcoming volunteer opportunities in the fall!

MINISTRY OF
missions



Why did they keep
doing strengthening
exercises at the gym?
**SO THEY COULD BE
STROGANOFF TO
LIFT THEIR
GRANDCHILDREN.**



What do you think
about pasta jokes?

**I'LL GIVE YOU A
PENNE FOR YOUR
THOUGHTS**

You have continued to be so generous with your PASTA donations, even as the PASTA few weeks have been getting warmer. Thank you!

PASTA than a speeding bullet, our church is continuing to collect different kinds of pasta during the month of June. The pastabilities are endless!

If you would like, please put boxes of pasta into the collection bin in Fellowship Hall, and the pasta will be given to very grateful Food Pantry families. Our congregation is pasta-tively amazing!

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!

**Spice up your
daily ROTINI
and have a
wonderful
summer!**



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.

Love the Loaves?

Our next Bread Baking Day will be Saturday, June 3, from 10 AM - 2 PM.

Church volunteers continue to bake loaves of bread once a month to serve at Communion and also as a thank-you to everyone who donates to current 5-for-5 UCC missions.

Please consider donating four hours of your time on Saturday, June 3 to make scrumptious oatmeal honey bread! (This will be the last Bread Baking Day until September 2) Contact Alyce Graves.



Dear Falmouth Congregational Church UCC,

We shared this with the congregation on Sunday, May 21 and with our Kids' Church families, but I wanted to follow up here to share that I have decided to transition out of my position at FCC UCC at the end of this summer.

MINISTRY OF
*Christian
Education*



This is a bittersweet and difficult decision to make, but one that I feel is the best choice for me. As some of you know, I have another career in the arts, and, while my year here at the church has been rewarding and meaningful, it has been a challenge to balance both careers. After this summer, I will be pursuing my artistic career full time as an actor and a family photographer.

We still have a fun summer together ahead of us, with awesome pop-up programming planned for July 9 and August 13 – please put those Sundays on your calendar! Thank you all again for supporting Kids' Church (and me!) with so much heart this year! I am looking forward to a fabulous summer together.



In honor of Pentecost, our young members threw a birthday party for the church with games, snacks, and fun activities. Check out their fabulous creations for the toilet paper fashion show!



MINISTRY OF
*Christian
Education*



As a reminder, we have our Parents Book Group coming up on June 7 (start time ~7:30 PM), which will take place here at the church. This is a book group specifically for our Kids' Church parents led by Pastor Amelia, in which the group will be discussing Bless This Mess by UCC pastor Molly Phinney Baskette. If you are interested in attending, please let Pastor Amelia know if you have not already done so.

We are also working with the Ministry of Missions on a children's clothing drive for the wonderful organization Maine Needs. We will be collecting donations at the church and blessing them on our Kids' Church Send-Off Sunday, June 25. Stay tuned for more details on requested items soon!

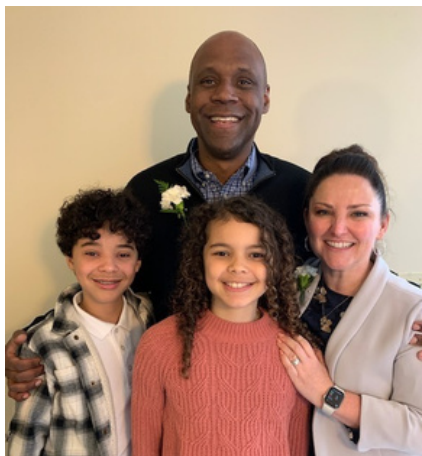
Graduate Sunday will take place on June 11. Please join us as we celebrate the graduating members of our community with treats provided by the CE Committee. There will be no second hour of Kids' Church on Father's Day (June 18). Worship and the first hour of Kids' Church will proceed as usual.

The Kids' Church Send-Off will be on Sunday, June 25. This special day will be celebrated with a visit from an ice cream truck with free treats (vegan options included) for all Kids' Church children. Additional treats for adults may be purchased for \$4 each.

Thank you all for a wonderful year, and here's to the fun summer ahead!
Hannah Daly, Director of Youth and Family Ministries



Welcome to Our New Members



The Johnson family relocated to Maine last year when Michael was offered the role of Chief HR Officer with IDEXX. Mickey is in 6th grade and Grace is in 4th in Falmouth schools. Falmouth and FCC have been a wonderful place to call home and they are looking forward to getting to know everyone better.

Jennifer Major is a physical therapist and an avid gardener. She loves yoga and the outdoors. She lives in Falmouth with her husband, Tom and son, Noah. Jennifer came to Falmouth Congregational Church to meet some members of her community and to connect in a spiritual way. She loves the way FCC participates in serving the needs of the community.



Erin and Devin McNeill live in Portland with their three young children James (5), Ollie (3), and Finn (1). They enjoy biking, hiking, and exploring the outdoors as a family. Devin started a company that makes outdoor and travel gear, and Erin teaches kindergarteners. They are grateful to be part of the community at Falmouth Congregational Church.

Dan, Mikaela, Jude & Evelyn Wiley
We reside in Windham! Dan works at Idexx and Mikaela is a dental hygienist. In our spare time with love visiting family, exploring outdoors and taking trips to camp. We've been looking for the right church that meets our spiritual values and beliefs as a family. We look forward to becoming members and practicing our faith!



Falmouth UCC Summer Reading List 2023

Board Books:

- [God Gave Us You](#), Lisa Tawn Bergren
- [Love is Patient, Love is Kind](#), Naomi Stoop
- [All Things Bright and Beautiful](#), Naomi Stoop

Picture Books:

- [On the Night You Were Born](#), Nancy Tillman
- [When God was a Little Girl](#), David Weiss
- [When I Pray for You](#), Matthew Paul Turner
- [When God made Light](#), Matthew Paul Turner
- [Today is a Baptism Day](#), Anna V Ostenso Moore
- [What Is God Like?](#) Rachel Held Evans
- [Mother God](#), Teresa Kim Pecinovsky



Chapter Books (For adults but many of these also appropriate for teens)

- [Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer](#), Rowan Williams
- [Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People](#), Nadia Boltz Webber
- [Finding God in the Waves](#), Mike McHargue
- [What We Talk About When We Talk About God](#), Rob Bell (also for teens or tweens)
- [The Story of Christianity](#), David Bentley Hart - History of Christianity
- [Shameless: A Sexual Reformation](#), Nadia Boltz Webber
- [Holy Hot Mess: Finding God in the Details of this Weird and Wonderful Life](#) Mary Katherine Backstrom- Humorous, parenting
- [Bless This Mess](#), Molly Basket - Christian parenting

Bible/ Prayer Resources

- [The Peace Table: A Family Storybook Bible](#)
- The Bible Project- interactive videos and reading plans
- Halo- Christian prayer app (also recommend insight timer, the free equivalent-- search Christian, Centering Prayer, etc)
- [Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again](#), Rachel Held Evans (good also for teens)
- [Help, Thanks, Wow, The Three Essential Prayers](#), Anne Lamott

Podcasts:

- Everything Happens, hosted by Kate Bowler
- The Liturgists, Season One

Fiction

- [Sisters of The Vast Black](#), Nina Rather - Nuns in space
- [Lent](#), Jo Walton - Historical fiction, demons, and more, warning for violence



Pentecost Outdoor Worship



Congratulations to our Graduates

Who will be honored on June 11



Kristen (Coleman) Tripp graduated with her Masters in Business Finance from University of Maine. She is using her degree to continue to run high quality youth and children programing and continuing her financial coaching.

Congratulations to **Jessica Collins (Jess)**, who graduated from the University of New England, on May 20 with a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy. Best wishes to Jess as she plans to take the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam in the next couple of months for licensure. We are so proud of all you have accomplished. Best wishes for the exciting next chapter of your life and praying that you will have many blessings in your new career!



Virginia Eddy is graduating from the Sonoran Desert Institute with as Associate of Science where she has been studying firearms technologies. She will be establishing her own gunsmithing practice in Cumberland.

Jack Gervais who will graduate from Greely High School and plans to attend Emerson College in the fall.

Peter Stegemann has earned his Master's degree in Project Management with Minor in Leadership from Northeastern University's Roux Institute. He has created an invention and is currently in the patent process; in addition, he will seek employment here in Maine.



This Saturday, June 3, there will be a WEAR ORANGE Community Rally to stand together for ending gun violence.

The Rally is from 11 AM to 1 PM at Capitol Park in Augusta at 33 Union Street. As the poster notes, there will be speakers and stories. If you can come and need a ride, or can provide a ride, please e-mail Peggy McGehee Horton (at 571-2175 or, by e-mail at pmcgehee4@gmail.com) and she will try to match drivers with passengers!

[Learn more](#)



Please join this Faith-in-Action initiative to promote safety for us all!

We Lift up Prayers for...



- Jennie and James Stephens for health and safety through their pregnancy. We pray, too, for Jennie's medical team and for soon to be big brother, William: [24 Wildwood Drive Brunswick, ME 04011](https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/norman-o-brien-obituary?id=51560339)
- Norm O'Brien went to his eternal rest March 31. We will celebrate Norm's life this Saturday, June 3rd. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/norman-o-brien-obituary?id=51560339>
- Janie Anderson, who is receiving hospice care. And Larry, who is caring for her. Cards: 44714 Audubon Square Apt. 105 Ashburn, VA 20147. Here they are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary with family last week:



- Virginia Eddy who has a consult about her hands on June 5th.
- Peggy Halleck, who is at New England Rehab, regaining her strength after an illness.
- Kathy Whitmore who can drive again- praise be to God! Prayers as she prepares to move to another home. Cards to: 102 Wythburn Rd., South Portland, ME 04106-5321.
- Prayers for Michael Johnson, Sr, Michael's dad (and Grace & Mickey's grandpa) who is battling cancer and was admitted to the hospital.

- Kathleen Henderson, her mother-in-law, Harriet Wright, went into her eternal rest May 9th.
- 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: Please pray for diagnostic clarity and treatment plan. We pray also for her husband, who she cares for.
- Joan Kaijala's dad (Theo and Kai's grandfather) Wesley, as he continues to recover from a health event
- Nancy Althaus' 20 year old nephew, Josh, who continues to struggle through myocarditis and pericarditis. Prayers for his health, his ability to keep up with his classes, and for his mother, family and fiancé.
- 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.
- Continued prayers for Kathleen Towns' brother, Mark.
- 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

- 4 - Mark Horton
- 11 - Nancy Lightbody
- 18 - Lydia Hill
- 25 - Mark Horton

Ushers

- 4 - Lydia Hill, Kim Mason, Karin Kurry and Mark Horton
- 11 - Chan Sinnett, Larry Perry
- 18 - Jim Parr & Linda McGill
- 25 - Julia Poppell, Nancy Wulbrecht

June Birthdays*

- Haley Barrett
- Margarete Schnauck
- Sarah Simmonds
- Charles Harriman
- Robyn Pfeffer
- Julian Edson
- Patricia Riley
- Christeen Allen
- Nicole Lotfey
- Mikaela Wiley
- Bee O'Brien
- Jennifer Major
- Sean Riley

*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!

June 2023 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10 AM Worship w/Communion Pop Up Choir 11 AM Men's Group 7 PM Troop 93 4PM Sacre-Coeur School Group (overnight)	12 AM-9AM Sacre-Coeur School Group 12 PM Bible Study 7 PM Fiddle-icious 7 PM Troop 93 Committee Meeting	11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored	12 PM Women's Spiritual Book Club 6:30 PM Choir Potluck 6:45 PM Private Group	8:30 AM Ecumenical Clergy Meet 5:15 PM Musicians Practice 7 PM Troop 93 Meeting	10 AM FCC Bike Group	10 AM Loaves of Love Bread Baking Norm O'Brien Celebration of Life (Offsite)
10 AM Worship In-person or Online Last Choir Performance 11:30 AM Church Council	12 PM Bible Study 5 PM Ministry of Worship & Covenant	11:30 AM Staff Lunch 6 PM The Family Restored 6:30 PM Missions at Higgins	14 6:45 PM Private Group	5:45 PM Boy Scouts 6:30 PM Writer's Group 7 PM Troop 93 Meeting 7 PM Finance Committee Meeting	16	17
10 AM Worship In-person or Online 18	JUNETEENTH Office Closed Congregator Deadline Theatre Camp weekdays 9 - 3 through June 30 7 PM Fiddle-icious	11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored	21 6:45 PM Private Group	22 7 PM Troop 93 Meeting	23	24
10 AM Worship In-person or Online Intergenerational with Kids' Church Send-Off 2 PM Linda Gouws Celebration of Life	12 PM Bible Study	11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored	28 6:45 PM Private Group	29 7 PM Troop 93 Meeting	30	

We will be supporting the Falmouth Middle School French Program by hosting their Canadian pen pals overnight on Sunday, June 4. 52 fifth and sixth graders, and four adult chaperones, from the Sacre-Coeur school in Lac Megantic will sleep over in Beinema Hall and then head to the school to visit some classes.

Annual Calendar Planning Meeting will be held on Monday, August 21. Time TBD

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