



THE CONGREGATOR

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Musings

In a recent conversation, one person said, "I'd like to talk about the future of the church." Another replied, "do you mean the church of the future?" There is a real sense in which those are two different things. Asking about the future of the church often suggests an anxiety that the church will not continue to exist as we know it, especially when we're talking about my congregation. Comfort with a particular order of worship service, familiar hymns, my regular pew....they all have their place. But, more likely than not, the church of the future will have a different look and a different feel. Christianity is a couple of thousand years old and has experienced enumerable changes, yet has endured. It would take volumes just to talk about how the use of music in worship has evolved over the years, and I doubt we'd want to go back to only responsively singing Psalms and give up the rich sound of organ and instruments!

The recent Covid pandemic has forced certain changes, causing us to adapt in ways we might not have chosen voluntarily. At the same time, it has created great opportunity to reach out to people who, for one reason or another, cannot be at 267 Falmouth Road at 10:00 a.m. on a Sunday morning. You have done a terrific job in implementing the hardware (and software) to make that happen. It will be a lasting means of connection for years to come - part of the church of the future.

Who knows what is coming next?

Continued on next page.

We can only do our best in discerning how God will lead us, relying on the encouragement of hymn #458:

In the midst of new directions,
 in the face of changing ways,
 who will lead the pilgrim peoples
 wandering their separate ways?
 God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
 leading where the eagles soar,
 we your people, ours the journey
 now and evermore.



Blessings on your journey,
 Pastor Diane

Minister of Music

On Sunday, June 5th, Jan Stover will be joining FCC for her very first service as our music minister. I had a chance to chat with her about this phase of her ministry. She says, “I have no preset agendas. Number one, I’m open to God. Number two, I’m open to the members - by call, email, however.” She feels that our music programs can offer something for everyone, on the participatory side as well as on the receiving side. She is thinking creatively about how to lower barriers to participation - for example, if you read music, that’s great, but it isn’t a requirement. She also recognizes what a huge time commitment it is to be in the choir, and wants to think creatively about whether and how we might adjust that to fit in better with the realities of peoples’ lives. She is also interested in intergenerational music, and is very excited about contributing to our growing kids’ programs.

But first, she wants to get to know us - as individual persons, as a church, and as siblings in Christ. We are delighted to welcome her and get to know her as well on this part of our journey together.

~Virginia Eddy; Music Committee



Church Picnic ~ June 12th



This coming June 12 we will have much to celebrate and several people to honor: Pastor Amelia's return; Kristen's years of service as our Christian Education Director, on her last day; and Janice Stover's arrival as our new Music Minister. And there are our children to celebrate, as June 12 is the last day of Kid's Church for the summer.

To that end, the Council has appointed a June 12 Picnic Committee to put on a church-wide celebratory picnic.

The plan is to hold the picnic on the tables outdoors next to the playground. There will be some pop-up tents, but if it rains, we will hold the picnic indoors in Beinema Hall.

The menu is: grilled chicken and hot dogs; homemade (that is, church-kitchen-made) bread; a make-your-own salad bar, and rhubarb-strawberry crisp (provided by volunteer crisp-makers, using a provided recipe) for dessert, with ice cream. (We will have gluten-free bread and crisp options.) There will be balloons and kid games (red light/green light, anybody?) and tributes to our honorees.

To help us estimate how much food to prepare and how many tables to set up, could you let us know if you plan to come? You can do that by either writing your name in one of the balloons on the poster in Fellowship Hall, or by e-mailing Nancy Lightbody at nancy@lightbody.org.

We need about a dozen volunteers to cook, to set up, and to clean up. If you would like to volunteer for any of these tasks (some tasks would be on Friday; some on Saturday; and some on Sunday), please also add your name to the volunteer list on the poster, or e-mail Nancy. Thank you!

We trust that pandemic conditions will have improved enough so everyone can attend, but if not, we will modify the picnic plan accordingly. Let's all be hopeful, however, that we can break (picnic) bread safely then!

Sincerely, the June 12 Picnic Committee

Paul Davis, Alyce Graves, Nancy Lightbody & Peggy McGehee Horton

MINISTRY OF
missions



In May we donated 32 school kits. Thank you for your generosity!
“School kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning.” (Church World Service)

Loaves of Love

Our next Bread Baking Day will be Saturday, June 4, from 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.

All proceeds will go to the Strengthen the Church mission offering on Sunday, June 5. Please contact Alyce if you would like to make a contribution to that mission and receive a loaf of bread, or sign up in Fellowship Hall. The loaves will be available for pickup on Sunday morning, June 5.

The bread sign-up sheet is just outside the sanctuary, or contact Alyce via text or phone: (774) 413-0547.



Special Offering: Strengthen the Church

Thank you for your continued support of Family Promise of Greater Portland and its mission of supporting homeless families, many of whom are seeking asylum. It is very helpful when you donate quarters for doing laundry and Hannaford gift cards. Please leave them at the church office or get in touch with Rebecca Gibbons, the Ministry of Missions member who has been organizing the special care of these families. You may contact Rebecca at (207) 712-8522 or rebeccadavisgibbons@gmail.com. Thank you very much!

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. Your donations will be collected on Pentecost Sunday, which is 50 days after Easter and falls this year on June 5, 2022. Alternatively, please make a contribution to this far-reaching ministry by sending a check to “Falmouth Congregational Church” (267 Falmouth Road, Falmouth, ME 04105) with “Strengthen the Church” mentioned in the memo line.

MINISTRY OF
missions



Many many thanks to all who have donated soup and dried beans to the Falmouth Food Pantry. We don't know who you are and we are sorry we aren't able to thank you personally, but please know you have BEAN good neighbors and many families have already appreciated your SOUPer help!

What game do fish like playing the most?

NAME THAT TUNA.

What did the tuna fish achieve after passing her exams?

SHE WAS AN HONORED ROLL

What did the tuna say when he posted bail?

I'M OFF THE HOOK.



What a wonderful opporTUNAty for all of us! Our church will be collecting cans of tuna fish during the months of May, June, and July. 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 forTUNAtate 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. Boxes of food are being packed at the Pantry and delivered by volunteers to all area families. If you have questions or know someone with an urgent need, please call Nancy at 776-0081. Thank you for your continuing support.

Maine Needs

Donations can be put into the Missions Bin in Fellowship Hall or the Missions Bin outside the church. Thank you!

Members of the Missions Committee, and our Church Moderator, spent an afternoon volunteering at Maine Needs. It was a wonderful experience, and any one of us would be happy to discuss it with you if you are interested in volunteering.

CURRENT NEEDS

- Pots & pans
- Crockpots & rice cookers
- Silverware sets
- Bagless vacuums
- Blankets
- CLEANING KITS!
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Strollers
- Baby wipes
- Diapers size 5 & 6
- Kid's socks
- Balls, frisbees, jump ropes
- Sidewalk chalk, bubbles
- Adult sneakers, all sizes
- Men's shorts, all sizes
- Women's casual dresses & skirts
- Adult backpacks



MINISTRY OF *Christian Education*

The kid's church has less than a month left until we break for the summer! We are finishing up the school year with a unit about Christianity as a religion. We are learning the different symbols of Christianity and how they came to be. We are learning about Pentecost and how Christianity was established. We will end our unit learning about rituals and church services within the Christian faith. We will plan our own service in anticipation of Kid's Sunday, when the children will be actively participating in the church service.

This year has been a great growing year for the FCC Kid's Church, as we have welcomed 8 new registered children into our program. The Kids program is moving into a new chapter of growth and prosperity. Last Sunday, as we finished up our program, the children went outside to the playground to enjoy the beautiful weather. As the children played together on the playground and in the sand box, the parents gathered and chatted about their Sunday plans, only to be interrupted by their jubilant children insisting they watch their descent on the slide. Seeing church families talk, laugh, and play together was a true sign of a church community full of fellowship, laughter, love, and multiple generations. I have so much hope for the future of FCC's youth ministry, and cannot wait to see what the fall will bring to our Kid's Church Program.

~ Kristen Tripp



**Open Position:
Minister of Children
and Families**

We are actively seeking a Minister of Children & Families who will be responsible for the overall direction and coordination of our Faith Formation program for children and families in consultation with the Christian Education Committee. The position is full-time and will take over from Kristen Tripp who has been with the program for many years. [Click here for full job description.](#)

If you know of someone who may be interested please have them send a resume, cover letter, and two references to officemanager@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org.

Note: The Candidate must pass a background check.

**MINISTRY OF
community life**

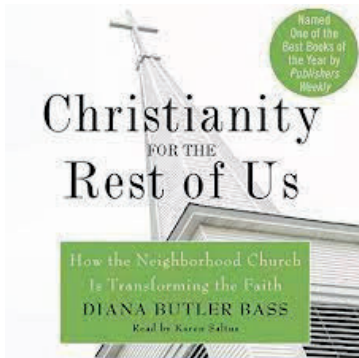
*Women's Spiritual
Book Group*



The Women's Spiritual Book Group will not meet in June, but will reconvene on September 7th. Please bring your book suggestions for October 2022 through May or June 2023. The following titles were on our 2022 list but we did not get to them.

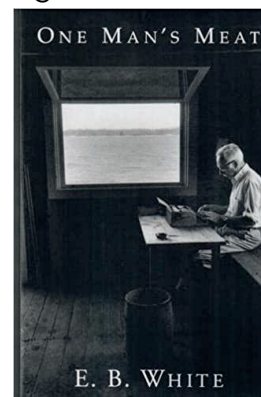
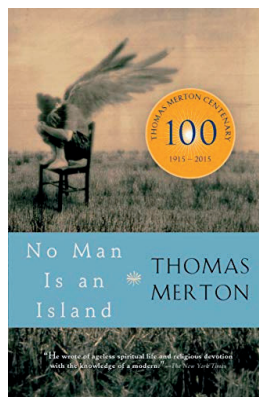
Christianity for the Rest of US: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith

By: Dianna Butler Bass



No Man is an Island

By: Thomas Merton

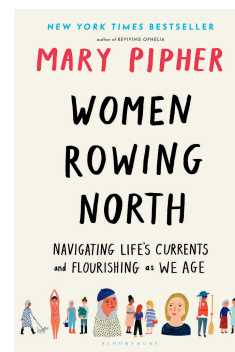
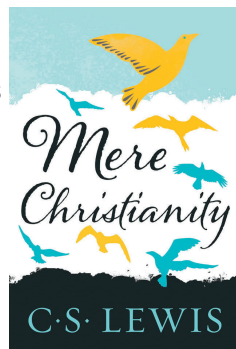


One Man's Meat

By E.B.White

Mere Christianity

By: C.S. Lewis



Women Rowing North: Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing As We Age

By: Mary Pipher

Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality

By: Richard Rohr

We are a lively, engaging and welcoming group that enjoys new faces. Please feel free to join us or contact Cathy Bowden at cathybbowden@gmail.com or 776-5543 with questions.

CHURCH

family news

We Lift in Prayer...



- Please pray joyfully since Pastor Geoff and Julia Parker (of Foreside Community Church) welcome baby Grace into their family. She was born on Monday, May 23rd! Cards of sheer joy may be sent to: 340 Foreside Rd. Falmouth, Maine 04105
- Please continue to pray for healing and strength for Sarah Davis' father, Joseph Klenk as he transitions from Seaside Healthcare Rehab. to his home. Please send cards of encouragement to: Enclave of Scarborough Apt. 211 18 Black Point Rd. Scarborough, Maine 04074
- Please pray joyfully that Jennifer Bissell, Betty Shively and Becca and Jojo Davis Gibbons have recovered from COVID!
- Please pray to our God for comfort and hope for victims and their families who suffer from violence in their homes, schools, communities and countries. Please pray compassionately also for persecutors, that they may repent and move to change their ways.
- Please pray that we claim Jesus' message that the best response to the excessive suffering in our world and our lives is to offer LOVE through prayer and action.
- Please pray joyfully that James Smith is physically healthier than he's been for a while. Please continue to pray for his comfort and for his parents, Jim and Kaye, who need stamina, patience and discernment. Please send cards of encouragement, but no phone calls please: 127 Winn Road Falmouth, Maine 04105.
- Please pray joyfully for Morgan (Allen) and Noah Barney who are expecting a baby in June of 2022!
- Please pray joyfully for Allyssa, Cameron, and Lucas Mathieu: they are expecting a new baby in June!
- Please pray for John Graustein, who is living at home with wife and caregiver, Barbara, as they navigate the work required to improve John's mobility.
- Please pray comfortingly for Terri Collins who is experiencing the far-reaching effects of long-haul COVID in her life. Please send cards to: 295 Falmouth Road Falmouth, Maine 04105
- Please pray for Ginny Hamilton who continues to enjoy hearing from you where she lives at her nursing home. You may share your love by sending cards to her at: 300 Spring Street Room King 4A Springbrook Center, Westbrook, Maine 04092
- Please pray for Norm and Bee O'Brien who have enjoyed 67 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.
- Please keep praying for 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

- 5 - Jo & Joe Blinick
- 12- Karin Kurry
- 19 - Mark & Peggy Horton
- 26 - TBA

Liturgists

- 5 - Lydia Hill
- 12 - Nancy Lightbody
- 19 - Nancy Lightbody
- 26 - Virginia Eddy

June Birthdays

- 1 - Haley Barrett
- 2 - Anthony Fasulo
- 3 - Margarete Schnauk
- 3 - Sarah Simmonds
- 4 - Melinda Poore
- 7 - Charlie Harriman
- 7 - Robyn Pfeffer
- 16 - Julian Edson
- 17 - Patricia Riley
- 20 - Christeen Allen
- 21 - Nicole Lotfey
- 25 - Bee O'Brien
- 28 - Amy Jacobson
- 30 - Sean Riley

June 2022 Calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
	Memorial Day Office Closed 12 PM Bible Study	11:00 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM The Family Restored 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	6:45 PM Private Group	8:30 AM Ecu Clergy 6:30 PM Ministry of Missions 7 PM Troop 93		10 AM Bread Baking 5 PM Eagle Scouts Ceremony
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10 AM Worship Jan Starts Matthew Out	12 PM Bible Study 7 PM Fiddle-icious 7 PM Worship & Covenant	11:00 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM The Family Restored 7 PM Troop 93 Committee	6:45 PM Private Group	7 PM Finance Committee	9 AM Website Re-Vamp Zoom Meeting	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10 AM Worship with Kids' Church Sendoff 11 AM Church Picnic 4:30 PM Recital	12 PM Bible Study 7 PM Fiddle-icious	11:00 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM The Family Restored	Congregator Deadline 6:45 PM Private Group	Office Closed 6 PM Falmouth Writer's Group		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10 AM Worship	Theater Camp Avid4Adventure 12 PM Bible Study 6:30 Fiddle-icious	Theater Camp 11:00 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM The Family Restored	Theater Camp 6:45 Private Group	Theater Camp	Theater Camp	
26	27	28	29	30	1	
	Theater Camp 12 PM Bible Study 6:30 Fiddle-icious	Theater Camp 11:00 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM The Family Restored	Theater Camp 6:45 PM Private Group	Theater Camp	Theater Camp	

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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
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