



# THE CONGREGATOR

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## LENT 2023



## SEEKING: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith

Dear Falmouth Congregational Church,

February 22nd is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." This is a season of preparation, tilling the soil and waiting for new life to spring forth. The forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting, praying, and preparing to begin his ministry.

In ancient days, Christians used Lent as a time of fasting and repentance as preparation for their baptism at Easter.

During this season our worship will embrace the idea of unknowing and wilderness journeys, focusing on Seeking God. Each Sunday we will center ourselves with a question from Scripture, and see what wisdom those ancient words have for our lives today.

Sunday worship is just the beginning of the journey; the work continues when we leave. To help you on your way we have created a take home devotional and a 40 song playlist centered around each week's lectionary readings.

Those who want more company on the journey are also invited to attend a Lenten supper. Over a simple meal of bread and soup we will take turns sharing stories of our faith in response to open ended questions, learning from each other about the multitude of ways we experience our faith. This program is designed to stand on its own, so signing up for one dinner is perfect- no need to commit to all of them. The sign-up poster is in Fellowship Hall.

Our Seeking won't necessarily lead to answers, but in journeying together we will find clarity and gain new perspectives. Embracing the darkness and wilderness of Lent prepares us for the restoration, grace, and miracle of Easter.

I look forward to journeying together.

*Pastor Amelia*



FALMOUTH  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH UCC



**seeking:**  
honest questions  
for deeper faith

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sanctifiedart.org

## Lent at FCC:

**Ash Wednesday | February 22**

Imposition of Ashes | 12PM, 5:30 PM

**Lenten Suppers | 5:30 – 7 PM**

Thursdays, March 9, 16, 23, 30

**Palm Sunday | April 2 | 10 AM**

**Maundy Thursday | April 6 | 5:30 PM**

**Good Friday | April 7 | 5:30 PM**

**Easter Sunday | April 9 | 10AM**

## Easter Egg Hunt:

**Saturday, April 8 | 11 AM – 1 PM**

Happy Ash Wednesday!

I hope everyone is doing well and getting ready for the snow coming tomorrow.

I am pleased to write that we had a very productive annual meeting in January. We were able to return to a full in-person meeting including lunch which was donated by Jeff Howland. It was so nice to enjoy this time together to celebrate the many blessings we have at Falmouth Congregational Church as well as discuss our future plans. We welcomed several new members to the Council: Felicia Garant, Carol Kauffman and Lydia Hill. I would also like to extend a thank you to our outgoing members: Laurie Davis and Anne Coleman. Tom Stegemann is the Vice Moderator and Paul Davis will continue as our Treasurer. We approved updates to our by-laws as well. If anyone would like to have a copy, please contact the office or me directly.

The Council will meet again in March and our focus for 2023 will largely be on the renovations planned for the basement classrooms. We reviewed some initial plans at the annual meeting and we hope to have more definitive plans to review soon. We will keep everyone updated on next steps.

Many blessings,

Kim Hendry

Moderator

**COUNCIL**

*Corner*



## WORSHIP Tech



The FCC Worship Tech group is actively recruiting for at least one (and better yet, even more) willing participants in this ministry. Expertise in AV and/or tech is NOT a requirement – we will not only provide training, we'll throw in mentoring to any and all who are interested. On the other hand, if you do have interest/ability in AV/tech, we would love to welcome you to the team. And let you teach us!

This is not a commitment to do tech every Sunday, unless that's what you want. This is a great opportunity for high school or college students, retirees, or anyone who feels a call to serve the Lord and has an interest in this area.

For more information, contact Tom Stegemann, Virginia Eddy, or the FCC Office.

## MINISTRY OF *Music*

The Chancel Choir and the Bell Choir are the Church in miniature. Not only do we make music, we share our joys and concerns; we care for and pray for each other just as the wider church does.

In the past nine months our band of merry music makers has suffered the deaths of loved ones, been challenged by health issues, dealt with job changes. These things we share together as well as the wonderful things that God blesses us with.

We have recently come along side our Chancel Choir member and saxophone player Ann Sanborn, who took a fall that will require some time in rehab. Her response? I was singing to myself the song "I Must Tell Jesus All of My Trials (He is a kind and compassionate friend)." Her regret was that she couldn't be there to sing it with us!

Matthew 18:20 (The Message Bible) says, "And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there."

He IS with us . . . and we are grateful.

~ Jan Stover, Minister of Music



Reminder: If there is a snow day for Falmouth or Portland schools the office will be closed.



Two opportunities for Easter Card Writing:

Wednesday, March 22 at 10 am

or

Sunday, March 26 at 11am

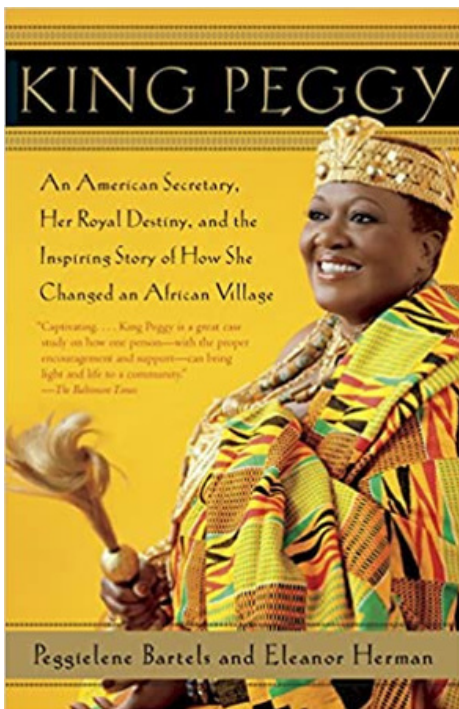


MINISTRY OF  
*Community Life*



## Women's Spiritual Book Group

On March 1, the Women's Spiritual Book Group will gather to discuss King Peggy by Peggielene Bartels and Eleanor Herman. This book chronicles the astonishing journey of American secretary, Peggielene Bartels, who suddenly finds herself king to a town of 7,000 people on Ghana's central coast, half a world away. Upon arriving for her crowning ceremony in beautiful Otum, she discovers the dire reality: there's no running water, no doctor, no high school, and many of the village elders are stealing the town's funds. Peggy's first two years as king of Otum unfold in a way that is stranger than fiction. In the end, a deeply traditional African town is uplifted by the ambitions of its decidedly modern female king, and Peggy is herself transformed, from an ordinary secretary to the heart and hope of her community.



We meet monthly in the Grant Room and virtually by Zoom. All are welcome to join this lively and engaging group where new faces are always encouraged. Contact Cathy Bowden for more details and/or to join the email list where upcoming meeting details and Zoom links are shared.

**Please RSVP, Lunch Provided**

MINISTRY OF  
*missions*



What does Arnold Schwarzenegger say before eating pasta?

**PASTA LA VISTA, BABY**



Where did the spaghetti go to dance?

**THE MEATBALL**

What is the dress code at a pasta convention?

**BOW TIE**

Many many thanks to all who have donated soup and cereal over the past few months. We don't know who you are and therefore can't thank you personally, but please know that many families have already appreciated your help!

PASTA than a speeding bullet, our church will be collecting different kinds of pasta during the months of March, April, May, and 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. We are not IMPASTAS, and we all know that our congregation is pasta-tively amazing, so let's try it!



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 call Nancy Lightbody at 776-0081. Thank you for your continuing support!



## Love the Loaves?

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, which in March 2023 is One Great Hour of Sharing. Loaves of Love is a community effort. Even if you have no baking experience, please consider donating four hours of your time on Saturday, March 4, baking for this mission!



For Saturday, March 4, Paul Davis will be taking the place of Alyce Graves as chef. Please speak to Paul at church or send an e-mail if you would like to join in the fun: Paul Davis: [nevis56@gmail.com](mailto:nevis56@gmail.com) (207)332-7268

After that we will be baking on Saturday, April 1, 2023, when we look forward to a parent-child baking effort for the Church School!

Alyce Graves: [alycegraves8@gmail.com](mailto:alycegraves8@gmail.com) cell: (774)413-0547

## MINISTRY OF *missions*



Message from Michelle Lamm, Executive Director of Greater Portland Family Promise:

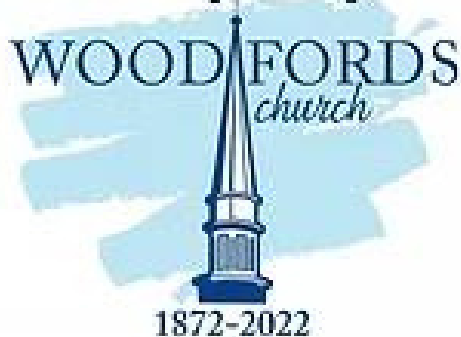
Dear GPPF congregational partners,

I wanted to share the good news with you (if you haven't already heard). Greater Portland Family Promise will be receiving funding from Maine Housing to open up a 24-hour winter warming shelter at Woodfords Church. This means that we will be vacating the YMCA and temporarily pausing our rotational shelter model and giving the families a chance to settle into one place while we take a breath and figure out what's next (the long-term solution). This will also allow us to double our capacity from 3 families/18 individuals to 6 families/36 individuals.

We are incredibly grateful for this opportunity, but know that a lot of work lies ahead. We are hoping that you and your volunteers will stick with us as we pivot and adapt to the changes around us and will continue to volunteer with us at this static location.

[Click Here to Sign Up to Volunteer](#)

*Celebrating 150 years*



### Church World Service School Kits Countdown!

Our goal is to create 43 School kits this year, an increase of 10 from last year! To achieve this goal, we need to collect only the following items this month:

- 8 pairs of blunt scissors removed from the package (rounded tip, only)
- 13 70-page spiral bound notebooks
- 116 new, unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 18 boxes of 24 crayons (only 24)

These items can be put into the Missions Bin in Fellowship Hall.

### Maine Needs: Cleaning Kits

The following items may be purchased separately, or you can create a complete kit by putting all the items into a cleaning bucket (a meaningful and easy project to do with children). These may be put into the Mission bin in Fellowship Hall or the Maine Needs bin by the office door.



- All-Purpose Spray
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Dish Soap
- Sponges
- Trash Bag

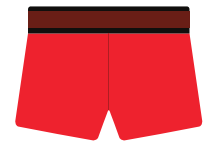
## Volunteers Needed for Overnight Warming Shelter

Starting March 5, we will be helping one of our sister churches, State Street United Church of Christ, start an overnight overflow warming shelter to help families when there is no room at the family shelters. We will be helping one to two families at State Street. I was, frankly, humbled with the response that everyone had at church this past Sunday. Here is the link to the sign up:

<https://signup.com/go/msUDUpX>. Our church has agreed to do the week of March 5. This will be new to all of us, so we'll learn and adjust as we go. There is a good explanation of the program in the sign up.

Any questions, please ask.

Steve Hendry



### Underwear for the Homeless

The Preble Street Resource Center has the greatest need for underwear at this time.

The following are the sizes and styles most requested.

**WOMEN** - Traditional styles in cotton, sizes medium to extra large

**MEN** - Boxer style, sizes medium to extra large

Donations may be placed in the bin located under the Missions Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall.

### 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.

### One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on March 19

This important offering from our church is one of the "5 for 5" missions of the National United Church of Christ. OGHS supports international programs of health, education, agricultural development, relief, and refugee assistance in more than 80 countries.



Please consider making a contribution to this far-reaching ministry of the UCC by donating a check to "Falmouth Congregational Church" (267 Falmouth Road, Falmouth, ME 04105) with "One Great Hour of Sharing" mentioned in the memo line. Dedication Day is on Sunday, March 19, 2023.

**MINISTRY OF**  
*Christian*  
*Education*

Dear FCC UCC community,

Thank you for all of the support you offered to the Winter Ball fundraiser event for the ARRE Foundation. We could not have done it without your generous gifts of time, effort, baked goods, decor, and love. Together we raised over \$5,200 for the foundation, which will greatly aid their work to increase the understanding of the ASXL gene family and improve care for those living with disorders related to the ASXL genes.



We have a couple exciting intergenerational offerings coming up in March. On Sunday March 19, the second hour of Kids' Church (11am-12pm) will be an intergenerational craft activity with Pastor Amelia. Parents are invited to join their children and other Kids' Church families for an hour of artistic fun for all ages and abilities!

Our second intergenerational offering of Lent will take place on Sunday March 26 from 11am-12pm. Members of Kids' Church and their families will be invited to join the Ministry of Community Life in making and writing Easter cards for the homebound members of our community.

We are excited to offer these opportunities for parents and children to socialize and strengthen our community bonds while getting creative and serving each other with love as we enter the season of Lent.

Warmly,

Hannah Daly  
Director of Youth and Family Ministries

*Easter*  
**EGG HUNT**

**Saturday,**  
**April 8, 11 - 1**



# CHURCH

## family news

- The Hill- Gaidis family, including Owen Hill and newly minted big brother Callan: Antonia Nancy Hill-Gaidis was born on Friday, February 17! The family is returning from the hospital this week and could use help with food: Click here: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/z30oqd>
- Anne Sanborn as she recovers from a fall at a rehab facility.
- Carol Kaufman's relative, Jean, and the Pizzino family as they wait for Jean's biopsy results.
- Alan Mathieu whose mother, Anita, went into her eternal rest on February 2nd. Cards of comfort to: 55 Deer Hill Ave., Westbrook, ME 04092-4402
- Nancy Althaus' brother, Chuck, and family who live in East Palestine, Ohio, near the derailed train.
- Judy Ahearn as she recuperates from shoulder surgery. Cards of encouragement: 777 Stevens Ave., Apartment 205, Portland, ME 04103
- Jonathan Tupper (the late Helen Tupper Southard's son), went into his eternal rest on January 25th. Cards of comfort to his family: 6 Mayfield Dr., Westbrook, ME 04092 [https://newspaper.pressherald.com/infinity/article\\_popover\\_share.aspx?guid=907fdade-d5c1-46cb-9bd3-0d8aca093152](https://newspaper.pressherald.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=907fdade-d5c1-46cb-9bd3-0d8aca093152)
- Kathy Whitmore as she prepares to move to another home after her partner, John Main, went into his eternal rest in December. Cards to: 102 Wythburn Rd., South Portland, ME 04106-5321.

## We Lift in Prayer...



- Katie Howison's mom, Kathlene Morton, as she fights cancer. She appreciates cards and prayers: 1824 Mountainside Drive, North Augusta, SC 29841
- Jessica Collins as she works to get a diagnosis for pain.
- Jim Scherer as he perseveres through sciatic pain.
- Alan Mathieu's brother who is struggling with a serious illness.
- James F. Smith to continue to make the transition at Casa with good spirits and good health. Casa, Inc. P.O. Box 150, Westbrook, ME 04098
- Continued prayers for Kathleen Towns' brother, Mark.
- Randy Boardway's father, Paul, who is fighting liver cancer.
- Norm O'Brien, who is turning 93 this month and is in hospice care within his home: 130 Winn Road, Falmouth, ME 04105.
- Bee, Norm's wife of 67+ years, who continues to live at Falmouth-By-the-Sea and will also benefit from cards: 191 Foreside Road, Room 103A, Falmouth, ME 04105.
- Ginny Hamilton who continues to enjoy hearing from you where she lives at her nursing home. Cards to 300 Spring Street, Room King 4A, Springbrook Center, Westbrook, ME 04092.
- 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.

Due to ongoing phishing attempts, email and phone numbers have been removed from the Congregator. Please find contact info in our Church Directory, Breeze or contact the office for a directory.

### Liturgists

- 5 - Kids' Church Member
- 12 - Sarah Davis
- 19 - Nancy Lightbody
- 26 - Cathy Bowden

### Ushers

- 5 - Tom & Judy Crosby
- 12 - Nancy Wulbrecht & Cathy Bowden
- 19 - Karin Kurry & Lauren Jordy
- 26 - Nancy Wulbrech & Linda McGill

### March Birthdays

- 5 - Paul Cousins
- 8 - Kim Hendry
- 14 - Jennifer Bissell
- 15 - John Wilcox
- 16 - William Edson
- 17 - Christine Pfeffer
- 23 - Karen Jones
- 25 - Chris Davis
- 31 - Louise Caruso
- 31 - Jack Davis



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# March 2023 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 12 PM Women's Spiritual Book Group 6:30 PM Bell Choir 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 6:30 PM Min. of Missions 7 PM Troop 93	3	4 Loaves of Love Baking
2ND SUNDAY IN LENT 10 AM Worship with Communion 11 AM Men's Group 2 PM Meet & Greet new UCC Conference Minister 4 PM Youth Group @ Foreside 7 PM Troop 93 Com. Mtg.	6 12 PM Bible Study 7 PM Cub Scout Com. Mtg.	7 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM Family Restored	8 6:30 PM Bell Choir 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	9 5:30 PM Lenten Supper 5:45 PM Boy Scouts Badge Mtg. 7 PM Finance meeting 7 PM Troop 93	10	11
3RD SUNDAY IN LENT 10 AM Worship In-person or Online 11:30 AM Council of Ministries	13 12 PM Bible Study 5 PM Worship & Covenant 6 PM Fiddle-icious Com. Meeting 7 PM Fiddle-icious Rehearsal	14 10 AM Bible Study @ Oceanview 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM Family Restored 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack Mtg.	15 6:30 PM Bell Choir 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Pop-up Choir Rehearsal	16 5:30 PM Lenten Supper 5:45 PM Boy Scouts Badge Mtg. 6:30 PM Writer's Group 7 PM Troop 93 Meeting	17 	18 Pinewood Derby
4TH SUNDAY IN LENT 10 AM Worship In-person or Online 10 AM Pop-Up Choir	20 CONGREGATOR DEADLINE 12 PM Bible Study	21 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM Family Restored	22 10 AM Easter Card Writing 6:30 PM Bell Choir 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	23 5:30 PM Lenten Supper 7 PM Troop 93 Meeting	24	25
5TH SUNDAY IN LENT 10 AM Worship In-person or Online 11 AM Easter Card Writing 2:30 Christina Morrill Piano Rehearsal	27 12 PM Bible Study 7 PM Fiddle-icious Rehearsal	28 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM Family Restored	29 6:30 PM Bell Choir 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	30 5:30 PM Lenten Supper 7 PM Troop 93	31	APR 1 Loaves of Love Baking

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

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