



THE CONGREGATOR

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CULTIVATING & LETTING GO

Lent 2022

Pastor's Letter

In March we enter into the liturgical season of Lent. The word Lent is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten* meaning "spring." Spring is a time of growth, as new life breaks forth from the soil. It is also when we traditionally participate in the ritual of yearly cleaning—fixing the driveway from the damages of plow and mud season, opening the windows, sweeping out the cobwebs and discarding what is no longer serving us.

Our Lenten theme this year is **Cultivating & Letting Go**.

Cultivate (verb): to prepare and use for the raising of crops; to foster the growth of; to improve by labor, care, or study; to refine; to further; to encourage.

Let go (verb): relinquish one's grip on someone or something.

We will honor Lent this year as a season of spiritual gardening and invite God to unearth in us what lies fallow, show us what needs to be tended and what needs to die for new life to emerge.

I will start this journey with you and then, on Sunday March 20th, Pastor Diane will continue it, leading our congregation through Holy Week and Easter. I will return in mid June.

Blessings on your Lenten journey,
Pastor Amelia

Ash Wednesday Service

We are joining the Foreside Community Church (340 Foreside Rd) on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd, at 6:00pm to mark the beginning of the season of Lent in prayer, song, and the sharing of ashes. We gather to remember both the fragility of our human lives, and the certainty of God's loving grace. The Rev. Kelli Whitman is presiding. All are welcome. This service does require registration: Please register in advance [Here](#).

Parental Leave Coverage

Pastor Amelia will be out on Parental Leave beginning Sunday, March 20th, 2022 through Sunday June 12th. During this time the Reverend Diane E. Bennekamper will serve as our Pastor covering Parental Leave. She will be with us on a part-time basis (~10 hours/ week) and focus primarily on liturgy and worship. Our minister of Visitation, Jane Stegemann, will cover Pastoral Care during this time.

The Reverend Diane Bennekamper was ordained by the New Jersey Association of the Central Atlantic Conference, United Church of Christ on February 17, 1974; and currently holds standing in the Cumberland Association, Maine Conference, United Church of Christ

Education: Bachelor of Arts, McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland
Master of Divinity, Drew University Theological School, Madison, New Jersey

Churches served:

Stanley Congregational Church UCC, Chatham, New Jersey

First Parish Church UCC, Brunswick, Maine

Pride's Corner Congregational Church UCC, Westbrook, Maine

First Parish Congregational Church UCC, Gorham, Maine

The Congregational Church in Cumberland UCC, Senior Pastor 1998–2019

Service to the Maine Conference UCC:

Member, Division of Social Justice

Board of Directors

Co-Chair Conference Transition Team

Moderator of the Conference, 1997–1999

Chair of Conference Minister Search Committee

Board of Trustees 2020 –

Service to the United Church of Christ:

Member, Local Church Ministries Board of Directors 1999 – 2011

Chair, Local Church Ministries Board of Directors, 2009–2011

General Synod Delegate 2001, 03, 05, 07, 09, 11

Service to the Cumberland Association:

Vice Moderator of the Association 2019 –

Member, Church and Ministry Committee 2013 –

Reverend Diane met with the Church Council on January 16, 2022 and was approved as our Minister for Parental Leave Coverage in a unanimous vote.



New Church Branding and Logo

Created by the FCC Marketing team

Approved by the Church Council in February 2022



Our new logo is based on the skylight above our church Chancel. The skylight design was inspired by John 15:5: "I am the vine, ye are the branches..." Branches were actually used to create the asymmetrical latticework. The circle represents unity in Christ, our wholeness and inclusiveness as a church. The individual shapes, none of which are repeated, represent our individual uniqueness in God's eyes and as members of our church community. The glass is intentionally clear, allowing in the fullness of light so that we may bathe in the Love of God and lift our hearts to God in Prayer and Praise. When the sun shines, the shadow of the Cross at the center of the skylight moves across the Chancel floor. It reminds us that no matter where we are, we are beloved children of God and that God is with us. The Cross also sits directly above the Communion Table representing Christ's embrace and invitation to us all.

With this powerful symbolism, we opted to keep the logo free of additional color choosing navy on white or white on blue representing the sky.

We will be making some website improvements in the coming months and focusing on these colors to support our new look!



Stay tuned for these colors and the logo taking effect!

COUNCIL

*Corner**A Message from our Moderator*

Hi,

We began our February Council meeting by welcoming our new Council members: John Reid, Joel Pond and Chan Sinnett. We are very appreciative to John, Joel and Chan for offering their many talents and joining the Council. We also reviewed our COVID protocols and decided to eliminate the worship sign-in sheet so you will no longer be required to sign in on Sundays. This change was based on recent updates from the Maine CDC concerning contact tracing. We continue to recommend that attendees wear masks but hopefully if current trends persist, we'll be able to remove our masks soon! We did some other administrative business and closed the meeting with an update from our newly formed Marketing Committee. The Marketing Committee shared their ideas for a new logo which the Council unanimously approved.

The Council's upcoming meetings are Sunday, March 13th and Sunday, April 10th. Anyone can attend the meeting so please let me know if you are interested. We will be meeting via Zoom again in March but hopefully in person in April.

Many blessings,
Kim Hendry, Moderator
khendry1972@gmail.com
207-756-9343

MINISTRY OF

*Worship &**Covenant*

*Join the Ministry of
Worship & Covenant*

Have you ever wanted to look behind the curtain and find out the logistics that go into creating the worship services? Like, how is that all put together week after week? Well, the Ministry of Worship and Covenant is seeking new members to replace those who have termed out. This is your chance to see just how the services are put together, and why they are the way they are. And how developing the services is a vibrant and living process, guided by the liturgical calendar and responding to the needs and interests of our church family week after week. If this sounds interesting (and it is!) please email Virginia Eddy (eddyvirginia@me.com) or Larry Perry (lperry1@maine.rr.com). Or call the office (207-781-3413). Or grab one of us at church, and find out why we are excited to be on this committee.

MINISTRY OF
missions



Socks for the Homeless

Please consider contributing some white cotton socks to the box in Fellowship Hall. The socks will be given to people who benefit from the Preble Street Resource Center and who would like to have warm dry feet without infections. Thank you!

Loaves of Love: Yummy New Missions Project



Beginning in March, church volunteers will 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 2022 is One Great Hour of Sharing. The bread will be freshly baked in our newly remodeled church kitchen! This month it will be honey oatmeal.

By Wednesday, March 2, please contact Alyce Graves if you would like to make a contribution and receive a loaf of bread, or sign up after church on a Sunday in February. The loaves will be available for pickup in Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning, March 6.

Thank you for your interest in our church's newest community adventure and for your contribution to 5-for-5 missions!
Alyce Graves: alycegraves8@gmail.com cell: (774) 413-0547



Family Promise Leader in March

Our church helps Family Promise of Greater Portland support homeless families, many of whom are seeking asylum. Currently there are over 200 families at 8 different hotels in the area. Support staff have been added, but housing availability is still challenging. During the pandemic Family Promise adopted more of a homelessness-prevention strategy to help families with housing stay in that housing in addition to supporting the families residing at the hotels waiting for housing to become available.

Each church has been assigned a month to help support this effort in a greater way. Our month is March. The biggest needs right now are quarters for laundry as well as Hannaford and Wal-Mart gift cards. In addition, if you would rather donate money, at the end of the month we will acquire some items families need when they move in, such as tool kits and bed bug protectors. If you do write a check, please make it out to the church and put "Family Promise" in the subject line. You can drop off Hannaford/Wal-Mart gift cards and/or Rolls of Quarters with the church office or with any of our Mission members.

Stay tuned to the Wednesday emails as the month progresses. Thank you all for continuing to support our mission efforts.

MINISTRY OF
missions



Many many thanks to all who donated soup during January and February. We don't know who you are and therefore can't thank you personally, but please know that many families have already appreciated your SOUPer help!



Speaking of which, how've ya BEAN?

I've BEAN thinking of you and wondering whether you might donate a bag of dried beans to the Falmouth Food Pantry during March or April. Popular kinds are black, navy, pinto, and kidney (dark and light red) beans.

If you would like, please put bags of dried beans into the collection bin outside Fellowship Hall (but don't spill the BEANS), and they will be given to grateful Food Pantry families. Thank you for BEAN so helpful!

Don't you think I'm funny? I've BEAN practicing jokes all day!

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!

*School Kits for
Church World Service*



OFFERING DATE:
MARCH 27, 2022

Many thanks to everyone for your wonderful support of the school kits that will be shipped to the Church World Service. Due to your generosity even during this pandemic, we may be able to make 32 KITS!

The only supplies that are still needed are notebooks and blunt scissors. Please put any donations into the bin under the Missions Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall by April 1st. Thank you very much!



*Special Missions:
One Great Hour of Sharing*

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 sending 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 27, 2022.

MINISTRY OF *missions*

Maine Needs: Items Needed in March



As you clean out your closets in preparation for spring, we welcome any of the following items that you no longer need and are still in good condition. Due to space constraints, Maine Needs will not be accepting more winter items at this time.

Donations can be left in the bin outside the church or in the Missions bin in Fellowship Hall.

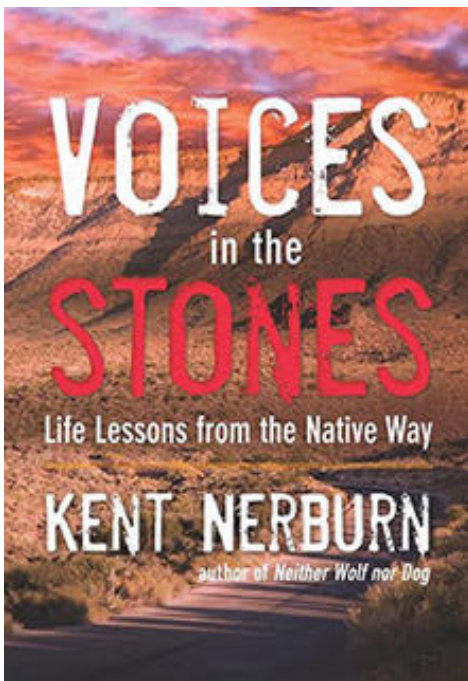
- *Raincoats
- *Rain boots
- *Compact umbrellas
- *Large backpacks
- *New underwear
- *Spring clothing in good condition (infant to adult XL)

Thank you for your donations and thoughtfulness!



MINISTRY OF *community life*

Women's Spiritual Book Group



We will gather via Zoom at noon on Wednesday, March 2nd, to discuss Voices in the Stones: Life Lessons from the Native Way by Kent Nerburn. For three decades, the author has lived and worked among the Native American people. Voices in the Stones is a unique collection of his encounters and experiences that reveal the spiritual awareness that animates all of Native American life.

To add depth to this conversation, Pastor Amelia will be reaching out to the Native American community here in Maine to see if a member might be able to join us during the second hour of our time together to add first hand insight and experience to our understanding.

Our church Zoom link remains the same each month.

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.

MINISTRY OF *Facilities*

Wireless Assessment



The office and Tech Team have been working with Peter Favreau of FavTech LLC to upgrade our wireless system. The wireless internet system in the building is being overworked because the primary wireless router is acting as the central hub for all of the wireless and wired connectivity in the building.

Our new system will provide basic networking security with a strong firewall to the internet and separated private and public wireless and wired networks. It will function long term and be able to adapt to future needs. The project will improve and standardize wireless networking with strong wireless access points and normalized WiFi network naming. Work will get underway in March!

Construction Update

Virtual Worship is here to stay, so it is time to restore our sanctuary to its original beauty!

We need to:

- Clean up and remove from view the large amount of cabling and cameras needed to run the broadcast.
- Mount our projectors on the ceiling to optimize the projected image and remove them from the altar area.
- The tech table needs to be moved away from the front of the church to improve aesthetics and reduce congestion on that side of the church.

The ideal place for the tech table is the loft area once used by the choir to store their robes. It is accessed by the steps in the foyer at the front of the church. The blessing of this space is that it is not visible to congregants seated in the pews. It will also give a clear view of the service for the tech team and a more professional looking broadcast using a camera with an optical lens.

Construction begins February 27th after worship:

- A window will be opened in the wall above the double doors.
- This window will be trimmed to be consistent with the molding around the doors below.
- Small white shutters will securely close off the opening when not in use.
- Projectors will be mounted March 16th and 17th.

We are very excited about this move to restore the aesthetics of the sanctuary and provide better functionality for the tech team. Pastor Amelia has mentioned that during some weddings the bride and bridesmaids gather up in the loft before the wedding begins. How wonderful it would be for them to peak out the window as people take their seats.

~ Tom Stegemann and the Tech Team



EASTER EGG HUNT

~ Saturday, April 16th, 2022 ~

Volunteers Needed!

Please contact Kristen Coleman or let the office know if you are able to help



MINISTRY OF *Christian Education*

As we move into Lent this season, the children will be diving into Jesus and all his miracles. They will be acting out miracles, creating Lent goals, making pretzels, and crafting with all things purple!!!



CHURCH family news

We Lift in Prayer...



January Birthdays

- 5 - Paul Cousins
- 8 - Kim Hendry
- 14- Jennifer Bissell
- 14- Erlon Varney
- 15- John Wilcox
- 17- Christine Pfeffer
- 23- Karen Jones
- 31- Louise Caruso
- 31- Jack Davis



Liturgists

- 6 - Lydia Hill
- 13- Mark Horton
- 20 - Marilee Beinema
- 27 - Virginia Eddy

- Please pray comfortingly for Janice Beinema who has been transferred to Falmouth By the Sea for rehabilitation. Cards of encouragement can be sent to Janice Beinema, Room 404B, 191 Foreside Rd., Falmouth, Maine 04105
- Please pray for Vicki Miele who is having complications of atrial fibrillation following surgery. Cards may be sent to her NEW address: 1618 Crownvue Court, Statesville, NC 28625.
- Please keep Tom and Jane Stegemann in prayer as they are sick from COVID 19. Cards of encouragement will reach them at 211 Winn Rd. Falmouth, ME 04105
- Please pray joyfully for Morgan (Allen) and Noah Barney who are expecting a baby in the spring of 2022!
- Please pray joyfully for Allyssa, Cameron, and Lucas Mathieu: they are expecting a new baby in June!
- Please join Pastor Amelia, Jacob, and Julian in prayers for a healthy end of pregnancy and delivery of their second child in March.
- Please pray for Betty Shively who will be living permanently at Ocean View's Falmouth House Assisted Living. 32 Blueberry Lane Apt. #221 Falmouth, Maine 04105
- Please pray lovingly for Betty Graves as physicians try to discern how to improve her quality of life.
- Please pray steadfastly for Terri Collins who has many significant symptoms of long-haul COVID. Please send cards to: 295 Falmouth Road Falmouth, Maine 04105
- The Smith family is grateful for prayers and requests continued prayers. Their son, James, who has Cerebral Palsy, continues to suffer with pain and medical complications. Please pray for parents, Jim and Kaye, who need stamina, patience and hope. They are grateful for cards, but not phone calls: 127 Winn Road Falmouth, Maine 04105.
- Please pray for John Graustein as he continues to work towards recovery. He and Barbara are currently staying in Albuquerque near their son and grandchildren. John's address is: 11517 Sky Valley Way NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111
- Please continue to pray for Val Gray's parents who are transitioning into a new lifestyle with his mother caring for his father.
- Please keep praying for Sally Emery who is working to regain mobility and adjust to life after two strokes. 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.



March 2022 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM The Family Restored Reverend Amelia away	2 12 PM Women's Spiritual Book Club 6 PM Ash Wednesday at Foreside 6:45 PM Private Group at Police Academy	3 WIFI Upgrade 6:30 PM Ministry of Missions 7 PM Troop 93	4	5
6 First Sunday in Lent 10 AM Worship In-person or Online 7 pm Troop Committee Meeting	7 12 PM Bible Study 6 PM Steering Committee 7 PM Fiddle-icious 7 PM Worship & Covenant	8 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	9 6:45 PM Private Group	10 7:00 PM Finance Mtg 7 PM Troop 93	11	12
13 Second Sunday in Lent 10 AM Worship In-person or Online 11:30 AM Council Mtg	14 Congregator Deadline 12 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Scotland Fiddle	15 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored	16 Mounting Projectors 6:45 PM Private Group	17 in Sanctuary 7 PM Troop 93	18	19 Pinewood Derby (Raindate 3/20)
20 Third Sunday in Lent 10 AM Worship In-person or Online with Rev. Diane	21 12 PM Bible Study 7 PM Fiddle-icious	22 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored	23 10 AM MCL Easter Card Writing 6:45 PM Private Group	24 7 PM Troop 93	25	26
27 Fourth Sunday in Lent 10 AM Worship 11 AM MCL Easter Cards 12:30 PM Baby Shower	28 12 PM Bible Study	29 11 AM Staff Mtg 6 PM Family Restored	30 6:45 PM Private Group	31 7 PM Troop 93		

Upcoming:

Wednesday,
March 2:
6pm Ash
Wednesday
Service at
Foreside with
Rev. Whitman

Saturday,
April 16:
Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday,
April 17:
Easter Worship
at 10am with
overflow in
Beinema Hall

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