



# THE CONGREGATOR

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## Eastertide

Good Will Hunting (which, if you haven't seen this movie, stop reading and go watch it and then come back!) has an iconic scene in which Robin Williams, playing a therapist, repeats the line "It's not your fault" to Will, who suffered trauma and abuse as a child. When Robin Williams begins to say the line Will shrugs and says, in his thick Boston accent, "Yeah, I know." The second time he responds the same way. But Robin Williams keeps saying it, over and over, until Will really hears him-- really hears him and begins to sob, and heal.

The things we do in the church are often a little like that. We all know we are beloved by God, given to each other, God made, siblings in Christ, etc., etc. We hear it all the time. And, we might not really know it-- we might not really hear it. It is such good news we might need it said over and over and over before it starts to sink in. We might need it said over and over before we start to heal.

In Eastertide this is what we do: we say the same things, over and over, for 50 days-- we repeat God is risen! And God loves you! And death has no victory! And there is no where you can go where God is not! We baptize new Christians, and remember our own baptisms. We feast at the communion table, so that we might taste that good news, take it into our bodies.

Here you will find many opportunities: bread baking, small groups, a trip to the art museum, service opportunities, and more. You will find updates about church school summer programing and opportunities to hold one another in prayer.

This news is so good it is hard to believe. This news is so good we might need many repetitions to truly hear it. Come and tell yourself, and your neighbors, this good news, in the month of May.

Full Eastertide/ Worship schedule on the next page.

Happy Easter, *Pastor Amelia*

# Eastertide Schedule 2023

## April 30: Worship with Baptisms & Small Group

10:00 AM Intergenerational Worship with baptisms  
11:15 AM Eastertide Small Group focusing on interdependence

## May 7: Worship with Holy Communion | New/Interested Member Group After Church

10:00 AM Worship with Communion  
11:15 AM Gathering for folks interested in membership  
11:15 AM Eastertide Small Group focusing on hope vs. optimism

## May 14: Mother(ing) Day Intergenerational Worship

10:00 AM Intergenerational Worship

## May 21: Worship & New Members Joining | Small Group

10:00 AM Worship and Welcoming of New Members  
11:15 AM Small Group on the Absurdity of Joy

## May 28: Pentecost Outdoor Worship

10:00 AM Worship. Dress warm & wear red.



### Church School Send off June 25th

Summer programming= monthly \*awesome\* pop ups



# National Day of Prayer

Thursday May 4, 6 PM - 8 PM

Calling ALL people of faith!

Learn about prayer in different traditions and spend time praying together for our nation, state and communities.

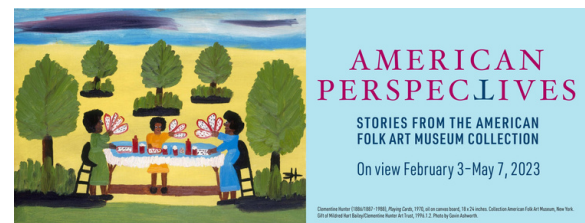
Bring a dish to share for a potluck supper

Hosted by the Falmouth Clergy group.

Questions? Contact Father Nathan Ferrell of St. Mary's at 781-3366

Falmouth Congregational Church

267 Falmouth Road



Friday, May 5 4:30 PM

Join Judy Crosby at the

Portland Museum of Art

for a guided tour

followed by a potluck in

Beinema Hall.

Sign up in Fellowship

Hall

## MINISTRY OF

*Music*

1 Corinthians 13

Paraphrased by Jan Bentley

Though I sing everything from folk to opera,  
 But don't sound out love,  
 I am simply sour notes.

Though I have developed the insight to predict a hit,  
 And know all the conservatory secrets of perfect performance,  
 And hold a great hallelujah of faith,  
 But don't project love, I am nothing.

And though I give complimentary lessons to the ghetto children,  
 And burn myself out on the concert stage –  
 Without love, I am an unfinished chord.

Love is a retard, an andante, a quite obligato;  
 It is not dissonant and fighting to be heard above the melody,  
 Not even noticing a four-measure rest.

Love hums happily in harmony, but twangs in the off-key.  
 Love sustains talent; trusts potential; expects quality  
 And lives through growing towards it.

Love never lays down the baton;

Where there are ovations, they will be silenced;

Where there is style, it will fade;

Where there is expertise, it won't be needed.

For we are aware of only earthly melodies,

And we can share only earthly melodies,

But when the Master Composer takes the dais,

The rehearsal will be ended; the concert will begin.

When I was a beginner, I played EVERY GOOD BOY DOES FINE

And ALL COWS EAT GRASS, and I was satisfied.

Now that I am a polished performer,

I set those exercises on the shelf;

Now I view music vaguely, but then sharply noted.

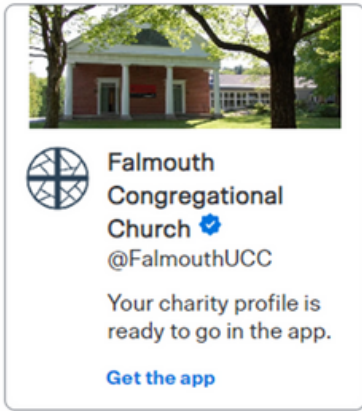
Now I perceive the score simply,

But then I'll have the conductor's clarity.

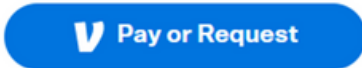
So – talent, performance, and love remain,

But love is the Great Symphony.

~ Jan Stover, Minister of Music

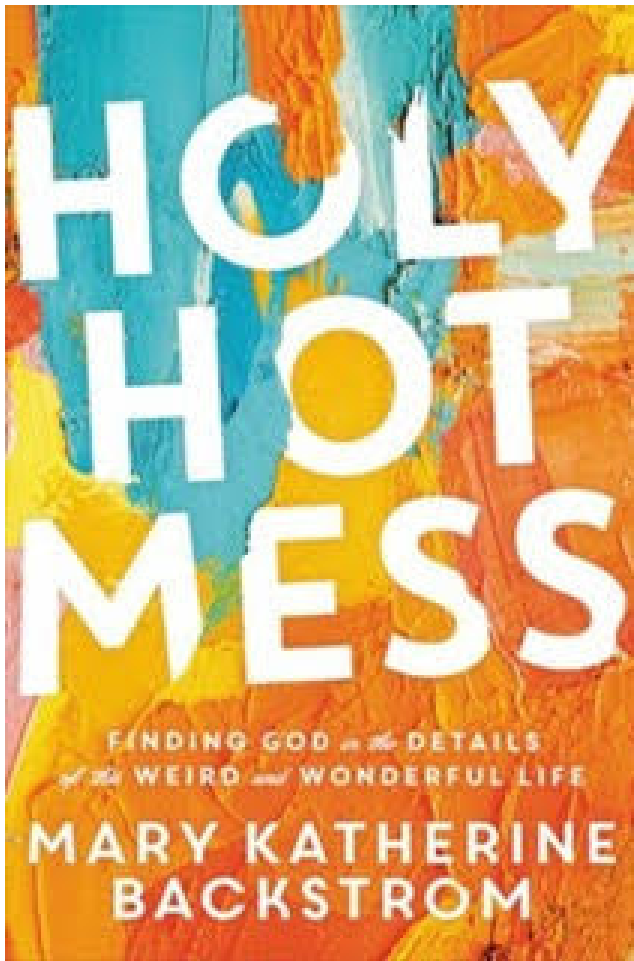


We can now accept donations on Venmo!  
 Download the app and search for Falmouth Congregational Church



## Women's Spiritual Book Group

The Women's Spiritual Book Group meets May 3 at noon to discuss 'Holy Hot Mess: Finding God in the Details of this Weird and Wonderful Life' by Mary Katherine Backstrom. As reviews suggest, Backstrom shares both hilarious and vulnerable stories about faith, friendship, motherhood, marriage, and depression. She covers the topics that plague our hearts every day with raw, honest, truth and a generous side of laughter. Mary Katherine invites us into her story as a friend, encouraging us to embrace the hot messes in our own lives.



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 at [cathybbowden@gmail.com](mailto:cathybbowden@gmail.com) for further details. Happy reading!

MINISTRY OF  
*missions*



Why did the man get  
fired from the pasta  
factory?



Why did the pasta call  
up his friend?

**HE MADE A  
FUSILLI MISTAKES**

**HE WAS FEELING  
CANNELONI.**

You PASTA your test! Thank you for your very generous donations of PASTA over the past few months: They have been very helpful for many families in our community!

PASTA than a speeding bullet, our church is continuing to collect different kinds of pasta during the months of 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. 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 contact Nancy Lightbody. Thank you for your continuing support!



### 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?

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. Occasionally some of the bread may go to church members who aren't able to make it to the church service.

Even if you have no baking experience, please consider donating four hours of your time on Saturday, May 6, 2023. Please get in touch with Alyce Graves if interested.

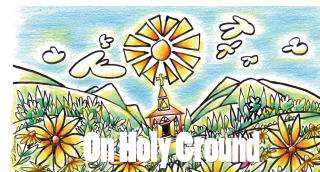


# MINISTRY OF *missions*



## Support for asylum-seeking, unhoused families

The Ministry of Missions and our church continue to help and support asylum-seeking, unhoused families in the Greater Portland area. Stay tuned as we learn more about upcoming needs.



## STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING ON MAY 28

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 May 28, 2023.

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.



## Maine Needs: May

The following items may be put into the Mission bin in Fellowship Hall or the Maine Needs bin by the office door. THANK YOU!

### KIDS sizes 2T-18

- Spring Clothes 2T-12
- Boys pants 5-18
- Girls socks 6-13
- Boys underwear 2T-5
- Sneakers
- Water bottles (gently used or new)
- Strollers

## Underwear for the Homeless

So far our church has collected 67 pairs of women's underwear and 51 pairs of men's underwear. A big thank you to all those who have donated! Staff from Preble Street are very appreciative!!

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.

Hello, FCC UCC!

April was a HUGE month for us here at the church. It's difficult to know where to start when reflecting on it!

The annual Easter Egg Hunt was a massive success, bringing in over 175 families to our church to celebrate with egg hunts, games, baby bunnies, balloon sculptures, delicious food, cake walks, and more. This event could not have been possible without the help of the incredible community members who stepped up to volunteer, and especially without Craig Page, the indispensable leader of the fun. We are already looking forward to next year!

Alyce Graves also facilitated an intergenerational baking morning this month, where she taught some of our young

members how to make hot cross buns. This was a fun day for all involved. Thank you to Alyce for sharing her talents and skills with William, Grace, and Mickey.

We have some more exciting things planned for this coming month. Sunday, April 30 will be an intergenerational worship service, in order to celebrate the baptisms of some of our young members. Children will stay in worship with their families, and the second hour of Kids' Church will be spent with special guest teacher Kristen Tripp, as I am going to be away that week. We are looking forward to this very exciting day!



## MINISTRY OF *Christian Education*





# AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES

STORIES FROM THE AMERICAN  
FOLK ART MUSEUM COLLECTION

On view February 3–May 7, 2023

Clementine Hunter (1886/1887–1988), *Playing Cards*, 1970, oil on canvas board, 16 x 24 inches. Collection American Folk Art Museum, New York. Gift of Mildred Hart Bailey/Clementine Hunter Art Trust, 1996.1.2. Photo by Gavin Ashworth.

The Ministry of Worship and Covenant is sponsoring a fun intergenerational outing to the Portland Art Museum on May 5 at 4:30 PM. Church member and docent extraordinaire Judy Crosby will be giving a free tour of American Perspectives, the traveling exhibit currently on display at the PMA. This exhibit features many fascinating pieces, including some which depict stories from the Bible. The tour will be followed by a light potluck supper and conversation at FCC UCC. A sign-up sheet is posted in Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact Judy Crosby.

Mother's Day is May 14 this year. We will be celebrating all those in our lives who mother us and have mothered us with an intergenerational worship service. There will be no second hour of Kids' Church that morning.

The last day of Kids' Church will be June 25. Traditionally, Kids' Church has taken a break during the summer months, but this summer we will be offering monthly intergenerational activities for our families. These will take place following worship. Stay tuned for more information as summer approaches!

As the weather warms up, flowers begin to bloom, and the days grow longer, we look forward to the many opportunities for fun and fellowship that we will have this spring and summer.

Warmly,

Hannah Daly  
Director of Youth and Family Ministries





# We Lift up Prayers for...



- Virginia “Ginny” Hamilton who passed away April 10th. [Read about Ginny’s life here.](#)
- Nicole, Nicholas and big brother Everett Lotfey, as they welcome baby Ivy who was born on April 11th.
- Janice Beinema who died peacefully on April 19, 2023. [Read about her life here.](#)
- Marion & Donald Olen who have moved to Bay Square in Yarmouth and are settling in to their new home.
- Janie & Larry Anderson, who now live in Virginia, need prayers as Janie’s health declines and she begins to receive hospice care. Cards: 44714 Audubon Square Apt. 105 Ashburn, VA 20147
- Joanne Varga, who currently lives in Concord, NH (near her children) has moved to an assisted living apartment. Cards of joy as she settles in: 33 Christian Ave. Box 147 Concord, NH 03301
- Prayers for Michael Johnson, Sr, Michael’s dad (and Grace & Mickey’s grandpa) who is battling cancer.
- Norm O’Brien went home to God in the early morning hours of March 31. We also pray for his wife, Bee, and their five children: cards to Bee: 191 Foreside Road, Room 103A, Falmouth, ME 04105. [Read about Norm’s life here.](#)
- Jane Stegemann’s sister, for diagnostic clarity and treatment plan.. We pray also for her husband, who she cares for.
- Continued prayers for Kathleen Towns’ brother, Mark.
- Jim Scherer as he recovers from spinal surgery. 77 Babbidge Road Falmouth, ME 04105
- Nancy Althaus as she recovers from heart ablation surgery. 10 Quaker Lane Portland, ME 04103
- 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. Josh needs prayers for his health and his ability to keep up with his classes. Please also keep his mother, family and fiancé in prayer.
- Kathy Whitmore who fell and dislocated and fractured her left shoulder. Kathy is in the midst of preparing 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.
- 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.
- Randy Boardway’s father, Paul, who is fighting liver cancer.
- Sally Emery who is cared for in her home. Please give her joy by sending a card to: P.O. Box 102, Gray, ME 04039.

## Liturgists

7 - Marilee Beinema  
14 - Alyce Graves  
21 - Lydia Hill  
28 - Ann Sanborn

## Ushers

7 - Judy Crosby,  
Jim Parr, Julia Poppell  
14 -  
21 - Lydia Hill,  
Kim Mason,  
Nancy Wulbrecht  
28 -

## May Birthdays\*

Edie Boothby  
Terri Collins  
Paul Han  
James Henderson  
Carol Kauffman  
Everett Lotfey  
Mollie Mason  
Lana Pillsbury  
Chaz Roth  
Ann Sanborn  
Gary Scheuchzer  
Chan Sinnett  
Jane Stegemann  
Tom 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!

# May 2023 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10 AM Worship w/Communion 11 AM Men's Group 11:15 AM New Member Informational Gathering 11:15 AM Small Group 7 PM Troop 93	12 PM Bible Study 7 PM Cub Scouts	11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored	12 PM Women's Spiritual Book Club 6:30 PM Bell Choir 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 PM National Day of Prayer-Potluck 6 PM Troop 93 Meeting	4:30 PM PMA Tour 6 PM Potluck PMA Discussion	10 AM Loaves of Love Bread Baking
7 10 AM Worship w/Communion 11 AM Men's Group 11:15 AM New Member Informational Gathering 11:15 AM Small Group 7 PM Troop 93	12 PM Bible Study 5 PM Worship & Covenant 6 PM Fiddle-icious 7 PM Fiddle-icious	10 AM Bible Study @ Oceanview 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored	6:30 PM Bell Choir 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 PM Troop 93 Meeting 7 PM Finance Committee	12	13
<b>Mother's Day</b> 10 AM Intergenerational Worship	12 PM Bible Study 12 PM Bible Study	11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored	6:30 PM Bell Choir 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	5:45 PM Boy Scouts 6 PM Troop 93 Meeting 6:30 PM Writer's Group	19	20
21 10 AM Worship In-person or Online, Members Join 11:15 AM Small Group 11:30 AM Council of Ministries	<b>Congregator Deadline</b> 12 PM Bible Study 7 PM Fiddle-icious	11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored	6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 PM Troop 93 Meeting	26	27
28 10 AM Worship In-person or Online	<b>OFFICE CLOSED Memorial Day</b> 12 PM Bible Study 	11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored	6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM POP-UP Choir Rehearsal	6 PM Troop 93 Meeting 6:30 PM Ministry of Missions	June 2	June 3 10 AM Loaves of Love Bread Baking 3 PM Norman O'Brien Celebration of Life

Ushers Needed!  
We need ushers for Mother's Day and Pentecost. Please contact Jim Scherer if you are available to help.

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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 &  
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  
Lydia Hill, Clerk  
Paul Davis, Treasurer  
Gini Medford, Financial Secretary  
Carol Kauffman MSN, RN, Faith Community Nurse