



THE CONGREGATOR

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From **BREAD** and **CUP** to **FAITH** and **GIVING**

Dear Falmouth Congregational Church,

Each Sunday at FCC begins with community invitations. From a chance to come to dinner at a congregant's house, to an opportunity to bake for the Holly Days fair, to a request to pray for a sick neighbor, our life in a community of faith is full of invitations.

We invite because Christ invited us first. We gather, at worship, in service, for fellowship, in prayer, because Christ named and claimed us as children of God and said Come, follow me. We fill up our hearts with God's love and then go into the world, cups full, ready to share. This is what we remember as we gather at Communion: We eat at God's table, filling ourselves with grace and hope so that we may go out and feed the world. We go From Bread & Cup to Faith & Giving.

In November we have many invitations for you: This Sunday, October 30th, is Remembrance Sunday, when we remember our beloved deceased. We celebrate Communion and welcome New Members into our common life the Sunday after that. Saturday, November 19th is the Holly Days Fair, with Consecration Sunday (and fabulous music! and the dedication of our food drive gifts!) on Sunday November 20th. There is bread baking, a dinner for Church School families, weekly Bible study, Men's Group, Book Group—you are invited to participate, be known, and grow in so many different ways.

We will also be inviting you to fund our ministry in 2023. Pledges of financial support provide over 75% of our budget as a congregation. Without your gifts to the annual pledge campaign, we cannot engage in the programs, projects, ministry, and worship experiences that define our community life. The church depends on all of us.

Deciding how much of our income to donate to charitable organizations can be difficult. The United Church of Christ encourages a Biblical model of a tithe, a gift of 10% of one's income to charity. In our household last year we tithed 2.5% of our combined pre-tax income to the Falmouth Congregational Church. Each year we go over our budget and pray and think about how much we can give, while still being faithful to our other responsibilities as parents and new home owners. We aren't yet up to the 5% that we would like to be giving, but we do try to increase our pledge every year. Thinking about our finances up front during stewardship season actually helps us to be more financially responsible, and spurs us to have important conversations about our values, money, and who we want to be.

I share the amount we give because sharing honestly about our own giving, including our struggles and journey, helps to break down the shame, secrecy, and general discomfort that can sometimes happen around money. Stewardship is an opportunity for us to shake off our baggage about money and instead think about how we want to use our resources. The Falmouth Congregational Church fills and nourishes our family, giving us spiritual sustenance that we can take out into the world. If that is true for you, too, I hope that you will accept the invitation and join us in pledging to the 2023 Stewardship Campaign.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Amelia

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.



Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667



On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.



Our stewardship theme this year is “FROM BREAD AND CUP TO FAITH AND GIVING”.

Over the next few weeks, you will see and hear about our stewardship work this year. From the pulpit, member reflection, and in the Congregator, we will journey from Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving. We think you will enjoy exploring the theology of giving from its origins as a spiritual practice to the day-to-day impact giving has for our church, its kids, our community, and the greater world. We invite you to join in the exploration, listen to what God asks of us and hear what God returns in reply.

Stewardship of Money

First, we love and appreciate everything everyone does for our church. Thank you! While everything we do is stewardship, we can also recognize that money is a significant material resource needed each year by the church. It is a powerful symbol, and it has preserved the ministry of FCC from a time before the birth of our country through to today. In 1754 Our forebears decreed that “Sixty-Six pounds, thirteen Shillings and Four pence be raised to Defray Parrish charges the present year.” If those early congregants could talk directly about stewardship of money we can too. We can do so in a way that honors our theology, acknowledging the material and symbolic dimensions of what we do (and do not do) with our financial resources. To be a faithful steward, the Christian community needs to use money in ways that fund the possibilities of love, peace, justice, freedom, dignity, mutuality, equality and abundance. Can you think of ways our church community lives these ideas forward? Is the way our church is using its financial resources a demonstration of what we think God wants to make possible for the wider world, starting right here in Falmouth Maine?

Everyone is invited to join our church’s 2022 fall stewardship movement. In the same way we break bread and take the cup at the communion table, we recognize stewardship as one of our sacred rituals, part of our core Christian practices, and an important Christian tradition our congregation embraces. Like other church rituals, giving as stewards allows another opportunity to form strong social bonds with each other, with our community and within the world. When we share our resources, we make a statement about the importance of Christianity and God in our lives. Similar to many of our traditions, stewardship is a covenant that we share with each other. What we do during our stewardship opportunity demonstrates our belief that God breathes goodness into our lives and that we want to be an example of a religious community seeking a more peaceful and equitable world. Giving isn’t the only way to serve the covenant of faith with God, but it is an important symbol of our shared beliefs. Our doors may open to Falmouth Road, but really, it’s our hearts we open to anyone seeking sanctuary, friendship and the promise of Christ. Faithful stewardship allows us to say, “And may it always be so.”

We think our lineage agrees, spiritual ancestors all.

In peace and love,
Stewardship 2022!



COUNCIL
Corner

Hi,

It is hard to believe that it is already October but all the leaves in my yard confirm that it is indeed. And with fall comes our annual Stewardship Campaign which will officially kick off in November. We have special speakers lined up for three Sundays in November to share their stories and connections with our Church and why they choose to give. Pledges make up approximately 75% of our annual income so they are critical to us being able to plan our budget for the upcoming year. We all know that everything is more expensive these days and our church is not immune from these financial pressures. Please keep your eye out for a stewardship mailing as well as updates in the weekly email.

We have two key officer roles available on the Council starting in February: Vice-Moderator and Clerk. Both positions play a vital part in the Council. We will also be looking for at least one member at large to join the Council. As a Congregational Church, we run our Church so we need you! You do have to be a member of the Church to be on Council. If you are interested, please contact me and I can provide more details on the two officer roles or being a general member.

We kicked off our bylaws review in October and will be excited to share our revisions at the Annual Meeting in January.

Year-to-date financial performance is now behind budget. Through September we have a net loss of about \$17k. Some of that is due to timing of some expenses vs. budget, it being a three-payroll month and higher electric and oil costs. Please keep your pledges coming in. We are just about on budget for year-to-date pledges. And now that we are passing the plate again during the offering we are getting higher plate donations. And we are hoping and praying for a successful Holly Days Fair. We will keep a close eye on things as we close out the fiscal year.

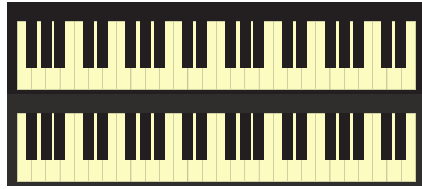
Many blessings,

Kim Hendry

Moderator



MINISTRY OF *Music*



Mark Thallander will be a guest organist on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 20, playing duets with Jan Stover, as well as solo pieces.

They will begin the Gathering Music at 9:50 AM. Don't miss it!

Mark is a free-lance organist, composer and author and President of the Mark Thallander Foundation. He resides in Palm Beach, CA, and Ogunquit, ME.

Among Mark's many musical ministries and accomplishments, he is known for his long and distinguished work at The Crystal Cathedral in California, as Assistant Director of Music and Associate Organist for 18 years, working with the Rev. Robert Schuller and the world-renown organist Fred Swan.

In August of 2003 Mark was in a traumatic automobile accident in which he lost his left arm. Following the accident God directed him to a wonderful way of using his talents. He adapted to playing with feet and one hand, but he also saw the birth of The Mark Thallander Foundation, which has presented Festival concerts to the glory of God all over the country, in Hawaii and Canada. Most recently his foundation sponsored the Ken Medema concert in Dover, NH.

Learn more about Mark's ministries at: www.markthallanderfoundation.org.

Who loves to sing Christmas music? Your chance is coming up soon. There is no audition. You don't have to have a solo voice. Reading music is helpful, but not a requirement. Repetition and listening to YouTubes of our songs works for lots of folks.

Rehearsals will start out from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM on Wednesday, November 2, possibly going to 9:00 PM on the Wednesdays closer to Christmas. We will sing every Sunday morning in Advent and at the Christmas Eve Candlelit Lessons & Carols Service.

The music is from a variety of periods and styles:

"Every Valley" by John Ness Beck

"O Magnum Mysterium" by Evan Ramos

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" by J. S. Bach

"The First Noel/Pachelbel's Canon" arranged by Michael Clawson

"Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child" African-American spiritual

"All Is Well" by Michael W. Smith

Come! Make music a part of your Christmas!

~ Jan Stover, Minister of Music, janiceleastover@gmail.com



Dear everyone at the Falmouth Congregational Church,

Thank you very much for everything that you did to make the first-ever free Outdoor Community Cookout on October 6 such a huge success. It could not have happened without all of you!

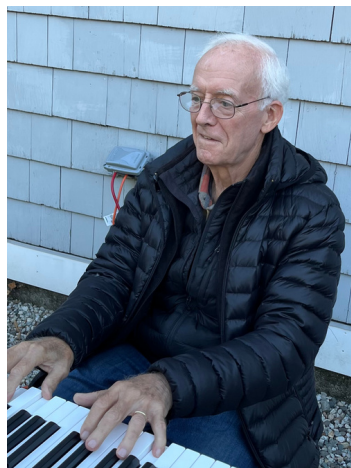
MINISTRY OF
missions

Close to 200 people from Falmouth's faith communities attended the event, with 40 volunteers and substantial help from the Boy Scouts. Thank you to all who volunteered to provide pasta salads and apple cider, run down and up the stairs with food as it was needed, grill a seemingly endless supply of Alyce's delicious marinated chicken, cook hamburgers and hotdogs, dish out dessert, put together s'mores, direct parking, sort recyclables, wash dishes, and clean up afterward.

And a great big thank-you to those of you who were able to come to enjoy the cookout!

Because of all of you, the Community Cookout was a triumph, both as a community get-together and a fund-raiser for the Falmouth Food Pantry. Over \$4,000 has been raised so far for the Food Pantry, with more donations still arriving! Your considerate gifts will immediately be put to good use and directly benefit the neediest in our community. We appreciate your help very much.

Sincerely,
Nancy Lightbody
Volunteer Manager, Falmouth Food Pantry



MINISTRY OF
missions



Thank you for continuing to donate food for the Falmouth Food Pantry. Many families in our community are thoroughly enjoying your cans of tuna fish and soup!

During October and November our church is collecting SOUP for the Food Pantry! If you would like, please put cans of soup (but NOT cream soups) into the Food Pantry bin in the back hall by the side entry door (leading to the church office), and the soups will be given to very grateful Food Pantry families.

If you have questions or know someone with an urgent need, please call Nancy Lightbody at 776-0081. Thank you for your continuing support!

Maine Needs

DONATIONS TO MAINE NEEDS WILL BE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED FOR:

Winter Coats, Winter Boots, Snow Pants, Waterproof Mittens and Gloves, Sheets (Please Label Size), Towels

Please be sure that the items are clean. Items may be left in the Mission Bin that is inside the side entry door (leading to the office) and will be delivered to Maine Needs.



Love the Loaves?



Loaves of Love has returned! We will be baking for Communion Sundays and all who wish to take a loaf home. The next two Saturdays we will be baking are November 5 and December 3.

Loaves of Love is a community effort. Even if you have no baking experience, please consider donating four hours of your time on a Saturday for this mission. Volunteers from nine to ninety have dug into the dough. The aromas are wonderful, and the fruits of our labor speak for themselves.

Please speak to me at church or send an email if you would like to join in the fun. - Alyce Graves: Alycegraves8@gmail.com

Special Offering

The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross is a United Church of Christ annual offering that supports ministries to lower-income retired clergy and lay employees as well as to active clergy facing unforeseen financial crises. Retired pastors, church office assistants, or ministers of music continue to touch the lives of all of us. Thank you for your generosity in honoring their ministries in a way that will help them.

MINISTRY OF

Community Life

In October, we gathered in the Grant Room (some by Zoom) and dove into conversation inspired by 'Women Rowing North'. We missed those of you who were not able to join us.

Given we haven't yet create a reading list for the coming year and none of us came with a reading suggestion, it was decided we should each come to the next meeting with a book we would like to recommend to the group. Please take time to find something you are intrigued by or have found interesting to share. At the very least, it will spark conversation that will help lead us forward.

Laurie suggested reading a banned book. As they say, "Banned books are books worth reading." We could get a really good discussion going on what we read, what we thought about it, how God hopes we'll deal with it.

New York Public Library: Banned Books by Age Group:

<https://www.literatibookstore.com/banned-books-2022>

Our next meeting is November 2 at noon in the Grant Room in person and via Zoom using this link => [Women's Spiritual Book Group Zoom Link](#) . You can drag this link to your desktop for easy access each month.

I look forward to seeing you all then.

Cathy
207.776.5543

cathybbowden@gmail.com

Please consider making a contribution to this far-reaching ministry of the UCC by writing a check to "Falmouth Congregational Church" with "Christmas Fund" mentioned in the memo line. This appeal runs during Advent, beginning on Sunday, November 27, through Sunday, December 18, 2022.

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.

Women's Spiritual Book Group





HOLLY DAYS FAIR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2022

We are resuming our full indoor Holly Days Fair again this year. Please come and enjoy from 10AM - 2PM. We'll have our boutique, sweets, cookie walk, baked goods, books/puzzles/cds, hand crafts, wreaths, silent auction, vintage treasures, coffee bar and homemade lobster stew available to eat and take out (hot dogs and sandwiches available too). We'll also have a kid's room and a visit from Santa to cap off the day.

Up until the fair, you'll see a sign-up board just inside the church's Fellowship Hall. We are always looking for more people to help with different aspects of the fair. You don't have to commit a lot of time, but we do appreciate what you can give.

In addition, please consider donating to our boutique, bringing in puzzles and books to donate, something for our vintage treasures or if you have some talents in the knitting, cross stitch, quilting area and would be willing to donate some of your hard work (think mittens, hats, aprons, etc), our handcrafts area would love it. And if making a pie, batch of cookies or some sweets is more your jam, we have a sign up for that as well.

If you do have any questions about the fair, please feel free to email me at stevrunn@gmail.com or text me at 207-333-8780.

Happy Holidays!

Steve Hendry
Matthew Strobel



Wreaths will be for sale again this year. If you'd like to pre order a wreath we will be taking orders after church on November 6 & 13. You can also email Anne Coleman at acoleman@maine.rr.com. If you don't pre order there will be wreaths to purchase the day of the fair.

WREATH WORKSHOP:

There will be a wreath decorating workshop on November 13th from 2-4. Many hands make light work—we need many hands to wire bows and pine cones on the wreaths, no experience necessary. Come join us for this fun fellowship event!!!

Anne Coleman & Kaye Low-Smith

MINISTRY OF Christian Education

Dear FCC community,



It is hard to believe that another month has passed already! We have been having lots of fun in Kids' Church. We have been learning about the Parables, enjoying the fall weather outside, and gearing up for our Kids' Church Canned Goods Drive to benefit the Falmouth Food Pantry. Requested donations are granola bars, cold cereal, canned tuna fish, canned soup, and diapers in sizes 5 & 6. Boxes for donations can be found in Fellowship Hall. We are also quickly approaching the Christmas season, so stay tuned for information on the pageant and other upcoming events.



Our Falmouth Combined Youth Group has also been enjoying some festive fun this month. We met at the beautiful Foreside Community Church last weekend, and this weekend we met here at our home church, where we carved pumpkins (grown and generously donated by our own Tom and Jane Stegemann!) and enjoyed some Halloween fun. We are already looking forward to our next meeting with these funny, smart, kind tweens and teens!

Our major news this month is that we have found a wonderful Nursery Caregiver named Gabby Colby-George! Here is a message from her:

"My name is Gabby Colby-George. I am a preschool teacher at the Heartfelt School in Portland, and I am very honored to now be working here in Falmouth! I am really looking forward to getting to know the families that attend church, and I am also super excited to get to hang out in the nursery. Feel free to come visit me in the nursery and talk to me about anything!"

We are so excited to have Gabby here at FCC. The little ones love her already!

And finally, as always, we need volunteers for Kids' Church on Sundays!

If you are interested and have not already let me know, please send me an email at hannah@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org. Alternatively, the link to our sign-up sheet can be found by using the QR code on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you,

Hannah Daly

Director of Youth and Family Ministries

**[Click Here to Register for
Kids' Church School](#)**

CHURCH

family news

- Barbara Graustein and her family as her husband, John Graustein went into his eternal rest on Sunday, October 23rd. Cards of comfort: 57 Waites Landing Rd, Falmouth, ME 04105. A celebration of life will be held at the church on Sunday, November 6 at 3pm.
- Candice, daughter of Marshall and granddaughter of Eunice and John, who had major neuro surgery and is recovering.
- Virginia Eddy's friend Barbara who needs strength to recover and go home from Maine Medical.
- Kathleen Towns' brother, Mark, who is recovering from a medical crisis. Cards of care for Kathleen: 11 Brookwest Lane, Westbrook, ME 04092
- Jan, Nancy Althaus' sister, whose husband died suddenly and unexpectedly. Cards of care for Nancy and Dave at: 10 Quaker Lane, Portland, ME 04103
- Sarah Lyons, Mike Guippone, Fred and Susie as they welcome newborn baby Gloria Lyons Guippone, born October 4th. Cards of congratulations can be sent to: 19 Bluebird Trail Falmouth, ME 04105.

We Lift in Prayer...



- Joan Jensen who is suffering from back pain. Cards may be sent to Ashton Gardens 830 Ocean Ave. Apt 217 Portland, Maine 04103
- Judy Crosby's father, who is living in the Maine Veterans' Home in Scarborough in the dementia care unit.
- Ted Vail who had a cardiac pacemaker placed. Please send cards of care to: Apt. 1103 777 Stevens Avenue Portland, Maine 04103.
- Randy Boardway's father, Paul, who is fighting liver cancer.
- Katie Howison's family as they support her mother (and Eva and Grace's "mimi") through her cancer diagnosis.
- James Smith and his parents, Jim and Kaye. Send cards of encouragement, but no phone calls please: 127 Winn Road Falmouth, Maine 04105. The Smith family is grateful for prayers.
- Norm O'Brien, who is 92 and 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: Room 103A 191 Foreside Road Falmouth, ME 04105.



Ushers

- 6 - Jim Parr & Nancy Wulbrecht
- 13 - Lydia Hill & Kim Mason
- 20 - Sue & Larry Perry
- 27 - Steve & Kim Hendry
- Dec. 4: Mark & Peggy Horton

Liturgists

- 6 - Steve Hendry
- 13 - Lydia Hill
- 20 - Nancy Lightbody
- 27 - Laurie Davis

November Birthdays

- 4 - Jess Collins
- 8 - Kailyn Walker
- 11 - Ken Bowden
- 25 - Grace Howison



- Ginny Hamilton who continues to enjoy hearing from you. Send cards to: 300 Spring Street, King 4A, Springbrook Center, Westbrook, ME 04092.
- Sally Emery 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.

November 2022 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored	2 12 PM Women's Spiritual Book Club 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	3 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Troop 93	4	5 10 AM Loaves of Love Bread Baking
New Members Join Stewardship Kick-off 10 AM Worship with Comm. 11 AM Building Brainstorming 11 AM Men's Group 4 PM Youth Group 7 PM Troop 93	7 12 PM Bible Study 6 PM Fiddle-icious Steering Com. 7 PM Worship & Covenant 7 PM Cub Scouts	8 10 AM Bible Study 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	9 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	10 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Finance Committee 7 PM Troop 93	Veteran's Day 11	12
Pastor Away at NGLI 10 AM Worship In-person or Online 2 PM Wreath Decorating Workshop	14 12 PM Bible Study	Congregator Deadline 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored.	16 Congregator Deadline	17 6:30 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM Writer's Group 7 PM Troop 93	18	19  10 AM - 2 PM Holly Days Fair
Consecration Sunday 10 AM Worship In-person or Online 11 AM Usher Training 4 PM Youth Group	21 12 PM Bible Study	22 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored	6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	Thanksgiving Office Closed 	25	26
First Sunday of Advent 10 AM Worship In-person or Online 11 AM Building Brainstorming	28 12 PM Bible Study	29 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM The Family Restored	6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal			
			30 6:45 PM Private Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal			

Falmouth Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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Phone: 207-781-3413
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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
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
Anne Coleman, Vice Moderator
Laurie Davis, Clerk
Paul Davis, Treasurer
Gini Medford, Financial Secretary
Carol Kauffman MSN, RN, Faith Community Nurse