



THE CONGREGATOR

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As a young person growing up in a UCC church in southern Maine, I looked forward to Sundays when the family would all dress up and go to church together. Even at age 7, we wore bow ties and jackets every Sunday. My first memory of giving money to the church revolved around Sunday School and the offering plate that was passed around in each classroom. Before church, my father would give my siblings and me a quarter or two to put in the offering plate. One student was chosen each Sunday to pass the offering plate and return the plate to the office. Being chosen to return the plate made for a very special day. Sixty years later, I still remember the feeling of giving something of value to the church, a very special moment in my life.

What is your story?

November kicks off our 2024 Stewardship campaign. This year's theme is "Our Money Story." We all have early memories of receiving a gift, giving a gift to someone, or donating to some deserving organization. How did giving or receiving those gifts make you feel?

"Our Money Story" invites us to talk about our financial giving. Money and possessions are one of the most common topics in scripture; Jesus talked about money more than faith and prayer. How we view money is a spiritual question. Thinking about God's story of money should be liberating, inviting, and transformative— it is a story of abundance and generosity. This stewardship season we will remember, release, reimagine, and restore our money stories so that we as a church can follow God and live the life God intends for us.

Each Sunday in November the sermons will explore this theme and we will also hear some of our congregation's stories on Sunday and in the weekly newsletter. We will explore our relationship with money during this time and some will share a story with our church family. Storytelling is sharing memories; telling the story can be transformative and comforting, as it is when we offer prayers of healing, gratitude, and love, for those in our community.

We have sent you a pledge card and we hope you will fill it out. You can also go to the church website and make your pledge online. As we go through this month of stewardship, think about some of your earliest memories of receiving something of value and how it made you feel. Then, prayerfully consider giving to support the life and ministry of your church.

Blessings,

Paul Davis and the Stewardship Committee

SMALL GROUP

We all have a story about money. God has a story too.
Come share & learn in a small group on Sunday, November 5
at 11:30. Participants will receive an Our Money Story
devotional.



Hi – Happy Fall! A few updates from the Council this month:

The Council is still assessing transportation options for our Church.

As you know we sold the bus last year as it did not fit our needs.

Before we buy something else, we want to understand how many people will use it and what type of vehicle will work best for us. And of course, we also need to see how many volunteers there will be to drive a bus/van once we better understand the need. More to come on this topic.

The Church is doing relatively well financially. For the nine months ended in September, our net income was \$3,700. Pledge income has been somewhat light over the past few months so please remember to continue to pay your stewardship pledge. If you aren't sure if you are paid up, we can help. Gini Medford, our Financial Secretary, sends out quarterly statements so you know how much you have paid to date. If you aren't getting one, please contact the office. You can also see that same information in Breeze. Expenses are running above budget primarily due to higher heating oil costs and deferred maintenance expenses. But hopefully you've noticed how much better the exterior of the Church looks with new trim and fresh paint, so money well spent.

Speaking of money, our largest fundraiser, The Holly Days Fair, is right around the corner. I look forward to this event every year as I think it gets us all in the holiday spirit. Opportunities to help are abundant: you can bake, sew, secure silent auction items, donate books, puzzles, games, items for the boutique, etc. And of course, you can also come and shop and eat! Hope to see everyone there!

Many blessings,

Kim Hendry, Moderator



Each week of November you will hear from a different person in the church about their money story, and why they give:

Sunday Speakers:

November 5: The Howison Family

November 12: Your Stewardship Committee

November 19: The Johnson Family

November 26: Jim Scherer. Consecration Sunday.

All Church Email Messages:

November 1: Paul Davis & Stewardship Committee

November 8: John & Eunice Wilcox

November 15: Jim & Kaye Smith

November 22: Craig Page

HOLLY DAYS FAIR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023

*** Volunteers Needed ***

Donations accepted through November 12

BOUTIQUE

Lightly worn clothing, jewelry and scarves! Please, no underwear, children's clothes or outdated items.

Place items in the coat room off Fellowship Hall.

FMI: egs8657@gmail.com

BOOK NOOK

Do you have books, games, puzzles, DVDs and CDs in storage? Donate them to the fair! Place boxed or bagged items in Choir Hallway.

FMI: Jim Smith 615.569.9731

ANTIQUUE TREASURES

Household and decorative glass, ceramics, linens, kitchen goods, small lamps, etc. No outdated computers, tech gear, fitness machines, or upholstered furniture.

FMI: eunice.w75@gmail.com

SILENT AUCTION

Can you donate a painting, meal, vacation home or an hour of services like legal, financial or a trade?

FMI: kathylizwhitmore@gmail.com
or pmcgehee4@gmail.com

LOBSTER STEW AND KIDS' CORNER WITH SANTA

Co-Chairs: Steve Hendry: stevrunn@gmail.com
and Jess Collins: jcollins10@une.edu

Wreath Workshop

November 12, 12pm - 3pm in Beinema Hall

This is a great intergenerational event. Come chat with a friend while decorating wreaths, no experience necessary. If you have wire cutters please bring them.

See you there- Anne Coleman & Kaye Smith

MINISTRY OF

Music



I am SOOOO excited!

On Sunday, November 5, the Chancel will be full of our wonderful musicians – Pop-up Choir, 4 bell ringers, some children – coming together to sing John Rutter’s beautiful “Look at the World.”

You will be surrounded by worshipful sound, if you get out of your PJ’s and come and join us in person!

It’s just not quite the same online . . .

I am SOOOO excited!

Beth Stouder, Lydia Hoffman and I will be singing with our kids at 11:00 AM, starting on Sunday, November 12. We have a great Christmas song to perform on Sunday, December 10.

I am SOOOO excited!

Wendy and Ted Hagarty, trumpet & clarinet will return to play for us in Sunday worship on December 17.

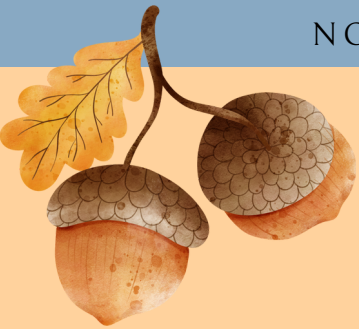
I am SOOOO excited!

Christmas Eve will feature our Christmas Choir; Mary Carol Kennedy, flute and Betsy Hooper, violin.

If you want to make a short-term commitment to sing during the Christmas season, join us for rehearsals on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, starting November 29 or whenever you can jump in.

What can I say: making music for Jesus just gets me excited!

Your Minister of Music,
Jan Stover



COMMUNITY SUPPER



Due to the tragic events in Lewiston, the Community Supper put on by Falmouth's churches and faith communities was cancelled for 2023.

The importance of community was not totally lost, however, in that leading up to the event 188 people had volunteered to work together and provide and/or cook turkeys and squash and apple crisp, wait on tables, roll out the rolls, dish out the dessert, and clean up the kitchen, among other jobs.

In addition, many families fostered community by inviting neighbors over to eat together and share hope. In several cases the families had not even met their neighbors! At the last minute St. Mary's even changed the menu for their free Friday "Souper Supper" and instead served Community Supper food, including turkey, gravy, cranberry sauce, and peas.

Those wishing to contribute to the ongoing efforts of the Falmouth Food Pantry (the beneficiary of Community Supper free-will donations) may give monetary gifts in three ways:

Venmo: @FalmouthFoodPantry2

PayPal: <https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/1807575>

Mail: Send checks made out to "Falmouth Food Pantry" to Falmouth Town Hall, 271 Falmouth Road, Falmouth, ME 04105

Thank you very much!





Angel Tree Gifts Due December 10

Once again generous church members have said they wanted to bring smiles to many young faces on Christmas Day. Our Angel Tree gifts will meet the needs of children identified by the Falmouth Food Pantry.

After November 15, please choose your gift on a website that will be listed in the weekly All Church e-mail messages on Wednesdays.

We encourage all gifts to be returned to the church no later than Sunday, December 10. Please wrap and label each gift.

The recipients are deeply grateful, and each year the families are very appreciative of our congregation for the thoughtful and generous response to the children's needs and wishes at the holiday season. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Lightbody. Thank you very much!



Maine Needs



New or Gently Used Items Needed! Please wash items before donating, as the people who receive these frequently do not have easy access to do laundry. Items may be left in the Mission Bin inside the church. Thank you!

ITEMS IN HIGH DEMAND:

SCHOOL CLOTHES: ALL SIZES

SNEAKERS

BACKPACKS



Loaves of Love



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 4 and December 2.

Loaves of Love is a community effort. Please consider donating four hours of your time on a Saturday for this mission. The aromas are wonderful, and the bountiful fruits of our labor speak for themselves.

Please contact Alyce Graves if you would like to join in the fun!

MINISTRY OF

Missions



What is a lemming's favorite granola bar?

A CLIF BAR

A raisin, a peanut, and an oat sat down and ordered a drink

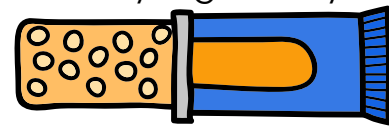
THE BARTENDER SAID, "WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS, A GRANOLA BAR?"

What did the granola bar say when it needed to wake up the children in the morning?

"RAISIN AND SHINE!"

Our church will be collecting GRANOLA BARS for the Food Pantry during November, December, January, and February. If you would like, please put boxes of GRANOLA BARS into the collection bin in Fellowship Hall, and they will be given to grateful Food Pantry families.

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 very much for your continuing support!



MINISTRY OF

Community Life

Women's Spiritual Book Group

Our next two meetings that will be held in the Grant Room at Noon are:

November 1- The Power of Meaning by Emily Esfahani Smith

December 6- Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance by Robert M. Pirsig

We hope you will join our thoughtful and inclusive reading group whenever your schedule, or interest in a particular book, allows.



Ushers don't just pass the plates. Our Ushers welcome people to the church on Sundays, set the tone for worship and collect the offering, and keep an eye out for anyone who may need special assistance. Sound familiar? This is what we do when we host people in our own homes.

MINISTRY OF
Worship & Covenant

STAND-BY USHERS: If you would like to usher but can't predict when you can attend worship, be a STAND-BY USHER. The Ministry of Worship and Covenant would like a list of people we can call on to usher when needed. All you need to do is sign up on the sheet on the Ministry of Worship and Covenant bulletin board and attend an Usher Training with Pastor Amelia. Watch for an announcement about the next training.

MINISTRY OF

Christian Education



Dear Falmouth Congregational Church UCC,

This Fall, the children of FCC have been hard at work forming community at Kids' Church! Our theme of compassion has encouraged friends to act with an open heart and mind, asking big and brave questions such as, "What do we do if our friends are not getting along?" and "Is it okay to feel nervous at school?" and even, "Did the apostle Paul go to THIS church?" All the questions are welcome! We are practicing becoming kind and compassionate small humans who know that this church is a place where they can and should bring all of their questions, all of their worries, and all of their excitement, knowing they will always be received with compassion and with love.



Making and sharing friendship bracelets



Our community art!



Creating with compassion



Trusting in our friends, leading one another

CLASSROOM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you are interested in being a classroom volunteer during Kids' Church, please sign-up ASAP. We love our volunteers, and love having new faces!

email Lydia with questions or to sign-up!



Lydia Hoffman
 Minister of Children and Families
lydia@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org

Youth Ministry

This month, our youth group gathered to learn about All Saints' Day and the history of Halloween! We played some trivia, and we watched Pixar's CoCo at Foreside Community Church! We ended the night with many rounds of sardines, a youth group classic.

Youth group is open to anyone in grades 5-8. Next month, we will meet on November 26. Email Lydia to sign up!
Lydia@falmouthcongrgationalchurch.org

Sign up for
Youth Group by
clicking or
scanning here!



Qualified Charitable Distributions

Several years ago I was asked to speak in church regarding what is called a QCD, or a Qualified Charitable Distribution. Since it has been a while, I thought it might be good to go through some of the key points to doing this.

1. Are you at least 70 ½ and taking out money from your IRA's, for required minimum distributions (RMD's)?
2. Are you donating to the Church?
3. If the answers to 1 & 2 are yes, then you can do it more tax efficiently.
4. If you have the money sent directly from your IRA to the Church it is more tax efficient.
5. It still counts as part of your RMD, but any money sent directly to the charity is not taxable to you.

Because I like easy math, assume that you normally give the church \$5,000 annually. If you do that directly from your IRA to the church, you get credit for the RMD, but you pay no taxes on that amount. So, if your tax bracket is 12% Federal and 8% state tax bracket, you have saved \$600 in Federal taxes and \$400 in state taxes. So, you've saved \$1,000 personally, but the church has still netted the \$5,000. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to discuss it further. Larry Perry

We Lift up Prayers for...



- Ollie McNeil as he comes home after a stay at Barbara Bush for an illness and his parents and family. Cards to Ollie: 158 Deepwood Drive Portland, ME 04103
- Tom & Jane Stegemann who are grateful for the birth of their healthy grandchild. Lydia Stegemann and husband, Jake, are the joyful parents of Annie Jane Strong born on October 27, weighing 5 lbs. 12 oz. Cards: 3 Windward Ln, Scarborough, ME 04074.
- Jim Poppell who died October 25 at Gosnell House. Cards of support to Julia and her family: 20 Blueberry Ln. L112 Falmouth, ME 04105
- Joan Jensen's son who had another seizure this past week after a series of strokes and is still at Maine Medical. Cards to Joan: Ashton Gardens 830 Ocean Ave. Apt. 217 Portland, ME 04103
- Elise Coleman as she continues to recover from her car accident.
- LauriAnn Moran who has an aneurysm in her brain. She is waiting for results from a procedure last Friday. Cards of support: 81 Deepwood Dr. Portland Maine 04103.
- Forrest Stephens who has VSD (a hole between two ventricles in his heart) and will need to have surgery in 4-6 months. Prayers of support for Jenni, James, and big brother William as they prepare to travel to Boston for the operation. Cards: 24 Wildwood Drive Brunswick, ME 04011
- Randy Boardway's father, Paul, who is fighting liver cancer.
- Cathy and Ken Bowden: Cathy's aunt died this week and she continues to care for her parents who are in hospice care. Cards of love and perseverance: 9 Ashwood Lane Falmouth, ME 04105
- The family and friends of Michael Simari, especially his mother, Janice Siegle. Cards of Condolence: Dr. And Mrs. John Siegle, 30 Pride Farm Rd., Falmouth, ME 04105.
- Betty Shively who celebrated her 101st birthday in July -making her the most senior resident in Falmouth! She was honored with the Boston Cane on October 12. Cards of congratulations: 32 Blueberry Ln. #230 Falmouth House Falmouth, ME 04105
- Jim Scherer and his sister as they support their dad in hospice. Cards to Jim: 77 Babbidge Rd. Falmouth, ME 04105
- Janie Anderson, who is receiving love and care from her husband, Larry, as she lives within hospice care. Cards: 44714 Audubon Square Apt. 105 Ashburn, VA 20147
- Joan Kaijala's dad (Theo and Kai's grandfather), Wesley.
- Sally Emery who is cared for in her home. Prayers and cards of encouragement: P.O. Box 102, Gray, ME 04039.
- For the people of Lewiston, the families who lost their loved ones, and for the people still recovering in critical care.

Liturgists

- 5 - Caroline Pond
- 12 - Mark Horton
- 19 - Ann Sanborn
- 26 - Eunice Wilcox

Ushers

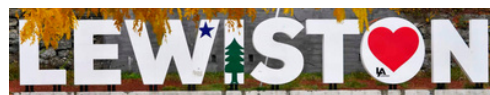
- 5- Chan Sinnett, Judy Crosby & Caroline Pond
- 12 - Mark & Peggy Horton
- 19 - Julia Poppell & Nancy Wulbrecht
- 26 -

November Birthdays

- Ken Bowden
- Jess Collins
- Fred Guippone
- Ethan Hendry
- Grace Howison
- Kailyn Walker



The Stegemann's Granddaughter, Annie



November 2023 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 9-9:30 AM Choir Warmup 9:30 AM Prayer & Tech Check 10 AM Worship In-person or Online 11:30 AM Small Group 7 PM Troop 93 Com. Mtg.	7 AM Men's Breakfast 11 AM Bible Study 4:15 PM Music Lessons 6 PM Fiddle-icious Committee 7 PM Cub Scout Com.	7 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM Family Restored	1 12 PM Women's Spiritual Book Group 2:30 PM Forever Club 6 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:45 PM Private Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 8:30 AM Ecumenical Clergy 6 PM Troop 93 Mtg. 6:30 PM Ministry of Missions	3 9 AM Hiking Club at Crescent Beach, Cape Elizabeth	4 Loaves of Love Baking
12 9-9:30 AM Choir Warmup 9:30 AM Prayer & Tech Check 10 AM Worship In-person or Online 11:30 AM Council of Ministries 12-3 PM Wreath Workshop	13 11 AM Bible Study 4:15 PM Music Lessons 5:30 PM Worship & Covenant	14 10 AM Bible Study @ Oceanview 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM Family Restored 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	8 2:30 PM Forever Growing Club 6 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:45 PM Private Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	9 6 PM Troop 93 7 PM Finance meeting	10 9 AM Hiking Club at Pleasant Hill Preserve, Scarborough	11 Fall Cleanup
19 9-9:30 AM Choir Warmup 9:30 AM Prayer & Tech Check 10 AM Worship 11 AM Toddler Music Class 11 AM Men's Group	20 11 AM Bible Study 4:15 PM Music Lessons	21 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM Family Restored	22 6 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:45 PM Private Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	16 6 PM Troop 93 6:30 PM Falmouth Writer's Group	17 9 AM Hiking Club at Pine Point Beach, Scarborough	18  10 AM - 2 PM Holly Days Fair
26 9-9:30 AM Choir Warmup 9:30 AM Prayer & Tech Check 10 AM Worship In-person or Online 4 PM Youth Group	27 11 AM Bible Study 4:15 PM Music Lessons	28 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM Family Restored	29 2:30 PM Forever Growing Club 6 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:45 PM Private Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	30 6 PM Troop 93 Mtg.	Dec. 1 9 AM Hiking Club at Bear, Chipmunk & Moose Trail, Yarmouth	Dec. 2 Loaves of Love Baking
19 9-9:30 AM Choir Warmup 9:30 AM Prayer & Tech Check 10 AM Worship 11 AM Toddler Music Class 11 AM Men's Group	20 11 AM Bible Study 4:15 PM Music Lessons	21 11 AM Staff Mtg. 6 PM Family Restored	22 6 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:45 PM Private Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	23 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed 	24 9 AM Hiking Club at Hinckley Park, South Portland	25

New: Toddler Music Class Starting November 19!

Calling all parents with littles! Our very own Kristen Coleman Tripp will soon begin offering a second hour TODDLER MUSIC CLASS! Right here at FCC, during the 11-12pm hour of Kids' Church on the third Sunday of each month, Kristen will host a fun and easy toddler-centered music class, open to all littles hoping to make some music after church.

Come and make a joyful noise!
 Contact Kristen with questions:
davinci.experience@gmail.com

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
Lydia Hoffman, Minister of Children and Families
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