



From Reverend Amelia Edson:

Dear Church,

What is the difference between wanting more and having enough? After our basic needs are met, having “enough” is totally subjective — it depends entirely on our perspective.

Most of us in this community have enough to eat, clean clothes to wear, shelter, and access to basic medical care. Many of us have vehicles, guest bedrooms, even money for dining out or going on vacations: We have luxuries that people in other parts of the world — even in other parts of our country — can only dream of.

Yet it is so easy to live our lives in a climate of scarcity. We compare ourselves to our neighbors. We are influenced by advertisements and external pressures that whisper that we need more.

The Scriptures invite us into another way of living.

Many early Christian communities relinquished all personal possessions and lived communally, sharing everything in common and relying on the goodness of God.

In the modern day, as we travel together through a very difficult year, we are surrounded by uncertainty. We worry about whether we have enough, whether we are enough, whether there will be enough to go around.

This October we will focus on the Christian Art of Abundance. We will travel with Scripture and reorient

ourselves around the notion of what it means to have enough. We will explore practices, including Stewardship Giving and prayer, that have helped Christians practice abundance across the centuries.

We will work to recalibrate our hearts towards gratefulness and faithfulness, drawing closer to the peace and true plenty that Christ calls us to.

-Pastor Amelia, pastoramelia@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org



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OCTOBER

Pastoral Letter on Grief

September 23, 2020

Dear Church,

In May I wrote you a letter the week our nation reached a terrible milestone: 100,000 deaths from the COVID-19 pandemic. This week, just 4 months later, that number has reached 200,000.

I am tired, and angry, and often find myself in a state of disbelief that this is still happening, that there still is no end in sight. I grieve for those we have lost here in Falmouth, and my mind boggles at the sheer number of deaths, the amount of loss, that we are experiencing as a nation and world.

In a world that seems to be tottering on the edge of chaos and despair, I find myself ravenous for good news. I am hungry to remember hope.

In times like this I thank God for church community. When the world seems dark, I can talk to members of the church and hear about how you are taking care of each other, and yourselves. From folks volunteering at the Food Pantry, helping to homeschool grandchildren, caring for elderly relatives, doting over pets and creating beauty through sewing, music, gardening.... Talking with you all never fails to lift my spirits.

This past Sunday, being in-person with some for worship in the Sanctuary, and knowing others could experience praising God with us from home, felt wonderful. Simple pleasures: watching the leaves start to turn, planning for next year's garden, delighting in Julian's smiles and sounds, rediscovering the power of a good novel, recommitting myself to prayer practices—these are all sources of daily happiness.

This hopefulness is the reality I choose to focus on, for there is goodness all around us. Grounded in that knowledge I can go forward without being paralyzed by fear and despair. I can engage the overwhelming reality of the news and the grief, knowing that that is not the only truth around me.

Barbara Brown Taylor has said that one does not have to die, to experience the truth of the resurrection. One must only have laid on the dirt floor basement of one's heart, thinking that there is no way forward, and seen a sliver of light, a movement of the stone that had trapped you, a way to live again. As we keep on moving, through this grieving and hurting world, may we look for the places where light is coming through, and strength is being sent—for that is where God is.

I am grateful to be walking through this together, bolstered on all sides by our good and loving God.

In Christ,
Pastor Amelia



Council Corner

Dear Congregation,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying these last few weeks of summer. I just about froze driving to the gym yesterday morning. I love fall but I am not ready for the cooler temperatures!



We are all very excited to welcome Pastor Amelia back from her parental leave. I had the opportunity to meet Julian a few weeks ago (socially distanced of course) and she is just adorable. I look forward to watching her grow in the years to come. It was wonderful to see Pastor Amelia back in the pulpit a few weeks ago and we are very excited to welcome back in-person congregants very soon. Actually as I write this on September 16th, we will welcome those who feel comfortable back to the church for in-person service on Sunday, September 20th.

A few updates from the Council:

- We decided not to move forward with the solar project at this time. As I have mentioned previously the roof would require substantial investment to hold the solar array and given the uncertain times, we do not feel comfortable moving ahead. Once the pandemic is over, we can reassess.
- We have hired an outside accountant, Doug Coyle, to help us maintain our finances. We feel having a third party doing this work is the right thing for our church and meets our fiduciary responsibility.
- We are applying for forgiveness on our PPP loan. Fingers crossed it is approved.
- We welcomed Jim Parr to the Council. He filled a previously vacated seat. We have one additional vacancy if anyone is interested. Please let me know.
- The Holly Days Fair will not happen as normal due to the pandemic. However, we are planning a modified virtual event that will include a virtual silent auction and pre-order sales of wreaths, baked goods and other items, which will be picked-up curbside. More details to follow.

I wish you all peace, happiness, and most of all, patience as we all find our way through this challenging time. Stay safe and healthy!

~ Kim Hendry, Moderator

shendry001@maine.rr.com

In-Person Worship Update:

At this time, Maine requires that no more than 50 people attend a single gathering at one time. You are asked to sign up each time you plan to attend worship at the church. The sign-up process is intended to accommodate 50 attendees for in-church worship. Once that number is reached, any others will be encouraged to attend our virtual worship experience on Facebook Live instead.

- To attend worship: Sign up on our website: www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org/sign-up-for-worship. This is only available Monday morning through Thursday, 2:00 PM
- Those unable to use online sign-up can call the church office at 207-878-3413 or email the Office Manager: Kat at officemanager@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org.

Announcements



Holly Days Fair 2020

Due to COVID-19, the annual church fair will be different this November. An open community gathering will not be possible with the CDC guidelines and our church protocol.

We will definitely offer beautiful wreaths for preorder in November, Prices to follow.

We will potentially offer holiday centerpieces, candy, lobster stew, pies, some hand-crafts etc. We would like to keep the offerings limited for simple ordering. All items would be picked up curbside at church on one day or maybe two days in November (to be decided).

We will need help with sales and distribution on the selected date(s) and some people willing to take orders by phone or email. If you are willing to help please contact either Sarah Davis (sadavis40@gmail.com) or Kathie Sinnett (kathie.sinnett@gmail.com).

New Email Addresses!

We have signed up as a non-profit on Gmail, but we will still be checking the old email addresses

Please update your address book:

Pastor Amelia	pastoramelia@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org
Katharina Roderick	officemanager@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org
Laura Rosenberg	fcc.ucc.desk@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org
Matthew Strobel	sexton@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org
Music Committee	music@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org

Coffee Sales

We will be resuming sales of whole bean coffee beginning next week. Initially we will only be doing special orders so it would be helpful to look on the Coffee By Design website to see what's currently available. Some blends are proprietary (specific restaurants etc) and thus unavailable for the church to purchase wholesale. Please have orders in Wednesday morning at the latest so CBD can deliver on Friday. Orders can be emailed to Matthew at mstrobel66@yahoo.com. Pick-up can be arranged via email or text @207-233-5034. At this time coffee beverages are not available but stay tuned.



Announcements

Kid's Church

Christian ED is excited to announce the return of Sunday school on Sunday October 4th!!! We will be focusing on the liturgical calendar this school year. The children will learn about the season of the church and make crafts to decorate the church with the symbols and colors related to the season. We will be staying away from certain activities during these uncertain times, like cooking or singing in close quarters. We are still determined to deliver a fun and engaging program that will inspire the children to continue their faith journey.



From Our Faith Nurse, Carol Kauffman

As your Faith Community Nurse let me remind you that we are on the threshold of flu season.

We are amidst a worldwide pandemic! Don't complicate matters. Most of us can protect ourselves from the ravages of the flu by getting the flu shot NOW! If it's to be; it's up to you! Keep in mind it takes two weeks to develop immunity after you get the vaccine.

For now, stay well and stay safe! See you in November!

Carol I. Kauffman MSN,RN

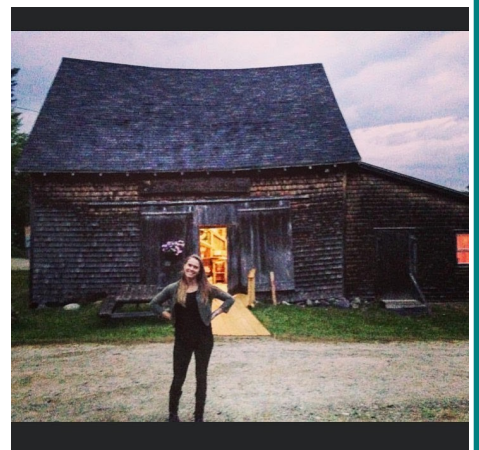
Faith Community Nurse



October Coffee House: Friday, October 9th, 6:30PM

Caroline Cotter is a traveling songwriter whose songs bridge the English folk music tradition with a contemporary Americana perspective. She has spent the last 5 years performing around the US and Europe; and now grounded by the pandemic, is hunkered down in Maine until further notice. She has released two full length albums and is currently working on a third.

With a captivating soprano voice and award winning songwriting, Caroline Cotter's songs take listeners all over the world and into the depths of the human heart. Since her debut album, "Dreaming as I Do", released and reached #5 on the Folk DJ Charts in 2015, Caroline has performed over 800 shows in 45 states and 13 countries. She is currently touring to support her second major release, "Home on The River".



Ministry of Community Life

Hello again from the MCL folks. We trust you all had a good summer and are ready to get busy again this fall. I want to thank Jane Stegemann and Judy Nilsen for assisting me in getting the weekly church email news out to those of you without email via snail mail. It is vital for us all at FCC UCC to stay CONNECTED. Let's take that concept forward. I want to share a way that you can stay CONNECTED with the Town of Falmouth. That is if you live in our town; and that's ok too. I happen to call Westbrook my second home town. The picture here shows the drop of box where you can place your absentee ballot instead of going inside town hall or using the US mail.

Where did I get that picture? It appeared in *The Falmouth Focus* in mid-September. This publication has been going since mid-2019. It is a digital newsletter, but you can request to have it mailed to you by calling the town office or you can pick it up in one of the stores such as *Hannaford's* or sometimes there are copies in Fellowship Hall. This newsletter is packed with happenings of the Town Council, road construction updates and COVID protocols. It is the town's effort to keep its citizens abreast of what is going on. If you have a computer, sign up on the town's website to receive the newsletter twice a month, year round. ~Carol Kauffman



Our Next MCL Meeting is October 7th at 2:00PM at Jane Stegemann's home.

Upcoming Called To Care Meetings:

Christmas card writing:

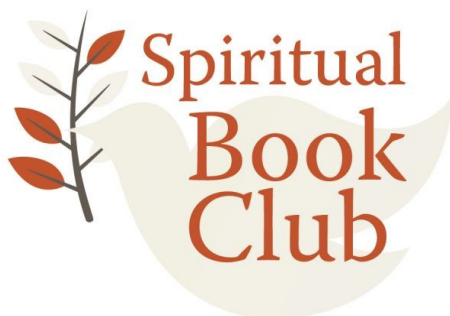
Wednesday, December 2nd (with December 9th snow date)

Easter card writing in preparation for Easter on April 4th, 2021:

Wednesday, March 10th (with March 17th snow date)

Women's Spiritual Book Group

On Wednesday, October 7th at Noon, we are going to be discussing a book called *Stirring the Angels that Dwell Within*. Author Priscilla Gray Platt will actually be joining our Zoom meeting to lead our discussion.



This book is not available for purchase anywhere, but Eunice Wilcox may have loaner copies available: jwilcox754@aol.com

Definitely no underlining or dog-ears - these are some of the last remaining copies. Please email the office for the zoom link:

Officemanager@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org.

Ministry of Missions

SCHOOL KITS

Thanks to the help of so many of you, this summer 60 (!!) school kits were taken to the Depot at the Gorham Congregational Church to be shipped to Church World Service, which ships them to countries all over the world. Don't forget that our church is still collecting supplies for school kits to send next spring! Please put any donations in the large bin that is outside the door to Fellowship Hall.

We need

- 70-count bound notebooks
- 12" rulers
- Hand-held pencil sharpeners
- Large erasers
- Boxes of 24 crayons
- Blunt scissors



Thank you for thinking ahead!

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

This year September 27 has been chosen as our Neighbors-in-Need dedication Sunday. Donations received in the pew envelopes will be forwarded to this specific mission. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States including the Council for American Indian Ministry. Please consider making a contribution to this far-reaching ministry of the UCC by sending a check to "Falmouth Congregational Church" with "Neighbors in Need" mentioned in the memo line.

The Ministry of Missions has set a goal of being a "5 for 5 Church." This means that our congregation stands with many other Maine churches as a true advocate of selected national and worldwide United Church of Christ missions. Because our church contributes to all four special mission offerings in the UCC (One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and The Christmas Fund) and also gives to Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support, we are a **5 for 5 church**.

FALMOUTH FOOD PANTRY

It is heartwarming to see how our community has come together to help each other during this terribly sad pandemic. During the current coronavirus crisis, we are not working out of our physical space at the Food Pantry, but we are continuing to serve families with home deliveries and a central distribution location in front of the Town Hall. If you have questions or know someone with an urgent need, please call Nancy Lightbody at 781-4670. Thank you for your help.

Stewardship & Finance Ministry

Finance Ministry Report

First of all, the Finance Ministry would like to thank all of you for your generous contributions to the church during the last 6 months. With the PPP loan that we received at the end of April, and contributions from our church community, we have been able to pay all our bills and keep up the maintenance of our church.

As we open the church doors this month, we face new challenges, but the ministry is meeting to address these issues. Financial planning is a big part of the ministry's responsibility, and last month the church hired an accountant to help the ministry with the monthly financial statements which are critical in this process.

The second big responsibility is our stewardship campaign in the fall that helps raise funds for the next year to support the ministries of the church. Pastor Amelia has written a letter in the Congregator touching on this campaign, and we will be sending out a stewardship letter next week with more information on our finances and the campaign.

As we all look forward to going back to before Covid, we are always reminded of what is important in our daily lives. The good news is we are in this together as a church family, and as a ministry we will continue to support the ministries so we can continue to worship, and give thanks for the gifts we have received from God.

Ministry of Finance

Paul Davis Chair

What Does Your Pledge Money Support?

Provide Life-Changing Worship

Your pledge helps us continue to make worship meaningful, beautiful, and accessible, supporting things like tuning the organ, CDC-compliant cleaning, and technology to allow us to livestream music into the Sanctuary.

Nurture Spiritual Development

Planned offerings include a small group Bible Study, a group to support and enrich parents of young children, and a group focused on prayer practices.

Maintain Our Building

There are several pressing maintenance issues that must be fixed in order for us to keep stewarding our building for the future.

Care for Our Neighbors

FCC gives back to our community in a variety of ways, from supporting the Falmouth Food Bank, providing housing for unhoused families through Family Promise, and helping Asylum Seekers, to organizing to buy our elders groceries and sending cards to those going through the pandemic alone. .

Support Our Staff

We are graced with a hardworking, resilient, committed staff. This year has brought unanticipated challenges, with staff suddenly working from home, learning new technologies, and learning to navigate best practices around CDC regulations. Your pledge allows us to compensate them fairly for their hard work and retain our excellent team.



We lift in prayer ...

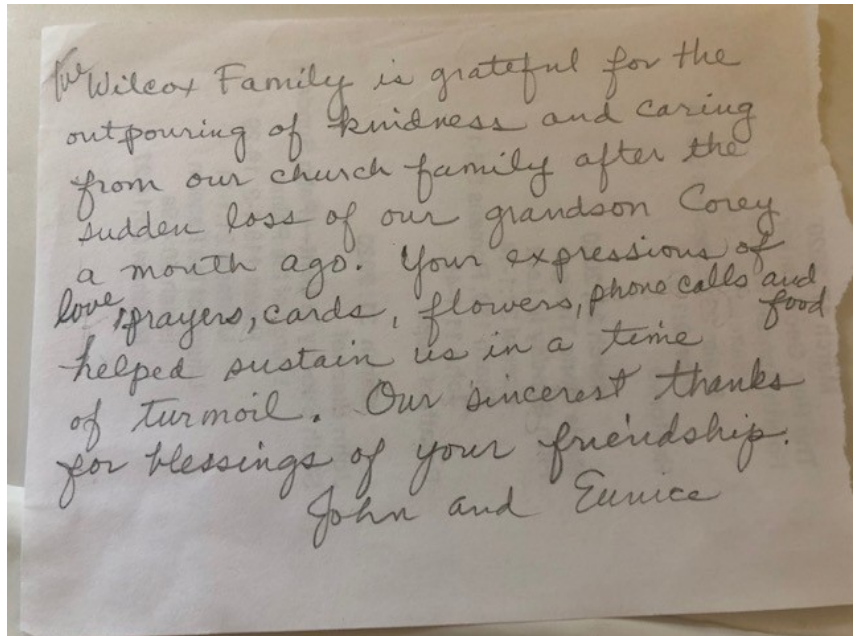
- The Kaluba Family
- The Wilcox Family
- Maureen Grubb
- Ginny Hamilton
- Myron Krueger
- Bill Graves
- Doris Krueger
- Norm O'Brien
- John Graustein
- Val Gray

Church Family News



Great thanks go to all our FCC community for being so helpful and kind as I navigated the journey of Pastoral Care with you this summer. It has truly been

an honor to be part of your lives as we co-created with God. As I wrote emails, I counted on grammatical help from Sarah Davis, for which I am very grateful. Thank you to Cathy Bowden for spending hours with me on the phone helping me learn how to create and manage a zoom account! Thank you! Jane Hessemer Stegemann



The November Congregator deadline is Thursday, October 15, 2020

Please submit your articles, announcements, news items, pictures, etc. to: officemanager@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org

*Save the Date:
Remembrance Sunday is November 1st*

To find out what's happening at Falmouth Congregational Church:

1. Visit the website: falmouthcongregationalchurch.org
2. Follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/falmouth.ucc/>
3. Follow us on Instagram: Falmouth Church UCC @falmouth.ucc



- | | | | |
|---|------------|----|-------------|
| 1 | Maureen G. | 9 | Laurie D. |
| 2 | Greg S. | 15 | Jillaine G. |
| 2 | Lydia S. | 15 | Morgan A. |
| 6 | Donald O. | 20 | Diane M. |
| | | 20 | Luke V. |
| | | 21 | Colby H. |
| | | 25 | Matthew S. |
| | | 29 | Andy J. |
| | | 29 | Arran H. W. |
| | | 30 | Rae F. |

October 2020 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 8:30 AM Ecumenical Clergy Mtg 3:30 PM Girls on the Run 6:30 PM Ministry of Mis- sions	2 9 AM Food Pantry Open
4 Neighbors in Need Offering Due 10 AM Worship & Kids' Church 2 PM Private Funeral	5 12 Noon Bible Study Group 7 PM Ministry of Worship & Cove- nant	6 11:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:30 PM Girls on the Run	7 12 Noon Women's Spiritual Book Club 2 PM Ministry of Community Life	8 3:30 PM Girls on the Run	9 6:30 PM Coffee House Music by: "Caroline Cotter"
11 10 AM Worship & Kids' Church 11:30 AM Council of Ministries	12 COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVED Office Closed	13 11:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:30 PM Girls on the Run	14	15 November Congregator Deadline 3:30 PM Girls on the Run	16 9 AM Food Pantry Open
18 10 AM Worship & Kids' Church:	19 Pastor Amelia	20 Police Chaplaincy Training ->	21	22 3:30 PM Girls on the Run 4:30 PM Harvest Supper	23
25 10 AM Worship & Kids' Church 11:30 AM Ministry of Edu.	26	27 11:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:30 PM Girls on the Run	28	29 3:30 PM Girls on the Run	30



**YOU ARE INVITED
TO FALMOUTH'S VIRTUAL COMMUNITY SUPPER "SHOW"!**

WHEN: OCTOBER 22, 2020, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

WHAT: A ONE-HOUR SHOW OF RESIDENTS' MUSIC, STORIES,
TOWN HISTORY, TEEN PERFORMANCES, ART, AND PHOTOS

HOW: Watch on the Internet or on the Town's Cable TV Channel 2

WHERE: In your own home!

WHAT TO EAT DURING THE SHOW: Your "take-out" from a Falmouth restaurant,
or your own home-cooking!

This year, because of the pandemic, Falmouth's churches and faith communities are hosting a different kind of Falmouth Community Supper:

-- We are partnering with Rivalries restaurant to deliver 200 specially made dinners by its Chef, free, to homebound Falmouth residents,

AND

--We invite you to buy your own take-out from any Falmouth restaurant (including Rivalries);

AND

--We invite you to watch, while eating supper at home, the 1-hour show about our Town with many performances by our local talent!

Hope you can join us on October 22!

If you have questions, please e-mail Nancy Lightbody at nancylightbody@hotmail.com. And if you would like to donate to the Falmouth Food Pantry, you can, by sending a check to the "Falmouth Food Pantry" at 271 Falmouth Road, Falmouth, ME 04105, or by an online PayPal payment at <https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/1807575>

Falmouth Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
267 Falmouth Road
Falmouth, ME 04105

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Office e-mail: Officemanager@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org
Web site: www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org



’ **God is Still Speaking!**

MINISTRIES

Kim Hendry
Chair, Council of Ministries

Kristen Coleman
Chair, Ministry of Christian Education

Rae Pierce &
Jane Stegemann
Ministry of Community Life

Eunice Wilcox
Ministry of Facilities

Steve Hendry
Chair, Ministry of Missions

Larry Perry & Jim Parr
Ministry of Worship & Covenant



CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Amelia Edson
Settled Pastor

Katharina Roderick
Office Manager, Newsletter Editor

Laura Rosenberg
Office Assistant

Matthew Strobel
Sexton

Doris Krueger
Minister of Music

Jane Stegemann
Minister of Visitation

Kristen Coleman
Christian Education

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Anne Coleman, **Vice Moderator**

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Pam Carroll, **Treasurer**

Gini Medford, **Financial Secretary**

Carol Kauffman MSN, RN, **Faith Community Nurse**