

THE CONGREGATOR

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A Letter From The Pastor

Dear Falmouth Congregational Church,

By most metrics this year has been a tough one. We have been in and out of COVID-related shutdowns, and many opportunities to gather have either been cancelled or infused with anxiety that we would never have imagined. I would be lying if I said I wasn't tired—I've never been so tired in my life. But I am also proud. I am proud to be the Pastor of this church. I am proud to be your Pastor. This year you have stepped up in extraordinary ways. Together we figured out how to do virtual worship and now each Sunday we worship three ways: in-person, online, and via phone. When many of our usual mission partners closed or changed their programs you figured out new ways to give back, partnering with individual Family Promise families, sending our donation flows to Maine Needs, and moving our Food Bank and Preble street collection bins outside to allow for contact-free generosity. When our families with young children told us they were exhausted, this community expanded our programs to 2 hours on Sunday— and saw our attendance double. In response to the growing number of babies in the church we have just reopened our church nursery.

From the Holly Days fair in the parking lot to the Easter Egg hunt under a tent you all have met every challenge head on.

Now we are praying that you will help us meet the next challenge: funding this ministry in 2022. Pledges of financial support provide over 85% 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. This is a group project and it 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. We encourage you to think of a tithe as giving 5% of income to the work of our church and 5% to the work of other charities. We see tithing as the goal in our practice of abundant generosity.

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I will be honest— in our household last year we tithed 2.5% of our combined pre-tax income to the Falmouth Congregational Church. We are praying and thinking about how to increase this amount this year while still being faithful to our other responsibilities as parents and new home owners. While we aren't yet up to the 5% that we would like to be giving, 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 this because I think sharing honestly about our own giving, including our struggles and journey, helps to break down the shame, secrecy, and general weirdness 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 to provide nourishment for the things that nurture us. For our family, that includes the Falmouth Congregational Church. If that is true for you, too, I hope that you will join us in pledging to the 2022 Stewardship Campaign.

Many Blessings,

Pastor Amelia, pastoramelia@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org



COUNCIL

Corner

A Message from our Moderator

Hi – I want to provide a quick update from the Special Meeting we held on Sunday, September 26th regarding the parsonage. We had around 35 people attend in-person and 4 on-line. We also received over 40 absentee ballots. We had a good discussion about the pros and cons of selling the parsonage. The final decision, based on a unanimous vote, was to sell the parsonage as-is, fully disclosing the lead contamination.

The next step for the Council is to choose a realtor. We have two to choose from. Once that is done, we will hopefully be able to move quickly to get the property listed. We will continue to keep the congregation updated on our progress. Hopefully the right buyer will come along sooner rather than later. Prayers for a quick sale!

Many blessings,

~ Kim Hendry, Moderator

khendry1972@gmail.com

[207-756-9343](tel:207-756-9343)





missions Community Supper: Cancelled

Since 2008, Falmouth’s religious community has hosted an annual town-wide Harvest Community Supper in the Falmouth Congregational Church’s Beinema Hall, providing good cheer and a free roast turkey dinner for Falmouth residents. Our FCC Council of Ministries initiated the plan and then reached out to the other churches in town as hosts and the Falmouth Food Pantry as the recipient of any donations. The annual Supper grew in numbers every year. In 2019, over 600 Falmouth guests were served dinner by over 250 volunteers from the churches, the Falmouth Food Pantry, Boy Scouts, Brownies, High School, Town and legislative leaders, and Food Pantry clients. The guests’ free-will donations to the Falmouth Food Pantry were a huge help to the Food Pantry’s annual budgets.

In 2020, however, the pandemic prevented an in-person Community Supper. Instead, the Falmouth community did what it could to provide dinners to people in their homes -- with the Boy Scouts delivering 200 roast turkey

dinners (made by Rivalries Falmouth, which also donated 200 desserts) to home-bound residents -- and the churches otherwise making an on-line community “show” of performances by Falmouth’s talented residents, for us to watch at home while eating our own dinners.

By October 2021, Falmouth’s religious community hoped the pandemic would be over and it could, once again, host an in-person Community Supper. Alas, this was not to be. The pandemic is still with us, and the 2021 Supper must be cancelled for everyone’s health and safety.

The churches will be considering whether, in the future, they will need to provide a new way for us in Falmouth to “break bread together.” Perhaps the Supper will become an outdoors event held during warmer weather, or will consist of smaller events and by reservation. We do not know yet, but stay tuned!

~Nancy Lightbody

SCHOOL KITS: WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

Back-to-school supplies are STILL on SALE!

We need only 19 of the following to complete the remaining school kits that we have on hand to send to Church World

Service in the spring:

- Blunt scissors (rounded tip, only)
- Hand-held pencil sharpeners
- 70-count bound notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose-leaf or filler paper



Pastor's Discretionary Fund

If you or someone you know has a financial need at this difficult time, please contact the Church office. There is limited funding in this account for just such a purpose.

MINISTRY OF

missions



The Food Pantry thanks all the generous people who donated granola bars during the summer. We wish we could thank you personally, but we don't know who you are. Just know that you **CHEERED** up many families!

Our church will be collecting **COLD CEREAL** for the Falmouth Food Pantry during October, November, and December. If you would like, please put boxes of **COLD CEREAL** into the collection bin outside Fellowship Hall, and they will be given to grateful Food Pantry families.

Thank you very much, and **CHEERIO!**



What is a Brit's favorite cereal?
Cheerios!

My daughter needed a U.S. history tutor, so I handed her some cereal and a scale: "Time to learn about **Chex** and balances!"

No one expected me to win the cereal eating competition, but I've got some **TRIX** up my sleeve.

What do you call someone who eats a lot of cereal? A **CEREAL** killer.

The Falmouth Food Pantry would not be able to do what it currently does without the support of so many members of our community. During the pandemic, the Food Pantry has been extremely grateful for donations of Falmouth-grown fresh produce and eggs, volunteers who pack boxes of food, volunteers who deliver the boxes to families who are not able to get out of their homes, and monetary gifts that help purchase supplies. In addition, the Food Pantry is able to get food free or at drastically reduced prices from Good Shepherd Food Bank, Wayside Food Rescue, and Cultivating Community.

If you have questions or know someone with an urgent need, please call Nancy Lightbody at 781-4670. Thank you for your continuing support.



A few years ago, Dolores Vail brought to our attention that **Portland's Preble Street Resource Center**, which serves the homeless population, was in need of white socks. People were extremely generous, and we were able to donate many pairs of socks. Because the Preble Street Day Center is closed, people do not have access to its laundry facilities. While there continues to be a need for socks, **there is a more immediate need for underwear.**

The following styles and sizes are most needed at this time:

Men: Boxers are preferred, mainly in small and medium sizes, although larger sizes would be welcomed too.

Women: Anything from small sizes up to size 11 or 12 would be great; in various styles Outside Fellowship Hall next to the box for the Food Pantry there is a tub where you may drop off any donations. Thank you in advance, as I know we can work together to meet this need in the community. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Perry at lperry1@maine.rr.com or call 207-797-2928.





October 3rd: Special Mission Offering

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" (267 Falmouth Road, Falmouth, ME 04105) with "Neighbors in Need" mentioned in the memo line. Dedication Day is on Sunday, October 3, 2021.

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.

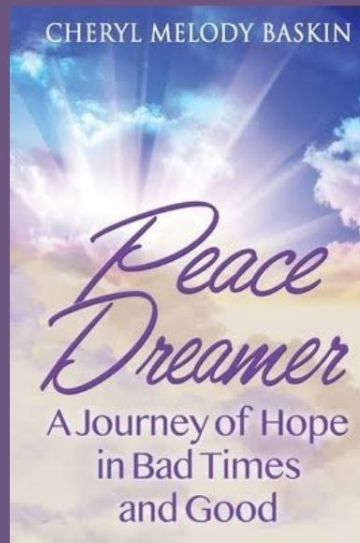


MINISTRY OF *community life*



To those who may be joining us for the first time, please email Cathy Bowden at cathybbowden@gmail.com or call 776-5543. We'd love to have you join us!

Women's Spiritual Book Group



October's read is: "Peace Dreamer: A Journey of Hope in Bad Times and Good" by Cheryl Melody Baskin. This bold, inspiring book shares the message that peace is possible, that humanity can be more tolerant, and that we can overcome our fears and embrace others in an inclusive culture. Join us in the parlor or on zoom at 12noon on Wednesday, October 6th.

MINISTRY OF
community life

Small Group Opportunities

The Bible Study Group at Falmouth Church is resuming in full form every Monday at noon via Zoom. A better understanding of the Bible remains our primary goal, however the spin-off from that is coming together as friends and biblical colleagues. These personal friendships have become a key to our enjoyment and learning the biblical text. If you want to join or try it out, then please contact the church office or Virginia Eddy for the Zoom invite.

Falmouth Congregational Church

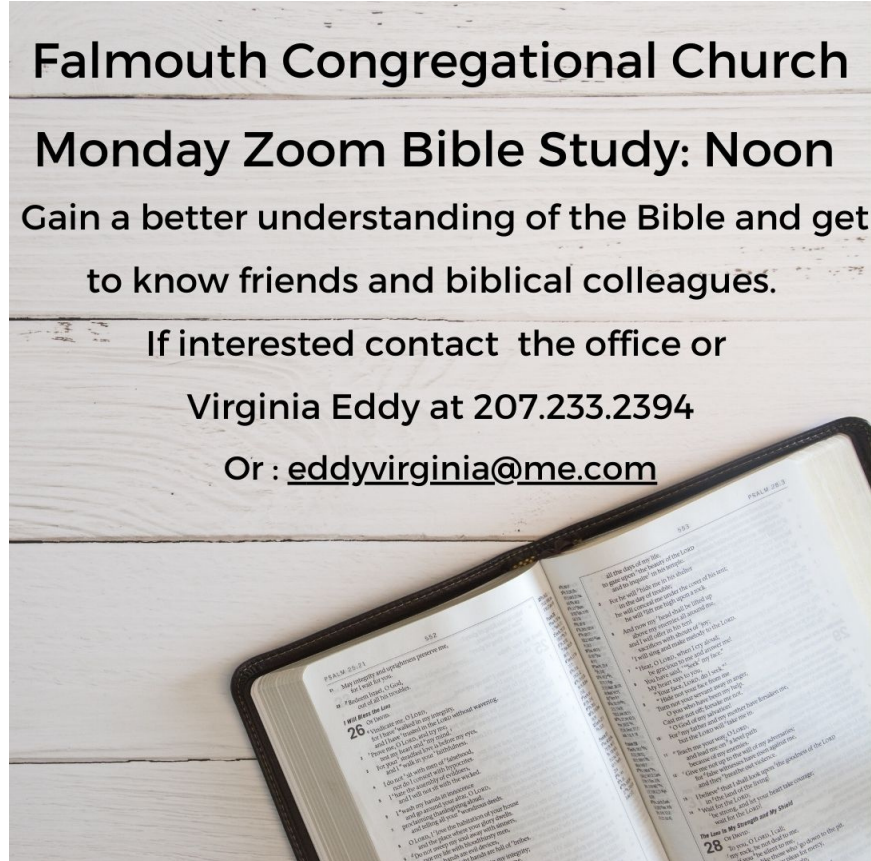
Monday Zoom Bible Study: Noon

Gain a better understanding of the Bible and get to know friends and biblical colleagues.

If interested contact the office or

Virginia Eddy at 207.233.2394

Or : eddyvirginia@me.com




Falmouth Congregational Church
Bicycle Club



Our Falmouth Church Bicycle Club's "maiden voyage" took place on Friday September 10. Six of us gathered at South Windham at 11 a.m. The group included Eunice and John Wilcox, Paul Wilcox (John's brother), David Wilcock (friend at Oceanview), Jack Davis and Jim Parr. We traveled the Sebago to the Sea trail for about 5 miles to small Otter Pond and then rested and enjoyed lunch and conversation at the one of the picnic tables. From there we went to Orchard Ridge Farm on Rte. 237 where we bought their famous whoopie pies (imported from Oxford!) and then visited the farm animals.

Then on to Gambo Preserve on the Presumpscot River, where we explored the old and long abandoned Oriental Gunpowder Mill (active from 1824-1904), important for supplying gun powder to the Union Troops in the Civil War.

After a brief rain delay at the old mill, we finished our very enjoyable outing back to South Windham. Our next bicycle outing may take us to a section of the Eastern Trail, from Scarborough to Saco. Date TBA. If interested, watch for the next update in the Wednesday church newsletter or contact Jim Parr: (207) 415-8444

MINISTRY OF
community life
Upcoming Dates:

Our Minister of Visitation, Jane Stegemann will be out of the office the following dates this month: October 3-October 9th

The Ministry of Worship and Covenant will meet in person on Monday, October 4th in Fellowship Hall to write invitations for Remembrance Sunday.

Ministry of Community Life Welcomes All to our Meet and Greet on Wednesday, Oct. 13th 10am - 12noon in the Grant Room

November 7th: Remembrance Sunday



MINISTRY OF
Worship & Covenant

Most of what is occupying MWC at this time is the intersection of the need to protect each other from the persistently clever COVID virus, and the need for communal, in-person worship and direct fellowship. It is particularly important to get this balance right given that we have a number of new members, and their children. We want to welcome them safely, and warmly into the FCC community of believers.

Most of MWC's discussions center around good ideas - e.g. new member breakfasts, rotating dinners, new groups like the bicycling group and the after work spiritual practices group - and safe worship practices. And then we carefully compared our wish list to the church calendar through the end of the calendar year. We also discussed some of the practical aspects of the web streaming and phonecasting outreaches. And we reviewed the ongoing work of the Music Committee to continue to leverage the immense talent and enthusiasm of our Music Minister, Doris, the choir, and any members willing to contribute their talent as needed.

Relevant to all of this, in her leadership role, Rev. Amelia is preaching a series of sermons on "Christianity in the Time of COVID." What a wonderful time to have the Lord our God in our corner during such challenges through His work within and among His people!

~Virginia Eddy
eddyvirginia@me.com



MINISTRY OF
Christian education



Church School resumes Sunday, October 3rd.
Please click this link to register your child.

This fall we will continue to offer 2 hours of church school with Ms. Kristen from 10am to 12 noon. Parents may also pickup after worship ~ 11 am. As always, our programs are COVID compliant: participants will be masked and distancing and good hand hygiene is taught.

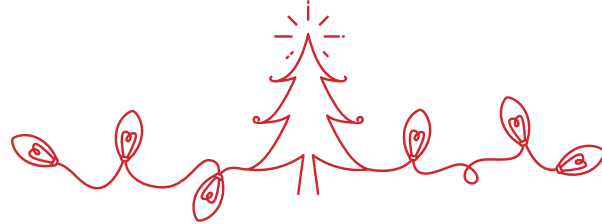
We will start fresh with a tactile and exciting unit surrounding the geography of the areas that our bible stories take place. We will be creating dioramas and maps of the areas, as well as going on fun imaginative journeys, transforming our church into an ancient biblical scene. We will be focusing on this theme until we transition into the Christmas story.

The nursery is open and we have hired a new nursery caregiver, Anna Dube. Parents may drop off children under 4 at 9:30 am with pickup after church.

The Coffeehouse is taking a short break but will resume soon. We are still asking for volunteers to help book bands and make coffee!



Holly Days Fair November 20, 2021



Please mark your calendars for the Holly Days Fair on November 20. While we aren't quite back to "normal", we are going to have an outdoor holiday extravaganza. You'll be able to come and buy all of your favorite things, i.e. pies, cookies, lobster stew, handcrafts, boutique items, gift bags and can't forget, wreaths and maybe a few surprises.

What to expect: Lots of fun and maybe more fun if you help.

What we need:

- Pie / Bread / Baked Good makers
- Candy makers – fudge, needhams, brittle...you name it.
- Cookies – We love holiday cookies but no one says no to a chocolate chip cookie!
- Hand crafts – calling all wonderful and talented knitters...please make scarfs, mittens, hats and baby items.

Who to Contact to Contribute:

- Wreaths – Ann Coleman
- Lobster Stew – Paul Davis
- Boutique – Beth Stouder / Molly Mason
- Cookies – Sue Perry
- Breads/Pies – Maureen Grubb / Jeaneen Coleman
- Hand crafts – Judy Crosby
- Candy – Kathleen Henderson
- Filled Gift Bags – Kathy Whitmore / Beth Stouder



Want to Help?

Contact Steve Hendry, the Holly Days Fair Chair at: Email: Stevrunn@gmail.com
Phone: 207-333-8780.

Keep an eye on the Wednesday All Church Email for more information and details regarding this year's fair.



October Birthdays

- 1 - Maureen Grubb
- 2 - Linda Gouws
- 6 - Donald Olen
- 9 - Laurie Davis
- 15-Morgan Barney
- 19-Karin Kurry
- 20-Diane Mathieu
- 21-Brooke Rayder
- 25-Matthew Strobel
- 29-Andy Jones
- 30-Rae Fasulo



Liturgists

- 3 - Church School Kickoff
- 10 - Jim Parr
- 17 - Jane Stegemann
- 24 - Lydia Hill
- 31 - Laurie Davis

Ushers

- 3 - Mark & Peggy Horton
- 10- Joe & Jo Blinick
- 17- Steve & Kim Hendry
- 24- Bill Nugent & Beth S
- 31- Chan & Kathie Sinnett

We Lift in Prayer...



- Please hold Carol Kauffman in your prayers as she undergoes carpal tunnel surgery.
- We pray with Jennifer Bissell who injured her leg while keeping one of her special education students safe. She will know more after an MRI. Cards of support and encouragement can be sent to: 122 Middle Road Cumberland 04021.
- Prayers for strength and perseverance for Terri Collins as she continues to struggle with long haul COVID.
- Please pray joyfully that Judy Crosby's father has been admitted into a rehab facility close to home and he likes it! Prayers for Judy and her family as they care for him are appreciated.
- We raise up prayers of joy with Maureen Grubb -- her levels are down and her cancer continues to be in remission- Praise God!
- Please continue to keep James Smith in your prayers. James loves cards: 127 Winn Road Falmouth ME 04105.



We hold in prayer family and friends of Gladys Rothwell, who went to her eternal rest on September 8, 2021.

CHURCH

family news

- We give thanks with the Edson family who are expecting a second child in late March 2022! Prayers for a healthy pregnancy and good transition for big sister Julian are appreciated.
- We rejoice that Alan Mathieu's brother, Wayne, has seen improvements. His energy and mobility has increased and he is needing less oxygen. The family asks for your continued prayers.



Invitations to our new church family directory were sent out this week. We thank everyone who has been able to log in and add their picture. Contact Kat in the office if you need assistance.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.

Psalm 1: 3a

Rooted in *Love*



MINISTRY OF

Finance

Stewardship 2022

Dear Falmouth Congregational Church,

This year's Stewardship campaign, Rooted in Love, is based on Psalm 1:3 "they are like trees planted by streams of water, yielding fruit in season." This Scripture reminds us that our church nourishes, refreshes, and strengthens our lives. In turn we give back to our church, allowing it to thrive for years to come.

Pledges of financial support provide over 80% of our budget as a congregation. During the past year and a half this has been especially true as income from the building, plate offering, and special projects and fundraisers have been impacted by COVID 19. Your gifts to the annual pledge campaign allow us to engage in the programs, projects, ministry and worship experiences that define our community life. This is a group project and it depends on all of us.

In two weeks, you will be receiving a stewardship packet in the mail. Included in this will be a letter from Pastor Amelia, a letter from our committee, and a letter from a giving member of the church. We will also send out pledge cards and a narrative budget. As you anticipate that mailing, we ask that you begin to prayerfully consider how much you will give to the life of our church this coming year.

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. We encourage you to think of a tithe as giving 5% of income to the work of our church and 5% to the work of other charities. We see tithing as the goal in our practice of abundant generosity.

Following some simple steps can help you move towards this goal. Stay tuned as we explore these (4) steps in our next stewardship letter in two weeks. In the meantime, we hope your church continues to be a place of nourishment, strength, and refreshes your soul.

Finance Ministry

Ann Sanborn ~ Larry Perry ~ Ken Bowden ~ Paul Davis

October 2021 Calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3 10 AM Worship with Communion and Church School Kickoff 11 AM All Ages Hike 7 PM Troop 93	4 12 PM Bible Study 7 PM All Fiddle-icious Covenant	5 Pastor Amelia out of office, returning 10/11 11 AM Staff Meeting	6 12 PM Women's Spiritual Book Club 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Choir	7 8:30 AM Ecumenical Clergy Mtg 6:30 PM Ministry of Missions 7 PM Troop 93	8	9
10 10 AM Worship with Rev. Kelli	11 12 PM Bible Study 7 PM All Fiddle-icious Covenant	12 11:00 AM Staff Mtg 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting	13 10 AM MCL Meet & Greet 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Choir	14 7 PM Finance Committee Mtg 7:00 PM Troop 93	15	16
17 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Council of Ministries Meeting 11:30 Lattes & Littles	18 Congregator Deadline 12 PM Bible Study 7 PM All Fiddle-icious	19 11:00 AM Staff Meeting	20 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Choir	21 7:00 PM Troop 93	22	23
24 10 AM Worship	25 12 PM Bible Study	26 11:00 AM Staff Meeting	27 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Choir	28 7:00 PM Troop 93	29	30
31 10 AM Worship Consecration Sunday						

Upcoming Dates:

November 7th:
Remembrance
Sunday

November 8- 11:
Pastor Amelia at
NGLI Fellowship
Leadership
Training

November 28:
1st Sunday
of Advent



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United Church of Christ
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Falmouth Congregational Church United Church of Christ

Ministries

Kim Hendry
Chair, Council of Ministries

Kristen Tripp
Chair, Ministry of Christian Education

Rae Pierce & Jane Stegemann
Ministry of Community Life

Matthew Strobel
Chair, Ministry of Facilities

Steve Hendry
Chair, Ministry of Missions

Carol Kauffman & 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 and Property Manager
Doris Krueger, Minister of Music
Jane Stegemann, Minister of Visitation
Kristen Tripp, Christian Education

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