



Inside this issue:

Reverend Amelia	1
Council Corner	2
Ongoing Church Life News	3
Ministry of Missions	4
Ministry of Community Life	5
Church Family News	6
Kids' Church/ Calendar	7

From Reverend Amelia Edson:

Dear Church,

Parenthood is the joy and honor of my life, and being with Julian these past 10 weeks has taught me much about unconditional love and our good and steadfast God. I am also so excited to be fully back in action as your Pastor! To be honest, I have been looking forward to 'being back' in September from *before* I went on Parental Leave—in my head September (at the latest!) was always when we would be able to reopen the doors of the church and return to “normal.”

As you will read in the Council and Ongoing Church Life updates, our church leaders are diligently working on devising safer ways for us to resume in person worship for those who wish to attend. As you will also read this will not be a return to normal—from masks to pre-registration, worship will look very different for the foreseeable future.

I encourage you to carefully read these communications, and think about what your own comfort level is. For some of us, reopening the doors may seem rash and risky. For others, these safety measures may seem excessive. In these disagreements we are a microcosm; as a nation we are all over the map over how to handle the pandemic.

Unfortunately, our differences of opinion do not stop at safety measures- right now, in America, we are disagreeing vehemently politically, socially, generationally... you name it. We are increasingly divided, and conversations across difference, if they happen at all, are divisive, unpleasant, too often unproductive. This summer we have seen that our inability to talk to one another (or to listen) across lines of difference have driven people on both sides to the streets in protest.

The Bible tells us that it doesn't have to be this way. The early church met across lines of incredible difference- peasants and tax collectors, slaves and former slave owners, sex workers and religious purists, Jews and their Roman occupiers. In order to overcome their many disagreements, the early church developed best practices, turning disagreements into a sort of spiritual practice, or, even, a type of art.

Continued on next page...



September



In our divided time, as we continue in our commitment to follow Christ and welcome all, we need to revisit these practices, and learn from them. This fall we will be doing just that as we dive in to a sermon series on The Christian Art of Disagreement.

I hope you will join us on this journey, whether Live streaming from home or (when possible) in person. Whatever format you chose to worship in, I pray that you will give yourself, and others, an abundance of grace, as we continue to struggle to disagree, and live, in a way befitting people

with the audacity to call ourselves Christians.

~ Pastor Amelia

pastorameliafcc@gmail.com

COUNCIL CORNER FOR SEPTEMBER



Dear Congregation:

Pastor Amelia's first Sunday back in the pulpit will be Sunday, September 6th.

We are very excited for her return and resuming worship together. In the first few weeks of her return, Pastor Amelia wants to develop a meaningful and seamless live virtual experience before returning to in-person worship later in

the month. Even once we resume in-person worship, we will continue to offer a virtual experience for those who are high risk, lack transportation and/or may be traveling.

Here are a few important tidbits about our Live Virtual Worship:

- Begins September 6 via Face book Live and will be available every Sunday moving forward for those who would prefer to participate from home or when traveling.
- Congregants can access the service each Sunday at 10am on Falmouth Congregational Church's Facebook page.
- During September, Brian Wilson will be filling in for Doris Krueger at the organ while Doris recovers from hand surgery and laypersons will offer the liturgy.
- Passing of the Peace, and Prayers of Joy and Concern should be shared in the Comment Section.
- Giving can be made via a link provided in the Comment Section.
- Recordings of these services will be available on following Mondays using a YouTube link found on FCC's website.

~ Kim Hendry, Moderator

shendry001@maine.rr.com

Ongoing Church Life Committee

The Ongoing Church Life Committee has been busy developing protocols for when we will finally join for in-person worship. They are as follows:

- Anticipated to begin mid to late September (a firm date to follow in the coming weeks)
- There will be a required sign-up system on our website to cap participation at 50, including staff, ushers and greeters, and to record attendance for contact tracing purposes.
- As part of registration, attendees will be asked to monitor themselves for symptoms or exposure to Covid-19 and commit to not attending worship if they feel sick, have had contact with someone who has tested positive or has been showing symptoms. Attendees will also be asked to contact the church immediately if they develop symptoms or receive a positive test after attending a service.
- Attendees will be asked to arrive early to allow for physical distance while entering. All attendees will enter through the covered portico off Fellowship Hall and exit through the rear of the sanctuary unless in need of accommodations.
- All attendees will be required to wear a mask or face-covering throughout the service. Masks will be provided to those who do not have one upon arrival.
- There will be visual markers and signs when entering the church and sanctuary for safe distancing between individuals or households. Attendees will be seated according to entry and dismissed individually or by household.
- There will be instrumental music, but no congregational singing. (The projection of air utilized in loud speaking or singing defeats the effectiveness of masks and physical distancing.)
- All worship aids and furnishings will be no-touch or single-touch. (i.e. bulletins, offering plates, prayer cards, etc.)
- Worship will be briefer in order to reduce exposure. Gathering in Fellowship Hall following worship will not be offered at this time, nor will there be bus service.



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 are thinking of offering some items for pre- order and we look to our church family for ideas!

We can potentially offer wreaths, 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).

Ministry of Missions

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SALES FOR OUR SCHOOL KITS!

Please keep your eyes open for the back-to-school sales if you are thinking of donating to our school kits for Church World Service next spring. Right now are the best prices of the year for supplies for our kits!

We need

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

Thank you for thinking ahead!



PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

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

FALMOUTH FOOD PANTRY



It is heartwarming to see how our community has come together to help each other during this terrible pandemic. During the current COVID-9 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. Not surprisingly, there has been an increase in the number of families who are being served; in fact, 40% more families are using the Food Pantry than were using it a year ago. In addition, the Falmouth Food Pantry will continue to offer a FREE food pick-up for those with urgent food needs on the first and third Friday of September and October: September 4, September 18, October 2, and October 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in front of the Falmouth Food Pantry.

If you happen to have any "extra" vegetables from your garden (yes, even zucchini!), or if you have questions or know someone with an urgent need, please call Nancy Lightbody at 781-4670. Thank you for your help.



COMMUNITY SUPPER on OCTOBER 22 will be VIRTUAL!

Celebrate Falmouth at this year's **VIRTUAL** Community Supper! On Thursday, October 22, 2020, faith communities in Falmouth will host the **13th** Annual Community Supper—but virtually! From 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. please join our Falmouth community safely from your home and eat a meal while enjoying a locally produced show on public access cable TV and the Town's website. More details to follow. Stay tuned!

Ministry of Community Life

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:

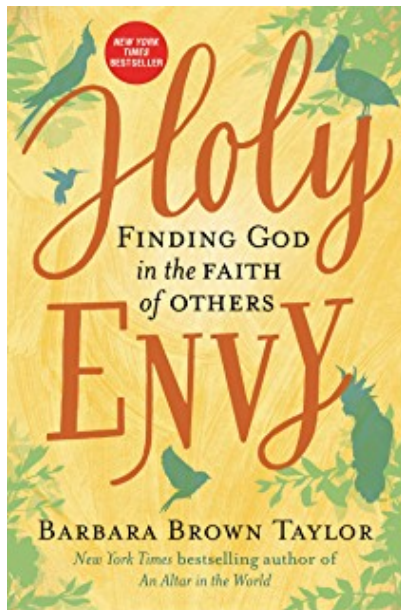
Wednesday, March 10th (with March 17th snow date)

Updated Directories available! Contact Kat for an electronic or paper version at: FCCoffc@gmail.com



Upcoming Coffee House Schedule:

September 11	Our own Kristen Coleman, Live Outdoor Concert at 6:30 PM
October 9	Caroline Cotter, www.carolinecotter.com



Women's Spiritual Book Group

We are going to continue our discussion of Barbara Brown-Taylor's Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others at our next Women's Spiritual Book Group, which will be on September 2 at noon on Zoom.

We will also work on selecting more books to foster and challenge our spiritual growth in upcoming book group meetings.

Contact the office at FCCoffc@gmail.com for the zoom link.



Church Family News

We lift in prayer ...

- Maureen Grubb
- Ginny Hamilton
- Myron Krueger
- Doris Krueger
- Bill Graves
- Kathleen Henderson
- Phoebe Horne
- Nora Quinn
- Norm O'Brien
- Nancy Johnson
- John Graustein
- Val Gray
- Nancy Wulbrecht



Maytha Southard has passed into her eternal rest. Please keep her family in your prayers at this time.

Phoebe Horne's brother, Stuart Eddy, has passed into his eternal rest. Please keep Phoebe in your prayers.

Sarah Davis' brother, James Klenk has passed into his eternal rest. Please keep her family in your prayers.

The October Congregator deadline is Monday, September 14, 2020

Please submit your articles, announcements, news items, pictures, etc. to: fccoffc@gmail.com
Thank you!

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

Kid's Church

Here are our Ongoing Church Life Committee's Guidelines for a safe beginning for our church school.



In-Person Church School:

- Will begin when in-person worship begins.
- The children will be carefully and consistently educated about how they can keep themselves and others safe.
- Children will be required to wear masks during transitions, including from church to the classroom, to and from the bathroom, and when returning to meet their parents.
- Each child will have a work station of their own, or with a family member who is part of their living pod, that is at least 6' in distance from others.
- Children who come with personal items will need to keep them with them at all times.
- Upon entering the classroom, children will either wash their hands or use hand sanitizer.
- Each student will have their own individual classroom materials.
- No food or other items will be provided or shared during church school.
- Increased ventilation will be provided, weather permitting, by opening windows and doors and/or having class outside.
- Bathrooms will be provided, one child at a time and, when needed, children will be accompanied by a masked adult.
- At the end of church school, children will return to their parents at a pre-designated location.

Save the Dates: Important Upcoming Dates

Sunday, September 6th, 10:00 AM: Pastor Amelia returns from Parental Leave with a new sermon series. Don't miss this live, virtual worship on our Facebook page.

Monday, September 7th: Happy Labor Day! The office will be closed.

Friday, September 11th, 6:30 PM: Return to Coffee House! Stay tuned on our Facebook page for more information about this live outdoor event featuring our own Kristen Coleman.

Monday, September 14th: October Congregator Deadline

Stay tuned for announcements and emails about returning to in-person worship at the end of September!

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

Office phone: 207-781-3413
Office e-mail: FCCoffc@gmail.com
Web site: www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org



’ **God is Still Speaking!**

MINISTRIES

Kim Hendry
Chair, Council of Ministries

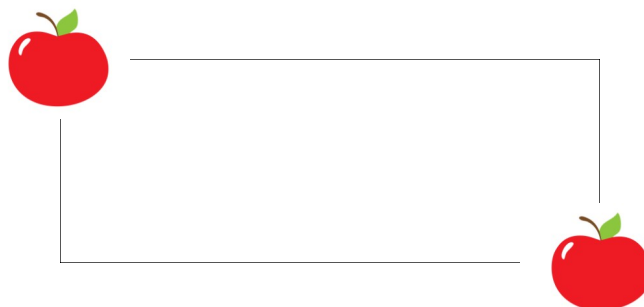
Kristen Coleman
Chair, Ministry of Christian Education

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

Kristen Coleman

OFFICERS

Kim Hendry, **Moderator**

Anne Coleman, **Vice Moderator**

Laurie Davis, **Clerk**

Pam Carroll, **Treasurer**

Gini Medford, **Financial Secretary**

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