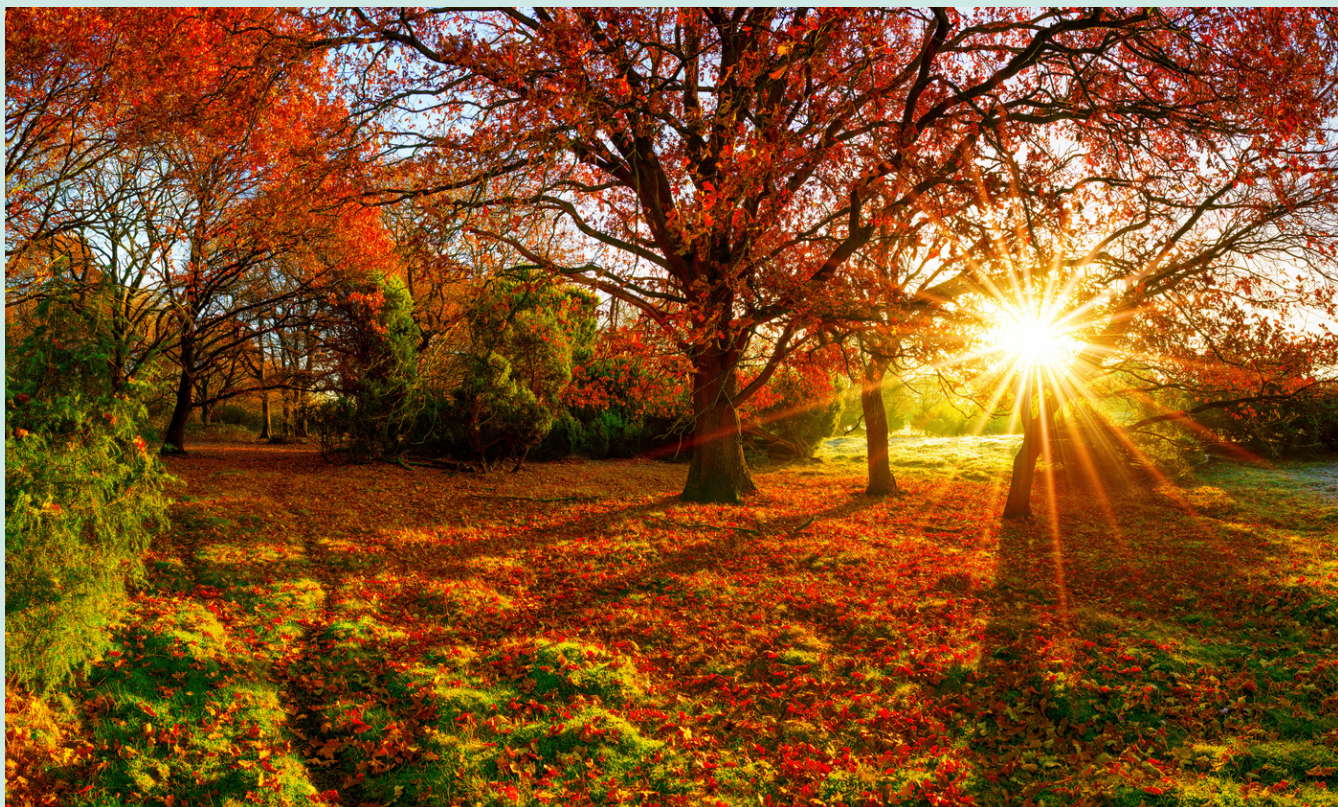


THE CONGREGATOR

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A Letter From The Pastor

Dear Falmouth Congregational Church,

This September I will be doing something I haven't done since I became a minister: preaching a sermon series on a topic I specifically don't want to talk about.

I would rather talk about, think about, read about, or preach about just about anything besides COVID 19: I am over it! Making plans, cancelling plans, making new plans... my calendar from these past 18 months is just a graveyard of dashed hopes ranging from small groups at the church to missed family weddings. I don't want to think about COVID, I want to go binge Netflix and pretend we can still hug.

But even though I am done with COVID it is increasingly clear that COVID is not done with us. From rising hospitalization rates to our recent 14 day shut down this pandemic is definitely still here. Fortunately our faith has things to say about it. From Christ's healing miracles to questions of what we owe one another in times of need, the Bible is full of parables and teachings that speak directly to this pandemic, and to what our faith asks of us in such a time as this.

So, instead of burying my head in the sand I am going to try to bury my nose in the Bible and my heart in the presence of God. I hope you will join in as we think, pray, and learn together about this pestilence, and ask what it might have to teach us about ourselves, our world, and our good and loving God.

On the journey with you,

Pastor Amelia, pastoramelia@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org



COUNCIL

Corner

A Message from our Moderator



Hi – I hope everyone had a great summer! It is hard to believe it's already September. The summer flew by for my family. We just moved our oldest, Aiden, to college so it has been a bittersweet couple of days but time marches on right?!

The Council did not have its regular meetings this summer but we'll be back at it in September with our first meeting on September 12th. We did hold a planning meeting on August 23rd and everyone is looking forward to kicking off the new church year. Obviously the delta variant has set us back a little bit but we are all still excited about the possibilities ahead of us.

The kitchen is almost finished. There is one mysterious part that is delayed but we do have our occupancy license so that is good news. It looks amazing!!

We are still looking for someone to chair the Holly Days Fair. Although we may have to make some modifications this year we are still hoping to hold a more traditional fair but we need a leader or two to keep it on track for a successful event. Please let me know if you are interested.

Many blessings,

~ Kim Hendry, Moderator

khendry1972@gmail.com

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



Holly Days Fair

Believe it or not the holidays will be right around the corner and we need to start planning for our Holly Days Fair which generates around \$10k for the Church annually.

We are actively looking for a few volunteers to chair/co-chair the Holly Days Fair. In the past, the fair has been run with a single chair, co-chairs and even tri-chairs. If anyone is interested in chairing or co-chairing this very important fundraiser, please contact Kim Hendry. Our prior tri-chairs have offered to help with the transition and provide some mentorship to the incoming chair(s).

FALL CALENDAR

Sunday, September 5th
10:00 AM Resume In-Person Worship

Wednesday, September 8th
6:30 PM Choir Pizza Party
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal Resumes

Sunday, September 12th
10:00 AM Choir Resumes at Worship

Wednesday, September 15th
6:30 PM Handbell Choir Resumes

Sunday, September 19th
10:00 AM Kids' Church Kick-off

Falmouth Congregational Church, United Church of Christ



For more information:
www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org/

Church Directory Launches

You will receive an email inviting you to create a username and password. Then you will be asked to log in and brought to your homepage:

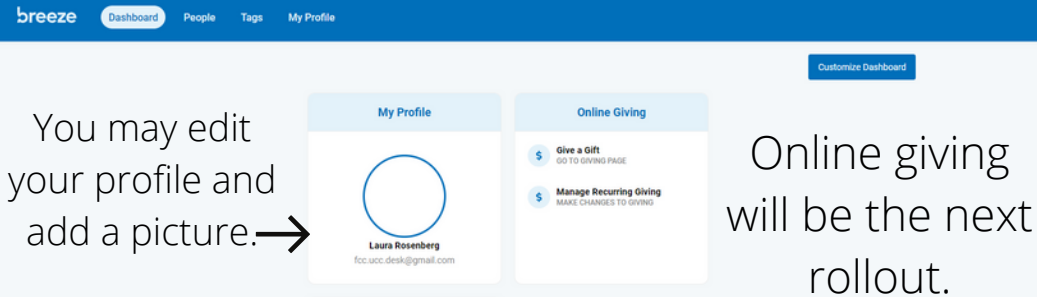


You're invited!

Laura Rosenberg,

Falmouth Congregational Church has invited you to create your own member account. You may click the button below to create your username and password to log into the system.

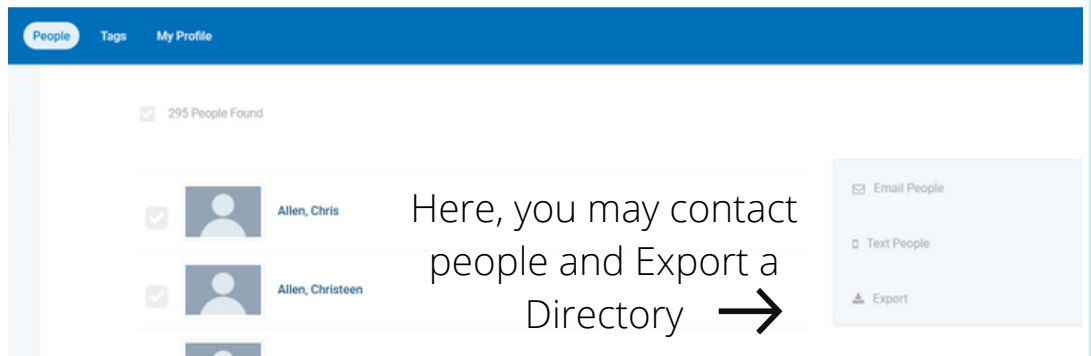
Create Your Login



You may edit your profile and add a picture. →

Online giving will be the next rollout.

You may peruse the folks in our directory by clicking on People:



Here, you may contact people and Export a Directory →



MINISTRY OF MISSIONS' SCHOOL KITS

Wait... What?!? Back to school supplies are already on SALE?!

The Bin marked *School Kits* at the church entrance is ready for your donations.

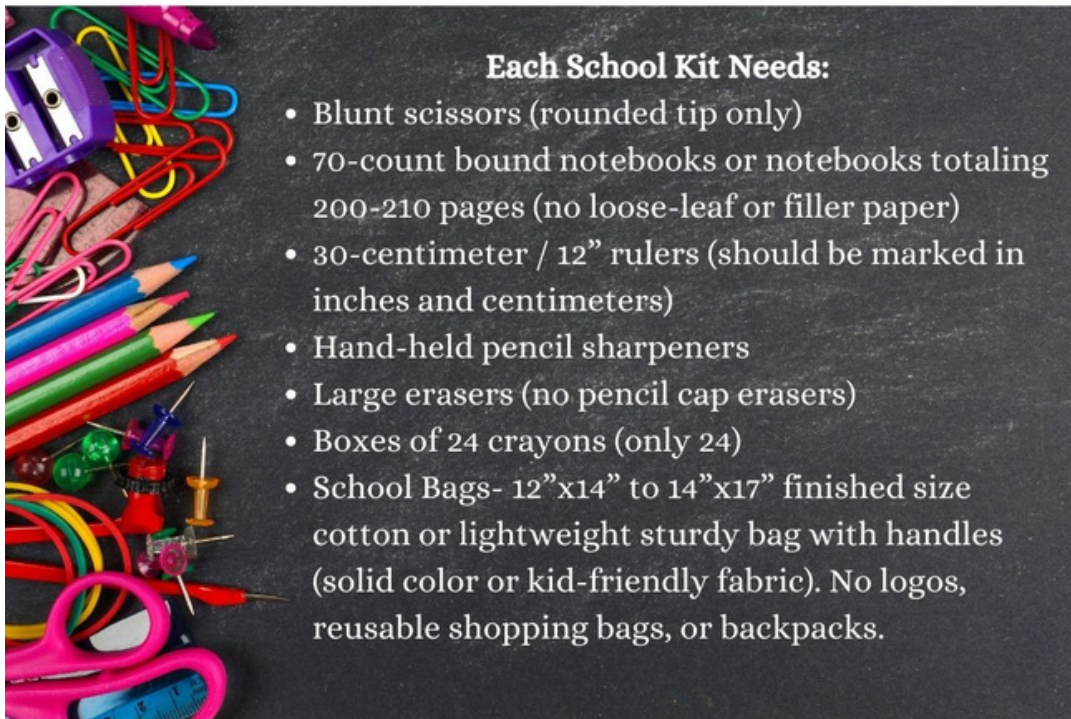
Many many thanks to all who have made donations during the past few months. Many families in our community were very appreciative of your help!

The Falmouth Food Pantry continues to do an entirely doorstep delivery distribution system. Boxes of food are being packed and delivered by volunteers to area families.

If you happen to have any extra vegetables from your garden (yes, even zucchini!)



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



Each School Kit Needs:

- Blunt scissors (rounded tip only)
- 70-count bound notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose-leaf or filler paper)
- 30-centimeter / 12" rulers (should be marked in inches and centimeters)
- Hand-held pencil sharpeners
- Large erasers (no pencil cap erasers)
- Boxes of 24 crayons (only 24)
- School Bags- 12"x14" to 14"x17" finished size cotton or lightweight sturdy bag with handles (solid color or kid-friendly fabric). No logos, reusable shopping bags, or backpacks.

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.

A New Way to Support Family Promise



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Family Promise has pivoted to support local families in new ways, including its **homelessness prevention and diversion program**. Since March, the Falmouth Congregational Church's Ministry of Missions team has aided an asylum-seeking family through this program. Osvaldo and Madalena hail from Angola and speak Portuguese (although they are quickly learning English). They have three children, a 14-year son, a 9-year-old son, and a 7-year-old daughter; the children will be attending Portland schools this fall. The family is renting an apartment in Portland near the post office. So far, the Ministry of Missions team has provided the family with household items, clothes, and supplemental groceries. Osvaldo regularly communicates to us how grateful he is for our support. **If you are interested in helping this family, please contact Rebecca Davis Gibbons: rebeccadavisgibbons@gmail.com or 207-712-8522**

What happened when 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 is a lemming's favorite granola bar? **A CLIF BAR**



Our church will be collecting **GRANOLA BARS** for the Falmouth Food Pantry during the month of September. If you would like, please put boxes of **GRANOLA BARS** into the collection bin outside Fellowship Hall, and they will be given to grateful families.



MINISTRY OF *community life*

Women's Spiritual Book Group

The Women's Spiritual Book Group will resume its monthly gatherings this coming month on September 8 at 12 noon in the Parlor and via Zoom. Our first gathering will be spent catching up with each other and putting together a reading list for the year ahead. Come with your lunch, latest news, and titles for the group to consider. We welcome new participants and enjoy reading a variety of material with themes that challenge us to



grow in spiritual understanding, compassion and practice as individuals and as members of our FCC church community. An email will be sent to all past participants with the Zoom link as the date approaches. 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!

LATTES AND LITTLES

Parents Group Saturday, September 18 at 10:00 AM

Join local families outside on the lawn and enjoy a coffee or tea beverage while your children get to know each other



New Small Group Opportunities

In this new weekly small group, we will learn about and practice the following:

- Daily devotional books/online
- Familiar/new prayers
- Relaxation response
- Three-part breathing
- Poetry
- Centering prayer
- APPs such as Lectio 365
- Journaling
- Ignatian Examen
- Lectio Divina
- AA prayer
- Bible verses for everyday help
- Other religions' spiritual practices
- Topics of interest to you.



This is an open, semi-structured group in which we will be invited to share questions, doubts, joys. Please call/text (252-8272) or email: jhsteg@gmail.com with questions/comments. (If necessary, zoom meetings will replace in-person.)



Falmouth Congregational Church

Bicycle Club

Get to know others on monthly moderate-length bicycle runs. We will meet in the next few weeks to decide our first outing. Members and non-members alike are welcome to ride with us.

If interested contact Jim Parr at
207.415.8444
Or : jamesalexanderparr1@gmail.com

MINISTRY OF *Worship & Covenant*

Our Minister of Visitation, Jane Stegemann will be out of the office the following dates this fall:

-August 28-Sept. 11th

-Sept. 17th-Sept. 28th

-October 3-October 9th

Looking forward to Singing and Ringing with you!

~Doris Krueger, Minister of Music

dnkrueger@gmail.com



You can use your landline or cell phone to call in and listen to worship by dialing (925)-205-6099 at 10 AM on Sunday and listen to the entirety of worship.

This is similar to making a call to New York.

We are seeking volunteers to monitor this phone worship ministry. Please contact Virginia Eddy at 233-2394 to be trained.

Choir Kick-Off




The Choir and Handbell Choir are welcoming new members!

Join us for Pizza and Practice on Wednesday, September 8th in preparation for singing in church on Sunday, September 12th.

Pizza: 6:30 ~ Choir Practice: 7:30

Handbell Choir Resumes Sept. 15th at 6:30



MINISTRY OF *Finance*

Stewardship will kick off in October. More information will be available after our first meeting on Thursday, September 9th at 6:30 PM. Look for announcements in the all church email and your mailbox for your pledge information.

PARKING LOT COFFEE HOUSE

We will not host a coffee house in September. We are actively seeking volunteers to train as baristas for future monthly coffee houses. Please contact Paul Davis at 332-7268 to sign up to be trained on how to use our espresso machine.



MINISTRY OF *Christian education*

Church School resumes Sunday, September 19th. Please click this link to register your child.

We hope you had a great summer vacation and that you are excited about a new school year, hopefully without interruptions from COVID!

This fall we will continue to offer 2 hours of church school with Ms. Kristen from 10am to 12noon. Parents need not to attend church to send your kids to Sunday School.

Parents may also pickup immediately after worship around 11am. 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 until we transition into the Christmas story.

The nursery has been reorganized and we will soon hire a nursery caregiver for our youngest church members.

The playground has also had a transformation, thanks an Eagle Scout Project by Connor Chicoine, who replaced rotting wood, stained, added new swings and new wood chips.



September Birthdays

- 4 - Bill Henderson
- 4 - Joyce Harmon
- 6 - Barbara Graustein
- 6 - Larry Perry
- 6 - Gladys Rothwell
- 8 - Rita Farry
- 10 - Katie Han
- 10 - Ken Macgowan
- 16 - Jean Twitchell
- 17 - Jeaneen Coleman
- 19 - Steve Carter
- 20 - Jim Poppell
- 24 - Rachel Mazerolle
- 25 - Steve Hendry
- 26 - Peggy Horton
- 26 - Martha Scheuchzer



We Lift in Prayer...

- Sarah Davis and Family
- Blake Davis
- Judy Crosby
- James, Jim & Kaye Smith
- Rev. David Butler
- Sally Emery
- Joyce Harmon
- Ginny Hamilton
- Bee & Norm O'Brien
- Nancy Johnson
- Sally Emery

CHURCH family news



Congratulations to Kristen Coleman and Benjamin Tripp who are to be wed on September 5th on a barge in Portland Harbor with Reverend Amelia officiating.



After eight days in the hospital, I am home and among the first things on my to-do list is to express my thanks and appreciation for all the support from my friends at FCC. In addition to your prayers, cards and flowers, I received visits from Pastor Amelia and Commissioned Minister of Visitation Jane Stegemann. Jane brought with her a warm prayer shawl from the Prayer Shawl Ministry, which I am wearing as I write this. I am on the mend and feel truly blessed to be a member of the FCC faith community. With gratitude, Mark Horton.



**Labor Day:
The office
will be
closed on
Monday
September
5th**

Liturgists

- 5 - Marilee Beinema
- 12 - Ann Sanborn
- 19 - Cathy Bowden
- 26 - Lydia Hill

Ushers

- 5 - Bill Nugent & Beth Stouder
- 12 - Chan & Kathie Sinnett



The process of creating the Town of Falmouth Vision and Values Statement requires community engagement! See the links below to on-line discussion boards and virtual focus group meetings.

The town of Falmouth invites you to contribute to the 10 Focus Group Discussion Boards which directly correlate with the 10 virtual Focus Group sessions.

You can review in-depth background information on the complexities of each Focus Group topic and provide your thoughts and feedback on the topic.

FOCUS GROUPS

- Residential Development
- Non-residential Development and Future Town Center
- Housing Affordability
- Shared Community Areas, Green and Open Spaces
- Connectivity, Walkability, and Recreation
- Community Diversity, Inclusivity, and Resident Experience
- Lifelong Community Learning Opportunities and Our School System
- Environmental Focus
- Governance and Collaboration
- Cost of Living in Falmouth

Virtual Focus Group meetings on these topics will be held between September 18 and 23. We would like as many Falmouth residents to participate in these discussions as possible.

On-line registration is required, so we can determine numbers and plan accordingly. People can comment on-line on as many topics, and sign up for as many meetings, as they are interested in.

Focus Groups Discussion Boards

Virtual Focus Group Meetings

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
THE TOWN OF FALMOUTH VISION
AND VALUES PROJECT, PLEASE
CONTACT:

DAVID BEURLE, CEO
FUTURE IQ
PHONE: (612) 757-9190
DAVID@FUTURE-IQ.COM

September 2021 Calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
			8	9	10	11
			15	16	17	18
			22	23	24	25
			29	30		
			6	7	8	9
			13	14	15	16
			20	21	22	23
			27	28	29	30
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Upcoming Dates:

October 3rd:
All- Ages Hike
After Worship

October 10:
Pastor Amelia out
of office (wedding)
Pastor Kelli
Whitman
presiding

October 31st:
Consecration
Sunday

November 7th:
Remembrance
Sunday

November 8- 11:
Pastor Amelia at
NGLI Fellowship

November 28:
1st Sunday
of Advent



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 Coleman
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 Coleman, Christian Education

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