

THE CONGREGATOR



A Letter From The Pastor

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Dear Falmouth Congregational Church,

Recently a new theme has started to enter into our conversations: firsts. The first dinner out after a year. The first time hosting a friend inside. The first trip to see the grandchildren. The first time back to in-person worship.

We are emerging. Some of us are bursting out (my mom was on a plane to California the day she was fully vaccinated!) while some are moving more cautiously. We are living into our new realities at our own pace, and in light of our own circumstances.

In the church this is a season of emerging, too. Christ has emerged from the tomb, and the disciples (and the world) are moving at their own pace, taking in the new reality that they have been ushered into.

Emerging takes time — it doesn't happen overnight, and it doesn't happen at the same rate for everyone. Maybe this is why the Easter season is 50 days long — 10 days longer than Lent. We need time to meet the new world that Christ has shown us, time to move at our own pace into an encounter with the goodness of God.

We will move at our own pace together, continuing to gather virtually, in person, outside, or in other new ways. And, at every moment along the way, we will proclaim the promises of God and give thanks for the new life emerging all around us.

Happy Eastertide,
Pastor Amelia



COUNCIL

Corner

A Message from our Moderator



Hi – I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying Spring!

I will start with a quick update on Church finances. We closed the first quarter with total income of \$69k and net income of \$9k. Those are very positive results. I appreciate everyone getting their pledges in on time to help support the good work of our church. We do have some unexpected expenses hitting us in Q2 (mostly building maintenance) so Q2 may be a bit more challenging. We are seeing higher plate offerings now that we are back in-person for Sunday worship and some of our renters have returned. Hopefully, those trends will continue as more and more people are vaccinated.

At our annual meeting in 2020, we gave approval for a team to look at options to renovate the kitchen in Beinema Hall. Ken Bowden and Paul Davis have worked with an architect to design a commercial grade kitchen for us. The Council reviewed the plans at our last meeting and gave them approval to continue with their planning - securing appropriate permits and lining up the contractors. Most of the work will be done over the summer. Many people who donated money toward the solar project have agreed to instead donate their money toward the kitchen renovation. As you all know our kitchen is used a lot not only by our church members, but also by members of the community for things like the Community Supper and Family Promise. We will continue to keep everyone updated on the kitchen plans. If you would like to donate, please contact Jeaneen Coleman.

I wish you all peace, happiness, and most of all, patience as we all continue to find our way through this challenging time.

~ Kim Hendry, Moderator

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



LATTES AND LITTLES

Parents Group starting May 15th at 10 AM

Join Pastor Amelia and her husband Jake and other Falmouth parents to hang out on the lawn (maybe inside too after COVID!) and meet other parents in a low stress, informal way. You can order speciality coffee or tea inside the church or bring your own.



FALMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ASK ME ANYTHING

A sermon series with Pastor Amelia



Sermons just got more interactive! In her "Ask Me Anything" Pentecost sermon series, Pastor Amelia will tackle all your theological questions - and more - be ready to laugh, think and pray on this journey together.

Questions can be submitted by email pastoramelia@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org text or put in the house mailbox in fellowship hall.



Falmouth Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

To keep each other safe, please sign up in advance:
www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org/

MINISTRY OF

missions



What game do fish like playing the most?

NAME THAT TUNA.

What do you call a tuna with a tie?

SO-FISH-TICATED

What did the tuna say when he posted bail?

I'M OFF THE HOOK.



What a wonderful opportunity for all of us! Our church will be collecting cans of tuna fish during the months of April, May, and June. If you would like, please put cans of **TUNA FISH** into the collection bin outside Fellowship Hall, and they will be given to very grateful Food Pantry families. We are fortunate that so many of you want to help others, and we know that you have the **TUNAcity** to do so. Let's try this!

The Falmouth Food Pantry continues to do an entirely doorstep delivery distribution system. Boxes of food are being packed at the Pantry and delivered by volunteers to all area families. If you have questions or know someone with an urgent need, please call Nancy Lightbody at 781-4670. Thank you for your continuing strong support.



The Annual Community Springtime Walk to benefit Habitat for Humanity will be held virtually during the month of May 2021.

You can pick up a bag outside fellowship hall to participate.

For more information:

<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/springtimewalk2021>

Thank You from the Ministry of Missions

On behalf of the Missions committee, we are overwhelmed and blessed with the response to last week's special offering. Thanks to the generosity of our church, the Kaluba family has a lawyer! And we will be able to help other families find housing and stabilization, working with Family Promise. I am immensely gratified with the strength of our congregation and the willingness to help when the need is there.

- Steve Hendry, Chair,
Ministry of Missions



Falmouth Congregational Church will be supporting a family of New Mainers through Family Promise's "Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Resolution" program. This family of five from Angola includes parents Oswaldo and Madalena, a 7-year-old daughter and 9 and 13-year-old sons.

Since January they have been living in a hotel in South Portland, but Family Promise has recently found a home for them in Portland!

We are supporting the family with extra food, household items, and errands.

If you are interested in helping or contributing in other ways, please email Rebecca Davis Gibbons at rebeccadavisgibbons@gmail.com or call her at 207-712- 8522.

May's Special Offering



This "5 for 5" mission offering helps develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults, establish new churches, and awaken new ideas in existing churches. Strengthen the Church funds will also be used to award grants to help congregations communicate the "God is still speaking" message.

Your donations will be collected on Pentecost Sunday, which is 50 days after Easter and falls this year on May 23, 2021. Alternatively, please make a contribution to this far-reaching ministry by sending a check to "Falmouth Congregational Church" (267 Falmouth Road, Falmouth, ME 04105) with "Strengthen the Church" mentioned in the memo line.

MINISTRY OF



Community Life

Prayer Shawl Ministry

During Holy Week I was so inspired by the message I kept hearing and reading about the word - HOPE. I consider it my new after Easter focus word.

On the Saturday before Easter on the front page of the Portland Press Herald I read one of the highlighted articles titled, "A Year Later Worship is still remote - but hope feels closer." The next day when I listened to the FCC Easter church service, Rev. Amelia during her sermon encouraged us as a community to go out and spread the message of Easter hope. Jesus held a 'fish fry' to deliver his message of hope. How can we as a community continue this practice? One of the suggestions by Rev. Amelia was to donate cans of tuna fish to the Food Pantry. On Easter Sunday evening when I watched "60 Minutes" I heard the word HOPE in one of their segments.

I plan to focus on the word HOPE as I continue to navigate this pandemic. I'm thankful for the progress we have been making with God's help as we struggle to keep our spirits high. We pray for hope of new solutions for our community and our country.

In the past we ended our in-person meetings by blessing the shawls and baby blankets. Now we close our phone visits by blessing them. One of the lines in the "Prayer of Blessing" is as follows: "May the one who receives this shawl or baby blanket be cradled in Hope, kept in Joy, graced with Peace and wrapped in Love." A special way to end an in-person and phone meetings.

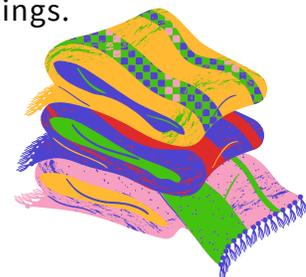
Stay Safe and Healthy!!
Happy Mother's Day!!

Judy Nilsen

You can use your landline or cell phone to call in and listen to worship



For people who do not have smart phones or can't connect to the internet, you can dial (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.



Notes of Gratitude

Dear Called to Care Committee,
Thank you so much for the card and the beautiful Easter lily. It was an unexpected surprise! I appreciate all that you did for my mother, Barbara Wood, over the years. She appreciated and loved her church family, Thank you again, Laurie Kenny

P.S. My correct address is 86 Summit Park Ave., Portland, ME 04103

Dear Called to Care,
Thank you for coming to OOB to deliver the beautiful prayer shawl made by Eunice Wilcox. It gives me comfort and I'm grateful you reached out to me. I don't know what the future will bring and I'm taking it a day at a time. I'm grateful for the time with Gini.

Sincerely,
Mark Medford

To the Called to Care Committee:

Thank you for your message of condolences on the loss of my brother, Abraham.

The beautiful prayer shawl knitted by Eunice Wilcox will certainly bring much comfort at this time. Thank you for coming to our home to deliver the shawl and your card with such comforting words. Please stay safe and well. Sincerely, Elba Parr

Dear Ones-

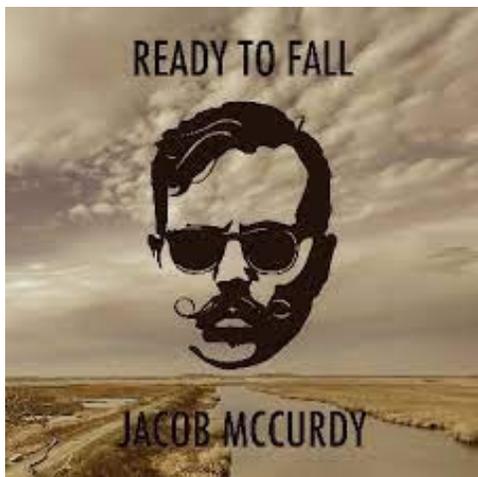
My heartfelt thanks for the poinsettia and your uplifting words. Your thoughtfulness and caring are so greatly appreciated- what a beautiful gift. May God's blessings be yours today and follow you through the new year. Sincerely, Jean Twitchell

Dear Called to Care,
Thank you for the thoughtful gifts of aprons for mom and big sister after the birth of Lena in November. We also appreciate the quilt given to us before her birth!

With Love From,
Katharina Roderick, Office Manager



PARKING LOT COFFEE HOUSE



Join us for music in the parking lot. Jacob McCurdy will sing over loudspeakers and, via a transponder, car radios can tune in. For more information check out: <https://jacobmccurdy.com/>. This is a family-friendly, weather permitting event. Coffee drinks will be available. Don't miss it!

Jacob McCurdy: Outdoor and Livestreamed

Friday, May 14th, 6:30 PM

Women's Spiritual Book Group: We Are All Seekers

I suspect that all of us at Falmouth Congregational Church are seekers, somewhere on a path of discovering what God means to us, what we believe about the Bible, what the stories of Jesus and His teachings mean to us.

During April the participants in the Women's Spiritual Bible Group read Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To: Spirituality without Stereotypes, Religion without Ranting by Rev. Lillian Daniel. On April 7, 13 women held a spirited discussion about the book on Zoom. (You really must read the book to discover its messages.)

One of the take-away's from our discussion is that none of us is complete in our faith. We are vulnerable in not knowing everything about the Bible, unclear about what we believe, or even being uncertain about our personal commitment to God. Our church gives us many different avenues to examine our faith, our commitment to God and to the teachings of Jesus: Bible Study, Pastor Amelia's message in weekly worship, the Women's Spiritual Book Group, small groups that Pastor Amelia has formed during different liturgical seasons, Church School for our children, to name a few.

This led to the question: **Why do I come to church? Why am I involved in this church community?**

For me, I come to church to worship God. Listening to the sermon and readings, speaking the prayers, and singing hymns are all gifts. While absorbing those words into my heart and brain, my connection to God deepens. Some phrases stay stuck in my mind all week, and they guide me. The more I've considered my faith and the more I pray, the more strength I get from God and the more support I feel from my church community.

Perhaps this is a good way for any of us to talk to visitors to worship or others who are thinking about attending church but haven't decided to do so: Talk about your own reasons and take-away's from being part of this faith community.

The Book Group also asked the question: **What does God want for this group in the coming year?**

Ministries: What if each ministry asked this question at the start of each year and then summarized the results of God's guidance in the Annual Report?

Just some thoughts coming out of the Women's Spiritual Book Group. What are your answers to these questions?

Blessings, Laurie Davis

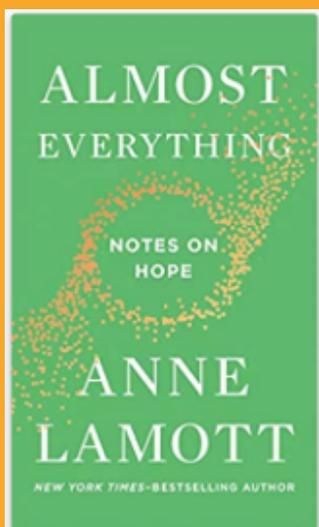


Wednesday, May 5th at Noon



This month we will be reading Anne Lamott's Almost Everything: Notes on Hope described by reviewers as: A profound and funny book, where Lamott calls for each of us to rediscover the nuggets of hope and wisdom that are buried within us that can make life sweeter than we ever imagined. Divided into short chapters that explore life's essential truths, "Almost Everything" pinpoints these moments of insight as it shines an encouraging light forward.

~Cathy B. Bowden



MINISTRY OF *Worship & Covenant*



Having completed a year under the constraints of COVID, the Ministry of Worship and Covenant has been fully engaged in maintaining the best parts of FCC's worship, while taking advantage of opportunities presented by our need to worship together in the virtual realm rather than in person. This ranges from logistics around safely observing the Lord's Supper, to planning for seasonal worship services such as those occurring in Advent and Holy Week. Bootstrapping from the physical realm to the virtual realm has definitely been a growth experience for MWC, and it has also laid the groundwork for new friendships among our brothers and sisters in Christ. And MWC has given a hand to Called to Care in the delivery of cheerful plants to members, as a reminder that we are joined in community by Christian love. Although we are not at a point to resume live singing during worship, the Chancel Choir is resuming live practices this week. They will also be recorded as a group instead of as individuals. There is much to be excited about!

MINISTRY OF *Christian education*



We are moving into our next unit in our Liturgical Calendar curriculum. This season we will be searching for Jesus. We will be playing Clue the Jesus edition, going on scavenger hunts, and searching for Jesus in our hearts. The Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday was quite a success with many happy kids. Now we can focus on the basement beautification project. I have one more room to paint, then I will move my focus on decor. Thank you to Aiden Hendry and his father who made some lovely shelves for the art room.

BY KRISTEN COLEMAN

CHURCH

family news

May Birthdays

- 1 - Paul Han
- 2 - Chan Sinnett
- 3 - Andrew Poore
- 5 - Gary Scheuchzer
- 7 - Shane Allen
- 7 - Katherine Bender
- 7 - Terri Collins
- 7 - Jane Stegemann
- 11 - Edie Boothby
- 11 - Marcy Kittredge
- 13 - Julia Fay
- 17 - Coleman Allen
- 17 - James Henderson
- 18 - Carol Kauffman
- 22 - Lana Pillsbury
- 25 - Allen Coffey Jr.
- 27 - Tom Stegemann
- 27 - Ann Sanborn
- 30 - Chris Bender
- 31 - Mollie Mason
- 31 - Aren Strobel



We Lift in Prayer...

- Terri Collins
- Patrick Miele
- Dr. Myron Kruger and Doris
- The Pam Mason Family
- Wayne Mathieu
- Joyce Harmon
- Kaye Smith
- Richard Corey
- Sarah Davis and Family
- John Graustein
- Bee & Norm O'Brien
- Val Gray
- James Smith
- Nora Quinn
- The Kaluba Family

In Loving Memory...

- Please hold Jennifer Bissell, her sister Sandra, and their family in prayer as they mourn Jennifer's brother in law, Noel, who went to his eternal rest this past week.
- Please pray comfortingly for Jorma Kurry and family whose father went into his eternal rest on April 15th. Condolence cards can be sent to: Jorma, Karin and Ian Kurry 8 Merrill Road Falmouth ME 04105
- Please pray for Rebecca (Becky) Coffey. Ted Coffey went to his eternal rest on Monday, April 26th. Please hold Becky's daughter, Diana, in prayer also as she cares for her mother. Cards of sympathy can be sent to 9 Rockwood Terrace, Falmouth, Maine 04105.

Community Needs



- Many of you remember Marcello, Elvine, and baby Marcella, who lived in the Church Parsonage two summers ago after seeking refuge in the United States. The church has been helping this family get on their feet since they arrived in Maine. Marcello is very happy and grateful to report that he and Elvine now officially have their work permits! If you have any yard work, painting, or odd jobs Marcelo is a good and trustworthy worker and is available to help. Elvine is a good seamstress and can take in mending or other projects- she has a sewing machine in her home. The family currently does not always have minutes on their phone, but they have a whatsapp number: +12078007842, use facebook messenger, and/ or Pastor Amelia can help you connect with them.



- Val Gray has passed his written drivers test! He now needs to practice driving, and is looking for members of the congregation who are willing to loan their time and their vehicles to drive with him. Val is fully insured. To volunteer or learn more please call or text Val.

May 2021 Calendar

**Important
Upcoming Dates:**

**June
Congregator
Deadline:
May 17th**

**Pentecost:
May 23rd**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2 10 AM Worship In Person or Online 10-12 Church School 11:15 Membership Info	3 12 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Ministry of Worship & Covenant	4 11:00 AM Staff Mtg 3:30 PM GOTR (Girls on the Run)	5 12 PM Women's Spiritual Book Club 6:30 PM Handbell 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 8:30 AM Ecu Clergy 3:30 PM GOTR 6:30 PM Ministry of Missions	7 6:30 PM Coffee House with Jacob McCurdy	8 10 AM Lattes and Littles
9 Mother's Day 10 AM Worship 10-12 Church School 11:30 AM Council of Ministries	10 12 PM Bible Study	11 11:00 AM Staff Mtg 3:30 PM GOTR	12 6:30 PM Handbell 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	13 3:30 PM GOTR 7 PM Finance Committee Meeting	14 6:30 PM Coffee House with Jacob McCurdy	15 10 AM Lattes and Littles
16 10 AM Worship 10-12 Church School	17 Congregator Deadline 12 PM Bible Study	18 11:00 AM Staff Mtg 3:30 PM GOTR	19 6:30 PM Handbell 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	20 3:30 PM GOTR	21 Pinewood Derby	22 Pinewood Derby
23 Pentecost Strengthen the Church 10 AM Worship 10-12 Church School	24 12 PM Bible Study	25 11:00 AM Staff Mtg 3:30 PM GOTR	26 6:30 PM Handbell 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	27 3:30 PM GOTR	28	29
30 10 AM Worship 10-12 Church School	31 12 PM Bible Study					

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United Church of Christ
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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 and Pam Carroll, Co-Treasurers
Gini Medford, Financial Secretary
Carol Kauffman MSN, RN, Faith Community Nurse