

# THE CONGREGATOR

*Celebrating the excitement and promise of a New Year!*



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## *A Letter From The Pastor*

BY THE REVEREND AMELIA EDSON

Dear Falmouth Congregational Church,

January is a time of planning and goal setting. We look ahead and plot out how our lives and selves can be improved in the new year.

This year planning, setting resolutions, or creating bucket lists is unusually different. There are so many unknowns. Will we be able to return to the gym? Will we be back in the office? How many days will the kids be in school? Will that country/state/place be okay to visit?

And, we're tired. This is not an ideal time for long to-do lists. The exhaustion and collective grief are taking their toll.

This year calls for something different, beside a list of resolutions.

In January I will be inviting each of us to choose a guiding word, to focus us in the year ahead. A word to draw our attention towards the work that God is doing in our hearts, and remind us to join in. This One Word concept comes from a book of the same name by Rachel Olsen and Mike Ashcroft that the Women's Spiritual Book Group read last month.

In January we will spend three weeks thinking about our hopes for our formation in 2021 and choosing a word that represents that hope. We will travel with this word all year long, allowing it to shape, form, and inspire us more in the image of that one who is the Word, and our ever-present hope.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Amelia

# COUNCIL

## corner

BY KIM HENDRY

Hi – I hope everyone is enjoying this holiday season and making the most of the bounty of snow we received last week! As we close out December and 2020, the Council is eagerly looking to 2021. I think we are all hopeful that 2021 will bring some sense of normalcy, at least at some point. First on the agenda is our Annual Meeting which will be held on Sunday, January 24th. As we are not able to meet in-person, we are going to hold it virtually this year via Zoom. Attendees will be able to join via video or phone. There will be a lot more information forthcoming on the meeting so please watch for updates. The upside to holding it virtually is that we don't need to have a snow date!

As mentioned in my update last month that we have three vacancies on the Council going in to 2021. That has now reduced to two as Carol Kaufman has agreed to stay on for one more year. But we still need two new members. If anyone is interested, please give me a call. I would love to talk about a role for you on the Council!!



We are actively working on the 2021 budget. Stewardship pledges continue to come in and we are close to hitting our goal. If you haven't submitted yours yet, please contact Paul Davis and he can assist you.

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

Stay healthy!

~ Kim Hendry, Moderator  
 khendry1972@gmail.com  
 207-756-9343



## Small Group Bible Study

MONDAYS AT 12 PM

Join other seekers for the lunch time zoom gathering. Each week we dive into the weekly Scripture readings using a variety of practices.

Please email Jane Stegemann to sign up: [Jhsteg@gmail.com](mailto:Jhsteg@gmail.com).



**MINISTRY OF**  
*missions*

*Thank you for  
the angel gifts!*

In spite of these unusual times and a very different sign-up system, many angels still appeared to make this year's Christmas a merry one for 22 children in Falmouth Food Pantry families! The generous gifts have all been handed out to very appreciative parents, two of whom had never been able to give their children a gift that was wrapped in Christmas paper and ribbon. Many thanks to all our angels who gave so willingly and helped many in our community celebrate Christmas!

## *Falmouth Food Pantry:*

**What does Arnold Schwarzenegger say before eating pasta?**

Pasta la vista, Baby

**Where did the spaghetti go to dance?**

The meat ball

**What is the dress code at a pasta convention?**

BOW TIE

PASTA than a speeding bullet, our church will be collecting different kinds of pasta during the months of January and February. The pastabilities are endless! If you would like, please put boxes of pasta into the collection bin outside Fellowship Hall, and the pasta will be given to very grateful Food Pantry families. We are not IMPASTAS, and we all know that our congregation is pasta-tively amazing, so let's try it! (With cold weather and winter storms approaching, the Falmouth Food Pantry has moved to 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.)



# MINISTRY OF *community life*



## WILL YOU PLEASE SHARE LOVE AND COMPASSION BY BEING A CARING CALLER STARTING IN JANUARY?

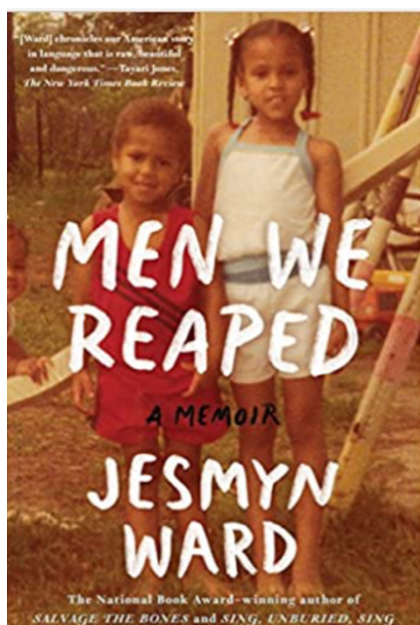
BY JANE STEGEMANN

As you know we were blessed to receive calls from our fellow caring FCC members during this pandemic. However, during the warmer months, we reduced calls. With colder weather here, there are fewer opportunities for us to see each other and I am asking for people to offer love by calling some folks. Believe me, when I make phone calls, I always receive more than I give and feel uplifted after phone calls with you!! I also learn who needs something and can provide references to resources.



I am grateful for help with this calling and will help you with any questions about calling people. Please pray about this and ask God for help discerning if this is for you.

Gratefully,  
Jane Stegemann, Commissioned  
Minister and Ph.D. Licensed  
Psychologist  
Jhsteg@gmail.com  
207-252-8272



## *Women's Spiritual Book Group*

The Women's Spiritual Book Group will meet January 6, at Noon via Zoom to discuss 'Men We Reaped: A Memoir' by Jesmyn Ward. Ward, a two-time National Book Award winner, wrote this memoir as she struggled to understand the death of her brother and four other young men in her life.

With powerful insight, she reflects on the lives of young Black men in the rural south as they struggle with poverty and the instability poverty brings to the community she loves. This book was chosen to deepen our understand of the Black experience in America amidst the current political landscape. Contact Cathy Bowden at [cathybbowden@gmail.com](mailto:cathybbowden@gmail.com) if you would like to join this discussion and wish to receive the meeting's Zoom link.

# MINISTRY OF *Christian education*

## *Extended Kids' Church*

BY KRISTEN COLEMAN

Kid's Church will continue in its new form! We will meet for 2 hours on Sundays from 10:00-12:00. Our general Kid's Church outline is as follows:

10:00-10:30 Lesson

10:30-11:00 Craft

11:00-11:30 Outdoor time (weather permitting) and snack time

11:30-12:00 Game and clean up



We are continuing our liturgical calendar journey in January and are now in the season of Ordinary Time. We have in-person and virtual Kid's Church options for all comfort levels. We will be sending out care packages in the coming season of Lent. We are meeting our families where they are and bringing a little bit of faith and happiness to the doors of our families.

## *Christmas Pageant*

If you missed the 6:30pm Christmas Eve service showcasing the youngest members recreating the Christmas story you can find it on our Youtube page. The kids worked really hard each taking on various parts and braving the chilly outdoors. It all came together very well and is definitely worth a watch. Bravo to all the actors, actresses and film team!

## *Car Caroling*



This year's Car Caroling Event held on December 13th was a huge success! There was a turn out of over 20 cars it was a great way to get everyone in the holiday spirit. Craig Page led the reindeer chorus as usual and song requests were texted in. A big thank you to Kristen Coleman and Craig Page for bringing us together in new ways. Maine Public Radio even came and interviewed Kristen.



## *January Coffee House*

Chris Kemp White

Friday, January 8th,  
6:30 PM

"Maine-born and raised singer-songwriter Chris Kemp White has been making music in and around Portland for more than twenty years. After performing almost exclusively with bands, he is currently writing, arranging and recording solo material. Drawing from classic and modern influences like David Bowie, Crowded House, Wilco and Death Cab for Cutie, the songs explore both spiritual and everyday themes of love, loss and longing."

## STEWARDSHIP & finance

## Stewardship Update

BY PAUL DAVIS

As we approach the end of this calendar year and start planning our 2021 church budget for the various ministries, we are very appreciative of the 55 church families that have made a pledge, and for many more that have sent in a contribution for 2021. We have reached 97% of our goal (\$175,000) and with 15 outstanding pledges still to be received, we should exceed our goal for 2021.

Many of you in the past have pledged on a Sunday or mailed in your pledge or check. Today, we understand giving is not only sometimes a physical challenge, but also difficult for some during these challenging times.

The Finance Ministry is offering many ways this year to make it easier for all to support the church financially.

If you have email, you can email Gini Medford, [ginifcc@maine.rr.com](mailto:ginifcc@maine.rr.com) letting Gini know what you would like to pledge.

If you can drive, drop off in the church mailbox which is just outside the entrance to Fellowship Hall.

If you would like someone to pick up your pledge, notify the church office and someone from the Finance Ministry will call and arrange a time to pick up from your mailbox or your front door.

We are all part of a big family, and we want to thank you for being part of this church and the various ministries that are supported by your time, talents, and financial gifts. We are blessed.

God Bless

Finance Ministry

## The Rules of QCDs

BY LARRY PERRY

For those of you who listened to my presentation regarding donating to a charity using a qualified charitable deduction (QCD) on October 25, here are the stated rules. I would be happy to talk 1 on 1 to anyone who has questions.

A QCD must adhere to the following requirements:

- You must be at least 70 1/2 years old at the time you request a QCD. If you process a distribution prior to reaching age 70.5, the distribution will be treated as taxable income.
- For a QCD to count toward your current year's RMD, the funds must come out of your IRA by your RMD deadline, which is generally December 31 each year.
- Funds must be transferred directly from your IRA custodian to the qualified charity. This is accomplished by requesting your IRA custodian issue a check from your IRA payable to the charity. You can then request that the check be mailed to the charity, or forward the check to the charity yourself.



## FCC PHOTO CONNECTION

Do you miss seeing your FCC community? We Do!!! Please help us stay connected by sending a photo of yourself which will be shared during the virtual church service. We are asking all that are comfortable to send our church a casual photo of yourself individually and or your family. These photos will be displayed with your first name as part of our virtual church broadcast. Seeing each other's familiar faces once again will bring us all joy.

Please send your photo(s) with your name via email to Laura Rosenberg at [fcc.ucc.desk@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org](mailto:fcc.ucc.desk@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org). Or if you are unable to take a photo or send it please contact Tom Stegemann at 207-838-5357 who will gladly come take your photo from a Covid-safe distance. I look forward to seeing your smiling faces, Tom Stegemann

# *How to Watch Live Worship on your TV*

There are three easy ways to watch the service on your TV

If you own a SMART TV, then you can use the Youtube app already embedded into your television! You may already have a SMART TV, and you don't even realize it!

If you don't own a SMART TV, that's fine! You can use a small ROKU device (Pictured below) to access the Youtube app as well! If you don't already own a ROKU device, they are extremely cheap, starting at \$25, (Roku remote is included).

## **If you own (or Purchase) a Roku:**

The setup for a ROKU is also very simple. Two cords will be provided with the package. One of these cords is an AC Adapter cord (Power cord) which you plug directly into a wall outlet. The other of these two cords is an HDMI cord, which you plug directly in the back of your television screen. Modern televisions all have HDMI ports, but if you have an older TV screen, make sure to check to make sure you have one.

## **After hooking up your Roku:**

Make sure your TV input is set to whatever HDMI port you are plugged in to, (your television should automatically open the Roku menu once your device is set up.) The only step left in setting yourself up is connecting to your WIFI using the included Roku remote. Once you are connected, Youtube is automatically installed on all Roku devices. Navigate towards Youtube in the Roku menu using the Roku remote, open Youtube, search, "Falmouth Congregational Church" and you will be able to watch and videos and broadcasts published by the church on the FCC Youtube channel.

*YOU CAN  
ALSO CALL  
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.

# CHURCH

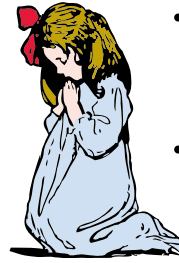
## family news

### January Birthdays

- 2. James Smith
- 3. Cathy Bowden
- 6. Judy Nilsen
- 8. Sue Perry
- 9. Delores Vail
- 11. Zachary Wescott
- 11. Sarah Amato
- 16. Kim Mason
- 17. Ted Vail
- 18. Ruth Smith
- 22. Laurie Winslow
- 22. Elise Coleman
- 26. Kathie Sinnett
- 27. John Boothby
- 27. Jenna Page
- 29. Kathleen Henderson
- 29. Gerald Caruso
- 29. Joe Horgan



## We Lift in Prayer...



- We pray for Joan Bamel who went to her eternal rest December 23rd, 2020. Please join us in praying with Virginia, Jennifer, and her son Cole as they grieve.
- Please pray for Phoebe Horne's sister Deborah Plummer who had open heart surgery after long awaited scheduling.
- Pray for healing for Patrick Miele who is ill and his wife, Vicki, as she cares for him.
- Please pray for Felicia Garrant and her mother, Theresa, as her mother transitions into hospice care at her nursing home in Auburn and Felicia can't visit her due to an outbreak of COVID.
- Mark, Gini Medford's husband, who has been diagnosed with a brain tumor. The family is awaiting more information, cards may be sent to 19 Dolphin Ave. Old Orchard Beach, Maine, 04064.
- We pray for Richard Corey's daughter's wife Kris who is having cancer treatment.
- We pray for Joan Ashley who is dealing with health issues.
- Jo Blinick as she recovers from having hand surgery on Thursday Dec. 3rd. Cards can be sent to her home: 510 Blackstrap Rd, Falmouth, Maine, 04105
- Sarah Davis' parents as her mother, Sydney, suffers with post-surgery confusion and illness and her father, Joe, as he adapts to his role as caregiver.

- Dr. Myron Krueger who is home from Maine medical and recovering.
  - Bee O'Brien who is recovering at Falmouth By the Sea after falling.
  - Sally Emery is home: cards can be sent to PO Box 102 Gray, ME 04039
  - Maureen Grubb, Ginny Hamilton, Norm O'Brien and Bill Graves
  - John and Barbara Graustein as convalescence occurs.
  - Bill Henderson's mother, Harriet, who is convalescing with Bill's help.
  - Nancy Wulbrecht asks for you to keep praying for her sister, Sue, for continued progress after a massive stroke two months ago.
- Please pray for all those who are sick or who have lost loved ones to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### NEWS TO MAKE YOU SMILE!

- Kathleen Henderson has retired after 41 years as a Neonatal Pediatric and Adult Intensive Care Respiratory Therapist.
- Ruth Smith is home and working in the office!
- Louise Caruso is recovering well and working at physical therapy.
- Carol Kauffman shares gratefulness that her eyesight is improving.
- We gratefully welcome Kat Roderick's baby girl who was born on November 30th.





# January 2021 Calendar

Important  
Upcoming  
Dates:

January  
Congregator  
Deadline:  
January 14

Save the  
Date:  
Annual  
Meeting:  
Sunday,  
January 24

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Communion 10 Worship 10-12 Church School 7 Scout Committee Meeting	4 12 PM Bible Study 6:30 Ministry of Worship & Covenant	5	6 12 PM Women's Spiritual Book Group	7 8:30 Ecumenical Clergy Meeting 9:30 Livestream Workgroup 6:30 Ministry of Missions	8 6:30 PM Coffee House	9
10 10 Worship 10-12 Church School 11:30 Council of Ministries	11 12 PM Bible Study	12	13	14 CONGREGATOR DEADLINE 9:30 Livestream Workgroup 6 Finance Committee	15	16
17 10 Worship 10-12 Church School	18 12 PM Bible Study	19	20	21 9:30 Livestream Workgroup	22	23
ANNUAL MEETING 24 10 Worship 10-12 Church School 11:30 Ministry of Christian Education	25 12 PM Bible Study	26	27	28 9:30 Livestream Workgroup	29	30
31 10 Worship						

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## 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

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

### 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