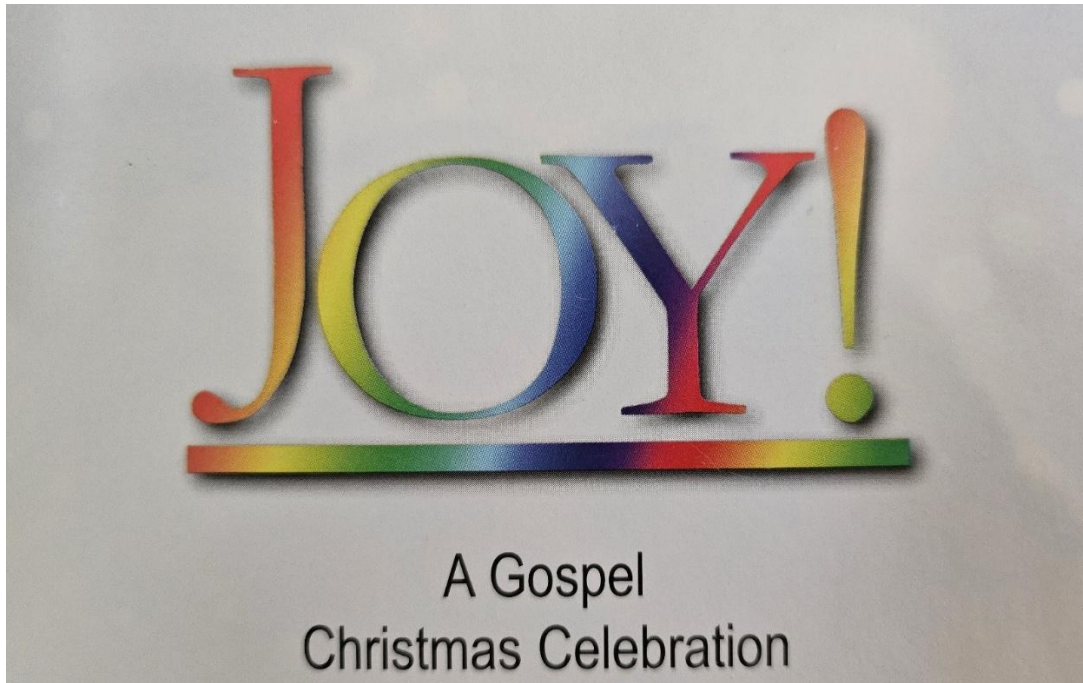


**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
of Falmouth, Massachusetts
of the United Church of Christ**



**Sunday, December 14, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

You Are Welcome Here!

We welcome all who are joining us in worship this morning. If you would like to share a prayer of joy or concern, we invite you to write them down on the podium outside the sanctuary entrances. During the *Moment of Greeting* we invite everyone to fill out the fellowship pad and pass the pad down your pew and back again. Nursery / Prekindergarten: The downstairs playroom is available but not staffed. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by a caregiver. The livestreamed service is available in the NPK classroom.

Rev. Jonathan Drury, Minister

Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the Fellowship Hall following worship.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

MEDITATION: “When you rise in the morning, give thanks for the light, for your life, for your strength. Give thanks for your food and for the joy of living. If you see no reason to give thanks, the fault lies in yourself”. *Chief Tecumseh, 18th century*

ORGAN PRELUDE

A MOMENT OF GREETING

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

***OPENING HYMN NO.148,** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Passing of the Lord's Peace

CALL TO WORSHIP

Advent is marked by a spirit of joy and celebration.

With joyful hearts we celebrate the arrival.

Advent is a time to open our eyes to our many blessings.

With joyful hearts we celebrate the arrival.

Advent is a time to appreciate the bonds of human love.

With joyful hearts we celebrate the arrival.

Advent is a time to remember the promises of God.

With joyful hearts we celebrate the arrival.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy God, the world in which we live is at times as challenging as it is wonderful. Replenish our hope, fill our hearts with joy, and restore our faith in you and each other. As we worship today, help us to tilt an ear to listen close. Let the voice of your prophets fill our minds with new understandings. We are waiting for you and the joy you promise. Speak to us today. In the name of the One who is coming, we pray your Lord's Prayer, *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY *Lisa and Dennis McGillicuddy and Carol Andersen*

Today we light three candles – the **candle of hope**, the **candle of peace**, and the **candle of joy**. The light of this third candle reminds us that we have no reason to be fearful or anxious, because God sent us a Savior. We should be glad in this affirmation of God's love for us and pledge to serve him faithfully with joy-filled hearts.

Please join me in prayer... **ADVENT PRAYER: Gracious God, remind us today and every day that we have good reason to be joyful, and forgive us for focusing our minds on negative things. Because you sent your Son into the world we can truly celebrate this season of wonder. Fill our hearts with calm assurance so that we might be messengers of peace who joyfully spread your love wherever we go. Amen.**

NT SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 11:2-11 (NT p.13 in the pew Bible)

JOY!

A Gospel Christmas Celebration

Composed & Arranged by Joel Raney and Orchestrated by Ed Hogan

First Congregational Church of Falmouth Choir

John J. Dulina, IV, Director

Jolie Drury, Greg Mills – Soloists

Debbe Carlisle – Piano

Kyle Edwards – Percussion

Greg Mills – Claves

Dennis McGillicuddy - Narrator

*Please hold your applause until the end of the presentation

In those days, a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed, so Joseph went up from Nazareth to the town of Bethlehem, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. An angel of the Lord appeared and said, “Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy.” And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest.” (Luke 2:1-14)

Sing Joy! / God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen / Joy to the World

Long before the birth of Christ, the prophet Isaiah foretold that the people walking in darkness would see a great light and their joy would be increased – that they would rejoice before God as people rejoice at the harvest. The world watched and waited.

Waiting / O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - Soloist: Jolie Drury

The promised King did arrive – on a starlit night in a stable near Bethlehem. An angel appeared to a group of shepherds and told them that they would find the baby wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger. The shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened.” (Luke 2:15)

A Song In The Air / Away In A Manger

The Shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in a manger. They fell to their knees and worshipped the newborn King. Then they returned to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all that they had seen and heard. (Luke 2:16-20)

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the King, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him.” (Matthew 2:1-2)

O Come, All Ye Faithful / Silent Night

Rejoice! For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

Go Tell It On The Mountain / Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee, Soloists: - Jolie Drury – Greg Mills

MORNING PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Choral Postlude:

Sing Joy! (reprise)

*Those who are able, please stand

Visitors - We welcome you to our church fellowship and hope you will come again. We invite you to sign the *Friendship Pad* that is passed in the pew. There are many new faces in our congregation; we encourage those with name tags to please wear them.

Print-outs of the day's sermon are available. Please speak to one of this morning's Deacons.

Greeters are Marsha Young and Carol Mills.

Ushers are Martine Bindler-Desbiens, David and Mary Ellen Craig, Sally Hawksworth and Jan Goodell.

Lay Reader is Penny Foster.

Jr. Deacon is Kaysn Schouten.

Deacons of the Month are Wil Bindler-Desbiens and John Honey.

Flowers on the altar-table are given by the Rennie and Judge families in loving memory of their parents Audrey and Harry Kamataris.

*If you would like to commemorate a person or special event by purchasing flowers for the altar should please contact Joanne Blum-Carnevale at capecodjoanne1@gmail.com or by calling 508-548-0480.

Announcements



Interfaith
Candlelight
Service

National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day
Sunday
December 21, 2025
6:00PM

First Congregational Church - 68 Main Street - Falmouth

After the Candlelight Service, a simple meal will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

The community is invited to sleep out in tents or cars that night to experience what it is like to be homeless.

Donations of shelf stable food welcome.

Belonging to Each Other supports our Falmouth Neighbors experiencing homelessness in their transition to stable housing by providing temporary cold-weather and year-round compassionate, supportive services.

Working together, we can end homelessness in Falmouth, ensuring all of our neighbors can live with dignity.

 **Belonging to Each Other**

First Congregational Church of Falmouth, MA



 **JOHN WESLEY UMC INVITES YOU TO**
an Ecumenical Christmas

Together with other local churches...

**WEDNESDAY
DEC 17
6PM**

**ECUMENICAL
CHRISTMAS
SERVICE**

For many, Christmas is not always a season of joy. It can stir painful reminders of loss—whether through the passing of a loved one, illness, financial strain, depression, or other hardships. Instead of feeling “merry,” this season can deepen feelings of loneliness.

Join us for a gentle, reflective service—one that embraces the “blue” in Christmas—through readings, music, candlelight, and moments of quiet reflection.



John Wesley United Methodist Church
270 GIFFORD STREET • FALMOUTH • JOHNWESLEYUMC.ORG

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec.17 Wed. 6:00p.m.
Dec.19 Fri. 7:00p.m.
Dec.21 Sun. 6:00p.m.
Dec.24 Wed. 7:00p.m.

Blue Christmas: John Wesley Church
Falmouth Chorale Lessons and Carols
FCC: Longest Night Vigil and Homeless Memorial
Christmas Eve: Lessons and Carols and Setting the Stable