November 2026
The Good News



Rev. Drury's Message

Be the Church!

The First Congregational Church in Falmouth is built upon a foundation of God's love through generations of support and dedication. We should say thank you and then we must take care of it. Taking care of God's blessings is at the center of church stewardship, because the word "stewardship" means managing and preserving what has been given. As stewards of God's blessing, we have two responsibilities. One requires your money, and one requires your internal evangelist. First, we must ensure God's gifts to our community are passed to the next generation, and the next generation, and the next generation in perpetuity. It costs a lot of money to run this church. If you are a member here, you already know this, because we share the numbers. And yes, every year our costs go up, so every year we will have to pledge a little more than the year before, unless we grow.

Which brings me to the second requirement: How do we show God gratitude for the blessings in our lives? Well, one of the best ways to count our blessings is to share them. If your church is doing right by you, then please tell your friends about it. You owe it to them, and you owe it to God. God wants us to share both the good news of Christ's story and the abundance of our earthly blessings. God wants us to feed our brothers and sisters, both their Spirits and their bodies. God wants for us to let the First Congregational Church's light shine forth like a beacon.

Both God and history have entrusted this place into our care. We must not be so humble in our faith that we forget we are called to do wonderful, remarkable, exceptional things in God's name. We have been entrusted with this precious gift. Let us preserve it, grow it, and share it with the world. This is the Good News!

Be the church,

Jonathan

Council

The October meeting of the Church Council opened with a prayer by Reverend Drury. Jonathan said we are looking into better signage for our church parking lot, especially when a church event and a town event occur on the same day. He also said we are in a transition period for our children's program. We currently have ten children ranging in age from 2 – 12.

In Tom Durham's absence, David Craig reviewed the treasurer's report. Member support as of September 30 is 76% of the budgeted amount. Overall, our financial situation is solid.

The remainder of the meeting focused on board and committee reports, which can be found elsewhere in The Good News.

Marcia Young, Clerk



Artisans Fair

Sat. Nov 14

9am – 2pm

First Congregational Church

across from the Falmouth Village Green

Glass & Wood Crafts, Knitting & Sewing, Art Work, Jewelry, Paper Crafts, Candles, Photography, and more!

Christmas Fair

Sat. Dec. 5

9am – 2pm

First Congregational Church

68 Main Street Falmouth

Across from the Village Green



Wreaths & Greens, Knitwear
Christmas Ornaments
Baked Goods, Café Lunch

Outreach



The Outreach Committee met on October 14 and agreed to make the following grants:
$1000.00 - Upper Cape Chaplaincy
$500.00 – Falmouth Service Center Christmas Gift Program

Alternative Gift Market – November 7 & 8
The Alternative Gift Market (AGM) is almost here! Join us **at St. Barnabas Church on Saturday, November 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, November 8, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
This year marks the AGM's 20th anniversary! For 20 years, several local churches have worked together to raise awareness and funds for 20 local and global nonprofit organizations. These organizations address many important needs, including food insecurity, malnutrition, humanitarian aid, veterans' support, homelessness, mental illness, human trafficking, addiction recovery, medical and vision care, education, and environmental issues such as water, land, and natural habitat conservation.
Please stop by and get a head start on your holiday gift list! Instead of shopping for traditional gifts, you can make a donation in honor of family/friends while supporting a cause that makes a difference. Fair Trade vendors will also be there with lots of items that you love to give as gifts, including chocolate, coffee, olive oil, jewelry, handmade textiles, soaps, and more. Please contact Mary-Ellen Craig at me.craig@verizon.net with questions.
Huge thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with this year's Gift Market. Please note, all volunteer positions have been filled!

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity home-building projects are ongoing in Falmouth on Gifford Street, just behind the ReStore. Organizers are looking for volunteers to provide morning snacks for approximately 25 workers once a month. Suggested snacks include orange slices, apples, homemade baked goodies, packaged granola bars, and other treats. **We need two FCC volunteers to provide snacks on November 21 and December 19. Snacks should be delivered by 9:15 a.m.**

If you can help or would like more information, please contact Susan Day at Susanday@gmail.com.

Falmouth Service Center

Things are buzzing at the Falmouth Service Center (FSC) as everyone gets ready for a busy holiday season! Your food donations are always appreciated.

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, please consider donating some items that would go well with a holiday meal, including:

- Packaged stuffing mix
- Canned green beans and corn
- Canned pumpkin
- Quick bread mixes
- Canned cranberry sauce

They also need everyday staples such as:

- One-pound packages of spaghetti
- Pasta sauce (no glass jars, please)
- Canned tuna and chicken (pop-top cans preferred)
- Canned fruit
- Peanut butter
- Whole-grain cereals
- 64-ounce bottles of apple juice
- Baby diapers (sizes 2–6)
- Canned dog and cat food

Donations can be dropped off in the collection barrels at the FCC entrances or at the **Falmouth Service Center/611 Gifford Street/Monday through Friday/10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** If dropping off at the FSC, just drive around back and ring the bell.
For more information, visit falmouthservicecenter.org.

Thanksgiving Turkey Donations
The **FSC** will be distributing Thanksgiving baskets in the days leading up to Thanksgiving and will be accepting **frozen turkeys weighing 10–18 pounds**, closer to Thanksgiving. The turkey donation/drop-off date will be announced soon. **Please note: Only frozen turkeys can be accepted, and they must be dropped off at the Falmouth Service Center on the designated day. Please do not bring frozen turkeys to FCC. Please keep an eye on Care and Connection for more details in the coming weeks. Thank you!**

Hand in Hand Thrift Shop
The **Hand in Hand Thrift Shop**, part of the Falmouth Service Center, is accepts adult clothing and small household items at **141 Sandwich Road/Tuesday through Saturday/10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Just drive around the side of the building and park. Friendly volunteers will help unload your donations. **Now accepting winter clothing!**
For more information, visit handinhandthriftshop.org.

Children's Clothing Project
The Children's Clothing Project provides free, gently used and like-new children's clothing to families in Falmouth and surrounding communities. Our space in the church basement is set up like a little thrift shop and is open on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month.
Jan Goodell and Anne Dyer lead this wonderful ministry and need volunteers on the second and fourth Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. to sort clothing, stock shelves, and keep things organized. You don't need to be a member of the Outreach Committee to join in! Please email Jan - jggoodell@gmail.com **to let her know if you can help.**
We had record numbers of donations and shoppers this month! On October 10, we welcomed families shopping for 78 children. What's remarkable is that it was almost impossible to get to FCC that day because of all the road closures for the Cape Cod Marathon!
Families were looking for warm winter jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, winter boots, and snow pants to get ready for winter weather. Thankfully, we had lots of great items to choose from!
Halloween costumes were available and invitingly displayed on both shopping days, making for a really fun and festive atmosphere. On October 24, we welcomed families

shopping for 59 children. It was so much fun seeing the delighted children leaving with costumes they chose. One little boy tried on five different costumes and happily walked around showing off each one, much to the delight of all the volunteers! **Our volunteers will tell you that they get far more than they give—and we have a lot of fun! Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers.**
The Outreach Committee is very appreciative of your support of these important ministries. Thank you, thank you!

Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons sponsored a presentation by Lane Abrams on Maritime Sunday. He described WHOI's deep submersible Alvin and some of its exploits. We also sponsored the first of two Artisan Fairs this fall. It was well managed by Martine Bindler-Desbiens. The second fair will be held on Saturday November 14.

We will have two guest ministers in the near future. Nancy Strickland will preach on November 22 and Saramaria Allenby will preach on January 10. The goal is to provide Jonathan one Sunday to rest every six weeks.

John Honey
Chair

Stewardship Committee



"Be Your Church!"
The Good News is that we had an awesome Potluck dinner and Cabaret of Talent! Thanks to all of the players and participants for a wonderful evening of food, fun, and fellowship! Let's do it again sometime! Our 2027 Pledge Drive continues to reap rewards as we move closer to our goal. If you didn't have a chance to pick up your pledge card, fear not! We will be sending out cards early in November and hope to get them returned by the end of November to help us to plan for next year's budget. We will be celebrating Loyalty Sunday, November 8, with a cake and ice cream during coffee hour, of course, pledge cards will be available then as well. Come and celebrate and support the ministry of your church!

As always, thank you for your support!
The Stewardship Committee

Bob Heller, Chair

Trustees



As pictured in the photo, from left to right: James Rowland, Jonathan Drury, Jo Ann Wood, David Craig, Tom Durham, David Wickman, Rusty Warren, Katie Dreyer, Greg Mills, Brendan O'Hara, and Ryan Mann. All listed above are Trustees, with the exception of James and Brendan, who attend all Trustee meetings as Site Manager and Supervisory Project Manager, respectively.

The Trustees want you to know that . . .

- Our August application to the town's Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for funding to support a rehabilitation of our steeple has advanced through early stages of CPC's review process. Importantly, CPC's historical preservation consultant has judged our proposal to comply with federal rehabilitation standards. Our project team will meet with the CPC on November 5 to further discuss the project.
- We have begun to formulate a list of major capital project initiatives for consideration in 2027 and beyond. The list includes such items as a memorial garden and the repainting and re-upholstering of the Sanctuary pews. We'll have more to say about this at the January annual meeting.

- Looking even further ahead, we have begun our early planning for a Chili Cook-off, to be held in Fellowship Hall on the evening of Saturday, March 13. The Waquoit and North Falmouth Congregational churches will also be invited to participate. It's time to dust off that favorite chili recipe of yours!

Blessings,
Greg Mills, Chair
Board of Trustees

FCC Board of Trustees
Greg Mills, Chair
Tom Durham, Treasurer
Jonathan Drury, ex officio
David Craig
Ryan Mann
Rusty Warren
Katie Dreyer
David Wickman
Jo Ann Wood

Women's Union

Buried in Falmouth:
Exploring Our Cemeteries
Slideshow by Linda Heald



Wed. Nov 11 - 11am

In the Fellowship Hall, First Congregational Church

All are Welcome to attend!

Sponsored by Women's Union

Brief business meeting at 10:30.

RSVP if you are staying for a

Light Soup Lunch to follow at noon.

epk23brk@comcast.net

Music Committee

The Magnificat performance on Sunday December 13 will feature 18 musicians from the Falmouth Chamber Orchestra.

Work on the organ upgrade is continuing, albeit currently behind the scenes. We do not yet have a date for the final installation.

Yours in service,
Lysbeth Abrams
Chair, Music Committee

Meditation Group- starts back up September 11th



Healing Group



We continue to meet the second Tuesday of every month. This is a space to talk about grief and loss. A no judgement and non-clinical place to be in the company of others healing from their loss. You are always welcome to come talk and get support.

EVENTS:
ALL EVENTS UPCOMING CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR CHURCH WEBSITE UNDER the TAB Events Dates to Remember
https://firstcongregationalfalmouth.org