September 2026
The Good News

Rev. Drury's Message



Like you and I and all living things, our church is different today from what it was yesterday, and it will be different again tomorrow. We are blessed with the challenge and opportunity to be stewards for our community, and as such, we are tasked with making the First Congregational Church in Falmouth the finest expression of our understanding of Jesus' Gospel and our hopes for God's Kingdom.

So, what then is the First Congregational Church in Falmouth? Is it the people in the pews or is it the pews themselves? If the building is gone, but the people remain, will it still be the church? And conversely, if the people no longer come but the building remains, will it still be the church? These are the worst kind of questions because they do not have easy answers, yet there is some merit in the asking of them. Personally, I don't think the church fits a single frame or focus because it exists as both a tangible thing and an intangible idea. It is constantly in motion, growing and evolving, as it has at its center the life of the people who care for it.

I hope you recognize there is great potential all around us. Every day I am reminded of how blessed we are to be able to work side by side to help bring God's Kingdom to the world. I

believe our God goes before us and leads us in righteous paths, and I believe we are all moving forward toward great things. It is a thrill to be here in this place, especially with you. This is the Good News!

Go now and live,

Jonathan

Council

The August 26 Church Council meeting opened with prayer by Reverend Drury. Jonathan said he was thankful for the leadership and support of the church while he was on sabbatical. Upon his return, Jonathan officiated at the memorial service for Jim Tow, which was followed by his burial in Oak Grove Cemetery. Things have been picking up at the church, and we are entering the wedding season. Jonathan has been asked to officiate at a wedding and a funeral at the chapel in Menauhant.

Tom Durham, Treasurer, reported that member support as of June 30 totaled $149,087, which is 61% of the budget. Distributions from unrestricted accounts totaled $88,479 and other income $31,000. Included in the $31,000 is $2,700 from recent Artisan Fairs and $3,920 from the May Rummage Sale.

Council then focused on reports from boards and committees, which can be found elsewhere in The Good News.

Marcia Young, Clerk

Outreach



The Outreach Committee met on August 12 and agreed to make the following grants:

$250 – Cape Kid Meals
$250 – Mass Council of Churches
$500 – No Guff
$500 – Habitat for Humanity
$500 – We Can
$1000 - SNEUCC

Our committee members have been busy with plans for **Outreach Sunday**, **September 20** during and after worship. We hope you will join us to meet representatives from and celebrate some of the organizations we support. In addition, you will have the opportunity to learn more about our Outreach events throughout the year as well as the Children's Clothing Project. Our **guest speaker is Sue Pearson of Cape Kid Meals.** She will fill you in on the vital work her organization does all over the Cape. We are also holding a food drive for Falmouth Service Center as part of Outreach Sunday. More details coming soon.

Plans are moving along for the **Alternative Gift Market on November 7 and 8 at St. Barnabas Church.** The AGM is celebrating 20 years of several local churches working together to celebrate, raise awareness and funds for 10 local and 10 national/global charities. Please plan to attend and work on your holiday gift list by making donations in honor of family and friends, thus eliminating the need for shopping for traditional holiday

gifts. Fair Trade vendors will also be there selling all the wonderful items you love to give as gifts, including chocolate, olive oil, coffee, jewelry, handmade goods, soaps, etc. In the coming weeks we will announce volunteer opportunities for the market. We hope you will consider giving an hour or two to help make this event a fantastic success.

The Falmouth Service Center (FSC) is busy all year long, including the summer months. As always donations of non-perishable foods are appreciated at **FSC**. Currently requested items are whole grain crackers, canned tuna, 1 lb. package pasta, ketchup, low sodium canned soup, canned dog/cat food. Other items that are always welcome include: pasta sauce (no glass jars please), canned vegetables, mac and cheese, peanut butter, apple juice (64 oz), baby diapers in size 2-6. Donations may be dropped off in the barrels at FCC entrances or at the **Falmouth Service Center/**611 Gifford St**./10am-1pm Monday through Friday. Drive around back and ring the bell to drop off. For more information visit the FSC website –** falmouthservicecenter.org

The Hand in Hand Thrift Shop (**part of Falmouth Service Center**) accepts **season appropriate** adult clothing and small household items at 141 Sandwich Rd**. /10am-2pm Tuesday through Saturday**. Drive up along the side of the building and park. Friendly volunteers will help unload your donations.
For more information visit their website - handinhandthriftshop.org

The Children's Clothing Project provides free, gently used and like new children's clothing to families in Falmouth and surrounding communities. Just because school is out and its summertime and we are all enjoying time off, it does not mean that the need goes away. On August 8 we served shoppers for 48 children and on August 22 we served shoppers for 65 children. With school back in session, we expect the need to ramp up even more. Jan Goodell and Anne Dyer lead this ministry and need volunteers on **the second and fourth Saturday morning of each month at 9:30** to sort clothing and/or assist customers. **You do not need to be on the Outreach Committee to participate.** If you can help, please sign up on the sheet in the portico lobby or **email Jan at** jggoodell@gmail.com**.** Our volunteers will tell you that they receive far more than they give. **Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers!**

Habitat for Humanity home building projects will begin in Falmouth in September on Gifford St., just behind ReStore. Our help is needed to provide morning snacks for approximately 25 workers, likely once per month. Suggested snacks include orange slices, apples, homemade baked goodies, packaged granola bars, etc. Two volunteers from FCC

are needed on each date to provide and deliver the snacks by 9:15am. A representative from the Outreach Committee will provide more information in Care and Connection in the coming weeks. **For more information, please call or email Sandra Harrison, 508-362-2339 ext. 128 or** sandra@habitatcapecod.org

The Outreach Committee is very appreciative of your support of these important ministries. Thank you, thank you!

Board of Deacons

Jonathan has returned from his eight-week sabbatical and has returned as our rested minister. We welcomed him back at the end of Augus at a service on the twenty third. We had several guest ministers during the summer who provided us with some interesting sermons. They all said they enjoy preaching to our congregation. The attendance was good during the summer, which shows the commitment of our congregation to Sunday services at that time of the year

We will return to our normal schedule of our service starting at ten in September. There were some complaints about the early start time of nine o'clock, but attendance was good.

We are looking forward to rally day and the many events in the autumn.
We will return to celebrating Maritime Sunday on October 18. Lane Abrams will talk on the Alvin after the service telling us how it works and some of the highlights of its missions. We are also sponsoring two artisan fairs led by Martine Bindler-Desbiens on Saturday, October 17th and Saturday, November 14th both from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

John Honey
Chair

Stewardship Committee



SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, 10/24/2026, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

The Good News is how many people inquired about our upcoming event!
SAVE THE DATE! ***The Howard Whitmore Memorial Cabaret of Whimsy and Delight and Pot Luck Feas***t will be held on **Saturday, October 24, 5 pm - 7 pm**! Come enjoy the many talents contained within our congregation, both culinary and cultural entertainment! Come for an early evening of food, fun and fellowship! Sign up for food will be available outside the office and performers are lining up! Get your act together! Songs, instrumentals, comedy, poetry, we do it all! Contact the main office with your particular talent, culinary or cultural, and sign up now!
Saturday, 10/24/2026, 5-7 pm

"Even Katherine Lee enjoys a good Pot Luck!" - Rev. William Bates, 1858

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

Bob Heller, Chair

Trustees

The Trustees want you to know that . . .
The church office now has a new Hewlett-Packard DesignJet printer to produce the large-format color posters that publicize upcoming events at the church. These posters are displayed in the church's front sign on Main Street and in the rear sign on Katharine Lee Bates Road.
We're excited at the prospect of a significant upgrade to our church organ. Jonathan will have more to say about this on Rally Day, September 13. Stay tuned!

Blessings,
Greg Mills, Chair
Board of Trustees

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

Music Committee

We have been enjoying the lineup of summer musicians, and we still have another month of summer to enjoy!

Back in 2024, the congregation identified upgrading the Austin organ as one of our top priorities, in a survey on capital projects. To that end, John Dulina has been working to get quotes for several options for this project. The first set of quotes secured were from pipe organ builders, including Austin. The major issue with this kind of upgrade to our organ is the space. The organ chamber is quite limited, and there is not substantial room for more pipes, not to mention blowers and larger wind chest. The cost was also prohibitive.

John Dulina then secured quotes for three different electronic instruments, including Rodgers, Johannes, and Allen. Of the three instruments, the Rodgers was considered to be the best fit for us. Jonathan, Dennis McGillicuddy, and John visited the Global Organ Company and were given a presentation by David Ogletree, a representative. This instrument would interface with the Austin pipes. The new console would be able to use all of our current pipes. In addition to hundreds of voicings that are available from the Rodgers console. It would also open up many more musical opportunities; it has a transposer, three manuals (keyboards), and a full pedal board. It has the ability to adapt its pitch to match the pipes of the Austin on days when the tuning is a bit off.

We are still in the stages of determining how this would go forward, and nothing is set in stone. The congregation has the final say on any decision.

On a personal note, many of you know that I do not much like things to change. I liked the old Pilgrim Hymnals, and I liked the old responses that we once sang during services. Well, I do like our new hymnals! And I like the way we do services now! I will probably never like the air conditioning, but I have to admit- grudgingly, but nonetheless- that the air conditioning is better for the organ, and easier for the choir who are upstairs on those hot days. These are words I never thought I would utter. I will not speak of this again.

According to the Church By-Laws, the Music Committee "shall be responsible for the tuning, maintenance and repair of the organ and other musical instruments of the Church." The organ is an asset which we need to not only maintain, but to improve. We must not let is fall into disrepair, or worse, maintain it in such an antiquated state that is becomes a beautiful, unusable relic of the past.

We are planning for the future. We are keeping the past and building on it. We want to continue to have a great music program, and to be able to attract organists in the future. Having an instrument that is well-maintained and up to date will enable us to do that.

Yours in service,
Lysbeth Abrams
Chair, Music Committee

Reception Committee

RECEPTION COMMITTEE



As we say "good bye" to summer, Coffee Hour will resume in the Fellowship Hall after church on the first Sunday in September (Sept. 6). We hope to see you all there, once again, for coffee, tea, or punch, and conversation. The Music Committee will be providing the special treats for the new month. Rally Day on Sunday, September 13, is going to be special this year, so be sure to come.

Our committee would like to thank Barbara Kirsch, who has been working to clean and organize the kitchen during the summer. She has been doing a great job, and all who use the kitchen will benefit from her work. Thank you so much Barb!! All of us who work in the kitchen are very grateful and will try keep up the good work by keeping things in their places.

Peace,

Gail Petersen (Chair),
Lee Anne Campbell, Gail Coe, Judy Durham,
Judy Heller, and Carla Zavorskas

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