

The Messenger

The *Messenger* is a publication of the First Congregational Church of Falmouth, UCC



I believe God's Spirit is present in our world in profound and remarkable ways. And this Spirit wants to be present in *your life* in profound and remarkable ways, too. Christ's Gospel is a promise for you, for it is Jesus' love that saved and saves this world from itself. Jew or gentile, man or woman, young or old, slave or free, the promise of Christ's Gospel is a promise for the whole world.

The truth is there will be times when we feel lost and times when we know loss, but we are called to have faith our God will lead us through our losses. We should believe God is our Shepherd, especially when we feel defeated, when we are at our wits end and it seems we have nothing left... nothing but hope in God. I hope you feel God is with us, guiding our passage, sheltering us in the wilderness, and bringing us home again. And if you don't feel that way, then I encourage you to ask the Holy Spirit to come into your life, and then ask yourself what will you do when it arrives? Will you be changed? Will you come to recognize the remarkable movement of the Spirit in your life?

We are now in the season of epiphany. This is the season for sudden and striking realizations. This is the season to wait and watch for the appearance of angels. This is the season to listen for the voice of God; to hear the good news that God's Spirit is changing our world in miraculous ways this very day! I believe if you open yourself to the presence of the Spirit your life will also be changed in powerful and permanent ways. And I know, when we are working together with God's Spirit, miracles are a possibility. So let us plan for the impossible and prepare for the unexpected, for the best is yet to come!

Go now and live,
Jonathan

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January/February Sundays

Sunday, January 7

10:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship and FCC Kids

Sunday, January 14

10:00 a.m. — Morning service or worship and FCC Kids

Sunday, January 21

10:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship and FCC Kids

Sunday, January 28

10:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship and FCC Kids

11:15 a.m. — 314th Annual Meeting of the church

Sunday, February 4

10:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship and FCC Kids

Sunday, February 11

10:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship and FCC Kids

Sunday, February 18

10:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship and FCC Kids

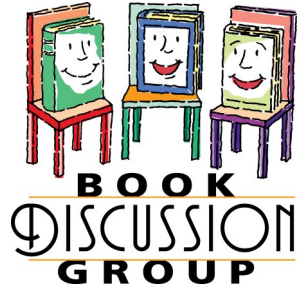
Sunday, February 25

10:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship and FCC Kids



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024!

The Church Book Discussion group meets the fourth Monday of each month in the church at 1:00 p.m. and is open to all members of the church to attend to discuss a particular book or attend on a regular basis.



Monday January 22, 1:00

p.m. *Lethal Tides* by Mary Sears

and Catherine Musemeche Story of the mostly female marine scientists who helped the US Navy win the war in the Pacific. They studied beaches, currents and underwater formations providing critical information which allowed the Navy to land supplies and men on various islands. They also helped to guide submarines in the area. Mary Sears worked in Woods Hole for many years.

Monday February 26, 1:00 p.m. *My Antonia* by Willa Cather which was published in 1918. It was considered a masterpiece, praised for bringing the American West to life and making it interesting. Most books were focused on wealthy families.

Please note: If there is snow the church closes when the schools are closed. Bette West

Women's Union

The Women's Union will meet on **Wednesday, January 10th at 10:00 a.m.**

Martine Bindler-Desbiens will guide a Valentine's workshop with all participants making cards for residents of nursing homes.

Bring a "Brown Bag sandwich" for yourself. Beverage and dessert provided.

Our **February meeting is Wednesday, February 14th at 10:00 a.m.** for "An Old Fashioned Valentine Tea". Program: Learn about Neighborhood Falmouth for members and volunteers from Candice A. Geers, Director. More information will be announced at the January Meeting.



THEATER TRIP!

Sign up to enjoy the play, "CLUE" presented by the Falmouth Theater Guild on Sunday, February 18 at 2:00 p.m. at Highfield Theater. Tickets are only \$28.00 per person and guests



are welcome. The play is based on the movie and the popular board game and is a hilarious mystery. It begins at a remote mansion where six mysterious guests assemble at a dinner party where murder is on the menu!!!

Sign up with a check payable to Falmouth Theater Guild. Checks are due by February 5. Give to Bette West at church or mail to her at 42 East Harbor Drive, Falmouth MA 02536. (508-457-9860)

Children's Clothing Project

The Outreach Committee would like to share a portion of a note our church recently received. It read: "Just by chance I drove by the church on Saturday morning and saw the sign for free kids clothes. Two nights earlier my niece had been crying about how she was going to get new school clothes—all three kids had grown over the summer. This was her gift from God and your generous congregation. She was able to get her seven-year-old almost everything she needed. It was a miracle. Where would we be without churches?" The note was signed with "much love and appreciation."

Our Children's Clothing project has been ongoing since 1992 serving people in need. In the past year, the numbers of children being shopped for has greatly increased and we are blessed with many contributions. However this makes for plenty of work and we would welcome some new helpers. There's a sign-up sheet outside of the church office and any questions can be addressed to Anne Dyer or any member of our Outreach Committee.



FREE
CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

First Congregational Church of Falmouth
68 Main St.

On the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month,
(except the 4th Saturday in December)
free, gently-worn children's clothing, sizes infant to 14/16,
is available at the First Congregational Church
on the Village Green in Falmouth

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

2024
January 13 & 27
February 10 & 24
March 9 & 23
April 13 & 27
May 11 & 25
June 8 & 22
July 13 & 27
August 10 & 24
September 14 & 28
October 12 & 26
November 9 & 23
December 14

Donations of clean, gently-worn children's clothing are welcome and may be left at the church during normal business hours, or the day of the exchange.

Christian Outreach

OUTREACH NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Did you know that the updated number for chronically undernourished people in the world is 780 million? This is a staggering number. Please mark your calendars to join us on March 9th from 1-3 pm for Outreach's meal packing event with RISE Against Hunger! At this March event we will be packing 10,152 meals in two hours. Each meal consists of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and a vitamin pack. The mission of RISE Against Hunger is to grow a global movement to end hunger by empowering communities: "Targeting remote, last mile communities within hunger pockets designated serious by the Global Hunger Index, (they) work with local leaders to harness the strengths of their communities and tackle their own food and nutrition security challenges with agency, dignity and resistance." As the various links show, they work with local communities to help teach them agricultural methods to sustain themselves independently going forward. According to their 2022 Year End Report, RISE Against Hunger impacted 4,489,000 lives. They distributed 67.6 million meals to over 38 countries.



You asked us for a "hands-on" activity in Outreach. Here it is! But we need your help to make it a success. Let us join forces and harness the strength of our community. We will be reaching out for volunteers from the community. The Scouts have already expressed interest in joining us. (Having personally participated in such an event several years ago, I found it to be a great community building experience for all ages.) We welcome all volunteers from school age children on up. High School students are even eligible for service hours! There will be 6 meal packing stations, 4 weigh and seal stations where volunteers can be seated, and a box and counting station.

Please sign up using the link below to register. (Note: The Outreach Committee has already put aside \$3,000 towards our goal of \$4,000 needed to sponsor this event.) <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/FirstCongregationalChurchofFalmouth2024>

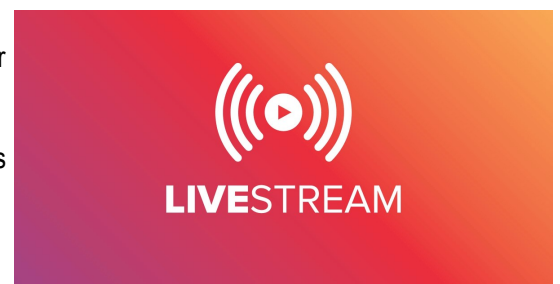
Thank you for your support of this important ministry.

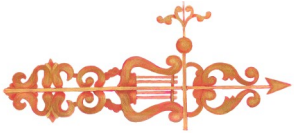
Openings and Closings

Did you know that special, short, opening and closing videos precede and follow our regular online church services? Just "tune in" to www.firstcongofalmouth.live as usual, only you should do it about five minutes before the scheduled start of a service. As an example, for our regular Sunday service, the opening invites you to view several pictures of beautiful Falmouth, and the closing gives much deserved credit to our church staff.

Special openings and closing are prepared for special events. We had special "themed" openings and closings for our 2023 Christmas Eve services. This year's theme was how Christmas is celebrated by other cultures and in other countries. The whole service, including opening and closing, will be saved on our website for the upcoming year – just click on the "Specials" page.

Hal Petersen





First Congregational Church, UCC
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Address correction requested



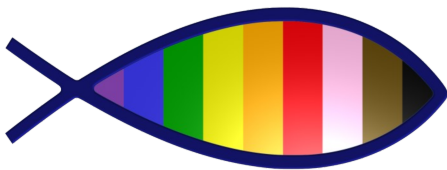
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024!



Check us out on the web!
www.firstcongregationalfalmouth.org

OR

use your phone's camera to scan the QR code!



**YOU are welcome
here!**

The Messenger

is published monthly by

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Clerk—Marcia Young
Treasurer—Tom Durham

Board/Committee Chairmen...

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Christian Outreach—Judy Durham
Deacons—Evelyn Johnson
Music—Robin Bowerman
Nominating—JoAnn Coleman
Reception—Sue Simchock
Stewardship—Bob Heller
Trustees—John Farrington