

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF FALMOUTH,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

October's Events 2

This Year's
Christmas Fair 3

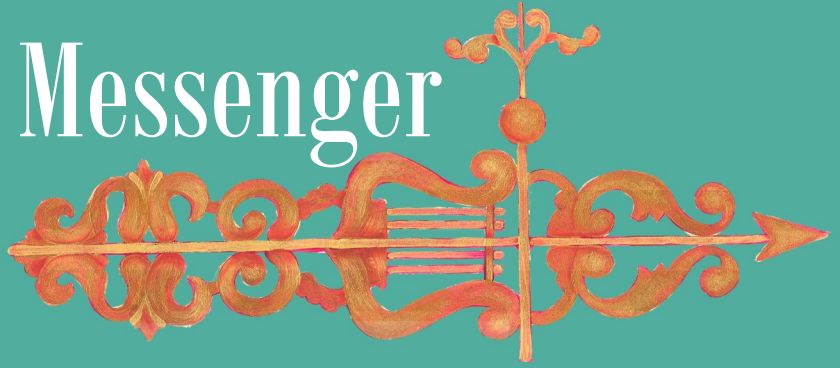
You're Invited! 4

What We've Been
Doing 5

Under Construction 6

Our regular
Schedule 7

The Messenger



VOLUME 30, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2021

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven... for God has made everything suitable for its time.”

From Ecclesiastes 3

Our church has had so much to be grateful for this past month. We began our program year on Rally Sunday with worship, fun, and fellowship and have continued that theme over the last four weeks.

Indeed, this is an exciting time in the life of the First Congregational Church in Falmouth! As our days begin to grow ever so slightly shorter, and as we have bid farewell to our summer friends and residents, I find myself enthusiastically anticipating the many wonderful opportunities that are coming with the fall start of our programming year.



One of the ways we will explore what it means to be church, is by talking to one another about becoming an Open and Affirming church. There will be three opportunities to be part of the conversation in Fellowship Hall, following our service of worship on October 3, October 17, and November 14. As we explore the ways we hope to welcome all of God's children, we will also have opportunities to invite our friends and neighbors to meet us and find out more about our community. There are plans for animal blessings and chowdah luncheons, solar energy celebrations and line dancing chili fests, all culminating in an opportunity to see and hear international bestselling author Nathaniel Philbrick reading from his most recent book. The only thing missing is you!

In the midst of anticipating another excellent year together, 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. At the center of the First Congregational Church in Falmouth is our great desire to love God with everything we've got, and close to that is the aspiration that we will love our neighbors and so be loved in return. Thank you for being my companion as together we respond to God's call for us to be our finest expression of Christ's beloved community.

Go Now and Live,
Jonathan

Sundays in October...

Sunday, October 3

- 10:00 a.m.. Morning service of worship & FCC Kids
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Neighbors in Need Offering
- 11:00 a.m. Open & Affirming Discussion #1
- 2:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals on the Ark Playground

Sunday, October 10 — Maritime Sunday

- 10:00 a.m. Morning service of worship & FCC Kids
- 11:00 a.m. Chowdah Fest in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 17

- 10:00 a.m. Morning service of worship & FCC Kids
- 11:00 a.m. Open & Affirming Discussion #2

Sunday, October 24

- 10:00 a.m. Morning service of worship & FCC Kids
- 11:00 a.m. Presentation of Proposed budget for 2022

Saturday, October 30 (NOTE CHANGE!)

- 3:00 p.m. Service of worship (change due to Cape Cod Marathon on the 31st.

Women's Union

We will meet on October 13 at 10:00 a.m. for the Annual Meeting. We will elect officers, vote for the 2021 – 2022 budget, and edit the Membership Book. Following the business meeting we will celebrate the Women's Union's 122nd birthday with cake and beverages.

Welcome New Members! Cynthia DeMestico, Adrienne Latimer, and Carla Zavorskas!

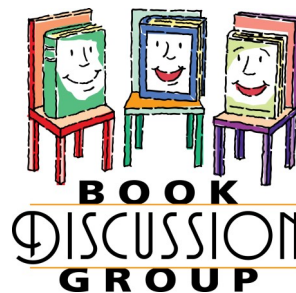


Theatre Party!

Join us on Opening Night and enjoy the marvelous music and story of "CAROUSEL" on Friday, October 22, at 7:30 p.m. Couples' Club invites all members of the church are invited to hear memorable familiar songs such as "You'll Never Walk Alone", "If I Loved You", "This Was a Real Nice Clambake" and "June Is Bustin' Out All Over" presented by the Falmouth Theater Guild at Highfield Theater. Tickets are only \$21.00 per person. Sign up on the Couples' Club clipboard (on the Opportunity Wall), so we know how many seats to reserve and send a check made out to the Falmouth Theater Guild to Bette West at 42 East Harbor Drive, East Falmouth MA 02536 by **October 8**. Call if you have questions: 508-457-9860.



Each person must show proof of COVID vaccination with a card and picture ID. Anyone else must show proof of a negative Covid test within 72 hours before entering the theater. Face masks may be required as well.



Our October meeting will occur on Monday, October 25, 1:00 p.m. in the church parlor. The book to be discussed will be *Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. All are welcome to attend, but please either sign up on the Book Group clipboard on the Opportunity Board or call Bette West at 508-457-9860 if you plan to attend.



A serious talk about the Fair...

Plans ARE moving forward to have our annual Christmas Fair on December 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. However, there needs to be a serious discussion about leadership for the Fair. We have been blessed that many of our booth “shepherds” have “re-upped” for another year, even though some of them have reservations, mostly regarding what the state of Covid will be by that time. However, due to moves and natural attrition, we are seeking shepherds for **three** very important booths: Elegant Junque, the Silent Auction, and the Children’s Fair. If we do not find persons willing to take on the responsibility, we will be compelled to not include those booths in the fair, thus substantially impacting our bottom line. We believe that we’ll be able to find workers to help, but first we need someone to say “I’ll be a shepherd!” (Co-shepherds are also possible if you have a friend to help.)

I have found the history of this church to be that folks don’t volunteer until personally asked. Well, **I’m personally asking** you to give of your time to this very worthwhile project. Not only does it generate income for the church’s General Budget, but it is so much more. Those who have worked on the Fair can tell you how rewarding it is to get to know other members of your church family and then generate smiles from the community –at-large when they experience the love which permeates the air on Fair Day. And for those who think, with masks, you can’t see a smile, cover your own face, look in the mirror and smile — it’s in your eyes! So, we can do this with good planning and leadership.

Should you have questions about any of the booths needing leadership, please call me. I will be honest about what is needed for each booth offer whatever help I can. New ideas are always welcome (I’m not one to insist that we do it the way it’s been done for the last 40 years).

I look forward to hearing from lots of folks.

Martha

Milestones

In Memoriam

Clark Neill

(Continued from Page 4)

Our **Neighbor’s in Need Special Mission Offering** will be held on October 3, 2021. This year’s campaign will focus on “the unhoused aka homelessness”. The United Church of Christ is rooted in supporting justice work and communities in need of assistance. As a group they have faced much. With many Americans losing income due to the coronavirus, this vulnerable community will likely grow. Your support of this important mission offering is greatly appreciated.

During the month of September, the Outreach Committee met and voted to make the following donations. A donation of \$1,000. was made to **Belonging to Each Other**. The mission of **Belonging to Each Other** is to provide temporary housing and loving support to our homeless neighbors in Falmouth during the cold weather months. A donation of \$2,000. was made to the **UCC Disaster Relief for Haiti**.

Thank you for your continued support of these important ministries.

Inviting and Welcoming

Thank you to all who assisted in our very successful recent "Paul Revere Day" celebration, which attracted about 150 attendees. The accompanying schedule shows upcoming events at the church, two of which occur in October: the Blessing of the Animals on Oct 3 (2-3 pm at our outdoor playground area) and Chowdah Fest luncheon on Oct 10 (11am-1pm in Fellowship Hall). These events, all of which are free and open to the public, provide great opportunities to invite your friends and neighbors to join us and share in the fun. Thanks for getting into the spirit of Inviting & Welcoming!



First Congregational Church Falmouth Village Green *You're Invited!*

Oct 3 (Sun), 2-3 pm: Blessing of the Animals

Bring your pet for a special gathering at our Noah's Ark playground and meet special "guests" including local goats.

Oct 10 (Sun), 11 am - 1 pm: Chowdah Fest

Enjoy a tasty "chowdah" lunch and hear from Ben Carnevale about his recently published book on Nobska Lighthouse. Lunch is served in Fellowship Hall immediately following our church's annual maritime Sunday worship service and FCC Kids program.

Nov 6 (Sat), 2-3 pm: Solar Energy Celebration

Join us in dedicating our newly installed solar panels on the roof of Fellowship Hall, with guest speaker Heather Goldstone of the Woodwell Climate Research Center.

Nov 21 (Sun), 11 am-1 pm: Chili Fest

Treat yourself to some down-home chili and line-dancing fun. Lunch is served in Fellowship Hall immediately following our church's Sunday worship service and FCC Kids program.

Nov 29 (Mon), 4-5 pm: Author Nathaniel Philbrick

Hear this best-selling author describe his latest book, *Travels with George*. Event sponsored in conjunction with Museums on the Green. Mr. Philbrick will speak in the church sanctuary.

All events are free and open to the public.

First Congregational Church of Falmouth

68 Main Street, Falmouth MA 02540 Rev. Jonathan Drury, Senior Minister

www.firstcongregationalfalmouth.org

Live Stream – Sundays, 10 am - <https://firstcongfalmouth.live>



Church Council

The Church Council met on September 15 via Zoom. Reverend Drury opened the meeting with prayer.

The upcoming Inviting and Welcoming events will be widely publicized in the community. On October 3 from 2:00-3:00 there will be a Blessing of the Animals, and on October 10 from 11:00-1:00 there will be a Chowder Fest and a talk by Ben Carnevale on his book *Nobska*. Volunteers are needed to assist at these events. Please contact Greg Mills if you are available to help. Council voted to recommend the wearing of masks at the indoor events.

The Treasurer's report showed that member support in August was considerably lower than in August 2020. However, the year-to-date totals were similar. Carol Mills noted that the trustees voted to pay for the solar project with unrestricted funds rather than borrowing funds for that purpose. Carol also distributed and reviewed the Proposed Spending Plan for 2022, which will be voted on at the fall meeting on October 24.

Council then heard reports from the church boards and committees. Archivist Jeannine Jeffrey will be collecting records of the Paul Revere Day event. The annual assembly of the Cape Cod Council of Churches will be held on September 30 via Zoom. A new chef has been hired for the Faith Family Kitchen, and A Baby Center is open by appointment only. The Board of Christian Education has posted the Director of Christian Education position. FCC Kids had a fun time playing games on the Green following the children's message on Rally Day. The Outreach Committee continues to coordinate with Habitat for Humanity to set up volunteer opportunities for our church to assist with its project in Falmouth, which may now begin in November. The Deacons will serve Communion in the traditional way, but kits will continue to be available in the pews. Offering plates are currently outside of each entrance to the sanctuary. The pads for writing prayer requests are once again available. Ushers and greeters are needed for Sunday services. The choir is now back singing. Steve Birmingham, Music Committee chairperson, plans to work with FCC Kids on a song for the Blessing of the Animals event. The Nominating Committee has begun looking for members to fill vacancies on our boards and committees. The Reception Committee will move fellowship time inside beginning on September 26. The Stewardship Campaign begins on October 17 and will conclude on November 7, Loyalty Sunday. Carolyn Dreyer, John Dulina, and Ernie and Barbara Kirsch will deliver stewardship moments. The Trustees are considering hiring a vendor to manage larger capital projects. This person would coordinate with a trustee project coordinator. The solar installation project is progressing well, and the steeple rehabilitation project remains a top priority. The Southern New England Conference of the UCC has issued a challenge to churches to become "green" to help combat climate change. Bobbie Miner, one of our delegates, is proud that we are already designated as a "green church," and in addition we are currently adding solar panels.

Marcia Young,

Christian Outreach

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in our recent Outreach Sunday celebration and helped to make it a success! We especially want to thank Nicholas Dreyer for agreeing to be our guest speaker. As you may recall, our church helped to sponsor Nicholas on his mission trip last year. It was wonderful to hear about his many experiences.

Looking ahead, it appears that **November** will be the build month for the **Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod** homes being constructed in East Falmouth. We strongly encourage and hope that you will help support this important project in our community. We still need bakers and snack volunteers to drop off snacks on Tuesday and Saturday mornings during the month of November and possibly beyond. (They can be store bought.) Registration volunteers who simply welcome the construction folks on the designated mornings are also needed. Finally, anyone interested in helping with construction, such as making book cases for the new homes, would be greatly appreciated. We hope to create a team of volunteers to work one upcoming Saturday along with the youth to complete these bookcases. Please contact Laura Cole (lauracole40@gmail.com) or John Bowers (lrbowers123@sbcglobal.net) if you would like to help in any way. You may also look for updates on the project in Laura's **Care and Connection**. Watch for her announcement of the special date when we can join the six families as they raise the walls on their new homes on Willet Way in East Falmouth and begin construction!



Preparing to raise a wall!

(Continued on Page 3)

Under Construction...

Two significant projects are underway now at the church:

- 1) a standby "instant on" gas-fired generator is being installed to provide some back up power and prevent the sprinkler system from "faulting" during power outages and unnecessarily calling the fire department.
- 2) a solar panel or photovoltaic (PV) array is being installed on the east side of the Fellowship Hall roof that will cover almost all of our electrical needs.

These are being done at the same time as both systems will use the same trench to the front of the Church building to bring power to the main circuit boxes.

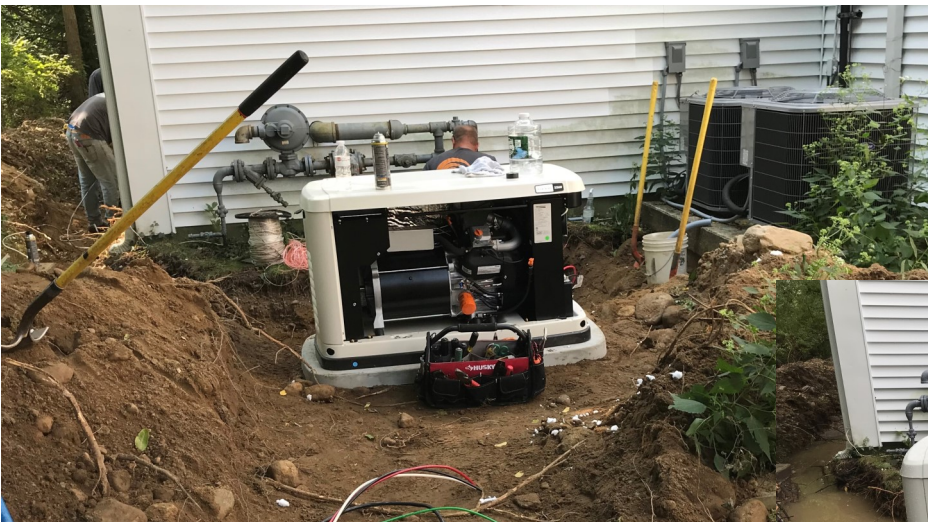
The generator effort should be completed the last week in September. The solar panels will also be fully installed by then as well but we will not be able to turn the system "on" until the electrical utility (Eversource) gives us the final approval.



Four of the five pallets of solar panels waiting to be installed.



The rack system that holds the PV panels on Fellowship Hall roof.



The Generac generator early in the installation.



The generator on 9/16 with the protective shroud installed.

We gather to worship

Sunday Morning Worship
10:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Holy Communion celebrated
1st Sunday of the month

FCC Kids!
10:00 a.m.
September ~ June
when school is in session



★ This page replaces the previous church calendar. For ★
★ a detailed listing of all events at the church, please ★
★ visit our website: www.firstcongfalmonth.org. For ★
★ those without internet access, please contact the ★
★ church office for a more traditional, printed calendar. ★
★

We reach out to the Community...

Outside Playtime
Wednesdays
10:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.
Through November 17

Children's Clothing Project
2nd & 4th Saturdays
10:00 a.m. ~ 12:00 noon

Coffeehouse
1st & 3rd Thursdays
6:30 p.m.—set up
Singing begins at 7:00

Falmouth Eats Together
We host this mission of
The Falmouth Service
Center on occasional
Thursdays during the year

We gather to make music...

Adult Choir
Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.

Bell Choir
Thursdays, 6:00 p.m.

We gather to plan...

Unless stated, all meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

- 2nd Sunday—Music Committee (11:00 a.m.)
- 2nd Tuesday—Board of Trustees (3:00 p.m.)
- 2nd Wednesday—Board of Deacons, Board of Christian Outreach, Nominating Committee; Board of Christian Education (6:00)
- 3rd Monday—Stewardship Committee
- 3rd Wednesday—Church Council
- 4th Sunday—Good Shepherd Project (11:30 a.m.)

We gather as children & youth...

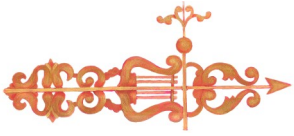
Youth Group
for grades 4-8
1st Sunday of the month
4:30—6:00 p.m.

We gather to socialize...

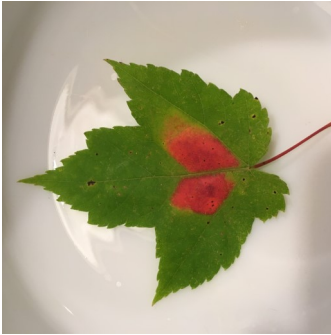
- Book Discussion Group — 4th Monday — 1:00 p.m.
- Friendly Circle — Every Tuesday — 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
- Men's Group — 1st & 3rd Tuesdays — 9:00 a.m.
- Mahjong — Every Tuesday — 10:30 a.m.—12:30 a.m.
- Wednesday Morning Circle — 2nd Wednesday — 11:00 a.m.
- Couples' Club — dates & times vary according to activity planned
- Soup & Bread Luncheons — selected Sundays following worship

We gather to listen for God...

- Prayer Group — Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m.
- Loss Support Group — Speak with Laura Cole, Co-Ordinator of Care & Connection, for more information
- Coffee & Conversation — TBA — an informal time to gather to learn more about the our church



First Congregational Church, UCC
68 Main Street
Falmouth, MA 02540
Address correction requested



OCTOBER!

www.firstcongfalmouth.org

YOU are welcome here!

The Messenger

is published monthly by

The First Congregational Church
of Falmouth, UCC
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Elected Officials of the Church

Moderator—John Honey

Clerk—Marcia Young

Treasurer—Carol Mills

Board/Committee Chairmen...

Christian Education—Elsa Partan & Julie Fitzpatrick

Christian Outreach—John Bowers

Deacons—Evelyn Johnson

Music—Steve Birmingham

Nominating—JoAnn Coleman and Joanne Blum-Carnevale

Reception—Sue Simchock

Stewardship—Dennis McGillicuddy

Trustees—Bob Johnson