

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF FALMOUTH,  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Our Staff

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Rev. Jonathan Drury  
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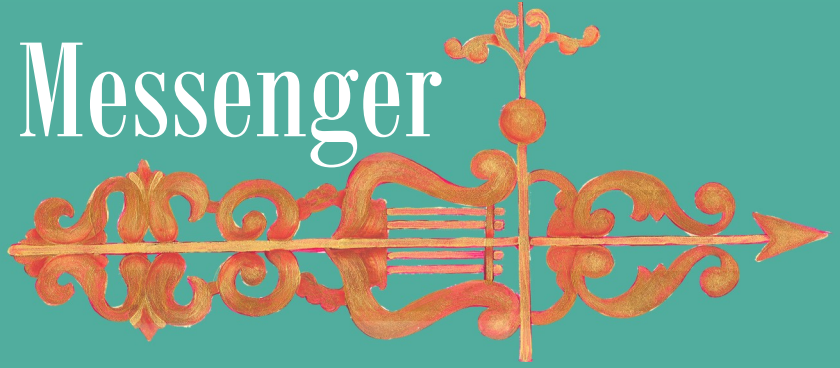
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# The Messenger



VOLUME 31, ISSUE 7

APRIL 2023

**Open my lips that I may sing with joy your  
Good News.**

**Open my hands that I may reach out to my  
brothers and sisters.**

**Open my eyes that I may recognize Christ  
in the face of each and every person.**

**Open my heart that I may live out  
your purpose through my life.**



In moments of quiet reflection, I thank God for the gifts that abound in blessed work, the wonder of this awesome creation all around me, and the precious ministry with which I have been entrusted. We are the body of Christ, his hands, feet, mind and heart in this wonderful world. Let's breathe in, drink in and give thanks for each amazing day as we continue to be co-creators with God in this excellent adventure together!

Amazing things abound in this world, and I believe we are called to celebrate God and to be thankful. This spring, I hope our good efforts together will remind us again that God's love is all around us... that in return for the work we do in God's name, we both offer to others and receive for ourselves this love.

I am proud to be part of a community of people who care for one another the best we can. Thank you to everyone who comes here and offers to God's church their time, their talent and their treasure. This community exists because of thoughtful people who work hard to make church happen. Your efforts are recognized, and they are celebrated. And I hope you know at the First Congregational Church there are people here to listen to your shouts of triumph, and we are here to share your tears of frustration and pain. And if and when you ask to pray, we will be here to reach out across the Holy Spirit, take your hand, and together with you, share in the promise of God's love and grace.

Go now and live,

Jonathan



## Holy Week



**Sunday, April 2 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

### **Palm Sunday**

Our worship will begin with a Blessing of the Palms and a Palm Parade sung to *The Palms*. Following the parade, FCC Kids will be dismissed to their classes and our Adult Choir & Friends, accompanied by a chamber orchestra will present John Rutter's *Requiem*. Those who heard this when it was done in 2019 will remember what a stirring and profound piece of music this is. We hope to see our sanctuary filled-to-the-brim.

**Maundy Thursday ~ April 6 ~ 7:30 p.m.**

### **Office of Tenebrae & Holy Communion**

**Easter Sunday ~ April 9 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

### **Festival service with Holy Communion**

### **Egg Hunt following worship**

### **A Message from the Moderator...**

You may have heard that Council has been asked to form a Strategic Planning Committee. I am going to take the next few months to gather information from the congregation on different topics using the church's various mediums of communication. You will see my first way creatively displayed in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour and don't worry you will also have a chance to respond by email if you are not able to join us on a particular day. I do hope that you will participate in order to give the committee the best representation of our membership.

Warm Regards, Katie Dreyer



### **Women's Union**

The Women's Union will meet Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. The program will be presented by Joanne Blum-Carnevale titled "Everything you would like to know about the history of Highfield Hall." We will have a "Lunch-In Buffet". Please bring a salad or dessert to share. All Women of the church are invited to attend.



The Book Discussion Group meets on the fourth Monday of the month from 1-3:00 p.m. in the church parlor. All are welcome to join us for a single discussion or on a permanent basis- we'd love to have you attend. The

members choose the books to read and we use discussion guides. For April 24 we will read *Secrets of the Sprakkar* by Eiza Reid- wife of the President of Iceland, which is considered the most gender equal country in the world. Can Americans learn to even the playing field between men and women at home and work? Call Bette West for more information. 508-457-9860.



## Theater Trip!!!!

Members of the church and friends are invited to attend a trip to see the Falmouth Theater Guild's production of the musical *SOMETHING ROTTEN* on Friday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Highfield Theater. Tickets are \$28.00 per person and sign-ups are **DUE by May 1**. In 1595, two London brothers are trying to write a hit show to outshine the "Bard." They are told that the future of theater will involve singing, dancing and acting - a new concept! They write the world's first musical featuring a cast of talented characters who each get their chance to perform. Lots of laughs are guaranteed. Send a check for \$28.00 per person, payable to FALMOUTH THEATER GUILD by Friday, May 1. Mail to Bette West 42 East Harbor Drive Falmouth, MA 02536 Pick up your tickets at the theater at 7:00.

## Yes FCC — there WILL be a Rummage Sale!!!

**Saturday, May 6, 9AM to 1PM**

We're coming down to the wire for the Rummage Sale. We have just over a month before May 6. Note our new hours — 9AM to 1PM.

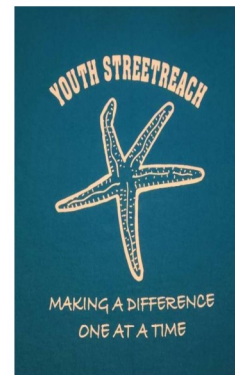
Sorted donations can begin arriving at the church of Monday, April 24, and can be brought until 3 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3. Here is a list of booths and what they sell...

- Ladies & Men's Clothing** — should be in good, clean, wearable condition, on hangers and marked for size.
- Jewelry** — all manner of jewelry and jewelry-related items (boxes, etc.)
- Books** — Please, no magazines, Reader's Digest condensed books, or encyclopedias
- Men's Table** — small appliances, tools, vacuum cleaners, foldable lawn chairs, outdoor equipment, suitcases. Please, no TV's, large furniture or computers!
- Linens** — linens, blankets, bedspreads, fabrics — marked for size
- Plants** — flower, herb, vegetable plants, perennials & shrubs. Please label pots with name and color. Please, no houseplants
- White Elephant** — bric-a-brac, glassware, art work, etc.

Please note: No children's clothing or toys, but books are welcome. A sign-up notebook (similar to the one for the Christmas Fair) will be available soon so you can "find your niche" for helping this year!



## Volunteer Opportunity



**SATURDAY, MAY 27<sup>th</sup>**

Youth Street Reach Breakfast  
for those experiencing homelessness

at First Congregational Church  
68 Main Street, Falmouth Village Green

**Kids, Teens, Adults** in the community are welcome to help set up and serve — including **Scouts, local churches** and **high school students** looking for service hours

Two Opportunities to Help:

**SET UP** — Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 7:30 pm

**SERVE BREAKFAST** — Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 am

Contact Danielle Dallis to volunteer: [danielledallis@aol.com](mailto:danielledallis@aol.com)

Clothing and Shoe donations are gratefully accepted and can be dropped off at the church office by Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup> for distribution at the event — please designate the items are for YSR (Danielle/Laura)

YSR is a program of the Cape Cod Council of Churches



## Church Council

Reverend Drury opened the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Church Council with prayer. Jonathan said the church has been busy with Newcomers, the Garden Club, and Scouts meeting here and the Red Cross using our space for a blood drive. Jonathan recently attended a meeting of clergy from the Southern New England Conference of the UCC. He said that we are doing well compared to other churches. Palm Sunday will feature the palm parade and John Ruetters' *Requiem*, which will be performed from the front of the church. On Maundy Thursday, Communion will be served by intinction. Communion will also be served on Easter Sunday.

Tom Durham, Treasurer, said that member support in February totaled \$15,005 and year-to-date is \$87,174, which is slightly lower than in 2022. The unrestricted gift of \$88,166 from the Mary Jean Howard Bequest of 2011, received in February, will be put into CDs to be used to help with the budget deficit.

Council then turned to reports from the church boards and committees. The Outreach Committee will partner with the Rotary Club to host an international banquet on Tuesday, May the 16<sup>th</sup>. This is a fundraiser for a group in Nepal and one in Guatemala City. Danielle Dallis said we are now connected to a foster family through the CCCC's Covenant to Care for Foster Families program, and we will provide help as needs arise. On May the 27<sup>th</sup> we will host the CCCC's Youth Street Reach program, which hosts a breakfast for the homeless. On Easter Sunday there will be activities for the kids before the traditional egg hunt following the service. The Women's Union is planning a Rummage Sale for May the 6<sup>th</sup>. Our UCC Delegates will attend the April 23 meeting of the Barnstable Association and the annual meeting of the SNEUCC on June 17<sup>th</sup> in Worcester. The Trustees reported that progress continues on the steeple rehabilitation. Improvements to our storage spaces are also being made. The Deacons are reviewing the membership rolls, following the process outlined in our bylaws. The CCCC will hold its Generations of Hope – Jubilee 63 on April the 29<sup>th</sup> in Dennis Port. This event celebrates the sixty-third anniversary of the CCCC.

During the general discussion, Moderator Katie Dreyer announced that June 25<sup>th</sup> will be ONA Sunday. The ONA logo is being finalized, and we will hear more from a panel on how to be a welcoming church. Jan Hull is painting a celebratory sign for the wall of accolades which will be to the left of the church office. Katie attended board and committee meetings and met with people at the Enterprise and the Chamber of Commerce to discuss ways to enhance publicity. She also spoke to Eight Cousins about partnering on book talks. The meeting ended with Council members joining in the Lord's prayer.

Marcia Young, Clerk



## A Brief Explanation of the Church's Investments, Investment Decisions, and Meeting a Deficit Budget

As most FCC members are aware, the First Congregational Church in Falmouth is fortunate to have substantial investments due to generous bequests to the church over the years. Some of these gifts were bequeathed with restrictions (specifically directing where the funds are to go) while others are unrestricted. As Treasurer, I think of these investments as our church's "Long-Term Savings Accounts," with the funds raised annually, including stewardship pledges and rental income, as our church's "Annual Operating Income." Some have asked, "Why did we approve a \$68,000 deficit budget when the Church is so fortunate to have such large investment accounts?" The simple answer is: The amount we expect to receive in 2023 as "Annual Operating Income" is less than our church's expenses.

For at least the past 20 years, the church used money from the "Long-Term Savings Accounts" to balance the budget for Annual Operating Expenses and for Major Projects to maintain and improve our buildings and grounds. To meet our Annual Operating Expenses, the dollar amount taken from our investments has been \$75,000 to \$90,000 each year for the past 7 years. To pay the 2023 expenses, we will probably need to use an additional \$68,000 from our church's "Long-Term Savings Accounts."

FCC has an investment committee who, along with an investment advisor, makes recommendations on how to invest the money in the "Long-Term Savings Accounts" with the intention of attaining growth as a means of providing additional financial support to the mission, operation, and maintenance of the church. For money needed for current year expenses, we have money market accounts and recently invested in higher interest earning Certificates of Deposit.

(Continued on next page)

## Board of Christian Outreach



The Outreach Committee met in March and voted to make the following donations. A donation of \$1,000 was made to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cape Cod and the Islands. The mission of this nonprofit organization is to partner with under-resourced families to provide their children with transformational, one-to-one professionally supported relationships with caring adult mentors, so that their children will thrive. A donation of \$1,500 was made to the Cape Cod Council of Churches. The Council's mission is to serve the spiritual and physical needs of all people on Cape Cod and the Islands by engaging in and supporting ministries of ecumenical witness. It supports such programs as A Baby Center, Faith Family Kitchen Hope Food Pantry and Youth Street Reach. A donation of \$200 was made to Celebrations, an organization which provides funding for the Falmouth High School after prom event. Finally, a donation of \$1,500 was made to the Housing Assistance Corporation (HAC) whose mission is twofold: To deliver housing and services that meet the needs of the community and minimize our impact on natural resources; and to engage in responsible economic development that generate jobs, stabilize housing and strengthens the community. Everyone is invited to join members of the Outreach Committee (Team FCC) in the upcoming Housing Assistance Corporation's (HAC) annual Walk for Hope on Sunday, May 21st. We are excited to announce that this year our church will be a sponsor of this great event. By walking or donating, you will help support HAC's housing programs and services to give hope to our most vulnerable neighbors needing access to critical housing services. In 2022, HAC served over 6,200 clients through education, stabilization, prevention and services for the homeless. This year the Walk will be held in three different locations, Falmouth being one. If the date May 21st is not good for you, you can still be part of the team and walk whenever and wherever you want - on a treadmill, around your neighborhood, along the beach, on a bike path or in a park. If walking is not for you, donations to the team are also accepted.

**Registration for the Walk for Hope is now open.** The website for registration or donation is <https://p2p.onecause.com/walkforhope23/team/team-fcc-first-congregational-church-of-falmouth>. Please let Carole Lyons (lyonsca381@gmail.com) know if you're interested in participating or supporting the team, whether by walking or donation. You can find more information regarding HAC and the Walk at the following website: <https://haconcapcod.org/events/walk-for-hope> We're counting on you!

**SAVE THE DATE:** May 16th - International Service Project/Dinner with the Rotary Club — The Rotary Club of Falmouth has asked the FCC Outreach Committee to partner with them in hosting an international banquet for the community, as a way for them to raise funds for two impactful international service projects they are sponsoring. One of the projects is to help support an educational program for girls in the mountains of Nepal, by raising money for a solar-power back up system for the students. The other international program the Rotary Club is supporting is called Safe Passage. This program targets families who live at the Guatemala City Dump, by providing education for the children and food and hygiene support for the families as long as the children stay in school. Please join us for this night of delicious, international cuisine on Tuesday, May 16th. Tickets for the dinner will be \$30. per person for all you can eat of a wide variety of international dishes. The Rotary Club is still looking for additional food donations, so if you have a favorite international dish, please consider donating it. Contact John Bowers (lrbowers123@sbcglobal.net) to purchase tickets or for more information about this exciting opportunity.

Finally, we've made a slight change in our request for donations to the Falmouth Service Center. The Outreach Committee will now highlight just a few items from the Falmouth Service Center grocery list in the Sunday bulletin each week, with the hope that you will bring the list with you as do your weekly shopping. Please continue to drop off the items in the bins or at the Falmouth Service Center, whichever is most convenient for you.

Thank you for your continued support of these important ministries.

### **A Brief Explanation...** *(Continued from previous page)*

FCC recently received an unrestricted bequest from Mary Jean Howard's estate. Ms. Howard was a member of the church and generously included FCC in her will. The bequest is for a little over \$88,000. These funds have been added to the church's unrestricted accounts, which include Money Market funds, Certificates of Deposit, the Faxon Fund, and the Unrestricted Investment Fund. We were fortunate this year (and extremely grateful!) to Mary Jean Howard's estate for the generous gift.

Thank you to all who have included FCC in your wills; thank you to the investment committee for your sound advice; thank you to the Board of Trustees and Church Council for your advice and support; and most of all, thank you to all FCC members for your generosity and faith! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Tom Durham, Treasurer

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Strategic Planning** — Katie Dryer, Church Moderator, attended our March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and sought from Trustees ideas for Strategic Planning efforts. This was part of Katie's efforts to visit our church's Boards and Committees to solicit ideas and comments for Strategic Planning for the church. We are grateful for Church Council approving a Strategic Planning effort and for Katie's willingness to lead this effort.

**Scout Troop 42** — We are pleased to welcome Falmouth Scout Troop 42 and their families to use our Fellowship Hall Wednesday evenings 6:30 – 8:00 PM for their meetings. The Troop has a membership that has varied in recent years between 25 and 30 Scouts. They will begin their space use agreement the last week in March. We have arranged with them a parking plan that does not utilize parking spaces in our lot that are near the church, thus freeing those spaces for other meetings using church rooms other than Fellowship Hall. They do not meet during the summer months. Troop 42 is joining the Falmouth Cub Scout Pack 41, Falmouth Girl Scout Cadet Troop 82179 and Falmouth Brownie Troop 77470 who are using our facilities for their meetings. It is wonderful to have these vibrant groups of young people are using our church facilities.

**Church Facilities and Grounds — Storage Space.** Our church's Administrator Martha Evans, Site Manager James Rowland, and Supervisory Project Manager Brendan O'Hara completed an assessment of current storage spaces in the church. In the process they consulted with current users of storage spaces. They presented an efficient plan that involves shifting some existing storage materials to new spaces, modernizing some storage areas for greater efficiency with new shelving, and new storage cabinets in a few areas. As this report is being prepared, Brendan is in the process of obtaining and then providing Trustees with more details of the cost estimates of materials. Brendan has agreed to undertake the project given the sensitivity of timing for the project to be interfaced with various uses of some of the storage areas or adjacent areas. We extend our appreciation for their efforts to Martha, James, and Brendan!

**Other Facilities and Grounds Projects.** It is our responsibility to keep the congregation informed as projects are considered, planned, pursued and finished, without overloading you with details and repetition. We highlight a few of the several ongoing projects that are in progress by our Supervisory Project Manager, Brendan O'Hara, at the request of the Trustees. Brendan met with the Falmouth Building Commissioner to discuss the structural aspects of the ongoing Steeple Restoration and Rehabilitation Project. He is obtaining additional engineer feedback for engineering drawings. The process of arranging for scaffolding estimates, interviewing prospective contractors, and obtaining new estimates is in progress. These are needed for planning and also for preparing proposals to both local and national sources of partial funding for which our church is eligible as a site on the National Historic Register. Trustees Greg Mills and John Farrington will be coordinating the submission of those proposals.

We are aware that the fire escape on the parking lot side of the church, opposite the manse, needs sanding and repair. We are preparing for appropriate interactions with the Falmouth Historical Commission before proceeding further with planning repairs or replacement.

**Livestreaming and Online Meeting Room.** Both the livestreaming for the Sanctuary and the Online Meeting Room continue to be used productively thanks to Hal Petersen and the Live Streaming crew of Brennan Carlson, Linda Church, Gideon Drury and John Honey. The Online Meeting Room is available to be scheduled by appropriate groups with needs consistent with our church's mission. Trustee Hal Petersen has begun the process of what would be needed to bring Online Meeting capabilities to Fellowship Hall. This is another potential strategic planning topic.

**Church Grounds.** During the next several weeks, Trustees will be taking their annual walk around the church grounds to assess needs for the church grounds and other outside facilities. We are cognizant of the need for major projects in this category to be discussed within the context of the church's ongoing strategic planning process. John Farrington (Chair) and Cindy Hines (Vice Chair) on behalf of the Board of Trustees- Rev Jonathan Drury, Tom Durham (Treasurer), Ryan Mann, Dennis McGillicuddy, Greg Mills, Hal Petersen.

# 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.firstcongfalmouth.org](http://www.firstcongfalmouth.org). For ★  
★ those without internet access, please contact the ★  
★ church office for a more traditional, printed calendar. ★  
★  
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## We reach out to the Community...

**Playtime**  
Wednesdays  
10:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.  
When school is in session

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

**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 Wednesday—Board of Trustees (3:30 p.m.)
- Board of Deacons, Board of Christian Outreach
- 2nd Thursday — Board of Christian Ed (8:00 p.m.)
- 3rd Monday—Stewardship Committee
- 3rd Wednesday—Church Council

## We gather as children & youth...

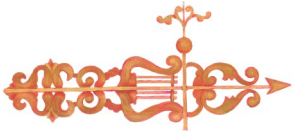
**Youth Group**  
for grades 4-8  
1st Sunday of the month  
4:30—6:00 p.m.

## 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.
- Theater trips to Falmouth Theatre Guild — dates & times vary

## We gather to listen for God...

- Bible Study — Mondays, 6:30 p.m.
- Prayer Group — Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m.
- Healing 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

# April

## 2023



**Check us out on the web!**

**[www.firstcongregationalfalmouth.org](http://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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### **Elected Officials of the Church**

**Moderator**—Katie Dreyer

**Clerk**—Marcia Young

**Treasurer**—Tom Durham

#### **Board/Committee Chairmen...**

**Christian Education**—Kari Pons

**Christian Outreach**—John Bowers

**Deacons**—Evelyn Johnson

**Music**—Robin Bowerman

**Nominating**—JoAnn Coleman

**Reception**—Sue Simchock

**Stewardship**—Bob Heller

**Trustees**—John Farrington