

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF FALMOUTH,  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Our Staff

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# The Messenger



VOLUME 30, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2021

For we have seen his star shining in the east,  
and now we must go to worship him!

Matthew 2:2



Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace! Such wonderful titles were bestowed upon Jesus, but not right away. Truth is, Jesus came into this world in a most unexpected way. He was born on the road. His crib was a feed trough; his nurses were sheep and donkeys. God came into the world humble, identifying with the powerless, the oppressed, the poor, and the homeless. This is a most powerful message for us. So powerful, it transforms our relationship with God.

The Christmas story describes the birth of a new kind of king. Jesus' birth presents a new way of ordering the world under God's design for the redemption of all peoples. In this world, God's Word is received by the poor, by the neglected, and by the humble. Here, shepherds stand shoulder to shoulder with kings. For indeed, it is through Jesus Christ that the light of the Lord has been revealed for the entire world to see.

And Jesus tells us we are the light of the world and God wants us to stand tall, so together our lights can shine brightly into this world's dark shadow. This season I encourage you to share the good news of hope... the good news of brighter days and better tomorrows! Share with your friends and neighbors the good news of your church... and invite them to meet you here next Sunday! Invite them to share in the hope, joy, peace, and love that surrounds the promise of the coming Christ child.

Wishing you a blessed Advent and Christmas,  
Jonathan

## December Services...

### **Sunday, December 5 — Second Sunday in Advent & Poinsettia Sunday**

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

### **Sunday, December 12 — Third Sunday in Advent**

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

### **Sunday, December 19 — Fourth Sunday in Advent**

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

### **Friday, December 24 — Christmas Eve**

5:30 p.m. — Family service with pageant

8:00 p.m. — Service of readings and carols

### **Sunday, December 26 — First Sunday after Christmas**

10:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship



### **Friday, December 24, 2021**

5:30 p.m. — Family service with pageant

8:00 p.m. — Service of readings and carols

## Socks for the Homeless...

The Women's Union will again be collecting "Socks for the Homeless." This a wonderful outreach to those local and Cape-wide who are living on the streets and in the woods. White crew socks are preferred. The collection box will be outside Fellowship Hall after the Christmas Fair. Donations will also be accepted with checks being made out to Women's Union.



# *The Spotlight's On...*

## This Month

### **Inviting**

and

### **Welcoming**

As we move into December, we're about to complete our series of six Inviting & Welcoming events hosted by the church and open to the public. Our final event is on Monday, November 29 at 4pm, featuring Nathaniel Philbrick talking about his latest book, *Travels with George*. Copies of the book will be available for you to purchase and for the author to sign.

I'd like to thank all who participated in these events and helped make them so successful. This includes those of you who served as greeters, who prepared food (yummy chowder and chili), who brought their pets to be blessed, who were courageous enough to get up and do some line-dancing, and who came to celebrate both our church's past (the anniversary of our Paul Revere bell) and our church's future (the dedication of our newly installed solar panels). I especially want to thank those of you who truly embraced the spirit of this initiative by inviting a friend to join you at one of these events. We want to share the joyful life of our church with others!

Greg Mills, Inviting & Welcoming Chair

## Milestones

### *In Memoriam*

Diana Geigis  
Phyllis Parsons  
Peter West

**First Congregational Church  
of Falmouth  
on the Village Green**

**68 Main Street  
Falmouth, MA**



## From Christian Outreach...

The Outreach Committee met in November and voted to make the following donations. A donation of \$500. was made to the No Guff Week in Falmouth. This program sponsored by the Falmouth Public Schools district promotes the idea of inclusion, positivity and kindness. Students pledge during the week to not speak or text anything negative about others. These valuable messages are as relevant today as they were back in 2001 when No Guff was created by Greg Gilbert. Additionally, the congregation collected \$460. for our Neighbor's in Need Special Mission Offering held in October. The focus for this year's campaign was on 'the unhoused aka homelessness".

The local Habitat for Humanity chapter is breaking ground very soon on 6 homes in East Falmouth. Habitat is hoping to have all the Faith Communities in Falmouth collectively contribute \$55,000, an amount sufficient to construct one of these homes. As such, the Outreach Committee voted to offer a matching grant program to our Congregation, in which Outreach, with its funds, will match all amounts contributed by Members, up to \$2,000. This program will run until December 12, 2021. Interested persons should make out a check to the Church with "Habitat Matching Grant" written in the Memo field. We hope this challenge will help make the promise of affordable housing in Falmouth for some lucky families a reality.

We are currently seeking donations for the Afghan Refugee Families. We recently received word that an Afghan Refugee Family of 8 (4 adults and 4 children) will soon be arriving in Falmouth. We are seeking donations to assemble Personal Hygiene Kits for this family of 8 as well as the two other families who soon will follow. These welcoming kits (Continued on page 4



## The Spotlight's On...

## What We've Been Doing!

ters Fellowship Hall. Planning for the Christmas services has begun. The church will be open for carols and readings before and after the Lighting of the Green on December 4. There will be two services on Christmas Eve, with the 5:30 family service including a pageant. The Messiah Sing will not take place this year, as the orchestra is not available.

The Treasurer's report showed that member support in October was almost \$3,000 lower than last year at this time, possibly due to the cancellation of two worship services in October. Total expenses were slightly higher due to higher expenses for grounds maintenance

Council then heard reports from the church boards and committees. Records of the Paul Revere Bell event will be filed in our Archives. Our Cape Cod Council of Churches' delegate, Lee Campbell, noted that there will be a Homeless Persons' Memorial Service on December 12 and a Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Service on January 16 in Hyannis. The Board of Christian Education is working with John Dulina on new ideas for the Christmas pageant. Danielle Dallis is fully involved as Director of FCCKids. The Outreach Committee is collecting personal hygiene products to create kits for Afghan refugee families who will be arriving in Falmouth soon. The Deacons heard a report from Laura Cole about the effects these uncertain times are having on people. Martine Bindler-Desbiens was commended for sending hand-made cards to our members who are experiencing joy or loss. Steve Birmingham, Music Committee chair, hopes to keep singing with the kids and is currently planning for the Christmas pageant. The Nominating Committee continues its work to fill vacancies on our boards and committees. The Reception Committee will prepare the beverages for fellowship hour with church committees providing goodies. Stewardship materials which were not picked up have been mailed out. The Trustees are working with Coastal Engineering on an inspection to determine the short, medium, and long term needs of the steeple. UCC Delegate Bobbie Miner encouraged the committees to use the resources of our conference. Nine people attended the Women's Union meeting in November. WU will meet again in January for a lunch at the church.

Marcia Young

### **Christian Outreach (Continued from page 3)**

will be assembled by the Outreach Committee and any others who would like to help. Listed below are the items we need. (Please note: You do not need to purchase all of the items on the list. Purchasing any of the items for donation will be appreciated.) Monetary donations will also be graciously accepted. Checks should include in the memo line "Afghan Refugee project". Please put your items in the donation barrel. Bath Towel; Hand towel; Wash cloth; Toothbrush; Toothpaste; Bar of soap; Razors for men and women; Shampoo; Comb; Deodorant.

The Falmouth Service Center Children's Holiday Program runs from December 6 - 10th. (10 a.m. - 12). This year they are gratefully requesting: New winter coats for children ages infant to 10 yrs.

Non-perishable items : toiletries, laundry detergents, soups, cereals and quick bread mixes; Dog and cat food; Monetary donations (This year, in lieu of purchasing gift cards, they are specifically asking for monetary donations so that they can order gift cards in the quantities and values they need. The clients truly appreciated the gift cards that were distributed last year so that they could choose gifts for their families.) Items may be put in the donation barrel. Thank you for your continued support of these important ministries.

### **Church Council**

Reverend Drury opened the November 17<sup>th</sup> Council meeting with prayer. He said that the church has been very busy. There have been several memorial services in the last few weeks, and more have been scheduled. The Solar Energy Celebration was well attended, and the Chili Fest and Nathaniel Philbrick's discussion of his latest book Travels with George will round out this fall's Inviting and Welcoming Initiative events. Jonathan noted that we will have a deficit budget next year and that conversations should take place around fund raising sources. Currently our main source is rental of our space.

Council approved a recommendation from the Deacons that the pulpit gate, which the Falmouth Historical Society recently returned to the church, be hung on the left side wall as one enters Fellowship Hall. Planning for the Christmas services has begun. The church will be open for carols and readings before and after the Lighting of the Green on December 4. There will be two services on Christmas Eve, with the 5:30 family service including a pageant. The Messiah Sing will not take place this year, as the orchestra is not available.

# 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

# We gather to make music...

**Adult Choir**  
Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.

**Bell Choir**  
Thursdays, 6:00 p.m.

## We gather as children & youth...

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

# *The Spotlight's On...*

# **Our Regularly Scheduled Programs**

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

## 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 reach out to the Community...

## **Outside 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

## 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 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



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# YOU are welcome here!

## The Messenger

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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**—Carol Mills (interim)