

The Messenger

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



God's Church is for God's people all week long... not just for Sunday.

The First Congregational Church in Falmouth is a great gift we have received from God's love and through generations of support and dedication. We should say thank you and then we must take care of it. Taking care of God's gifts is at the center of church's stewardship campaign, because the word "stewardship" means managing and preserving what has been given. As

stewards of God's blessing, we have two responsibilities. One requires your money, and one requires your internal evangelist. First, we must ensure God's gifts to our community are passed to the next generation, and the next generation, and the next generation in perpetuity. It costs a lot of money to run this church. If you are a member here you already know this, because we share the numbers. And yes, every year our costs go up, so every year we will have to pledge a little more than the year before... unless we grow.

Which brings me to the second requirement: How do we show God gratitude for the blessings in our lives? Well, one of the best ways to count our blessings is to share them. If your church is doing right by you, then please tell your friends about it. You owe it to them and you owe it to God. God wants us to share, both the good news of Christ's story and the abundance of our earthly blessings. God wants us to feed our brothers and sisters, both their Spirits and their bodies. God wants for us to let the First Congregational Church's light shine forth like a beacon.

Both God and history have entrusted this place into our care. We must not be so humble in our faith that we forget we are called to do wonderful, remarkable, exceptional things in God's name. We have been entrusted with this precious gift. Let us preserve it, grow it, and share it with the world.

May you see God's blessing all around you,
Jonathan

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November Sundays!

November 5 — Loyalty Sunday

10:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship and FCC Kids
11:15 a.m. — Pizza luncheon with light entertainment

November 12

10:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship — NO FCC Kids

November 19 — Thanksgiving Family Sunday

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

November 26

10:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship and FCC Kids
After coffee hour — set up Fellowship Hall for Christmas Fair!



Women's Union

The Women's Union will meet Wednesday, November 8th at 10:00 a.m. Mark Flaherty, Science Coordinator for Wellfleet Audubon Society will present an illustrated program titled "Winter Birds". Soup, dessert, and beverages will be served. All women of the church are invited. Please sign-up on the Women's Union folder located outside the Church Office.



Book Discussion Group



The group will meet on Monday, November 27 at 1:00 in the church parlor. We will discuss *Mad Honey* by Jodi Piquoit and Jennifer Finney Boylan. It's a story of a murder trial for a local teenager in a small New Hampshire town where many local secrets are revealed during the trial. The group meets the fourth Monday of the month and any church member is invited to come to discuss a particular book or to join the group. We use discussion questions and members choose the books to be read.

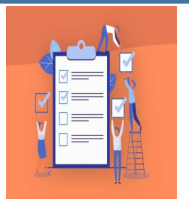
The Outreach Singers are back!

We will once again "sing and ring" in the Christmas season by joining with the residents at Atria on Sunday, December 17, at 2:30 p.m.! In preparation for this joyful event, we will have two rehearsals directly following worship on the Sundays of December 3 and December 10. We will be meet in the lower level music room. Please try to attend both rehearsals if you wish to sing with us.



Then, beginning in January, 2024, we will form a small and well-rehearsed group of singers who will be prepared to visit parishioners when the need arises. The rehearsal schedule will be determined by the group after the new year. Please contact Bobbie Miner with questions or to express your interest.

A bit of housekeeping



First — the end of the year is quickly approaching, and with it, end-of-year pledge campaigns. Just a heads up that December 31 will be the last day 2023 pledges will be accepted in order for them to be credited in 2023 (of course we'll take them after that date, they'll just be credited in 2024. This also goes for the Capital Campaign which ends this year. If you would like to have an accounting of your pledge(s) please call Martha and she will be happy to print one for you!

Second — we will publish a new pictorial directory in January 2024. Now is your opportunity to submit a picture for that directory. Maybe you're new to the church and didn't have a photo in last year; maybe you just didn't like last year's photo; maybe your kids have grown a foot in the last year; maybe your family circumstances have changed and your photo needs to be updated. Just send your photo as an email attachment to: info@firstcongfalmouth.org. We will welcome your submission and happily update your file. Need a picture taken? We do that too — just let us know!



David loved this church so much. So, from all my family, heartfelt thanks go to you, our church family, for your prayers, kind words, and all the condolence cards received upon his passing. Thank you, Lois Parker



Theatre Party!!!!

Members and guests are invited to attend the musical, *It's A Wonderful Life*, presented by the Falmouth Theatre Guild at Highfield Theater on Sunday, December 10 at 3:30 p.m. Based on the 1946 film, it follows George Bailey's life from his high school dreams to his mid-life disappointments. We'll take a journey to discover if his life has mattered at all. Treat yourself to a holiday classic set to music!!!

Tickets are \$28.00 per person. Checks payable to Falmouth Theatre Guild are DUE on November 26. Mail to Bette West at 42 East Harbor Drive, Falmouth MA 02536 (or see her in church).

It's close to crunch time!!!!

Well, it's November already and we ALL know what that means... **The Christmas Fair is upon us!!!!** We did a "Fair Primer" last month, so this time we're addressing the "must knows."

Date of the Fair: Saturday, December 2, 2023

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Booths are always in need of workers. The signup notebook has appeared on the table outside the church office! If you want clarification for what each booth does, just ask either Katie or Martha in the office. If you're new to the church, the Fair is an excellent way to get to know your other church family members. You can volunteer one day, a few days, or an entire week! There's a place for everyone and we'll gladly welcome you.

A few of the booths have been working diligently making items to sell. One booth which always needs "last minute" donations is the Country Store. We hope you've been baking, jamming, and freezing — this is a great way to get ahead on preparations and then bring them the day before the fair. This year they're continuing the home-baked pies (many folks come in looking for pies for their holiday parties!). Martha has 9" pie tins and see-through-top boxes in the church office. We ask you come in, take a tin and box (or two), bake your pies (apple, cherry, pumpkin, mincemeat — you decide) and bring them in either the day before or the day of the Fair. They will add decorative twine and motivational stickers to the boxes — they're one of the main attractions!

Donations for the "bargain basement" (Elegant Junque, Linens, Jewelry, and Books) can begin arriving Monday, November 20. There will be areas in the lower lobby marked so you know where to put your SORTED donations. Bringing your donations already sorted makes the job of our volunteers so much easier. Donations will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 29. Below you'll find what type of donation can (and can't) be brought. Also, realize that there are MANY items which are appropriate for the spring Rummage Sale but NOT for the Fair, mostly because of available space to display them. We're trying to be very clear about the distinction so ask if you have doubt about what to bring.

Last, but not least, we're putting out an appeal for two things: First is a "crew" to help set up Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 26, after coffee hour. This can go quickly if we have folks to help. Then fresh legs are needed on Saturday, December 2, to come around 1:30 p.m. to help us gather up unsold items and essentially put the church back into shape. This is truly an example of "many hands make light work." We begin downstairs putting away extra tables and cleaning that area. By the time that is done, the booths upstairs are ready for us to put away all the decorations and tables, sweep the floors, and then re-set the hall.

Donation item details: **Greenery** — Plan your evergreen pruning for around Thanksgiving. Then bring your fresh-cut greens to the church beginning Saturday, November 25, but no later than Monday, November 27, so this booth can begin creating those amazing holiday decorations. Better yet, join them in creating on Monday, November 27! **Country Store** — the Goody Bakery is TOTALLY dependent on the generosity of our church family, so don't forget us when you do your fall jamming and baking (and remember those pies!!!!). Donations can be brought starting Friday morning, December 1. **Bookworm Korner** — Books of all kinds EXCEPT Reader's Digest Condensed books, encyclopedias, or magazines. Cookbooks & children's book are especially prized! Games, puzzles, CD's, DVD's are welcome as well. **Gems & Jewels** — Jewelry of all kinds, scarves, small purses, jewelry boxes, etc. — the selection is ever-changing. **Linens & Things** — Just like jewelry except for those really into fabrics, soft goods, or crafts. For your donations, please mark the size of all spreads, sheets, tablecloths, curtains, etc. **Elegant Junque** — Since there has always been confusion about what is appropriate for the Fair as opposed to the Rummage Sale — think of it in terms of "GIFT-QUALITY." We welcome knick-knacks, small gift items, Christmas decorations (but no trees, please), artwork/pictures. **We CANNOT accept tools, garden items, sports equipment, furniture, suitcases, or appliances.**

While this is not necessarily all you need to know about the Christmas Fair, it's a "fair" start. Please consider volunteering your time to this all-church event. Questions, feel free to ask!



Milestones

Diane Litton



Reverend Drury opened the October 18th meeting of the Church Council with prayer. He said we are off to a busy start in this church year. He has met with all but one committee.

Tom Durham, Treasurer, reported that member support for September was \$18,070, up from \$17,484 last year at this time. With interest rates increasing on money market accounts and certificates of deposit, our interest earnings are projected to be almost \$10,000 above the budgeted amount. The 2020-2023 Capital Campaign has received \$291,762 towards its goal of \$317,165, leaving \$25,403 outstanding.

Council then heard updates from the church boards and committees. The Trustees reported that the steeple team has been interacting with the Community Preservation Committee. Some members of the CPC have visited the church and gone up into the steeple. Archivist Jeannine Jeffrey said records of the investment committee will be added to the archives. Jeannine has been searching the archives for a schematic of the Paul Revere Bell, following a request by Ken Peal who has been exploring bells in Falmouth for many years. The Outreach committee gave grants to the SNEUCC (\$1000) and the Falmouth Service Center (\$500). The Alternative Gift Market will be held on November 11 and 12 at St. Barnabas Church. We will assist with Christmas gifts for a foster family through the Covenant to Care for Foster Care Families program of the CCCC. The results of the Music Committee's survey have been distributed to the committee members who are brainstorming ways to present the information to the congregation. The Cape Cod Council of Churches held its annual assembly on September 29. Jonathan led worship and Jolie Drury and Brennan Carlson provided music. Jonathan will continue as president of the CCCC Board of Directors for one more year. The Deacons continue to discuss ways to bring more people into our church. The Women's Union elected officers and approved their budget at the October 11 meeting. Their next meeting on November 8 will feature a presentation on winter birds by Mark Flaherty. Christian Education reported that a small group was successful in cleaning up Surf Drive beach on October 8 as part of CoastSweep. FCC Kids and the youth group will help bake brownies and assemble toiletry kits for those housed by Belonging to Each Other. The meeting ended with Council members joining in the Lord's Prayer.

Marcia Young, Clerk

Christian Outreach

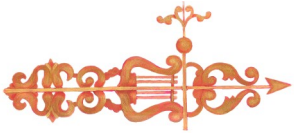
The Outreach Committee met on October 11 and voted to make the following donations: a donation of \$1000 was approved for SNEUCC. Another donation of \$500 was approved for the Falmouth Service Center to support their Christmas Gift program.

Some important dates to mark on your calendars:

1. The Alternative Gift Market will be held at St. Barnabas Church on November 11 and 12 with online shopping offered November 13-19.
2. In support of their Thanksgiving Program, the Falmouth Service Center is requesting frozen turkeys between 10-18 lbs. Drop-off-day for the turkeys is Sunday, November 19, from 11-2 p.m.
3. Save the date! March 9, 2024, (1-3 p.m.) "Rise Against Hunger", — an Outreach Meal Packing Event. All ages are welcome! This is a "hands on," fun activity for the whole church community. We will package 10,152 meals. Each meal consists of rice, soy, and dehydrated vegetables. Help us in our effort to fight world hunger!

The Outreach Committee would like to extend a thank you to all who contributed to the Winter Wear collection for our newly housed families on Cape Cod. Thank you for your continued support of these important ministries.





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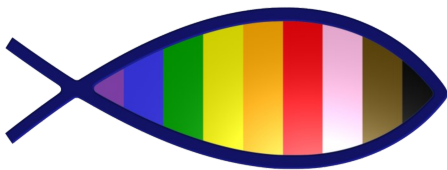
2023



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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Moderator—Katie Dreyer
Clerk—Marcia Young
Treasurer—Tom Durham

Board/Committee Chairmen...

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