

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF FALMOUTH,  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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# The Messenger



VOLUME 29, ISSUE 9

SUMMER 2021

O Lord, you know me entirely. You see me completely. All of me. You know what I do, and why I do it. You know where I am going, and why I go there. You know what I am thinking without my having to tell you. And knowing I sometimes can be impulsive and am capable of making bad choice, you hem me in, before and behind. You lay your hand upon me. Though I am aware of your remarkable presence in my life, the possibility that you could care for me so intimately is too wonderful for me to fully comprehend.



My creator knows me because my creator built me... from the ground up... from dust into life. My creator knit me together in my mother's womb. And I am so thankful, because I am so fearfully and wonderfully made. In other words, I am a little frightened by God's majesty. I am in awe of God's capacity. For how can we possibly understand our God? How can we hope to conceive of eternity when our time here is so limited? How can we imagine infinity when our lives are so finite?

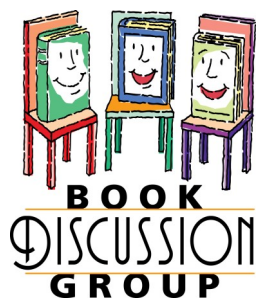
We only see in part, hear in part, taste and touch and smell in part, so we tend to view life in portions. We search for beginnings, and middles, and ends. But God sees things differently than we do. God sees not only who we are, but also who we have been and who we will become. And God provides for God's creation through God's creation. We are called to be the face of God, the hands of God, and the feet of God in this world. So let us try do good work(s) because our Heavenly Creator, God Almighty, who promises to be for us and with us for all eternity, has called us to take care of one another.

As we approach the beginning of summer and the end of another program year, I am so proud to be a part of this church with you.

Go now and live,  
Jonathan

## Women's Union

The Women's Union will meet Wednesday, June 16 – save the date! When details are finalized, you will be notified via email and the church bulletin. We will follow the State's Covid advice.



The Church Book Club welcomes all members of the church to attend its meetings on the fourth Monday of the month at 1:00 at the church. Come to discuss a specific book or join the group each month. The book to be discussed on June 28 is *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Please sign-up with Bette West if you plan to attend. — 508-457-9860

## Inviting and Welcoming

As announced in last month's Messenger, the newly launched Inviting & Welcoming Initiative is moving ahead with plans for our church to host a series of community events in the summer and fall, with the ultimate aim of attracting prospective new members. I'd like to inform you of one exciting event that we've already scheduled for September.

This fall will mark the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church's purchase from Paul Revere of our historic church bell. We're now planning a "Paul Revere Day" celebration for Saturday, September 25, from 1 to 4pm. Those attending the event can take a brief walking tour of the Village Green area, view the church's framed copy of the receipt signed by Paul Revere in November 1796.

Other activities inside the church may feature Jonathan speaking about some of our church's notable ministers (including Katharine Lee Bates' father), a dramatic reading of Katharine Lee Bates' poem about the Revere bell, music performed by John Dulina and our handbell choir, and bell-shaped cookies baked by the children of the church.

Please put this date on your calendar. And remember that an essential ingredient in the success of our Inviting & Welcoming Initiative will be YOUR involvement in inviting a friend or neighbor to join you in attending an upcoming community event or Sunday service. Please alert the Church Office if you do bring a guest with you, so that we can follow-up with them about their possible interest in the church—and also so that we can thank you for taking an active role on the church-wide "Inviting & Welcoming" team!

Greg Mills, Chair  
Inviting & Welcoming Initiative



## Shining the Spotlight on.... MUSIC!

A THANK YOU to ALL the musical participants in the past few months - Steve Birmingham - Addie Birmingham - Nate Birmingham - Tracy Birmingham - Susan Day - Meg Becker - Robin Bowerman - Rob Bowerman - Laura and Corrine Cole - Elijah Drury - Jonathan Drury - Lee Drescher - Taska Hener - Martha Evans - Robin - Greg Mills - Carol Mills - John and Linda Quesnel - Marsha Zafirou and last, but certainly not least, Jolie Drury who has covered more Sundays as a musical guest than I can count.

We will continue using soloists and duets through the rest of the summer — including some paid soloists and professional musicians — as we have done in the past. This year I will pay particular attention to booking some professional musicians from the Cape area and other locations. As many of you know, professional musicians were hit very hard during this pandemic.

I believe that by the time you receive this copy of the *Messenger* - we WILL be singing in church {most likely with masks on} I'm also happy to announce our choir will begin rehearsing again in late August or early September.

This certainly has been an unprecedented time and if there is a silver lining in terms of liturgical music it is, in my opinion, a renewed sense of gratitude for our ability to share music with our faith community — both in the ability to worship together in song and in the ability to hear our amazing group of dedicated choir members presenting their hard work on Sunday mornings.

Looking forward to September and much music. Deo Gratias John Dulina



## And I repeat...

As many online church goers know, John D.ulina spent over 50 Sundays greeting us after the service by tossing a hat into the congregation. An ode of thanks was written and I have been asked to repeat it for everyone's amusement. It isn't exactly Bartholomew Cubbins, but folks thought it was cute.

The virus shut us down!  
On Sundays, we could not meet.  
So in front of our computers  
we politely took our seat.

It was all oddly familiar,  
the service that day,  
but something was missing!  
Some pizzazz, some would say.

And then during the postlude  
as the camera turned 'round,  
There in his splendor,  
making that big organ sound...

John was in a hat!  
What a glorious sight!  
And when he finished playing,  
he threw it with all his might!

We tuned in each week  
(to worship, of course),  
but the hats kept changing!  
What could be his source?

It became so much fun  
to see what chapeau he would don.  
But now that we're opening,  
those hats will be gone.

So with thanks to the Drurys  
and the Falmouth Theatre Guild,  
for their multitude of hats  
that allowed us to build  
over 50 weeks of fun  
and rapt anticipation,  
we bid fond adieu to the  
"hatanimation."

## Another Satisfied Customer!

Last Christmas, in spite of not being able to hold the Christmas Fair, the ladies of the Friendly Circle opened the doors for three weeks, allowing members and friends to come to purchase from items we had made over the past year. There was an enthusiastic response and we were able to add a little to the coffers of the church. Well, there was one woman who purchased two hats and poncho for a brand-new granddaughter, and was most anxious for her to wear them.

I received a call from that woman who announced that her, now six-month-old, granddaughter had worn the poncho to "the Knob" the past weekend and forwarded to be a picture. She gave me permission to include the picture in our newsletter as an example of "one satisfied customer!" The baby is so cute, we've considered hiring her to model all our items!







# Milestones

*In Memoriam*  
Nancy Jones

## Church Council

The Church Council held its fourteenth meeting via Zoom on May 19. In Reverend Drury's absence, Evelyn Johnson offered the opening prayer.

The first portion of the meeting was devoted to discussing the reopening of the church and what changes might be made when current restrictions are removed as of May 29.

Prior to the May 23 service, advertisements were placed in the Enterprise, in the kiosk at Town Hall Square, on WCAI radio, and on a sandwich board in front of the church. At this service, singing with masks on will be permitted. With visitors being encouraged, questions were raised about how best to welcome them and to follow up on the first visit. The greatest area of confusion surrounds the wearing of masks after the May 29 date. Council may schedule a special meeting to discuss this issue when more details become available.

Greg Mills said the Inviting and Welcoming Initiative work group will be collaborating with the Museums on the Green to celebrate the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the purchase of our Paul Revere bell. A special event is scheduled for September 25.

Bob Johnson showed a PowerPoint of the steeple corbel issues. An assessment will be done to determine the scope of necessary repairs, which could possibly be a three year project.

Council then heard reports from the church boards and committees. The Cape Cod Council of Churches held a virtual auction fundraiser earlier this month. Nineteen kids in the FCC Kids program will be receiving books and the older youth will receive gift cards, thanks to a collaboration between Julie Fitzpatrick of the Board of Christian Education and Eight Cousins bookshop. On Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> the kids will be in church for a children's message by Reverend Drury and then will go outdoors for activities. The Outreach Committee, together with the North Falmouth church, assembled sixteen buckets with emergency cleaning supplies for the Church World Service project. A monetary donation of more than \$500 was also given to the CWS. The annual Housing Assistance Corporation Walk for Hope will be held on June 26. It will be a virtual walk this year. Look for information elsewhere in the Messenger on how to sign up to be part of Team FCC. The Deacons are discussing how the offering will be collected and how communion will be served once the church is fully reopened. The Music Committee is considering having recitals with singing once a month in July, August, and September. The Reception Committee will be serving punch outdoors following the Sunday services. Stewardship will begin meeting in June to plan for this fall's campaign. The Trustees are awaiting the final punch list on the heating system, so the project can be finalized. Our UCC delegate Bobbie Miner attended a meeting of the Barnstable Association at which two ministers spoke on the Post Pandemic Church. Our Southern New England Conference Minister, the Reverend Darrell Goodwin, addressed a conference meeting which our delegate Meg Becker attended. Eighteen people attended the May Women's Union meeting to hear a presentation by Ed Jackson. Women's Union will meet again in June. Marcia Young, Clerk

## Board of Christian Outreach

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who helped to make the **Bucket Brigade** a success. We are happy to report that, in cooperation with the North Falmouth Congregational Church, we were able to deliver 16 buckets to Brockton, where the buckets are collected for the Church World Service. Cash contributions from our church netted \$765.20. We will forward this additional money to the Church World Service.

We also continue to seek participants for our **FCC Team** for the annual **HAC Walk for Hope** on Saturday, June the 26th. The **Housing Assistance Corporation's** third annual **Walk for Hope** on June 26th will give you the opportunity to walk to help our neighbor's most in need access to safe, stable housing on Cape Cod and the Islands. Carole Lyons has graciously agreed to be out Team Captain. If you need help with registering and/or donations, please contact Carole at [lyonsca381@gmail.com](mailto:lyonsca381@gmail.com). Whether you walk as an individual or a team, you'll be offering hope. You can walk wherever and whenever you want or as part of the group on the day of June 26. Families are encouraged to participate. We **hope** to get a group of people to walk together from the Green on June 26th, as the **FCC Team**. (**approx. 2 miles**). Registration for the **Walk for Hope** opened on Saturday, May the 1st. **Please sign up to join us!!!** You can find more information and the pledge form at the following website:

<https://haconcapecod.org/events/walk-for-hope>. Your participation will make this a fun and beneficial event.

You may wonder if our donation dollars make a difference? Here's an example of how they do. The Outreach Committee contributed to the **No Guff in Falmouth, April 12-16, 2021**, this past spring. The No Guff Committee recently sent us a thank you note stating, "Your support contributed to the production of a video that highlighted the history of this home-grown celebration of kindness....The video will be shown widely throughout the community, including the entire Falmouth Public Schools family, FCTV'S **Falmouth in Focus**, and social media. We have included the First Congregational Church as a sponsor in the credits."

During the month of May, the Outreach Committee met and voted to make the following donations. A donation of \$700 was made to the **Fairwinds Clubhouse**, whose mission is to provide opportunities for friendship, support, employment and education to people with psychiatric disabilities who live on upper Cape Cod. A donation of \$2,000 was made to the **Falmouth Service Center**. The mission of the **Falmouth Service Center** is to ease stress, reduce hunger and improve quality of life for our neighbors in need. Some of the programs the **Falmouth Service Center** provides are the Food Pantry, the Fuel Assistance Program, Fresh Start Backpack Program, Falmouth Eats Together and the Thanksgiving and Holiday Toy Programs. A donation of \$250 was made to **The Massachusetts Council of Churches**. The mission of this organization is to make the vibrant church visible through education, ecumenical worship, dialogue, denominational interdependence and social justice. Finally, a donation of \$1,000. was made to the **SNEUCC**. This **United Church of Christ Conference** oversees the ministry of the UCC church regionally, nationally and worldwide.

Thank you for your continued support of these important ministries.





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Address correction requested

**HAPPY  
SUMMER**

[www.firstcongfalmouth.org](http://www.firstcongfalmouth.org)

**YOU are welcome here!**

### **The Messenger**

is published monthly by

The First Congregational Church  
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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