

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF FALMOUTH,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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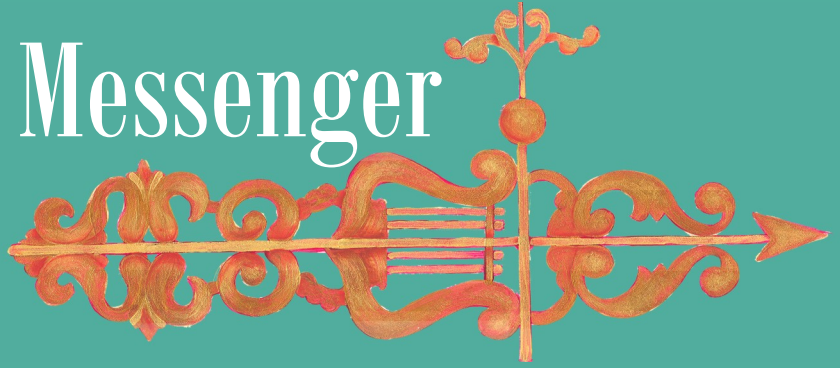
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The Messenger



VOLUME 31, ISSUE 10

SUMMER 2023

The First Congregational Church in Falmouth can be and should be and with God's help will be our finest expression of God's Kingdom on Earth. And if it is going to be like God's Kingdom, then it should be a place where everyone is welcome and everyone knows it! It should be a Kingdom where everyone is fully encouraged to work together, a Kingdom where everyone supports and is supported by one another in Christian community, a Kingdom where all of God's children are affirmed as worthy and welcome, and a Kingdom where all of us, together, can follow in Christ's righteous way. That is a Kingdom worth building!



The Ichthys (or Icthus) is a symbol consisting of two intersecting arcs that overlap at the end, creating an image that appears to be like a fish. It is believed the symbol of the fish was adopted by early Christians as a secret symbol (a shibboleth) used to help identify other Christians and to indicate safe places where Christians could gather at a time when they faced persecution from the Roman Empire. Our FCC Church Council has voted to adopt the symbol of a rainbow Ichthys to indicate our status as an Open and Affirming congregation and to let members of the LGBTQ+ community know they are welcome and will be safe at the First Congregational Church in Falmouth.

From now on we will find the rainbow Ichthys incorporated into our church stationary, on the cover of our bulletins and newsletters, and displayed on the front and back signage of our church. Many people will see our rainbow fish and think of the beauty of Cape Cod. And some will see our rainbow fish and recognize it is inviting them to be participants in building God's Kingdom, one church at a time.

Go now and live,
Jonathan



PS — A very special thank you to Brennan Carlson for designing and refining our rainbow Ichthys.



JUNE

4 ~ Trinity Sunday

10:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship & FCC Kids — Holy Communion

11:00 a.m. — Coffee and Conversation

11 10:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship & FCC Kids

18 10:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship & FCC Kids

25 ~ ONA Sunday

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

11:00 a.m. — Family picnic

JULY (services move to 9:00 a.m. for July & August)

2 9:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship — Holy Communion

9 9:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship

16 9:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship

23 9:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship

30 9:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship

AUGUST

6 9:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship — Holy Communion

13 9:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship

19 (Saturday) 5:30 p.m. — Service of worship (Road Race Weekend)

27 9:00 a.m. — Morning service of worship

Milestones

In Memoriam
William Byrne
Julie H. Bristol

They're baaaaack....

Our sanctuary will once again be the venue for summer Hyannis Sound concerts. They'll appear on Mondays, June 5 through August 14, 7:00 p.m. Tickets are sold at the door and are \$15 for adults. Tickets are discounted to \$10 for children, seniors over 65, active military & veterans, and students. These are always lively concerts and, while some of the repertoire is repeated through the summer, each concert seems new and fresh.

They're baaaaack.... (Part Deux)

If you were here in 2019, you might remember the concert given by the Chamber Singers, the premier choir of the Fairfield County (CT) Children's Choir. Well, they're returning to our sanctuary on Sunday, June 25, 7:00 p.m. There is a suggested donation of \$10 (\$5 for students). Selections to be performed will include Franz Biebl's *Ave Maria*, *Mo Ghile Mear*, *Kaval Svir*, *Down by the Riverside*, *Cape Cod Shanty*, *Route 66*, *Bridge Over Troubled Water* and many others. The concert is being sponsored by our church's Music Committee.



Church Council

Reverend Drury opened the May 17th meeting of the Church Council with prayer. Jonathan said a significant number of people have been to our church this month. Our Rummage Sale, the Rotary International Dinner, a Red Cross Blood Drive, a dance, a baby shower, and a memorial service were held here, and Newcomers, Encore, the Garden Club, and Scout groups have met here. He feels that we should be more intentional about promoting our church and its activities to those coming to use our facility.

Tom Durham, Treasurer, reported that member support in April totaled \$19,998 and year-to-date \$126,088. The 2020-2023 Capital Campaign has received \$289,287 toward the goal of \$317,165. Tom noted that we are very fortunate to have the income from our endowment funds to help meet our budget.

Council then heard updates from the church boards and committees. The Trustees reported that landscaping work is being done both by James Rowland and an outside contractor. New storage areas are being created by Brendan O'Hara, Supervisory Project Manager. The flag pole near the portico will be repaired. Council voted to accept an anonymous gift of a flag pole to be placed in front of the church or the Manse. The Trustees approved the rental use of a small space in our parking lot near Katharine Lee Bates Road for a stand which will sell homemade cookies. The person involved will also rent the church kitchen for an hour or so a few days a week. Steeple project work and planning continues to progress. The Music Committee has received forty-five responses to its survey so far. The committee would appreciate all responses by May 31. The Fairfield County (CT) Children's Choir will perform in our sanctuary on June 28. The Board of Christian Education has been adjusting its curriculum to the group on a particular Sunday, as every group of kids is different. The board would like to plan one or two youth get-togethers during the summer and is talking to the kids about what they would like to do. The board will be reviewing our Safe Church Policy. The Trustees will assist the Reception Committee in June by providing refreshments at fellowship hour. In July and August punch will be served on the portico. Jonathan and John Honey attended the Barnstable Association Annual Meeting on April 23. Each church was asked to bring a significant item or artifact that represents them. Jonathan brought the bell which he rings at memorial services and also talked about our Paul Revere Bell. The presenter, Rev. JoQuan Beachem, spoke on Coming Alive As/In One, Ministering as the Body of Christ. The Outreach Committee gave grants to the Fairwinds Clubhouse (\$700) and the SNEUCC (\$1000). The increase in donations of food for the Falmouth Service Center is appreciated. The Stewardship Committee is discussing possible themes for its campaign in the fall. The Cape Cod Council of Churches' fund raiser on April 29th was successful, largely due to private and corporate sponsors. The CCCC will also seek government grants to help with the cost of operating A Baby Center. The Board of Deacons is considering ways to take greater advantage of our website and streaming capabilities, such as finding ways to get the word out about our online services, including a "give" button on the website to make it easy for visitors to contribute to the church, and instruction on how to use the chat function. Council voted unanimously to elect Debra O'Neil to fill a vacancy on the Board of Deacons. Coffee and Conversation will be held on June 4th for those interested in learning more about the church. On June 25th there will be an ONA Special Worship Service. Also discussed was the need to plan and train for emergency response to fire, medical issues, and possible active shooter incidents. The meeting ended with Council members joining in the Lord's Prayer. Marcia Young, Clerk

Board of Trustees

This month's *Messenger* report will be brief. The Trustees have been busy with progress with the several projects reported in last month's *Messenger*. Site Manager James Rowland has been busy with the completion of several outside projects such as clearing bushes, arranging for stump removals, and flower plantings. The finish landscaping for the sides of the new walkways on the east side and Manse side of the church will take place during June.

Our Supervisory Project Manager Brendan O'Hara has completed the carpentry needed for the storage closet upgrade in the Children's Clothing Project Room and James Rowland will paint the doors during the next few weeks. Brendan is starting work on the new storage cabinets in the Teen Room. We are awaiting a report from our engineering firm to initiate the next phase of the Steeple Rehabilitation Project. Trustees Greg Mills and Dennis McGillicuddy continue preparations for submitting proposals to potential sources of funding to assist with the rehabilitation.

(Continued next page)

Board of Trustees *(Continued from previous page)*

Trustee Hal Petersen has made some minor changes to the meeting room computer and Zoom interface to improve the utility for users. Hal is available for explaining the ease with which the system can be used for combined in person/online meetings. We thank Hal for his continuing care and upgrade of our audio-visual capabilities for the Meeting Room and for Livestreaming of services in the Sanctuary.

Church Administrator Martha Evans completed an agreement approved by the Trustees for a person to rent space on the back side of our parking lot for a very small stand, open on occasion, to offer homemade cookies for sale and to pay for use of our kitchen for a few hours a week to bake the cookies.

Trustee Ryan Mann has taken on the task of arranging for repair of the flag pole near the Portico Entrance to allow us to fly the American Flag and other flags as deemed appropriate with attention to national flag display protocols. We are grateful to an anonymous donor for the gift of a new flag pole plus installation and an all-weather American Flag. Trustees forwarded this matter to Church Council which voted in favor of accepting the gift. Trustees are evaluating the appropriate placement in the front area of the church or the Manse where nighttime lighting of the church front and steeple will illuminate the flag and allow for continuous display of the American Flag.

June will be a busy month! John Farrington (Chair), Cindy Hines (Vice-Chair) on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Board of Christian Outreach

The Outreach Committee met in May and voted to make the following donations. A donation of \$700 was made to Fairwinds Clubhouse. The mission of Fairwinds Clubhouse is to provide opportunities for friendship, support, employment, and education to people with disabilities who live on upper Cape Cod. Their goal is to provide an environment that feels safe and helps people to live productive lives as part of their community. A donation of \$1,000 was made to Southern New England UCC Conference (SNEUCC). Our Massachusetts Conference provides counsel, programs and resources to its churches. These include many areas of church life such as pastoral placement, Christian Education, Stewardship Education, Evangelism, Christian Social Action, and mission opportunities.

The Falmouth Rotary Club International Banquet held on May the 16th in our church and in cooperation with our church Outreach Committee was a big success. Tickets were sold out! An amazing assortment of international cuisine was offered and a group of students from the Falmouth Academy provided lovely music during the dinner. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness and support for a solar powered back-up system for students at risk for trafficking in Nepal, and also for Safe Passage supporting and educating families who survive by scavenging at the Guatemala City Dump.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that over 24 people signed up to walk on May the 21st in this year's Housing Assistance Corporation's (HAC) annual Walk for Hope. We are proud to announce that once again our church was a sponsor of this great event. The final tally of donations will be shared in September. In 2022, HAC served over 6,200 clients through education, stabilization, prevention and services for the homeless. Jonathan was asked to give opening remarks. Thank you for your continued support of these important ministries.

Reminder:

Sunday morning worship moves to 9:00 a.m. for the months of July & August. The one exception will be in August, when we will hold our service on Saturday, August 5:30 p.m. because of the Falmouth Road Race on that Sunday!

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. For
those without internet access, please contact the
church office for a more traditional, printed calendar.

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

We reach out to the Community...

Outside Playtime
Wednesdays
9:30 a.m. — 1:30 a.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 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



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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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