

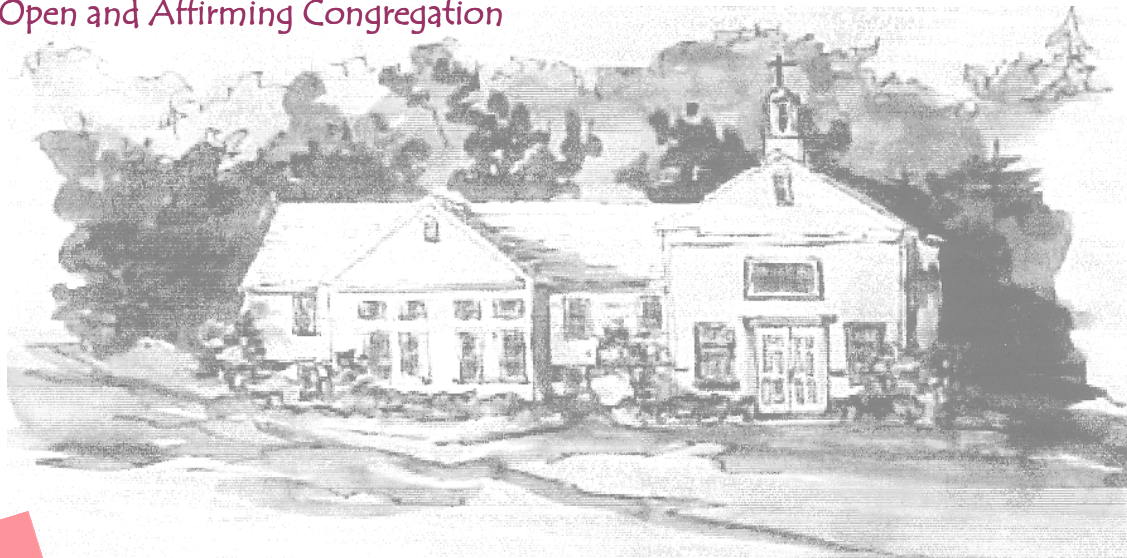


2012

Steeplenotes

Newsletter of the Foreside Community Church
United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation



FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH
340 Foreside Road
Falmouth, Maine 04105

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Pastoral Intern: Alyssa Lodewick
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*By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread,
until you return to the ground;
for out of it you were taken:
for you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Genesis 3:19*



Beloved Community,

February marks the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. On that day, Christians are traditionally reminded of our mortality in a very vivid way, as the ashes are marked on our foreheads in the sign of the cross. In the sign of the cross we hear the words spoken over us, "Dust thou art and to dust thou wilt return," says the King James version of the text. Many reject this practice as being overly morbid, however there is more to the ritual of Ash Wednesday than confronting the reality of death. On a more profound level, the ashes teach us about the very path of Lent itself. We are not so much marked for death as we are invited to begin a journey of transformation.

Author Marcus Borg says that this is what the season of Lent is about, about being born again, about following the path of death and resurrection, about participating in Jesus' final journey. Specifically, some of us may need to die to certain things in our lives--perhaps to a behavior that has become destructive or dysfunctional, perhaps to a relationship that has ended or gone bad, perhaps to an unresolved grief or to a stage in our life that it is time to leave, perhaps to our self-preoccupation, or even to a deadness in our lives (Yes, you can die to deadness!). It is possible, says Borg, to leave the land of the dead, so the journey of Lent is about being born again--about dying and rising, about mortality and transformation. The pilgrimage is ultimately a journey of self-discovery.

The season of Lent, with its climax in Good Friday and Easter, is about embarking on the way of Jesus to follow the path of mortality and transformation that is at the very center of the Christian life. When you think of it, who among us does not yearn for this? Who does not yearn for a fuller connection to life? Who does not yearn for an identity that releases us from anxiety and self-preoccupation? To be born again, it seems to me, corresponds to our deepest longing. May we, in this Lenten season, experience that internal transformation that is at the center of the Christian faith, and rise to new life and hope, as individuals and as community.

Peace,

Janet



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

**CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH, UCC**

All members of the congregation are hereby called to the Annual Meeting of the Foreside Community Church, to be held in the Foreside Community Church Sanctuary at 340 Foreside Road on Sunday, February 12, 2012, immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship, for the following purposes:

1. To receive oral and written annual reports from the Treasurer.
2. To receive an oral report of the Pledge Drive.
3. To approve the proposed Budget.
4. To conduct any further business that may properly come before the meeting.

Cathy Stivers, Clerk

ADULT EDUCATION

Book Study continuing in February

NAKED SPIRITUALITY: A Life with God in 12 Simple Words

by Brian McLaren

Does it bother you when people say, "I'm spiritual but not religious?"

Has your religious practice lost its spiritual side?

Are you concerned that meditation is not really Christian?

McLaren makes a case for reclaiming the ancient tradition of contemplative prayer in Christianity. Using twelve simple words as guides, he offers a practice that reflects the seasons of our faith journeys, speaking honestly and compassionately about our experiences (or lack of experiences) of God.

**Monday evenings, 7:00 PM
February 6 and 13**



Sunday School / Christian Education

In this New Year, as the sun stays with us longer and our pageantry is behind us, we are settling into our winter Bible stories.

In January, we learned about giving, saving and spending through the story of the Poor Widow's offering, asking the children to consider who had more faith, the widow who gave everything she had, a mere two mites, or the wealthy men who gave a small piece of their fortunes. We're tying this lesson in with a fundraising mission by a local high school student to rebuild an art school in the earthquake-ravaged country of Haiti.

In February, we'll be exploring the theme of Healing Miracles through stories that show how Jesus performed amazing acts of grace.

Bible Sunday lies ahead, so for those of you with a 4th grade student, please keep your eye out for a letter from us. Let us know if we inadvertently forgot your child and the letter hasn't arrived by mid-February.

And for any of you willing to teach or assist in Sunday School, we are looking for commitments of a few weeks or a month for the remainder of the year. We have exciting month long Bible story themes to draw on, and easy-to-follow lessons and activities thanks to Laura Rodas' thorough planning. High school and middle school students are welcome as assistants, and we're more than happy to fill out Community Service forms!

January's Steeplenotes has a full list of upcoming themes and details about teaching or assisting. To sign up, or for questions about teaching or Bible Sunday, please contact Laura, our Sunday School Administrator, at: LNash8@aol.com

*Faithfully,
Cathy Stivers*

CSA FARM SHARE

Would you like to receive farm-fresh produce each week during the growing season?

We are exploring the idea of offering the church as a drop-off site for a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm share.



How does a CSA work?

- You pay a one-time fee to the farm at the start of the growing season.
- The farm delivers to the church a pre-packaged box of vegetables each week.
- You pick up the box and enjoy fresh, seasonal produce all summer and into the fall.

At this point, we are gauging interest from our members. We are not asking for a firm commitment or money at this time. If we have enough interest, we will research and select a farm. Payment would be made directly to the farm in the spring.

If you are interested, please sign the sheet that is posted in the narthex, or contact Kristen Farnham, kfarnham@maine.rr.com or 449-7344.

FMI on CSAs:

<http://www.mofga.net/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=AZBj2jWcnLw%3d&tabid=268>

MEN'S BREAKFAST
 SATURDAY,
 FEBRUARY 11,
 7:15A.M.
ALL WELCOME!!



From your Fellowship Ministry

Get ready for more Fun, Folly and Fellowship

At Foreside Community Church's

Pound Auction

and

Potluck Lunch

To benefit our Honduran project



Sunday, March 18, 2012

following the church service

Use your imagination! It could be a pound of candy, special food, a household item, some useful items or just plain fun items; just as long as it weighs about a pound.

Wrap or gift bag your "pounder" and mark for Male, Female, Adult, Child or Anyone

Sign-up sheets for the lunch are in the entryway of the church.

For more information see any member of the Fellowship Ministry



LENTEN OFFERINGS AT FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – February 22nd

5:50 – Soup and Bread Supper

6:30 – “The Ashes of Forgiveness and Rebirth”

Liturgy with Communion.

Ashes will be offered to those who wish to receive them.
We will also offer small bags of ashes for you to take home
to sprinkle on your gardens
to symbolize the promise of rebirth.

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TUESDAY MATINS

8:00 am– Wilderness Journeys
Prayer and Meditation for the season
with simple Communion
beginning **February 28th**



Father of my soul,
Mother of my heart,
I know your love for me is limitless beyond imagining.
You care for me as a loving parent.
Through my smallest Lenten sacrifices,
help me to become less selfish
and more aware of your ways.
Fan the flame of my desire
to draw ever closer to you.
Guide me to seek your love.

[Creighton University Lenten Prayers]

IN CASE OF SNOW:
PLEASE WATCH NEWS 8: WMTW
OR
RADIO #107.5 AND 99.9
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SUNDAY/WORSHIP

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

In the past, our newsletter has traditionally printed items only about our own church: what we are doing here is an attempt to share what we know is going on in our wider community which seems to relate directly to us, either through the people - or the project - involved.



Falmouth Home Energy Workshops

Are your home heating dollars going up the chimney?

The Falmouth Recycling & Energy Advisory Committee will host a series of energy efficiency workshops to assist home and building owners in Falmouth in making their buildings more energy efficient.

Workshops will provide specific techniques and approaches to reduce energy costs, including discussion of strategies, with ample time for questions and answers.

Location: Falmouth Elementary School, Room B219

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

Instructors: Building Experts from Greater Portland Landmarks, Taggart Construction, and SMCC's Sustainability and Energy Alternatives Center

Fee: FREE

Session 1:

Save Energy; Save Dollars

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Session 1: 11253.3A

Learn about the home as a system, energy audits, energy efficient home retrofits and products (insulation, lighting, etc.), and available financial incentives. Receive an energy efficiency workbook and handouts outlining specific energy techniques with how-to outlines, checklists of energy efficiency resources, including funding and tax credits information.

Session 2:

Air Sealing Basics for Homeowners

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Session 2: 11253.3B

We all have heard that air leakage is the biggest source of heat loss in our homes. But how do you seal? And what do you buy? We will learn how to identify and address the most important places to seal in the home.

Session 3:

Reusable Interior Storm Window Construction

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Session 3: 11253.3C

Learn to make inexpensive, reusable interior storm windows. You'll take one home after this workshop! A moderate materials fee may be charged for this workshop only. Please contact Falmouth Community Programs prior to this workshop for additional details and instructions.

Contact: Falmouth Community Programs at 207.781.5253 to register now!



A Gourmet Feast !

Save the Date!!

Sunday, March 4, 2012

A Special Fellowship Coffee Hour / Breakfast!



**** Pancakes with all the toppings
you can imagine**

**** Fresh Fruit Compote**



**** Scrambled eggs and
Sausages Extraordinaire**



**prepared by our own Chef Jill Fox
and her willing Sous Chef assistants**

**This is a not to be missed event immediately
following our worship service.**

**Come help us celebrate:
Oh my goodness - only 21 days till Spring!!
Mark your calendars!!**



For Presence

Awaken to the mystery of being here
and enter the quiet immensity of your own presence.

Have joy and peace in the temple of your senses.

Receive encouragement when new frontiers beckon.

Respond to the call of your gift and the courage to
follow its path.

Let the flame of anger free you of all falsity.

May warmth of heart keep your presence aflame.

May anxiety never linger about you.

May your outer dignity mirror an inner dignity of soul.

Take time to celebrate the quiet miracles that seek
no attention.

Be consoled in the secret symmetry of your soul.

May you experience each day as a sacred gift woven
around the heart of wonder.

~ John O'Donohue ~

(To Bless the Space Between Us)

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY, 2012

February 5, 2012

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

February 12, 2012

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalm 30

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Mark 1:40-45

Transfiguration Sunday

February 19, 2012

(Last Sunday before Lent)

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2012

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

