



# Foreside Community Church

Nurturing Community, Engaging the Spirit



## God is Calling Us

We believe God is calling us to become more outwardly focused and increasingly engaged in the community beyond our church doors. Our Vision Statement encourages us to 'discover how our lives make a difference' in the world around us. Our continuing challenge is to live that Vision and make the words come alive, and we seek a motivated and energetic pastor to help us realize that Vision in concrete and meaningful ways within the church and in the wider community.

We have a strong congregation. We are seekers and sojourners. We continually desire to learn and grow, and we seek to be changed by the Spirit. Likewise, we strive to make our own mark in the world, to share God's message and inclusive love.

It is vital to us as congregation that our next pastor be a community ambassador for the church, provide leadership vision and a compelling plan for the future, and be skilled at building relationships and empowering leaders. Not surprisingly, a congregational survey ranked effective preaching among the most desired attributes of our new pastor. Our members respond to a preaching style that is personal, relational and engaging, and a message that challenges and motivates us to personal action.



## Pastoral Engagement

We hope our new pastor will focus on the following areas:

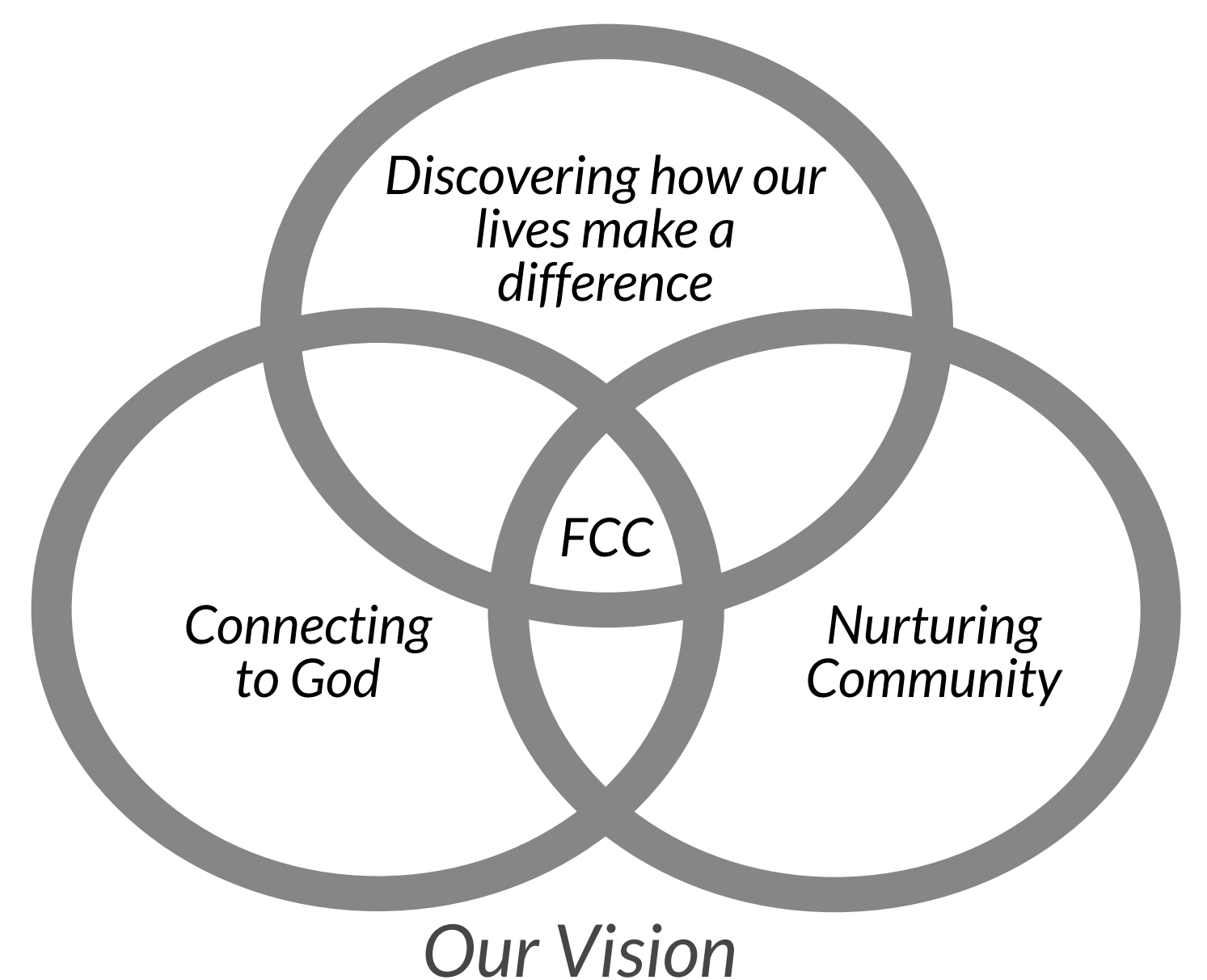
- **Engagement and Community Building:**

Strengthening our efforts to welcome new members, helping them discover their gifts, and understanding the use of their time and talents as expressions of Christian stewardship.

- **Spiritual Nurturing:**

Meeting the generational needs of our congregation, building on our Sunday School and Youth Group programs, and providing small group experiences that explore faith journeys and life challenges.

Foreside Community Church has embraced the practice of shared ministry, believing that we are all called to minister to each other; therefore we see these goals as a collaborative effort with our next faith leader.



# Our Congregation



The congregation at FCC is a warm and accepting group made up of young children, families, older couples and singles. Many of our members and friends declare that they have stayed with the church through all kinds of transitions because of the community and friendships that have been made here. We are a group of faithful souls searching for our own understanding of Jesus's teachings and looking for ways to reach out and have an impact on the world beyond our own walls.

We worship in a beautiful, single-aisle, bright sanctuary with a view of Casco Bay out our back window. There is a gorgeous refurbished organ. We have Sunday school classrooms, offices, and a large parish hall. The building is handicap accessible via an elevator, and we provide sound amplification during services. A staffed nursery provides care for our youngest members, allowing their parents the pleasant reprieve of quiet moments, self reflection, and the opportunity to rejuvenate during the service. Coffee hour follows the service where folks join one another in conversation and fellowship along with refreshments.

Sunday mornings are often full of laughter and warm smiles. Tears are not uncommon, though, as our sanctuary and community is a safe space in which we mourn losses, express fears, and reconcile the difficult parts of our human experience with the joys of being alive. The music of the piano, organ, trumpet, and bell choir resonate in our sanctuary. Our choir sings and the congregation responds in kind. There are prayers and pauses of quiet. Scripture is read, and children are called up for a story before they go to their own classes. We listen during the sermon for God's words and message to fill our hearts for another week. And by the end of the service, the feeling in our souls and the connection to God and one another provides strong testimony to the question, "*What brings you here?*"

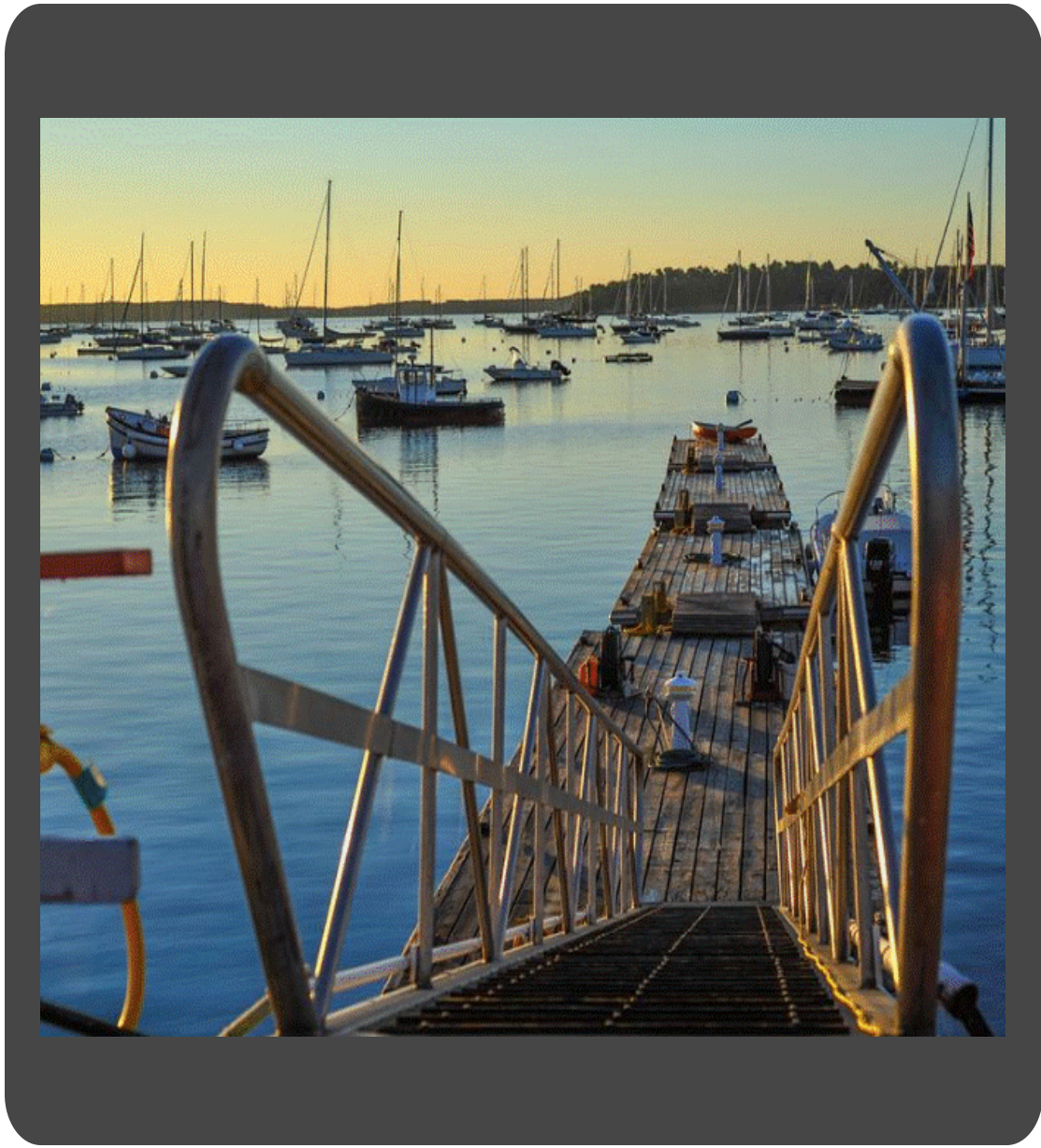
Faith, community, health, family, parenting, marriage and friendship: none of these are "easy" things. Yet, we show up for one another even in difficult times. How we respond and care for one another is a strong part of our Ministry and of what it means to be in our community. We lend an ear, provide a meal, comfort with kindness and prayers. We try hard, too, to stand with God. We are imperfect. We act in love and with compassion for one another and for ourselves as best we can. Though at times our differences are revealed, we remain connected and conscious that we, as part of humanity and as God's children, belong to one another.

When not worshipping, there are several opportunities each week to be together: book groups, meditation groups, knitting groups, family church, ladies night out, and men's breakfast. Over the years we've had many different types of offerings and many members are enamored with the idea of dusting off some old practices and welcoming in some new.

Like many churches, we struggle with an aging population and the busy, competing schedules of younger families and children. We are always searching for ways to encourage folks to come worship with us and participate in this energetic faith community. We recognize that the future of our church depends on the youth, and we are eager to welcome friends of all ages and stages to this vibrant congregation.

# Our Community

Located on the border of the towns of Cumberland and Falmouth, Foreside Community Church sits along Casco Bay. The area is full of natural beauty and provides many opportunities for exploration and outdoor fun. In addition to the ocean, many nearby lakes make sailing, kayaking, and paddleboarding easily accessible. Hiking and biking are favorite pastimes along with excursions for skiing and camping in the western mountains of Maine.



Visiting Falmouth and Cumberland, you can hike a coastal loop around Mackworth Island or bike ride along scenic Route 88 with its views of dotted islands and Maine's largest anchorage, stopping for a coffee or lobster roll at Town Landing Market. You can explore Chebeague Island or paddle just offshore to explore the new nature trails of Clapboard Island. Cumberland and Falmouth offer diverse nature trails, a coastal Audubon preserve and education center, three golf clubs, a yacht club, waterfront restaurants, and more.

The school systems in Falmouth and Cumberland are in the top tier in Maine. Falmouth Schools are a US Department of Education Blue Ribbon School, and was recently rated by Forbes Magazine as the Number 1 school system in the entire nation for quality relative to housing costs.

Just across Martin's Point Bridge is Portland, Maine's cultural hub. With its diverse and active arts, music, and restaurant scenes, Bon Appetit magazine named Portland "America's Foodiest Small Town." From art gallery walks to farm-to-table restaurants and waterfront concerts, Portland has much to offer. Greater Portland also has a long history of activism, neighbors supporting neighbors, community involvement, and a diverse immigrant community.

Falmouth and Cumberland include families that have lived here for generations as well as recent transplants, but those who live here are drawn to the natural beauty, diverse cultural offerings, and access to Maine's ocean, lakes, and the mountains.

## Websites to Explore

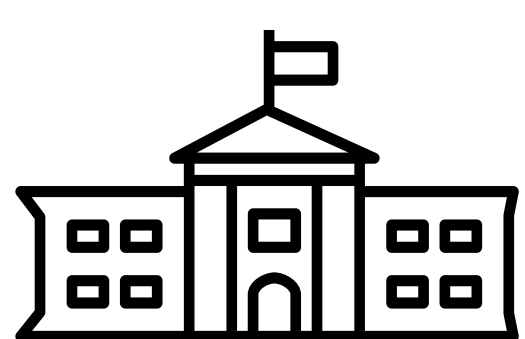


**Foresidechurch.org**



**Towns**

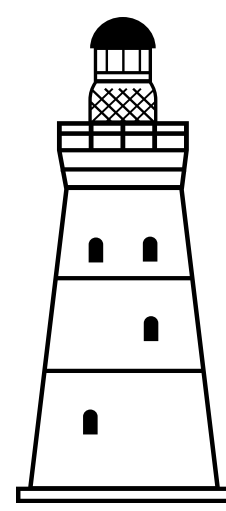
- **Falmouth** - [Falmouthme.org](http://Falmouthme.org)
- **Cumberland** - [Cumberlandmaine.org](http://Cumberlandmaine.org)
- **Yarmouth** - [Yarmouth.me.us](http://Yarmouth.me.us)
- **Portland** - [Portlandmaine.gov](http://Portlandmaine.gov)



**Local Schools**

- **Falmouth** - [falmouthschools.org](http://falmouthschools.org)
- **Cumberland** - [msad51.org/](http://msad51.org/)
- **Yarmouth** - [yarmouthschools.org/](http://yarmouthschools.org/)
- **Portland** - [portlandschools.org/](http://portlandschools.org/)

**Maine / Area Attractions**



- State of Maine: [Maine.gov](http://Maine.gov)
- Visitor Information: [visitmaine.com](http://visitmaine.com)
- Food: [visitportland.com/eat-drinkArt](http://visitportland.com/eat-drinkArt)
- Audubon: [maineaudubon.org/visit/gilIsland-farm/](http://maineaudubon.org/visit/gilIsland-farm/)
- Maine Wildlife Park [mainewildlifepark.com/](http://mainewildlifepark.com/)
- Bay Cruises: [portlanddiscovery.com/](http://portlanddiscovery.com/),
- Island Ferry Lines: [cascobaylines.com/](http://cascobaylines.com/)
- State Parks and Beaches: [parksandlands.com/](http://parksandlands.com/)
- Acadia National Park: [nps.gov/acad/index.htm](http://nps.gov/acad/index.htm)



- Art Museum: [portlandmuseum.org/](http://portlandmuseum.org/)
- Symphony: [portlandsymphony.org](http://portlandsymphony.org)
- Theater: [portlandsage.org](http://portlandsage.org), [portlandovations.org](http://portlandovations.org)
- Music: [portcitymusicHall.org](http://portcitymusicHall.org)

**Universities**



- **U. of New England:** [une.edu](http://une.edu)
- **Bowdoin:** [Bowdoin.edu](http://Bowdoin.edu)
- **Bates:** [Bates.edu](http://Bates.edu)
- **U. of ME Schools:** [Maine.edu](http://Maine.edu)