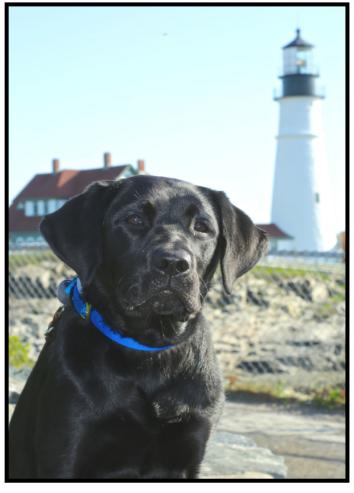
Steplenotes

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A Newsletter of The Foreside Community Church United Church of Christ

March 2018



"Come inside, join us, you are welcome here!"

Connecting to God

Nurturing Community

Discovering how our lives make a difference

(See page 7 for more on this amazing "messenger" of God.)

THE FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH 340 Foreside Road Falmouth, Maine 04105-1428

Pastor: The Rev. Janet K. Dorman Choir Director: Trevor Lavenbein Organist/Accompanist: David Bartoletti Sunday School Administrator: Laura Rodas Sunday School Teacher: Beth Penrose Nursery Care Provider: Madison Nash Office Manager/Parish Administrator: Christina Sklarz-Libby

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In an essay, author Margret Silf, wrote about the whispers of eternity.

"The knot," she writes, "holds us in a state of sus- a new life. pended contradiction. We understand that we are finite. The knot contradicts this knowledge with its representaity we name as God."

my life feels out of control, flying off on a variety of tan- into the fabric of the Holy. gents, I try to sledge hammer it into some sort of coherency.

knot which points to a deeper truth. The knot is an icon ceive the gift of a thread, one that pulls us into a pattern of paradox on many levels: complexity held within sim- we may have not have seen, but which invites us to recplicity, finitude held within the infinite, our individual ognize how we are part of a continuous weaving of blessselves held in something vastly greater than ourselves.

I have grown to appreciate the richness of parayet when I remain open to the paradox, I find a richness and the weft. within. This is especially true about finding ourselves held in something infinitely greater than ourselves, a ence where the meaning of those words rang true.

bed for the first time in four weeks. I had been in Boston ing. undergoing a stem cell transplant. The house was still, as if it were holding its breath, waiting to exhale into a new day. Everything around me was familiar, and just as I had left it.

Everything, however, was different, because I was not the same woman. I was different. The experience of the transplant had changed me, in ways yet to be revealed. Now I was in this blessedly familiar space, feeling alien and untethered -there but not there. It was an unsettling feeling.

Then I remembered a similar feeling 35 years power of contemplating the Celtic Knot. She wrote "that ago, waking up in a different room, in a house quiet and if you try to find the single thread, you may find yourself peaceful on another Spring morning. I opened my eyes lost in this intricate pattern that is a hallmark of the Celtic and saw all the familiar things, but I knew that everything imagination. Your mind is occupied as if by a mantra, had changed. I experienced a profound disconnect. Then leaving your deeper consciousness more open to the in the silence, the house and I exhaled as I heard the soft noise of a baby, a son born a few days before. Of course, I felt changed. I was a new mother and I was awaking to

On that April morning, I found the thread that tion of infinity and endlessness, and in our depths we connected two of the most profound experiences of my know this is true: something of us is unending - or at life, making them part of a whole. I thought, too, of our least intimately joined to a reality that is unending, a real-daughter who that morning was also waking up to a new life. Her daughter and our granddaughter had been born the day before. I wondered if, as I was waking to a Our lives are a mass of complications, with changed life, she was also waking to a quiet house that threads that go off in different directions. As Silf poeti- held its breath, waiting to exhale into a new day and new cally says" these divergent paths and tensions are beaten life. I wondered if she, too, was brought back by the into a kind of shape on the anvil of our existence." Now fussing of a newborn. I could sense within a deep conthat's a harsh metaphor, yet if I am honest, I know when nection to the whole, woven into the fabric of life, woven

I believe we all have moments such as these, moments when we feel unfamiliar to ourselves, untethered That's a far cry from the balance of the infinite and adrift from our lives. In such moments we might re-

Too often, I want to organize and control all those dox, preferring the mystery of both/and to the sharp di- threads. The Celtic knot encourages me to embrace the vide of the either/or, though it takes more energy to stay mysterious pattern that is a life, to live with the both/and, with paradox. I'd prefer a simple straightforward answer, finding that God abides in the space created by the warp

On that April morning, I was graced with a thread wholeness where we are all held. I will share an experi- that traveled back to my past, wrapped around my present and spun out into the future and the life of my daughter and granddaughter. I knew that I and those I On an April morning in 2016, I woke up in my loved were held within a web of infinite care and bless-

Peace, Janet



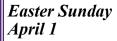
Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Come Celebrate With Us!

Maundy Thursday
March 29 at 7:00 p.m.
Communion and Service of Tenebrae

Good Friday Vigil in Sanctuary

March 30 - 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The sanctuary will be open to all for reading, quiet meditation, or just watching...



Sunrise Service & Communion

6:00 a.m.

Town Landing in Falmouth

Easter Worship

Services at 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. With Chancel Choir, Towne Lyne Ringers and Other Special Music Offerings

AND...

A children's Easter egg hunt will be held between the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. services!

Everyone is invited to join in the fun ~ but don't forget to bring your basket!

A CALL FOR READERS!

MAUNDAY THURSDAY COMMUNION & SERVICE OF TENEBRAE March 29 7:00 p.m.

Fifteen readers are needed for this evening's observance. A sign-up sheet, and copies of each of the readings are located on a clip board in the narthex. Please consider being a part of this tender and moving service.



GOOD FRIDAY VIGIL March 30 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

As in past years, the sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation from 6:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. We are in need of people who are willing to sit in the sanctuary (hourly shifts) to pray and welcome others. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or you can email your preferences to Carrie Penrose (carriepenrose@gmail.com).



LENTEN FLORAL DEDICATION ORDER FORM



It has become our custom to further enhance our Easter Morning Worship by placing Easter Lilies and other spring flowers around the sanctuary.

If you would like to participate by having a floral arrangement or plant in our sanctuary in memory and/or celebration of those special to you, you may **BRING** your donation to the church office between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM Monday through Thursday of Holy Week. (March 25 through March 31, 2018.) Please be sure to

include your name somewhere attached to the donation if you wish to retrieve afterwards.

If you would like to have a dedication published in the Easter Sunday bulletins* please fill out the form below and <u>bring it or mail it into the church office at 340</u>

Foreside Road, Falmouth, ME 04105. You may also leave the completed form in the mail slot outside of the interior office door.

PLEASE DO NOT PLACE YOUR COMPLETED FORM IN THE SUNDAY OFFERING PLATE.

*NOTE: In order to be in the Easter bulletins, all completed dedication forms must be in the office by Monday, March 26, 2018.

Your name:
Telephone and/or email:
YOUR DEDICATION exactly as you would like to see it in the Sunday bulletins:

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATES

On Saturday, February 10th, several FCC members participated in *Boundary Awareness Training for Laity*, led by Rev. Darren Morgan, Associate Conference Minister. The workshop addressed the topic of pastoral boundaries in general, and helped us understand how the pastoral relationship changes once a pastor leaves. We were joined by members of other churches which are also going through a pastoral transition.

Boundaries help clergy maintain clear professional relationships. Because the playing field between pastor and parishioner is never level, boundaries help set up and manage the expectations that both parties have in the relationship and allow pastors to connect to people in a manner which is spiritually healthy and safe. Boundaries help clergy keep perspective when people's problems seem overwhelming, and provide guidelines that help clergy know when and when not to participate in a given activity. Pastors also need to maintain certain boundaries to ensure their productivity, as well as preserve a healthy balance in their personal lives. (It is not their job to be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for example!)

The departure of a pastor from a congregation can be an emotional experience for all parties. Here again, appropriate boundaries help the church to build a positive relationship with the new spiritual leader, and allow the departing pastor to move into a new setting with a sense of release and clearness.

While Janet will continue to care about us, when she retires from her role here at Foreside Community Church:

- she will not continue to serve our congregation, or any member of our congregation, in a pastoral capacity;
- she will not initiate contact with our church or its members or friends;
- she will not perform weddings, baptisms or funerals for members of our congregation;
- she and Tom will move their membership to another church.

We can help Janet and her family by being sensitive to these boundaries and keeping them in our prayers during this time of transition.

Fourteen FCC members and friends were joined by 6 more attendees from the local community to hear Rev. Darren Morgan share the important steps, and subtle nuances of pastoral transitions.





A ROSTER OF UPCOMING EVENTS HERE AT FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH. AND ADDITIONAL EVENTS SCHEDULED IN MARCH

sauce, and canned tomatoes for the Falmouth Food Pantry, items in constant need by pantry clients. You can just stop by with your donation or donate when you enjoy a meal! Being locally owned and operated for 25 years in Maine, Ricetta's Brick Oven Ristorante has strong ties with the community in which it serves. They regularly host and cater local business events as members of the Falmouth and Portland Chambers of Commerce. They also give back to the community through regular donations to homeless shelters and soup kitchens including Preble Street, The Root Cellar and Goodwill.

Visitors needed. Reverend Janet is looking for a few people who might like to help with some visitation to some of our at-home members and friends, or those who don't get to church so often. The visits would be on your schedule and would be a fine way to keep the connections intact. If interested, speak to Janet or leave word at the office. Many thanks.



Tracy's lowing the March 18 ser- p.m.

ther family, they will be available for pick up at that time. AND...a few boxes will still be available for sale for those who missed out!



Kathie McCatherin and her group, My Single Friends, is hosting a dance party event at FCC on Saturday March 24 from 8:00 to The April Steeplenotes article submittal 11:00 p.m. This event is for singles in their 50's deadline is Wednesday, March 21. Get and 60's. All eligible church members are invited the word out / call for volunteers for your special to attend. No need to RSVP.

During the month of March, Ricetta's The FCC Book Club had a large group and a Ristorante is collecting pasta, tomato wide-ranging discussion of Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger in the month of February. As further shared by club facilitator Mimi Hinkel, 'There certainly was a lot of meat in that fast reading coming-of-age mystery. I appreciate the fact that, even though we don't always agree, we do always have a respectful and rewarding conversation." After many suggestions, the club has decided to read One Thousand White Women by Jim Fergus in March. Published in 1998, this novel is based on actual historical events. It is the story of May Dodd's journey west. Committed to an insane asylum by her blueblood family for an affair with a man beneath her station, May finds that her only hope of freedom is to participate in a secret government program whereby women from the "civilized" world become the brides of Cheyenne warriors. She soon falls in love with John Bourke, a gallant young army captain, even though she is married to the great chief Little Wolf. Caught between two worlds and two men, Dodd is forced to make tough decisions that will change her life forever. It is hoped that many new and returning readers will join the club on March 20 at 3:00 p.m. to discuss this poignant story.

PRAYER **SHAWL KNITTING-ALL**

the WELCOME! Recently a group of people Wrona's will be hosting were chatting about the knitting group that meets the Fellowship hour fol- on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00 They were under the impression that you vice. If you ordered Girl Scout cookies from ei- have to be knitting shawls to join the group. They even wanted us to think about changing the name of the group so to appear to be more welcoming to people who don't want to knit shawls. The truth is, anyone and everyone is welcome, whether they are knitting shawls or a different project. In fact, they don't even have to knit-just join us for conversation. It is also a place you can come to learn how to knit and purl. We are willing and able teachers. So join us whenever you want- with or without yarn.

events and projects / share your stories!

Labrador Retriever Pup Oleo Leaves Maine For A Future With Guiding Eyes for the Blind (S. Clark)

Oleo affectionately nuzzles the face of a visitor and just as enthusiastically pulls out her array of squeaky rubber balls and braided rope pulling toys when the time seems right to make the invitation to play.

The affable and highly intelligent black Labrador Retriever pup has become accustomed to 3-4 mile romps every day and life in a home with three cats. She loves Charlee Bears dried chicken strips. These are among her favorite rewards for learning each of the components of the critical behaviors that might provide safety, companionship and independence in the future for a blind or visually impaired person.

Since before birth, Oleo's life has been dedicated towards the goal of becoming a service animal. Like all Guiding Eyes for the Blind pups, she was carefully bred for her height, health and temperament and immediately after whelping or birth at the group's Yorktown Heights, New York headquarters received frequent massages and other special handling to assure she quickly developed trust and sociability with humans.



Deb Coyman and Oleo.

At 11 weeks of age, curious and eager, already housebroken, with food bowl manners, knowing her name and responding to a few commands, Oleo came to Maine to be raised by Foreside Community Church member Debra Coyman. Debra's job was to introduce her to myriad of environments, sights, sounds and people and channel the pup's curiosity, excitability and eagerness to learn in positive ways.

Oleo quickly became a friendly and familiar face at church, occasionally accompanying Debra to choir and bells practice and Sunday services. She also joined other Guiding Eyes for the Blind pups, their raisers and trainers for twice a month classes held in Fellowship Hall and in the church parking lot.

Now 18 months old, Oleo has mastered many new skills and recently faced the moment of decision about her suitability and readiness for further training. Trainers in New York conducted a thorough evaluation of Oleo's confidence, manners and ability off leash to follow basic commands. Could she remain calm despite the interruptions of vacuum cleaner sounds, a yippy dog, mechanical birds flitting overhead, loud floor fans and similar disturbances? Would she get spooked by changing footing surfaces or tempted away from a task by food?

Debra reports with pride that on February 21 Oleo so thoroughly impressed the trainer evaluating her that she was selected for further evaluation to become a breeder for the next generation of guiding eye dogs. This assessment will continue for the next three to six months. If selected, Oleo will live with a foster family for the rest of her life and give birth to at least four litters of new pups.



Debra spoke briefly to the congregation at the Feb. 11 worship service about the uncertain next phase of Oleo's journey. She tearfully acknowledged the challenge of letting go of her charge for the past year and a half before Pastor Janet Dorman blessed Oleo.

Guiding Eyes for the Blind Regional Coordinator Lee-Anne Leverone and long-time trainer Nina Scribner both shower praise on Debra's intensive and selfless commitment to Oleo's care and learning. "They were a team from the start," Nina commented. "They both like a job to do and they like to throw themselves into it fully."

Debra will be kept informed about Oleo's final placement.

According to the University of Arizona, 0.9% of persons with disabilities are partnered with service dogs. In 1990, Congress found that there were 43 million Americans with disabilities, suggesting there are approximately 387,000 service dogs across the US.

Guiding Eyes for the Blind is one of a number of programs that train service dogs and a leader in breeding service dogs. For more information, https://www.guidingeves.org

Reverend Janet blesses Oleo during a special part of the February 11 service dedicated to Deb and Oleo and their future.

Foreside Community Church ~ In the Heart of the Community, and Always an Event!

FEBRUARY MISSION MOMENT-BEACON HOUSE

(D. Blanchette)

On Sunday, February 25 Meredith Pesce, manager of Amistad's new Women's Recovery Residence, Beacon House and two of the resident women, Vanessa and Christina, addressed the congregation during Mission Moment. Beacon provides recently homeless women and babies a place to recover and provide them with a safe home. Meredith talked about the value of providing such a space where eight women can listen and learn from each other about their journeys through homelessness, drug addiction, abuse and more. Both Vanessa and Christina shared their painful life experiences and were warmly embraced by our congregation.

Members and friends of FCC answered the call for the many items necessary to support these women and the House. (pictured to the right) FCC youth helped Reverend Janet gather and pack toiletries, women's sweaters, paper goods, laundry products, and linens. We are very grateful for your donations that filled their large car to overflowing! We also learned that this home receives no financial support from any agency or government and is in great need of financial help. Each of the women needs to pay \$125 a month for board and room and most do not have any resources. If you can make a donation for this cause it can be a donation to Foreside Community Church-J&O-memo "Beacon House". If you would like to donate, or just get more information, please contact me at dorothyclemenzib@gmail.com. Thank you.



(pictured above) Twenty-five church members and friends enjoyed a night of bowling during the CE sponsored event held January 28. Attendees represented a broad range of ages and once again proved that fun has no boundaries!



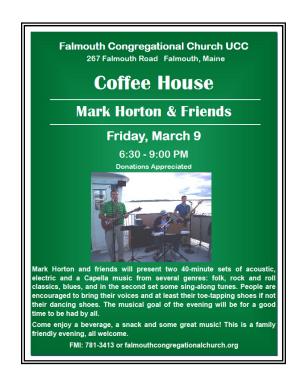
(pictured below) In January Girl Scout Troop #2331 under the leadership of Wendy Tracy and in pursuit of their Junior Detective Badge, enjoyed an evening of investigation and sleuth training here at FCC.





COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS





The New England Women's Celebration takes place every 4 years at various locations in New England. It is held over (or near) the weekend of Mothering Sunday, the 4th Sunday of Lent, which is traditionally a time when the strict observances of Lent were relaxed for a day so church folks could return to the Mother Church of their roots.

The purpose of the Celebrations is to reach women in the pews and to involve them in learning and sharing their faith beyond the local church and Conference setting. It is organized by women from <u>United Church of Christ</u> (UCC) congregations across New England, however women from all denominations and religious traditions are welcome to attend.



Foreside Community Church UCC March 2018

Be sure to check our website for changes/updates/additional scheduling at www.foresidechurch.org.

0	SATURDAY	3 7:15 to 9:00 a.m. Men's Monthly Breakfast	10 SET YOU'R CLOCKS AHEAD!	17	24 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. My Single Friends Dance (see page 6 for details)	31
	FRIDAY	2	9 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Guiding Eyes for the Blind puppy training in Fellowship Hall	16	23	30 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Good Friday Vigil in Sanctuary (see page pg 3 for details)
	THURSDAY	1 4:30 p.m. Meditation	8	15 4:30 p.m. Meditation	22 4:30 p.m. Meditation	4:30 p.m. Meditation 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Communion & Service of Tenebrae (see pg 3 for details)
	WEDNESDAY		7 6:30 p.m. White Privilege: Let's Talk series	14 6:30 p.m. White Privilege: Let's Talk series	21 6:30 p.m. White Privilege: Let's Talk series April Steeplenotes Deadline	28 10:00 a.m. Communion at Oceanview 6:30 p.m. White Privilege: Let's Talk series
	TUESDAY		6 1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl 6:20 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Town Lyne Ringers	13 1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl 6:20 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Town Lyne Ringers	20 1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl 3:00 p.m. FCC Book Club (see pg 6) 6:20 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Town Lyne Ringers	27 1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl 6:20 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Town Lyne Ringers
	MONDAY		5 10:00 a.m. Let Your Life Speak series 4:00 p.m. J&O Ministry Mtg	12 10:00 a.m. <i>Let Your</i> <i>Life Speak</i> series	19 10:00 a.m. <i>Let Your</i> <i>Life Speak</i> series	26 10:00 a.m. <i>Let Your</i> <i>Life Speak</i> series
	SUNDAY		4 9:30 a.m. Worship Service and Communion	11 9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Youth Assistance	18 9:30 a.m. Worship Service & Mission Moment CE Mtg directly after srv 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Youth Group	25 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH 2018

Thurs., Mar. 1

Psalm 19

Exodus 19:1-9a 1

Peter 2:4-10

Fri.. Mar. 2

Psalm 19

Exodus 19:9b-15

Acts 7:30-40

Sat.. Mar. 3

Psalm 19

Exodus 19:16-25

Mark 9:2-8

Sun., Mar. 4

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

Mon., Mar. 5

Psalm 84

1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22

1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Tues., Mar. 6

Psalm 84

2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19

Hebrews 9:23-28

Wed., Mar. 7

Psalm 84

Ezra 6:1-16

Mark 11:15-19

Thurs., Mar. 8

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Genesis 9:8-17

Ephesians 1:3-6

Fri., Mar. 9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Daniel 12:5-13

Ephesians 1:7-14

Sat., Mar. 10

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Numbers 20:22-29

John 3:1-13

Sun., Mar. 11

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

Mon., Mar. 12

Psalm 107:1-16

Exodus 15:22-27

Hebrews 3:1-6

Tues., Mar. 13

Psalm 107:1-16

Numbers 20:1-13

1 Corinthians 10:6-13

Wed., Mar. 14

Psalm 107:1-16

Isaiah 60:15-22

John 8:12-20

Thurs., Mar. 15

Psalm 51:1-12

Isaiah 30:15-18

Hebrews 4:1-13

Fri., Mar. 16

Psalm 51:1-12

Exodus 30:1-10

Hebrews 4:14—5:4

Sat., Mar. 17

Psalm 51:1-12

Habakkuk 3:2-13

John 12:1-11

Sun., Mar. 18

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

Mon., Mar. 19

Psalm 119:9-16

Isaiah 43:8-13

2 Corinthians 3:4-11

Tues., Mar. 20

Psalm 119:9-16

Isaiah 44:1-8

Acts 2:14-24

Wed., Mar. 21

Psalm 119:9-16

Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23

John 12:34-50

Thurs., Mar. 22

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Deuteronomy 16:1-8

Philippians 2:1-11

Fri., Mar. 23

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Jeremiah 33:1-9

Sat., Mar. 24

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Jeremiah 33:10-16

Mark 10:32-34, 46-52

Sun., Mar. 25

Palm Sunday

Palms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Mark 11:1-11 or

John 12:12-16

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39

Mon., Mar. 26

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 36:5-11

Hebrews 9:11-15

John 12:1-11

Tues., Mar. 27

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 71:1-14

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36

Wed., Mar. 28

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 70

Hebrews 12:1-3

John 13:21-32

Thurs., Mar. 29

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Fri., Mar. 30

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25 or

Hebrews 4:14-16 John 18:1-19:42

Sat., Mar. 31 Job 14:1-14 or

Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24

Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16

Psalm 148

1 Peter 4:1-8 Matthew 27:57-66 or

John 19:38-42

Philippians 2:12-18

Steeplenotes

A Newsletter of The Foreside Community Church United Church of Christ



THE FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH 340 Foreside Road Falmouth, Maine 04105-1428