



April 2020



*Connecting to God*

*Nurturing Community*

*Discovering*

*how our Lives*

*Make a Difference*

***“God bless all the volunteers, including Dotty and Camille!”***

**The work of the Falmouth Food Pantry carries on.**

*(see pg. 5 for more on these efforts)*

### THE FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

340 Foreside Road  
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**Notes from Reverend Geoff Parker***For Such a Time As This*

Dear Foreside Friends -

I'm writing to you from my office at home, having just finished one of our video conference morning prayer services. We are, all of us, learning new skills and ways of being together at an amazing rate in these times of social distancing to try and ease the strain of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I have been thinking of these words from our Book of Esther offered to Queen Esther as she both wrestled with her own personal safety, and the future of her people as they faced destruction. She wondered and feared at her own ability to speak up and stand up in uncertain times. Her advisor, Hachtrathus, asks her...

*Yet, who knows whether it was for such a time as this that you were made queen? - Esther 4:14*

Friends, I have to believe that it was for such a time as this that we were formed into the body of Christ as the Church. The past few weeks—as we, and communities all around the world, have sought to understand and to respond to the threat of the pandemic—have been rapidly changing, uncertain, anxious, and sorrowful for so many.

We are being tested in many ways to discover those things which we most deeply value: as individuals, as institutions and the church, and as communities and nations. Sometimes, we despair at what we find, as anxieties threaten to overwhelm our connections and sense of the common good. Sometimes we have to strain for sights of the heart and way of Christ shining through the news...

And yet. We are finding that way together as Christ's church, and, I think, finding that we have been prepared in all sorts of ways to continue to *be* the church, no matter where we may be, and no matter the temporary limitations and requirements of space and safety. We find that God is still God, and God is with us.

For such a time as this... Foreside Community Church has called together beloved disciples who are never afraid to reach out (no matter at what distance) and chip in. So, we have just found new ways online, but also old ways: phone calls and cards, simple kindnesses and errands run.

For such a time as this... we have connected ourselves deeply to our neighbors, those who have lived here on the Foreside and Southern Maine for decades, and those who have just arrived... so that we might be neighbors mindful of others needs, even when we cannot meet or see one another in the same ways. Our outreach and care for others in times of need continues.

For such a time as this... we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses that have given, and continue to give richly of their lives, their time, their treasure, to nourish the body of this congregation. We are healthy and strong in our Spirit and our ministry... and we are showing it.

So, let me give you my thanks... and offer thanks to God for this church community. Inside this issue of *Steeplenotes*, you will see many more examples of how you can take us out of the sanctuary, but we are formed to be the sanctuary of God's presence in and for the world... and you just can't take that away. I hope that you find joy in these signs of the risen Christ, just as do, and that they help sustain you—and us.

For now, we trust that the Holy Week observances and Easter celebrations we so wish we could have this month will be filled with even more joy and resurrection life when we gather together in each other's presence—and in the same presence of God which is with us throughout these days apart. We trust in the promises of our faith that God is yet making all things new... and so we look forward to that new day.

You are, all of you, a gift. Please continue to reach out to one another, in care or in need, to reach out or lift up... for such a time as this, we are the church together.

The peace of Christ be with us,



**On the road and missing a sermon? Want to go back and revisit any one sermon? Want to share a sermon with a friend or family member? Reverend Geoff's sermons in both written and audio form, from May 2019 to the present, can be viewed and/or heard on FCC's website at <http://www.foresidechurch.org/index.php/category/sermons/>**

**FCC's Worship Services will continue to be broadcasted every Sunday  
starting at 9:30 a.m.**

**and can be seen by accessing <http://www.foresidechurch.org/index.php/worship-online/>**

**A Facebook connection is only necessary if you're commenting / "talking"  
with Pastor Geoff during the service.**



SPURWINK

Spurwink's child and adult residences and nursing homes are still open and providing care to clients. They have a critical need for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment, i.e. masks, goggles, gloves, gowns). We are searching high and low from all sources to make sure our folks have what they need. I have two requests:

1. If you have any spare PPE at your home or business, Spurwink would accept those gratefully.
2. If you are a sewer and are able to make some masks, they would be well used by our staff and clients.

Items can be dropped at reception at Spurwink's office at 901 Washington Ave in Portland, Mon-Fri between 9am and 3pm. Alternatively, I can arrange for curbside pick-up from your home. Many thanks!

***Kristen Farnham 449-7344 [kpfarnham@gmail.com](mailto:kpfarnham@gmail.com)***

## ***FCC Office Hours and Coverage Update***

In response to the recent mandate from Maine Governor Janet Mills, FCC staff will now be working from home for at least the next several weeks. Email and phone coverage will continue without interruption and all communications will be answered and routed (as needed) promptly.

The office will be physically open on Mondays between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to allow for certain functions that need to be addressed onsite such as building maintenance, the processing of bills, hard copy mailings, and the weekly deposit of checks.

Please do not hesitate to forward any questions, or requests for assistance as they arise.

Thank you,

***Christina***

[cslibby@foresidechurch.org](mailto:cslibby@foresidechurch.org) / 781-5880 / 319-0362

## UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS AT FCC

*On Sunday, March 8 a group met to create mosaic masterpieces for the church fair.* We primed wooden pieces that will be used as bases for tesserae; the materials used to actually create the mosaic. We also each selected our tesserae and color scheme and thought about any designs or patterns that appealed to us. We talked about color theory and a bit about design. Most importantly, we passed the time as a group of people who both enjoyed each other's company and the process of creation. I look forward to continuing this class as soon as we are able!

You may have some extra time on your hands right now. You may feel anxious or isolated. I have found that making time for creative activities has always been a place of satisfaction and a balm for anxiety. Maybe you don't see yourself as a "creative-type" or you don't consider yourself "good at that." I urge you to rethink those beliefs and offer yourself an opportunity to try an activity that might just feed your soul and provide some solace or peace. Especially now, we need to get out of our heads. Creativity allows us to tap into a part of ourselves that is beyond thought. Working with our hands, and getting away from technology for a time, is therapeutic and restorative. Try it! Go online and check out all the avenues for creation. There are amazing YouTube videos out there about how to do almost anything. *Artist and Craftsmen Supply*, a store on Forest Avenue in Portland, offers amazing supplies and plenty of inspiration as you walk around. Their staff is incredibly knowledgeable and helpful. What's your jam? Woodworking, knitting, painting, collage, clay, mosaic, macramé, needlepoint, sewing, drawing, paper Mache... You get it. The possibilities are endless and you can also share this with another or go solo. Try a new, creative adventure today or give yourself the gift of comfort with a creative activity that has often given you joy and satisfaction! "Feel free to call me to discuss what I'm doing to keep my creative fires burning bright or if you just want ideas. I work for a school system so.....I'm around. 207-272-4364.

*Kathie McCatherin*

*On February 23, The Foreside Community Church was blessed with a visit by Vanusa, a young asylum seeker from the Ivory Coast.* Although Vanusa was not able to share much of her personal story because it could put her family still in Africa in danger, she did share her gratitude to her mentor Sue Rudalevige and the SIT program. Sue is a leader in the establishment of a program called SIT, Support Immigrant Tenants. For several years this program has been supported in your names by the ministry of Justice & Outreach. Through the support of donations SIT, through the center for Financial Education, has served over 4,000 immigrants, asylees, and refugees. They offer financial education courses and counseling sessions. These classes combined with the work of volunteer mentors who teach additional life skills, help these families newly arrived in the USA to build stable and successful life in the USA.

*Dear Fiends ~*

I shall greatly miss seeing you for a number of Thursdays to come. What a strange, scary and disorienting time this is. Like you I imagine, my normal routine is gone and moments of peace and calm seem few and far between.

Daily meditation has been a big help to me. Thanks to all of you I have a wellspring of Thursday afternoons to draw on, teaching me that nothing is too difficult to sit with and to share. Today I'll be sitting with the loving kindness meditation – as we learned, first for myself, then for others close to me and then for wider and wider circles. So I will be sending to each of you today this loving kindness blessing:

May you be filled with loving kindness.

May you be well.

May you be peaceful and at ease.

May you be happy.

Stay well.  
Namaste,

*Judy*





## UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS AT FCC (cont.)

### *Falmouth Food Panty in the time of Corona-virus.*

For the past twelve years the Falmouth Food Panty has received tremendous support both financial and in numbers of volunteers. Right now the Panty was instructed by the Town Of Falmouth that we could not have clients come to the Panty so for the past 10 days we have been delivering food and essential household goods to dozens of our clients. Despite a shortage of available, healthy volunteers to do this work, we have continued to contact families and deliver to their doors. We cannot go into the homes but we notify families of our arrival, carry the items to their door step then move away so that the supplies can be retrieved. A favorite aspect of our work at the Panty is our interaction with so many people from all kinds of backgrounds and from all parts of the world-including our wonderful volunteers. It is stressful to have to change to this impersonal delivery model but it is essential.

However even this method will have to take a pause. It is not safe to have many people entering and using the Panty in order to pack boxes for delivery because we do not know who might have been in contact with the virus and we have fairly close quarters so we are unable to maintain personal space. We are also finding it difficult to obtain the basic supplies we usually provide - and are purchasing items we have always have donated.

In order to guard the safety of both our volunteers and clients, the Panty will close our physical space to all volunteers and we will discontinue home delivery as of March 27. After Easter the 7 managers will reassess the possibility of providing essential food to Falmouth families and as many others as possible. Our plan is use available non-perishable supplies still in the Panty and purchase at retail additional supplies. These supplies will be boxed by a limited number of volunteers outside the doors of the Panty, then will be delivered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings to the front of the elementary school for clients who have called our emergency numbers. In addition to the food boxes we will include a \$25 grocery store gift card for each family. Families who are unable to come to the school because of illness or disability will have their supplies delivered to their doors.

**Because this program will be more expensive than our traditional Panty services, we hope that people who want to help will send financial donations, or a \$25.00 Hannaford or Shaw's gift card to: Falmouth Food Panty, 279 Middle Road, Falmouth ME 04105.**

For information please contact Dorothy Blanchette:  
dorothyb@maine.rr.com.

*Thank you!*



These and cover photo courtesy of  
Pantry volunteer Carolyn Clement.



**A great morning with the  
falmouth food panty!**



## UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS AT FCC (cont.)

### Lifetouch *Photo Directory Update*

Please note on your calendars that the rescheduling of the photo shoots for *FCC's Members/Friends Directory* has been tentatively rescheduled to Friday and Saturday, September 18 and 19, 2:00 to 9:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. respectively. Please stay tuned for updates.

*The Men's Breakfast Group* is, of course, in hiatus along with just about everyone else. We did, however, try to keep in touch by having a video get together on Saturday, March 21. Not everyone has the technology or equipment to do it, but five of us were able to participate: John Bischof, Geoff Parker, Ken Stafford, Mark Munson, and Peter Ventre (audio only for Pete). The meeting lasted from 8:30 to 9:10 a.m. and it was good to share and catch up.

When not in hiatus, the men's breakfast group meets monthly, usually the first Saturday, at the church. We have been having about eight to ten participants each time. At present, we are sitting down to eat at 8:00 a.m. I, the coordinator, usually arrive an hour earlier to get things started. Shortly thereafter, a few others arrive to help with the cooking and setting up.

The menu is fairly simple: scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage (supplied by the business operated by John Goodrich's son Ryan), fruit, orange juice, and pastry (sometimes the pastry is supplied by Peter Ventre). During the course of the breakfast, participants put money into a hat (cap) in the middle of the table; and the money collected goes to reimburse those who purchased supplies, with anything left over going to the church's discretionary fund.

There is no set program or agenda, but the conversation is always lively and interesting. All male persons connected in any way with the church are welcome to attend, and we always welcome new faces. I send out notices and reminders beforehand. If you are not on my e-mail distribution list and would like to be, let me know at [jegbischof@gmail.com](mailto:jegbischof@gmail.com). Looking forward to our next meal together.

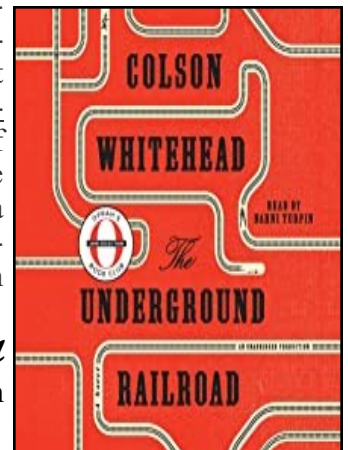
*John Bischof*

### *Ministry of Worship Update ~*

Several of the MoW leaders held a Zoom meeting last week and divided up the listings in the current member/friends' directory. Each participating volunteer took a group of people to call and check in on. The primary goal of these personal calls was to ascertain if the recipients wanted more phone calls, a special call from Pastor Geoff, or if they needed any assistance, etc. The targeted date to complete this first round of calls is by the third weekend in March. Subsequently, these calls have provided an excellent opportunity to update the directory before the next printing. Thank you Carrie Penrose and those assisting for sharing this positive and upbeat activity! Haven't received a call and would like one, contact Carrie aka "CareBear" at 415-5513 or [carriepenrose@gmail.com](mailto:carriepenrose@gmail.com).

In light of the continuing evolving issues surrounding the COVID-19, *the Foreside Book Club* has agreed to postpone our meetings until further notice. We encourage you to take care of yourselves and use this opportunity to stay in and catch up on reading. Our scheduled book for April will be postponed until it is safe for us to meet again as a group when we will discuss The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead. This historical novel tells the story of Cora, a young slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. An outcast even among her fellow Africans, she is on the cusp of womanhood—where greater pain awaits. And so when Caesar, a slave who has recently arrived from Virginia, urges her to join him on the Underground Railroad, she seizes the opportunity and escapes with him. In Colson Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor: engineers and conductors operate a secret network of actual tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. Cora embarks on a harrowing flight from one state to the next, encountering, like Gulliver, strange yet familiar iterations of her own world at each stop. As Whitehead brilliantly re-creates the terrors of the antebellum era, he weaves in the saga of our nation, from the brutal abduction of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day. The Underground Railroad is both the gripping tale of one woman's will to escape the horrors of bondage—and a powerful meditation on the history we all share. (notes from Amazon).

*Mimi Hinkel*  
[mimihinkel@gmail.com](mailto:mimihinkel@gmail.com)



## DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS FOR APRIL 2020

**Wed. April 1**

Psalm 32  
Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41  
Matthew 22:23-33

**Thurs., Apr. 2**

Psalm 31:9-16  
1 Samuel 16:11-13  
Philippians 1:1-11

**Fri., Apr. 3**

Psalm 31:9-16  
Job 13:13-19  
Philippians 1:21-30

**Sat., Apr. 4**

Psalm 31:9-16  
Lamentations 3:55-66  
Mark 10:32-34

**Sun., Apr. 5**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Matthew 21:1-11  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthew 26:14—27:66  
or Matthew 27:11-54

**Mon., Apr. 6**

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 36:5-11  
Hebrews 9:11-15  
John 12:1-11

**Tues., Apr. 7**

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 71:1-14  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
John 12:20-36

**Wed., Apr. 8**

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 70  
Hebrews 12:1-3  
John 13:21-32

**Thurs., Apr. 9*****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., Apr. 10*****Good Friday***

Isaiah 52:13—53:12  
Psalm 22  
Hebrews 10:16-25 or  
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9  
John 18:1—19:42

**Sat., Apr. 11**

Job 14:1-14 or  
Lamentations 3:1-9,  
19-24  
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16  
1 Peter 4:1-8  
Matthew 27:57-66 or  
John 19:38-42

**Sun., Apr. 12*****Easter***

Acts 10:34-43 or  
Jeremiah 31:1-6  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3:1-4 or  
Acts 10:34-43  
John 20:1-18 or  
Matthew 28:1-10

**Mon., Apr. 13**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Exodus 14:10-31;  
15:20-21  
Colossians 3:5-11

**Tues., Apr. 14**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Exodus 15:1-18  
Colossians 3:12-17

**Wed., Apr. 15**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Joshua 3:1-17  
Matthew 28:1-10

**Thurs., Apr. 16**

Psalm 16  
Song of Solomon 2:8-15  
Colossians 4:2-5

**Fri., Apr. 17**

Psalm 16  
Song of Solomon 5:9—6:3  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

**Sat., Apr. 18**

Psalm 16  
Song of Solomon 8:6-7  
John 20:11-20

**Sun., Apr. 19**

Acts 2:14a, 22-32  
Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1:3-9  
John 20:19-31

**Mon., Apr. 20**

Psalm 114  
Judges 6:36-40  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20

**Tues., Apr. 21**

Psalm 114  
Jonah 1:1-17  
1 Corinthians 15:19-28

**Wed., Apr. 22**

Psalm 114  
Jonah 2:1-10  
Matthew 12:38-42

**Thurs., Apr. 23**

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
Isaiah 25:1-5  
1 Peter 1:8b-12

**Fri., Apr. 24**

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
Isaiah 26:1-4  
1 Peter 1:13-16

**Sat., Apr. 25**

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
Isaiah 25:6-9  
Luke 14:12-14

**Sun., Apr. 26**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
1 Peter 1:17-23  
Luke 24:13-35

**Mon., Apr. 27**

Psalm 134  
Genesis 18:1-14  
1 Peter 1:23-25

**Tues., Apr. 28**

Psalm 134  
Proverbs 8:32—9:6  
1 Peter 2:1-3

**Wed., Apr. 29**

Psalm 134  
Exodus 24:1-11  
John 21:1-14

**Thurs., Apr. 30**

Psalm 23  
Exodus 2:15b-25  
1 Peter  
2:9-12



# ***S*TEEPLENOTES**

A Newsletter of

**The Foreside Community Church**

*He  
is  
Risen*

*The Foreside Community Church, UCC*

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*Falmouth, ME 04105- 1428*