



*Connecting to God*

*Nurturing Community*

*Discovering  
how our Lives*

*Make a Difference*

2019 Bob Fuller Awardee Carol Ward took the lead to update our street sign to advertise Sunday services going online. Please see page 5 for more on the award recognition and this amazing member.

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

**Pastor:** The Reverend Geoff Parker  
**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:** Christina Sklarz-Libby

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## Notes from Reverend Geoff Parker

### *Dear Foreside Friends -*

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability... And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each... [They asked,] "And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?" - Acts 2*

As I write to you this warm and sudden day of spring, with windows open, and the sounds of wind and winged things, I'm preparing for our celebration and worship for Pentecost. It is a day that I so wish could be celebrated and held in our sanctuary... seeing decorations and "Sunday best" decked out in red for the occasion, the sound of all of our talking together, humming... the warmth and energy of our joy in being church together.

Much has been made of the many languages the disciples suddenly seem empowered to speak in the Pentecost. Folks around the world often celebrate this day by speaking prayers in many languages ... and we do have so many languages in our congregation: Lingala, French, Spanish, German, and more!

Yet I was reminded while visiting with some of you that the miracle of the Pentecost story is not the disciples' sudden ability to speak in many languages... it was that they were able to be *understood* as *one*! Maybe this was a miracle of language... but it was probably helped along by the actions of the early church, "speaking" clearly, as well!

In this time of distancing, then, the challenge to us as the church is how to let our "speech", and God's Word in our midst, be understood... be plain for all to see. In short, it is to let our actions speak of the love of God in Christ in all we do, as individuals, and as a congregation.

In this issue of Steeplenotes you will find signs of how our church is listening to the Spirit, and as Parker Palmer phrased it, "Letting [our] Life Speak." You'll see the commitments in love and care that the Governing Board has made to honor the needs of all, especially the most vulnerable among us, in their discernment about worship and the use of the building. You will see our Justice and Outreach continuing to be present to and support our neighbors. You will see the ways in we continue to connect and care for one another and our community in all our ministries of education and fellowship.

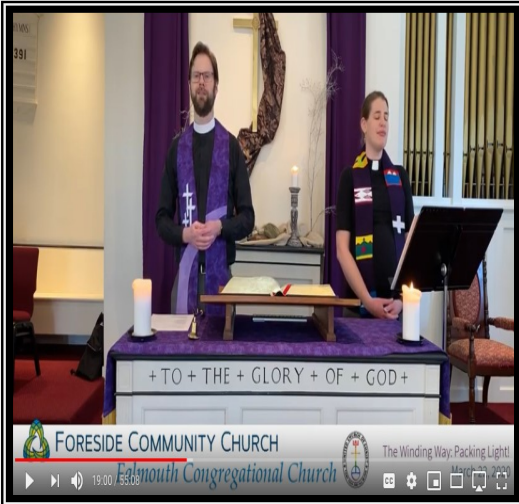
I hope that you'll also see God's love in our common life in how much we all long for a time when we might again gather... and that you trust our leaders and staff will continue to explore ways in which we can support and sustain one another, pray for one another, and indeed, gather together in safety and in health as that becomes possible and advisable.

Thanks be to God for the language of God's love which fills and sustains this congregation, overflowing the borders and boundaries of our building in these days, and speaking of the resurrection hope that calls us forward on the journey!

May you be blessed, and well, in the days to come...



## Worship Online



We continue to join with the Falmouth Congregational Church, worshipping as one online with our neighbors.

Sunday worship at **9:30 a.m.**  
Join us through our [Facebook page](#)  
(more interactive), or through [our webpage](#)

## Morning Prayers

Join Pastor Geoff for a brief time of readings, prayer, and reflection  
**8:00 am Tuesday - Friday (note new days.)**  
To connect on your computer through [Zoom](#)

## Supporting the Ministry of FCC

As we work to continue to offer ministry inside and out of our congregation in a time of so much instability, we would invite you consider how you can continue to support our work in the world.

Please know that if you would like to mail a gift or regular pledge payment to the church office, the office will be open to receive that gift.

**If you would like to make a one time gift online, or if you would like create an account for a monthly recurring gift,** you may do so through PayPal by going to our [giving page](#) and clicking the "Donate" button.

Thank you for the ways you share from your lives and empower the ministry of the church, offering connection, nurturing, and support here and in the wider world!



**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/> Or clicking on the logo to the left of this text box.**

## *An Update on Use of the Church's Physical Space During the Pandemic*

### *Dear Community,*

On behalf of the Governing Board ("GB" for short), I'd like to share with you an update on use of our church's physical space. In May the GB reviewed the latest edition of Governor Mills' [reopening plan](#), as well as information about how the coronavirus can spread through activities like singing. When considering any "reopening plan," we keep in mind the demographics of our congregation, the number of people who usually attend worship and other meetings, the space and configuration of our sanctuary, and physical surfaces people have to touch to enter and exit the building.

Out of an abundance of caution, and desiring first and foremost to keep everyone safe, the GB voted to *continue the current closure of church physical spaces through the end of August*. This includes limiting access to the church building, no in-person Sunday worship services, and no rentals of church space. Some small, private events such as funerals and weddings may possibly be conducted on a limited basis following all guidance from the CDC and state government.

August 31 is not a hard end date when things will go "back to normal," however. As we learn more about how the virus spreads, and what will be needed to resume wider use of the church's physical spaces, the GB recognizes that we won't see anything like "normal" for a *very long time*. We will keep monitoring the situation and we welcome all thoughts and ideas about how to creatively

and safely resume some uses of the church's physical space.

So, until (at least) the end of August, we will continue with online worship. This time period coincides with Pastor Amelia Edson's parental leave and we have agreed to continue sharing worship with Falmouth Congregational Church until she returns. We will welcome occasional scripture readers and other worship participants from that congregation so enjoy the faces of our neighbors during this season.

The sharing of worship is a good reminder that the Church is not a building! We are a people, a community, and the Holy Spirit made manifest. We miss seeing each other in person, and we grieve the loss of our familiar patterns and routines, but God is present in our new ways, too, daring us to use our imaginations to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with the Lord – perhaps a little differently than how we were doing all this before. Check out this edition of *Steeplenotes* to see how you can connect with others and participate. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me, or to any member of the GB, if you have questions.

*May the Peace of God,  
which passes all understanding,  
be with you!*

*Nancy Olmstead, Moderator*

### *Please Welcome the*

### *2020 - 2021 Governing Board and Ministry Officers*

Nancy Olmstead, Moderator  
Debra Coyman, Treasurer  
Carrie Penrose, Clerk  
Cynthia Beggs, Member  
Pete Ventre, Member

Liz Ventre, Fellowship Co-Chair  
Dotty Blanchette, Justice & Outreach Chair  
Cynthia Beggs, Worship Co-Chair  
Wendy Tracy, Sunday School Ministry Chair

Deb Gray, Vice Moderator  
John Kipp, Assistant Treasurer  
Clifford Gilpin, Member  
John Goodrich, Member  
Kathy Hillman Reed, Member

Pete Ventre, Fellowship Co-Chair  
Lisa Nash, J & O Treasurer  
Robin Singer, Worship Co-Chair  
Carol Ward, Stewardship Chair

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

### *Bob Fuller Appreciation Award*

#### *Presented to Carol Ward*

(P. Ventre)

With the deepest of gratitude, The Governing Board unanimously selected Carol Ward as the 2019 Bob Fuller Awardee. This award was created to recognize outstanding and faithful service to FCC that goes well beyond the general call of duty as was exemplified by its inspiration and namesake. Over the years Carol has epitomized this service by working tirelessly for our church in so many



**Carol and a special friend.  
Christmas 2019.**

capacities. She is the fearless leader of our church and has grown it to the point where it involves most everyone in our church community, as well as produces a significant financial benefit to the church. Carol additionally

chairs the Stewardship Ministry overseeing all aspects of our finances and our facilities. She sings in the choir; she must hardly sleep. Carol is the first to step in and lead where leadership is needed. She and Peter Cinnelli teamed up last year and persuaded the rest of us that a bigger window was needed at the front of the church and that it would improve the looks and light in the front of the church and in the sanctuary. The window is beautiful. and we have never looked back. **(Cover page)** Carol also found time to coordinate our street sign to advertise Sunday services going on line. Please join the Governing Board in thanking Carol and all that she does for our church community. She is an irreplaceable asset to us all. Additionally, the Governing Board approved a \$100 donation be made to the charity of Carol's choosing.

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### *Chain Shawls...*

(C. Penrose)

...that is, prayer chain and prayer shawls! If someone you know, family, friend, or neighbor is in need of comfort, spiritually or physically, please contact the church office. **This includes you too.** FCC's gifted knitters have assembled a basket of various sized and beautifully colored shawls and wraps. Each has been previously blessed during worship by Pastor Geoff and comes with a ribbon tied card identifying its origin and intent. Several methods of delivery can be arranged. The Prayer Chain Ministry also continues to be available to provide the strength of group prayer as well. You need only provide a level of detail that you are comfortable with by sending an email, or phone call to the church office, and the prayer chain will be activated on your behalf. 781-5880 or [cslib-by@foresidechurch.org](mailto:cslib-by@foresidechurch.org). Prayer requests can also be sent by way of the church website at [www.foresidechurch.org](http://www.foresidechurch.org). Please do not hesitate to call upon these resources.

...And, three dozen packages of baby wipes, diapers, and a financial contribution were donated by the members and friends of the Foreside Community Church acknowledging the soon to arrive baby of Falmouth Congo's Pastor Amelia Edson and her husband Jake. Pastor Amelia, understanding the deep need of baby items by clients of the Falmouth Food Pantry, graciously presented this collection idea as an alternative to personally gifting her family. You may also recognize Pastor Amelia's name as the co-minister collaborating with Pastor Geoff on our Sunday virtual worship services. Amelia and Jake are expecting their first child by the end of June.



Some of the generous donations left at FCC's door to be distributed to the youngest clients of the Falmouth Food Pantry. Thanks for your courier service CareBear!

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

### *The Ministry of Justice & Outreach*

(D. Blanchette) has always worked to be a voice for our congregation as we serve those in need, whether in faraway lands or close-by. All of the financial support we offer is made in your names. The current corona19 crisis has caused J&O to limit our outreach expenditures in consideration of the hardships being faced by many in our own church. As we face the current challenges, I want to share a few updates on the organizations all of us have supported for a number of years.

### **Mbabaali Memorial School for Orphans- Uganda:**

Director James Kyeyune has shared some of the terrible challenges of his school now added to their ongoing struggles. Uganda has been hard hit by the coronavirus and exacerbated by a totally inadequate health care system. The country is in "lockdown," so while this has protected the children and staff from becoming infected, they are also unable to harvest the much-needed food from their farm. As a consequence they were facing starvation. A private gift from our congregation has saved the children for the past two months.

### **Little Children of the World- Philippine Lo-oc Soup Kitchen:**

The Lo-oc Soup Kitchen was founded many years ago by a member of the FCC and J&O has provided a significant portion of the funding for this project. Lo-oc feeds over 100 children a day and also provides work for a number of local adults. Since the coronavirus impact, food prices have soared and in addition, those who become ill are unable to obtain medical help unless their family has medical insurance- a cost of about \$70 a year.

### **The Falmouth Food Pantry:**

The congregation of the FCC has been essential to the work of the pantry for years. This corona19 crisis has resulted in an outpouring of support for the community. Because of your donations we have been able to feed hundreds and also assist many families with essential bills.

### *June will bring changes to the operations of the Falmouth Food Pantry.*

In an effort to have more space to store purchased food supplies and keep track of inventory for our large car distributions, we are moving these operations to the Falmouth Food Pantry next to the Town Hall. In order to continue working safely there is a designated team of 5 volunteers who will be the only people allowed to work in the Pantry but ad-

ditional volunteers will construct the cartons, pick up supplies, and distribute food to cars and homes. Families in need of food are invited to come to the Falmouth Food Pantry/ Town Hall site on the **first and third Friday during June, July and August.** Food will be distributed to cars from 9:00-10:30. Managers will continue packing food cartons for delivery to doorsteps of families in need- in April alone over 400 families received food from our Pantry and a number of unemployed families have received rent and medical bill assistance. It is because of the compassion and generosity of so many in our community that we are able to provide help to so many. In the event of a need please call 632-2687 or 781-2996.

### *Responding to a financial gift from FCC*

friend of our church Peggy Akers, emailed this very important report of some of the impact of our donation:

*Dear Foreside Community Church,*

*Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your thoughtful and kind and generous gift to the Preble Street teen clinic. During this difficult time when I hope you are all safe and healthy and hopeful I am writing to share with you what your kind donation goes towards.*

*Tom, a young man who came to us from Bangor at age 17 after being released from other homeless communities in Bangor and Lewiston lost his glasses during his journey. He was very nearsighted....struggling to do his on line school work and squinting to read and write. With the help of everyone...especially YOU...we were able to get him new glasses...all virtually. Within days of getting his glasses he was working with his chemistry teacher to complete his assignments on line and looking for a part time job. His headaches resolved. He will graduate from Portland High school in June. Thank you Foreside community! We have another glasses order in the works also to another teen who has no family.*

*Besides all the other small things we are able to purchase socks, underwear, vitamins...Tylenol... decongestants and antihistamines for allergies, we are going to work on a garden in the courtyard. This was a big success years ago and this seems like the perfect time to plant seeds of hope again. Thank you....*

*Warmest of thanks to all of you,  
Peggy Akers,  
Nurse practitioner, Teen Clinic*

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

*Hi Everyone!* We miss playing for you in-person, but are happy to still be bringing music to where you are! We have a request. About a week ago, there was a post on the church Facebook page inquiring about favorite hymns. It got us thinking that we would like to do a series of Preludes drawing from your list of favorites. So if you missed that, you can email us directly, or go back to the Facebook post and add your choice(s) there. We look forward to seeing what pieces move you and using them as inspiration for upcoming worship services. We hope this finds you well!

Yours in spirit if not body,  
Trevor and David

### *Members and Friends of The Foreside Community Church 2020-2021 Directory*

will be electronically released shortly. If you prefer to receive a hard copy please contact the office at 781-5880 or [cslibby@foresidechurch.org](mailto:cslibby@foresidechurch.org) and one will be mailed to you. If you have changed any of your contact information in the past year and do not remember if you have notified the office, please do so now!

### *Praise Song for the Pandemic written and read by Christine Valters Paintner*

Deb Reifsnnyder sends along this link to a very intensely and time appropriate piece that she refers to on a regular basis as the Mediation Group continues to practice social distancing. She hopes it will be as meaningful to our readers as it is to her:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCYoikGal6U>

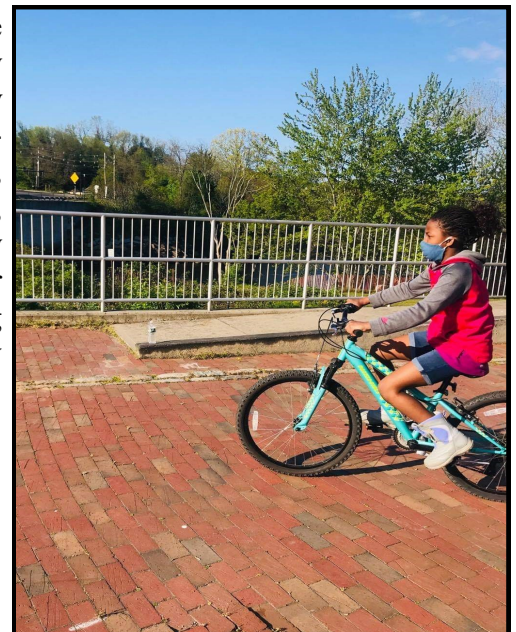
### *Signs of Spring--- Kids on Bikes!*

(D. Gray)



**Christina and Alliance, with a little help from mom Toto.**

Toto and her family have moved to a new---and larger---apartment in Biddeford. Now that spring finally seems to have arrived, Toto shared with Jan Schrock that she'd love to find bicycles for her five children. Jan in turn shared this wish with the Women's Breakfast Group which has held weekly Zoom gatherings since March. In less than a week, we had offers of bicycles for everyone in the family, including Toto and Mathurin! Bicycles, helmets and locks have been delivered, and Christina and Alliance (above) are learning to ride. Toto said they can't wait to show us how fast they're going now! Many thanks to Polly Burke, Carrie Penrose, Liz Ventre, Mary Schendel, the Tracy family and the Shirer family for sending their bikes on new adventures.



**'Way to go Alliance; wearing the mask!**

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

*Virtual Women's Breakfasts Every Wednesday  
at 9:00 a.m. and here is the link:*

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83580883078?  
pwd=REZpV0QrbGVcZjJMcnFSNERId3FZQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83580883078?pwd=REZpV0QrbGVcZjJMcnFSNERId3FZQT09)

Meeting ID: 835 8088 3078 Password: 171696

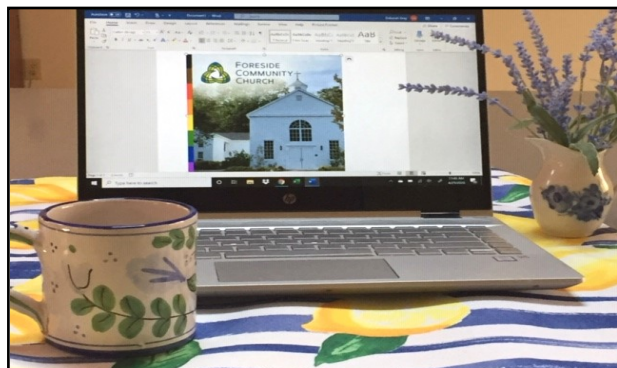
Deb Gray is also sending out the Zoom log-in information directly to the ladies. If anyone has questions, or maybe has not attended any past breakfasts and wishes to make sure they are on the distribution list, they can contact Deb directly at 433-0427 or [deborah.gray48@gmail.com](mailto:deborah.gray48@gmail.com). In the meantime, Jill Fox shares this breakfast favorite!

### Blueberry French Toast

- \* In 9x13 pan put 6 slices of bread (crust removed)
- \* Top with 1 cup blueberries and dot with 8 ounces of cream cheese.
- \* Add another 6 slices of crustless bread on top of cream cheese.
- \* In a blender mix:
  - 12 eggs
  - 2 cups milk
  - 1/2 cup maple syrup
- \* Pour this over the last bread layer, cover and refrigerate over night.
- \* Bake at 350 for 45 minutes.
- \* Serve with warm syrup.

### Syrup

- \* 1 cup water
- \* 1 cup sugar
- \* 2 Tbsp cornstarch
- \* 1 cup blueberries
- \* Cook until thicken.
- \* Remove from heat and stir in 1 more cup blueberries.



*Carrie Penrose is inviting you  
to a scheduled Zoom meeting*

Topic: FCC prayer shawl knit group

Time: This is a recurring meeting  
Meet anytime!

### Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9572877496?  
pwd=UHIVNEl4TndJaXN1UDVrWXRkdUJNdz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9572877496?pwd=UHIVNEl4TndJaXN1UDVrWXRkdUJNdz09)

Meeting ID: 957 287 7496  
Password: 985716

### ***HOLD THESE DATES!***

**Monday, June 8:** Staff evaluations due.

**Monday, June 8: 5:00 p.m.**  
Stewardship monthly meeting via Zoom, details to follow.

**Monday, June 15: 7:00 p.m.**  
Governing Board monthly meeting via Zoom, details to follow.

**Monday, June 22:** July/August edition of *Steeplenotes* articles due in office by close of business.



## DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JUNE 2020

**Mon. June 1**

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
 Joel 2:18-29  
 Romans 8:18-24

**Tues., June 2**

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
 Ezekiel 39:7-8, 21-29  
 Romans 8:26-27

**Wed., June 3**

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
 Numbers 11:24-30  
 John 7:37-39

**Thurs., June 4**

Psalm 8 Job 38:1-11  
 2 Timothy 1:8-12a

**Fri., June 5**

Psalm 8  
 Job 38:12-21  
 2 Timothy 1:12b-14

**Sat., June 6**

Psalm 8  
 Job 38:22-38  
 John 14:15-17

**Sun., June 7**

Genesis 1:1—2:4a  
 Psalm 8  
 2 Corinthians 13:11-13  
 Matthew 28:16-20

**Mon., June 8**

Psalm 29  
 Job 38:39—39:12  
 1 Corinthians 12:1-3

**Tues., June 9**

Psalm 29  
 Job 39:13-25  
 1 Corinthians 12:4-13

**Wed., June 10**

Psalm 29  
 Job 39:26—40:5  
 John 14:25-26

**Thurs., June 11**

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
 Genesis 21:1-7  
 Hebrews 3:1-6

**Fri., June 12**

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
 Genesis 24:1-9  
 Acts 7:35-43

**Sat., June 13**

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
 Genesis 24:10-52  
 Mark 7:1-13

**Sun., June 14**

Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7  
 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
 Romans 5:1-8  
 Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

**Mon., June 15**

Psalm 126  
 Genesis 23:1-19  
 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

**Tues., June 16**

Psalm 126  
 Genesis 25:7-11  
 2 Thessalonians 2:13—3:5

**Wed., June 17**

Psalm 126  
 Nehemiah 9:1-8  
 Luke 6:12-19

**Thurs., June 18**

Psalm 86:1-10  
 Exodus 12:43-49  
 Hebrews 2:5-9

**Fri., June 19**

Psalm 86:1-10  
 Genesis 35:1-4  
 Acts 5:17-26

**Sat., June 20**

Psalm 86:1-10  
 Ezekiel 29:3-7  
 Luke 11:53—12:3

**Sun., June 21**

Genesis 21:8-21  
 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17  
 Romans 6:1b-11  
 Matthew 10:24-39

**Mon., June 22**

Psalm 86:11-17  
 Genesis 16:1-15  
 Revelation 2:1-7

**Tues., June 23**

Psalm 86:11-17  
 Genesis 25:12-18  
 Revelation 2:8-11

**Wed., June 24**

Psalm 86:11-17  
 Jeremiah 42:18-22  
 Matthew 10:5-23

**Thurs., June 25**

Psalm 13  
 Micah 7:18-20  
 Galatians 5:2-6

**Fri., June 26**

Psalm 13  
 2 Chronicles 20:5-12  
 Galatians 5:7-12

**Sat., June 27**

Psalm 13  
 Genesis 26:23-25  
 Luke 17:1-4

**Sun., June 28**

Genesis 22:1-14  
 Psalm 13  
 Romans 6:12-23  
 Matthew 10:40-42

**Mon., June 29**

Psalm 47  
 Genesis 22:15-18  
 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

**Tues., June 30**

Psalm 47  
 1 Kings 18:36-39  
 1 John 4:1-6

# **S**TEEPLENOTES

A Newsletter of  
**The Foreside Community Church**



*The Foreside Community Church, UCC*  
*340 Foreside Road*  
*Falmouth, ME 04105- 1428*