



*Connecting to God*

*Nurturing Community*

*Discovering*

*how our Lives*

*Make a Difference*

***Everyone continues to be welcomed here, inside or out!***

*(See page 7 for more photos & story.)*

### THE FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

340 Foreside Road  
Falmouth, Maine 04105-1428

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Choir Director: Trevor Lavenbein  
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Sunday School Administrator: Laura Rodas  
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## Notes from Reverend Geoff Parker

### *Seeing Christ Together*

Dear Foreside Friends -

Jesus said to his disciples, *"In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live."*

The Easter season is one of seeing in new ways, of seeking a vision to fully know the resurrection. It's not an accident that almost every story of the disciples in this season is one of struggling to, and then rejoicing when they do, see the risen Jesus.

We often say that the gift of our community, of the Church, of the whole grand story of God's incarnation is that we are invited to see the face of Jesus in another person, and in the whole body of our congregation. How lucky we are usually to be able to see friends, choir members, children, elders and more in our life and our ministry, and say with the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!"

This season of Easter—but also of staying home and apart—can bring sadness... I don't know about you, but I know how much I long to see all of your faces! To be in worship together! To share stories of our lives, and songs (oh so many songs!), and to simply be able to fall silent together in joy and worship... without anyone having to worry that the audio has dropped out on our zoom call!

It is clear from Governor Mills' plan of April 28th, however, that for the common health and good of all, we will not be able to gather together for worship in the sanctuary through May and June at the least. The Governing Board and I will continue to follow developments and keep you up to date as policies and possibilities for gathering in ways that are healthy become clear.

But, even in our separation—and in our new ways of being together—we are seeing God's care lived out right now, seeing Christ's touch for healing, and the Spirit's power and connection...

*...in a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me...*

I have come to find this season, then, a call to practicing together "seeing," envisioning, Christ in new ways. For even across the internet, or across the driveway, we have affirmed Christ is risen and present to us in our common life... and so are we alive!

Some thanks for the life we share right now:

- For our Governing Board for wise and care-filled leadership. We will not be able to gather in person for our

spring meeting of the congregation to celebrate those leaders that have been serving, and to give thanks and affirm those new leaders stepping up. Yet, we can rejoice in the ways in which we continue to be blessed with committed and faithful leaders year in and year out. Stay tuned for ways to participate in our meeting by electronic or paper ballot to bless, discern with, and call new leaders.

- To the faith-filled work of our ministries and our staff who have found ways to bring a richness and connection to our lives apart, calling in visions and voices of our members of every generation to worship, learn, share stories, and play through all sorts of media that allow us to remain safe... but Spirited just the same!

- For your generosity which continues to nourish our ministries. Especially, this month, we have received several anonymous gifts to the Discretionary Fund which serves to assist and care for our neighbors in need. Through these gifts we help when a utility may be about to be shut off, or when a little help with the rent might help keep a family afloat, and all those other emergencies which can so disrupt life. In past years we have received gifts for this fund on Christmas Eve and on Easter Sunday, so the funds are currently limited, having lost the chance to gather on Easter. If you are looking for a way to support others in our community who are struggling in this time, you might consider giving to this fund by sending a check to the office, and marking it "Discretionary Fund."

Finally, I give thanks to God for each and every one of you, and for the gift of this community which binds us together in praise and service.

Blessings to you in the days ahead,



**Our friend Bob Hartman**, died on Sunday, April 26 at home surrounded by Dot and his family. Please join Pastor Geoff in praying for them in their loss, and in giving thanks for all the joy of Bob's life, as well as his deep care of and commitment to our church. There will be a private service with family when they are able to gather. You can read more about Bob's life and his family [here](#).

### *Worship Online*

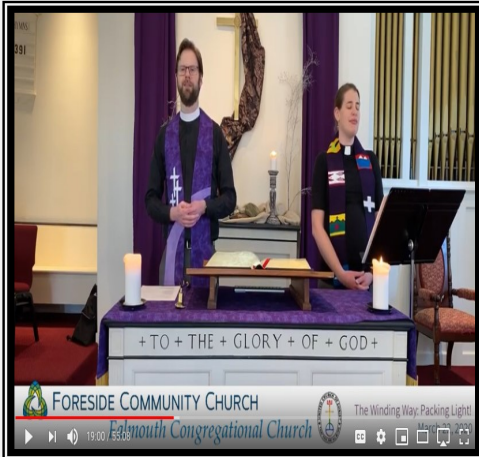
We continue to join with the Falmouth Congregational Church, worshipping as one online with our neighbors.

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  
**8am 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!



*The Easter Spirit has remained strong in  
Foreside Community Church's  
Sunday School program*  
(I. Rodas)

We transitioned to online Sunday School sessions without too much difficulty, with kids joining a Zoom session after the conclusion of Sunday Services each week. This has provided a continuing point of connection for youth with their FCC friends, and has helped to maintain some regularity.

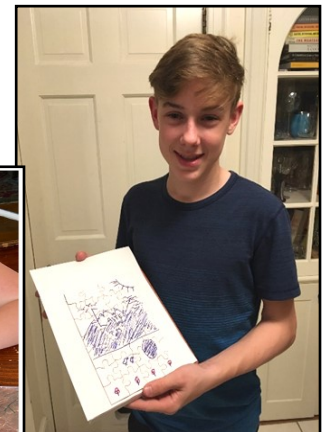
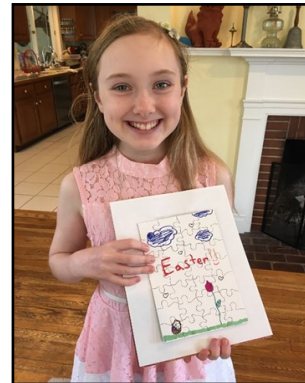
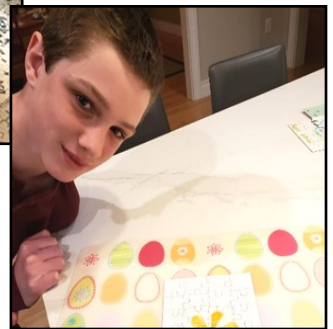
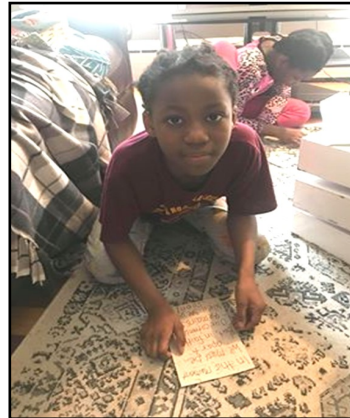
A number of youth from FCC and Falmouth Congregational Church participated in Palm Sunday's annual processional. Snapshots, short videos, and dramatizations of Jesus' walk into Jerusalem opened the Palm Sunday Service – though pine boughs were the branch of choice for many this year rather than palm leaves.

When it became clear that it was unlikely that the congregation would be able to gather in person for Easter Sunday celebrations, we wanted to provide an alternate opportunity for our FCC families to participate in Easter traditions. In collaboration with the Easter Bunny, we packaged up plastic eggs and candy to mail to families. Also included was a blank puzzle. Parents were asked to hide the eggs, filled with the puzzle pieces and candy, for their kiddos to find. Assembled puzzles revealed a message from the church. Kids were then invited to create an image of hope on the front side and send along a picture – participants then picked a small gift card from a local businesses. As you can see, we had a great response! The kids really enjoyed having a twist on our regular tradition.

Moving forward, we will continue to host FCC Sunday School through at least the end of our traditional Sunday School year (scheduled to be June 14) over Zoom. Our curriculum allows us to share many of our regular activities. We give folks some log-in time and say hi/check in. We have had the pleasure of David Bartoletti recording some songs for us so we're able to continue sharing music together. We watch a short video from our regular curriculum and read the lectionary Bible Story before having some discussion. In this time of physical distancing, it is amazing how amplified the lessons are from Jesus and his disciples as they faced isolation, loss, and sacrifice more than two thousand years ago. The insights of some of our youngest parishioners has been stunning at times, and we've been so thankful to hear their words of wisdom and personal reflection.

The kids have also been taking part in a few extra activities like scavenger hunts and taking photos for Earth Day. We will continue to post to Facebook and share in our regular Sunday School updates the fruits of their creativity. We look forward to reconnecting in person when we can, where the kids will, undoubtedly, have an epic game of tag to catch up on the favorite game that doesn't translate well to Zoom!

Some of our  
younger  
members...  
are we blessed  
or what?





# Christmas Fair in the time of Corona.....



## *Dear Friends -*

What a strange year this is! How can we keep the fair alive and kill this virus at the same time?-----

**KEEP YOUR DONATIONS AT YOUR HOME UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT FORM THE FAIR IS GOING TO TAKE THIS YEAR.** Please don't put boxes on the stage or in the basement. I'm sure you have a corner in your home or garage where they could reside quietly, cleanly, quietly. Not even Goodwill is open, so you can't repurpose items now anyway, so you might as well hang onto them.

**Foodstuffs:** We could take orders for favorites we all anticipate. For instance, Deb Coyman has already volunteered to make and deliver butter crunch. Using an on line menu of baked goods, we could order the perfect things for the perfect time, fresh, baked to order. The summer canning season is coming, too.

**Art:** David Clough has generously anticipated offering a larger than usual number of pieces of his art, which have been perennial favorites at the fair! We could not be more excited! We could even start advertising and selling some items on line in the summer and fall – "Christmas in July!"

**Knitting:** If the knitters would be willing, pre-ordering would work there, too. Now is the time to put together your Christmas present list for the family! Hats and mittens for the grandchildren, ordered in the perfect colors, custom knit over the next 9 months! Scarf for your sister-----, your aunt, your dad. Earmuffs, anyone?

How do we do Timeless Treasures or Housewares? Not sure, so keep them all at home for now.

The answer might be a bigger, on line Silent Auction for the more valuable items, with an expanded list of services and vacation options, to be redeemed later in 2021.



Wreath selling would be easy, decorating, hanging, paying ahead and picking up outside.

If we need to cancel the in-person, up-close, shopping-and-lunch-with-friends aspect of the fair, we will have to do it, so the spirit can be reborn in 2021. We'll get through this!

Do you have ideas for the fair? Please send them to Carol @ [cward-md2@gmail.com](mailto:cward-md2@gmail.com)

*Merry Christmas in advance!!*





# EARTH MONTH EVENTS

Find fun activities for each day at: [www.falmouthme.org/sustainability](http://www.falmouthme.org/sustainability)

# APRIL

Presented by  
**OceanView**  
AT FALMOUTH  
A 21st century retirement community

- 15 Rhubarb is up
- 16 Spring Peeper Chorus
- 17 Ever heard of SciFri?
- 18 Raccoons are nesting
- 19 Stay connected with nature
- 20 Plant peas
- 21 Join a nature group
- 22 Earth Day 50th Anniversary!
- 23 Red maples flower
- 24 Learn about solar energy
- 25 Tree swallows returning
- 26 Explore Falmouth Land Trust
- 27 Enjoy a Meatless Monday
- 28 Watch the Bald Eagle Cam
- 29 30th anniversary Friends of Casco Bay
- 30 Trout lilies bloom



# EARTH MONTH EVENTS

Find fun activities for each day at: [www.falmouthme.org/sustainability](http://www.falmouthme.org/sustainability)

# MAY

Presented by  
**OceanView**  
AT FALMOUTH  
A 21st century retirement community

- 1 Compost food & yard waste
- 2 Hang a hummingbird feeder
- 3 Go birding online
- 4 Spring warblers return
- 5 Design your landscape
- 6 Find your carbon footprint
- 7 Full moon tonight
- 8 Tour ecomaine virtually
- 9 Migratory Bird Day
- 10 Mother's Day; plant carrots
- 11 Ride a bike
- 12 Read Thoreau
- 13 Average last frost
- 14 Breathe deeply
- 15 Alewives are running
- 16 Endangered Species Day
- 17 Maine Arbor Day Week
- 18 Falmouth Forests Event
- 19 Mend or fix something
- 20 Reduce pesticide use
- 21 Reduce your lawn
- 22 World Turtle Day
- 23 Lupine bloom
- 24 Plant tomatoes





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

### *What Earth Day Means to Me*

Earth Day and the environmental movement which it launched in 1970 have made a huge difference to the Presumpscot River and Casco Bay. Earth Day marks its 50th anniversary on April 22.

In 1970, bald eagles were rare in Maine. None nested in Falmouth or Cumberland, because the pesticide D.D.T. had cracked all their egg shells. Empty bottles and cans littered Maine roadways. Air over the Maine Turnpike was toxic with lead from vehicle emissions. The Presumpscot River at Middle Road failed to meet even Class C water quality standards, and it smelled of sulfur. The oxygen count was zero, and no fish swam in it.

Earth Day 1970 launched the national Clean Air and Water Acts and their amendments, which Senators Muskie and Mitchell supported, and Pres. Richard Nixon signed. The ban on D.D.T. and the bottle bill followed as well. Today 734 pairs of bald eagles nest in Maine, including one pair on Clapboard Island. Thanks to a statewide system for recycling bottles and cans, our roadways are clear. Airborne lead has fallen 99 percent. The Presumpscot River below Westbrook usually meets Class C standards, and it no longer smells. Alewives swim up to Highland Lake in May.

Earth Day has been doing good things for the Presumpscot River and Casco Bay for 50 years. I remember how things used to be. That's why I worked for 6 months, with a team of 6 others, to honor Earth Day by drawing up a calendar of activities and opportunities for Earth Month. It runs from April 15 to May 29. I hope you will participate in some of them, on line or outside. You can also log onto EarthDay2020 for more ideas.

*Susan Gilpin*

*The "Outside Space Ministry"* organized a piecemeal spring clean-up of the parking lot on April 19-20 – Leaves and sticks and bigger branches were removed from the property, pines were pruned, sand was raked off the grass and flower beds. Three overflowing pickup loads of detritus were hauled off to a covert location. The sand sweeping will be assigned to a contractor.

If you missed all this fun, there will always more to do – prune lilacs, weed, mulch – so if you would like to be one of our ministers, just contact Carol Ward (cwardmd2@gmail.com) and she'll be happy to attach you and your rake and clippers to our list.



A "shout out" to the volunteers:

Pic #1 Mark Munson, Scott Belser, and Debra Coyman

Pic #2 Susan Blethen and Deb Reifsnnyder

Pic #3 Kathy Hillman Reed and Stan Reed

Pic #4 Phil Gleason

Not pictured Mary Schendel, Robin Singer and photographer Carol Ward



...Cathy Hillman Reed and Stan Reed (pictured left) are married – hence the proximity....!



It was good to see each other, even at a distance, helping to keep the "community" in Foreside Community Church in these difficult times.

*Carol Ward*



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

### *The Women's Breakfast Group...*

...had its first virtual meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Twenty-one ladies joined the gathering for coffee and conversation. Since then, we have held weekly Zoom get-togethers on Wednesdays at 9:00 AM. These will continue at least through June 3<sup>rd</sup> as long as there's interest. While we can't meet face to face, this has been a great way to stay in touch, check in on each other and share experiences. We've swapped book and movie recommendations, tick alerts and news about church friends. Lately we've been talking about how the annual church fair might look as we remain sensitive to social distancing precautions. At our most recent Zoom Breakfast, Susan Gilpin posed this question about living during these topsy-turvy times: "What do I want to hold onto" and "What do I want to let go of?"

Some things we want to hold onto:

- ♦ The slower pace
- ♦ Walking-- in our neighborhood and beyond
- ♦ Cleaner air
- ♦ Learning to Zoom
- ♦ Reconnecting with friends
- ♦ Renewing old acquaintances
- ♦ Learning to be grateful

Some things we want to let go of:

- ♦ STUFF!!

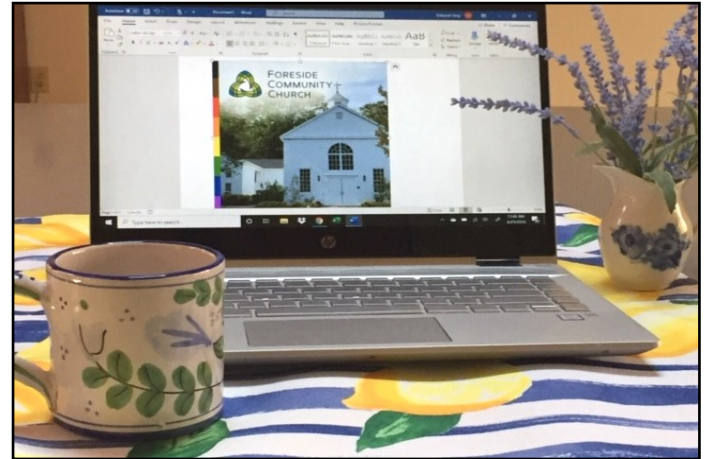
We welcome all women of the church family to join us on Wednesday mornings. No pressure---just grab your coffee and drop in for some conversation.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83580883078?pwd=REZpV0QrbGVVCdjJMcnFSNERId3FZQT09>

Meeting ID: 835 8088 3078

Password: 171696



*Please consider joining the ladies' next  
breakfast gathering on  
Wednesday, May 6 @ 9:00 a.m.*

### *Men's Breakfast Continues*

The next men's breakfast is scheduled for **Saturday May 2 starting at 8:30 a.m.**, and men, you can even attend in your pajamas or lounging attire. Like so many of FCC's gatherings, the breakfast has gone virtual and is attended via a Zoom link. The group of 8 to 12 men "meet" every other Saturday and share coffee, morning fare, and usually a good story or two. At the last breakfast, Phil Gleason regaled attendees on the details of how he and wife Mary Schendel narrowly missed the window through which they eventually left their Italy vacation in order to beat the travel restriction imposed as a result of the virus.

Facilitator John Bischof will forward the Zoom link several days before the breakfast so if you are not on the distribution list and would like to take part of this enjoyable bi-weekly gathering, please contact John at [jeg-bischof@gmail.com](mailto:jeg-bischof@gmail.com) or 781-2391.



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

Officers, appropriate staff, and ministry (co) chairs, the deadline for submitting your annual reports for the calendar year 2019 is Friday, May 1. Also, please send updated rosters for each of the ministries and standing committees in order that changes/revisions can be noted in the Members/Friends Directory. Even though these members are not voted on, Standing Committees / Open Groups / Small Groups are encouraged to please send along any changes as well.

### *Hold The Date!*

#### Current and incoming Governing Board officers/members

the next monthly governing board meeting is scheduled for Monday, **May 18 @ 7:00 p.m.** Please watch for Zoom log-on info and agenda.

### *A Falmouth Food Pantry Update*

Thank you all for your support during such an unprecedented time. The Falmouth Food Pantry is no longer able to accept the usual food donations and are purchasing food at retail prices. The financial strain has been overwhelming for our organization. As we continue to move forward with no-contact deliveries we thank you for your outpouring of support. We hope to resume our normal operations as soon as possible. If you or a loved one has a food emergency please call 207-632-2687 or 207-781-2996. In addition to home deliveries we are holding food distribution events at 58 Woodville Road in front of the Falmouth elementary school. Food distributions will be from 9:00-11:00 on Tuesday May 12th and 19th.

### *Face Masks!*

Please note a new supply of face masks lovingly crafted by Carol Ward are now available in the white plastic bag on the outside of the main office door. Please take what you need, Carol insists!

*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?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9572877496?pwd=UHIVNEl4TndJaXN1UDVrWXRkdUJNdz09)  
[pwd=UHIVNEl4TndJaXN1UDVrWXRkd](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9572877496?pwd=UHIVNEl4TndJaXN1UDVrWXRkdUJNdz09)  
[UJNdz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9572877496?pwd=UHIVNEl4TndJaXN1UDVrWXRkdUJNdz09)

Meeting ID: 957 287 7496

Password: 985716

### *Mornings with Friends*

The monthly Mornings with Friends program in Cumberland (but open to all) has been suspended temporarily. The May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting is cancelled, but we hope to resume programs in June in accordance with the Governor's Executive Orders for safe reopening and public gatherings. **Tentatively, the next Mornings with Friends will be on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at the Tuttle Road United Methodist Church.** Anne B. Gass will speak on "America's First Cross-Country Automobile Trip for a Cause" honoring Maine's Suffrage Centennial. Stay tuned for details.

## DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MAY 2020

**Fri. May 1**

Psalm 23  
Exodus 3:16-22;  
4:18-20  
1 Peter 2:13-17

**Sat., May 2**

Psalm 23  
Ezekiel 34:1-16  
Luke 15:1-7

**Sun., May 3**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 2:42-47  
Psalm 23  
1 Peter 2:19-25  
John 10:1-10

**Mon., May 4**

Psalm 100  
Ezekiel 34:17-23  
1 Peter 5:1-5

**Tues., May 5**

Psalm 100  
Ezekiel 34:23-31  
Hebrews 13:20-21

**Wed., May 6**

Psalm 100  
Jeremiah 23:1-8  
Matthew 20:17-28

**Thurs., May 7**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
Genesis 12:1-3  
Acts 6:8-15

**Fri., May 8**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
Exodus 3:1-12  
Acts 7:1-16

**Sat., May 9**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
Jeremiah 26:20-24  
John 8:48-59

**Sun., May 10**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 7:55-60  
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-14

**Mon., May 11**

Psalm 102:1-17  
Exodus 13:17-22  
Acts 7:17-40

**Tues., May 12**

Psalm 102:1-17  
Proverbs 3:5-12  
Acts 7:44-56

**Wed., May 13**

Psalm 102:1-17  
Proverbs 3:13-18  
John 8:31-38

**Thurs., May 14**

Psalm 66:8-20  
Genesis 6:5-22  
Acts 27:1-12

**Fri., May 15**

Psalm 66:8-20  
Genesis 7:1-24  
Acts 27:13-38

**Sat., May 16**

Psalm 66:8-20  
Genesis 8:13-19  
John 14:27-29

**Sun., May 17**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 17:22-31  
Psalm 66:8-20  
1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 14:15-21

**Mon., May 18**

Psalm 93  
Genesis 9:8-17  
Acts 27:39-44

**Tues., May 19**

Psalm 93  
Deuteronomy 5:22-33  
1 Peter 3:8-12

**Wed., May 20**

Psalm 93  
Deuteronomy 31:1-13  
John 16:16-24

**Thurs., May 21**

**Ascension of the Lord**  
Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Luke 24:44-53

**Fri., May 22**

Psalm 93  
2 Kings 2:1-12  
Ephesians 2:1-7

**Sat., May 23**

Psalm 93  
2 Kings 2:13-15  
John 8:21-30

**Sun., May 24**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 1:6-14  
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35  
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11  
John 17:1-11

**Mon., May 25**

Psalm 99  
Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24  
1 Peter 4:1-6

**Tues., May 26**

Psalm 99  
Numbers 16:41-50  
1 Peter 4:7-11

**Wed., May 27**

Psalm 99  
1 Kings 8:54-65  
John 3:31-36

**Thurs., May 28**

Psalm 33:12-22  
Exodus 19:1-9a  
Acts 2:1-11

**Fri., May 29**

Psalm 33:12-22  
Exodus 19:16-25  
Romans 8:14-17

**Sat., May 30**

Psalm 33:12-22  
Exodus 20:1-21  
Matthew 5:1-12

**Sun., May 31****Day of Pentecost**

Acts 2:1-21 or  
Numbers 11:24-30  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13  
or Acts 2:1-21  
John 20:19-23  
or John 7:37-39





# ***S*TEEPLENOTES**

A Newsletter of  
**The Foreside Community Church**



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