

*Connecting
to God*

*Nurturing
Community*

*Discovering
how our Lives
Make a
Difference*

For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.
Matthew 5:18

THE FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH, UCC
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
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Notes from Reverend Jim Gertmenian

Seen last summer on a country road: a man and his son walking along the shoulder – the boy, eleven, twelve, just a few steps ahead of his dad. Leaves from the same notebook, these faces – written in the same hand and telling an uninterrupted story, yet bearing the clear marks of having been set down on different days and reflective of different moods, different seasons. The boy comes to a small bridge, stops, leans over the railing to watch the water glide away beneath. Now the father is behind him (this is the part I remember most vividly, as if it were I standing there on the bridge), putting a hand on each shoulder, and in a single, effortless movement, he bends over and kisses his son on the top of his head. If the boy responds, it is in neither word nor visible gesture, but in some language reserved for the two of them, a language which I, the outside, can never know.

Reflecting on this now, I think of a line from Willa Cather, in *My Antonia*. Antonia is speaking to Jim Burden, her life-long friend: “Ain’t it wonderful, Jim, how much people can mean to each other?”

It is wonderful – even though the boy and the man will not always walk the country road, even though the relationship of parent and child must, to be healthy, include conflict as well as continuity. Even though the day will come when it will be the younger man who leans over his father to leave a kiss, a kiss of parting. Relationships – all kinds of relationships – are fraught with difficulty, even pain, but still . . . it is “wonderful how much people can mean to each other.” Don’t you agree?

When I moved to Maine a few years ago after retiring from the ministry, it was hard for me to imagine joining a church. For a variety of reasons I just wasn’t ready. Perhaps I was still grieving the separation from my last congregation. Perhaps I wasn’t sure how to comfortably sit in a pew, when all I had known for forty-plus years was standing in the pulpit. The reasons don’t really matter now. What matters is that when I happened to find myself in worship at the Foreside Community Church, the first thing I noticed was how much you all mean to one another. It was palpable, obvious . . . and moving to me. I’m still a newcomer, having just joined the church about a year ago, and there are many of you whom I still want to know. But it feels right – a gift – to be able to share in the life of a congregation where there is such mutual care and where the tender threads of community are so beautifully woven.

I look forward to sharing in the leadership of worship for three Sundays this month while Geoff is on Parental Leave . . . and though I won’t be able to “see” you, it gives me joy to know that you will be there.

Warmly,

Jim Gertmenian

612-385-4318

jamesgert@aol.com

The Reverend Jim Gertmenian



Arrangements During Pastor Geoff's Parental Leave

Dear Members and Friends,

As you know, Geoff and Julia are expecting their baby on March 7th(-ish)! We are so happy for them and excited to welcome baby Parker. Geoff will be taking Parental Leave when the baby is born. He will take about three weeks, return for Holy Week, Easter, and Confirmation Sunday (which is the week after Easter), and then go back on Parental Leave for another three weeks, through May 2nd. We have a terrific team of clergy (all members of our church) who will be filling in for Geoff while he is on leave.

The Rev. Jim Gertmenian and **Rev. Kelli Whitman** will be splitting worship leadership/preaching (Jim – before Easter, Kelli – after Easter), with the technical aspects to be handled by our very capable **Laura Rodas**. **Rev. Susan Gilpin** will be providing Pastoral Care before Holy Week, while Kelli Whitman will provide Pastoral Care after Confirmation Sunday on April

11. If you are in need of Pastoral Care, please do not hesitate to reach out to Susan or Kelli during their respective "on-call" time periods. Their contact information is listed below, and will be again provided in Weekly Updates, etc. Myself as Governing Board Moderator (nancy_olmstead@hotmail.com / 232-3683) and Deb Gray as Vice-Moderator (Deborah.gray48@gmail.com / 433-0427), should be called upon as needed for any matters of church business that require attention during the weeks of Geoff's Leave.

Please remember that Parental Leave is Geoff's time to bond with the baby, and is a time of rest from his regular duties. Please refrain from contacting him about matters of church business or with Pastoral Care requests during this time.

Thank you to everyone who will serve our community during the coming time. And thanks be to God for the blessings of new life!

Nancy Olmstead, on behalf of the Governing Board



Worship Online Sunday worship at 9:30 a.m.

Join us through our [Facebook page](#) (more interactive), or through [our YouTube channel](#).

Coffee hour on Sunday following Worship at 10:15 a.m.
And can be joined by accessing [this link](#)

Grab a cup and join your friends, family, and fellow members!

The Reverend Kelli Whitman



200-4992
Kelli.b.whitman@gmail.com

310-0329

susanogilpin@gmail.com

The Reverend Susan Gilpin



A Thank You From the Parkers

Dear Friends at Foreside Community Church,

There are no ways to say, "thank you" enough to cover our gratitude for the generosity and love that this congregation has surrounded us with throughout Julia's pregnancy, and as we enter these exciting weeks of waiting for our little one to arrive.

We want to thank all of you for all of the ways in which you came together to celebrate and share with us at the baby shower on February 14th. We had so much fun seeing and talking with so many of you, playing games with you (excellent baby photos from all!), and celebrating new life on the way.

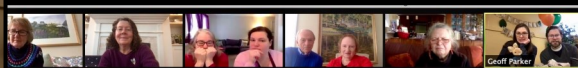
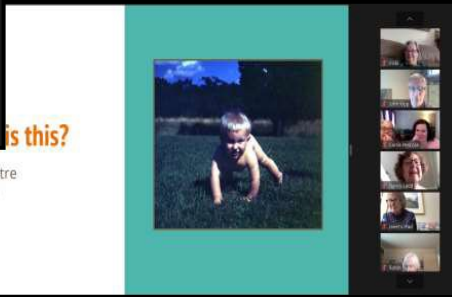
You all gave such thoughtful (and sometimes very necessary!) gifts, so many blessings in the book you created, funds for future education, and the gift of a beloved community that our little one comes to join soon. We can not thank you all enough, and especially Liz Ventre and the Ministry of Fellowship, Wendy Tracy, Wendi Maynard, Cathy D'Agostino, and Jill Fox for all of the preparations for the day itself.

We look forward to sharing happy news in the week(s?) to come!

Love,
Geoff and Julia Parker



- 1. Peter Ventre
- 2. John Kipp



Some members have been asking how we can help care for those who have been impacted by the severe winter weather in the South. The following is from our National United Church of Christ news-room.

UCC Issues Appeal in Response to Winter Storms

The United Church of Christ is issuing an appeal to assist people affected by this year's Winter Storms.

The impact of massive and intense storms is being felt across a wide swath of the United States. So far Texas has been particularly hard hit, and the situation there is terrifying.

All counties in Texas have been affected. Snow, freezing temperatures and slick roads have made movement difficult. Power outages, boil water orders, potable water and food shortages, and bursting water pipes as temperatures finally rise are causing widespread havoc.

As the tragedy continues to unfold, a number of UCC congregations are opening up warming centers and distributing emergency food and water. The South Central Conference has reached out to all its churches to inquire about damage and the needs of their ministries.

UCC Disaster Ministries, Global H.O.P.E. Team are working with leaders in the impacted communities. The current and ongoing needs include support for shelter and food, clean-up, and repair.

How you can help

Pray for the communities impacted by the storms. [Make a secure online donation to help with immediate needs and the long-term recovery that will follow.](https://www.ucc.org/giving/donate-now/general-donation/) (Designate your gift for "Winter Emergency Appeal 2021." (<https://www.ucc.org/giving/donate-now/general-donation/>))



Stories of Compassionate Acts During Covid-19

In February's *Steeplenotes*, we learned of the incredible volunteer efforts being offered up by many friends and members of The Foreside Community Church through the works of the Falmouth Food Pantry during this time of pandemic. If you missed it, [click here to see the newsletter and the article](#). Once again we wish to acknowledge, and applaud these individuals for their charitable deeds, standing as a witness to God.

We know that this is not the complete story however about the acts of kindness that many of you have extended, or are still involved in. I would like to now have the opportunity to tell your individual stories, sharing them with hopes of encouraging others to engage, feeling inspired by the goodness and humanity that does exist in our church and community.

Are you babysitting, providing transportation, assisting with in-home schooling, shopping for someone home bound? How about providing any form of assistance with helping others obtain those most precious vaccines? Are you an actual vaccine administrator? Have you shared your computer access with those who do not have the same, or how about financial donations and contributions to those agencies whose focus is to help reduce the negative economic impacts of this horrendous virus? Have you donated blood?

If you have, or are contributing your time, talent, and/or assets, please call or email me (781-5880 / csklarz@foresidechurch.org) **no later than March 12** so that I may capture and then relay to others in the congregation your personal narrative. No accounting is too small or insignificant.

My goal is to (hopefully) hear from many of you in time to craft and then include this article in the April *Steeplenotes*. Please consider sharing, and in the meantime, do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that once answered, may encourage you to tell your story.

Standing by...

Christina

UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS AT FCC



The next Zoom meeting date of the FCC Book Club is set for **Wednesday, March 10 at 4:00 p.m.** when attendees will discuss The Magician's Assistant by Ann Patchett, summarized in the following.

Sabine—twenty years a magician's assistant to her handsome, charming husband—is suddenly a widow. In the wake of his death, she finds he has left a final trick; a

false identity and a family allegedly lost in a tragic accident but now revealed as very much alive and well. Named as heirs in his will, they enter Sabine's life and set her on an adventure of unraveling his secrets, from sunny Los Angeles to the windswept plains of Nebraska, that will work its own sort of magic on her. (Excerpt from Google Books.) As always, everyone is welcome to join us for an hour of good, friendly conversation. [Click here for the link to get into the meeting.](#)

Meeting ID: 814 9354 6041 and Passcode: 557003

FMI: mimihinkel@gmail.com

Hope you can join us.

Mimi

The Birthday Corner ~

One of the many ways that Covid-19 has impacted our lives is to severely limit birthday celebrations. However, we can each do our part to make someone's birthday a little brighter by sending birthday wishes via a phone call, a text, an e-mail, or a card. (Please contact the office for a copy of the current Members and Friends Directory.) Who doesn't love to find something other than junk mail and bills in their mailbox? To that end, please consider giving some joy to one of the following church members who are celebrating a big day in March:

Julia Parker	8
Laura Rodas	14
Ann Deering	14
Debra Coyman	21
Phil Gleason	24
Jean Chapman	25
Gretchen Lacombe	28



Sunday, After Service Coffee

Hosted by Carrie Penrose
@ 10:15 a.m. each Sunday

Please join everyone
[by accessing this link](#)

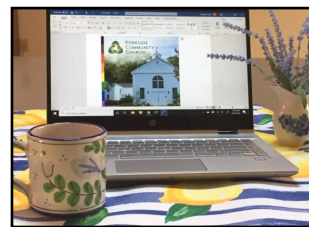
Meeting ID: 815 4906 2078 ~ Passcode: 897054

The Women's Breakfast

Gathers via Zoom on **Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.**

Please drop in and [Join](#) us!

(Meeting ID: 811 3379 8782 Passcode: 813778)



The Men's Breakfast

Meets every other Saturday. **The next gathering is scheduled for March 6 at 8:30 a.m.**

Join the gents here ([Zoom](#))

The Prayer Shawl Knitters

Meet every Tuesday, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

via Zoom [through this link.](#)

Please feel free to contact Carrie if you have any questions at 415-5513 or carriepenrose@gmail.com. This gathering is for knitters of all levels, including beginners!

(Meeting ID: 957 287 7496 and Passcode: 985716)

April Steeplenotes
Deadline Is Monday,
March 22, 2021

From the Archives

When I was very young I lived on Johnson Road and then in 1920 my family moved to the Town Landing Road. Every Sunday my parents, Walter and Effie Nickerson, and my five sisters, Grace, Ruth, Norma, Helen, Mildred and I would walk to church, seldom missing a service no matter what the weather was.

My mother would bring pencils, paper and molasses cookies to help keep us quiet during the service. And, we were always quiet. Communion was different then because people would come up to the railing in small groups and kneel down. I remember this because I would check out the soles of everyone's shoes. We always sat in the second pew from the front on the Falmouth side so I had a good view.

I had the same teacher for Sunday School for 17 years (1915-1932). Her name was Mrs. Sturdivant and she was wonderful. The times I liked best were when it was warm enough to sit outside on the large front steps for classes. We had to learn Bible verses and at different times received small crosses with verses on them. Once I remember having to stand before the congregation and recite the Beatitudes for Brent Taylor's father, Capt. Prescott Taylor. He and his wife were wonderful to all of us.

My favorite minister growing up was Merle Conant (1927-1935). He was as a very beloved person to us young people. He and his wife Alice took several of the Sunday School children to Thomas Pond, Raymond for a week. Emilie Cram, Bill Ricker and I were the oldest and looked after the younger ones.

When I was a teenager, there was at least eight of us who would walk to church together on Sunday evenings for Epworth League (youth group). There were Men's and Women's Bible classes and church services on Wednesday evenings as well.

On February 17, 1940 I married William O. Burleigh from Natick, Mass. We were married by John Dunstan in the front room of the parsonage. I wanted to have Merle Conant but he was in Bangor stuck in the snow. I had very nearly didn't make it up from Mass. At the time one could see the water from the Parsonage front room and I distinctly remember how blue the water looked with the pure white snow.

After that I didn't return to Falmouth until 1952.

by Alice Burleigh



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Tim Winchester
SOLO ACOUSTIC

FRIDAY | 03.12.21 | 6:00-7:00PM
FALMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
PARKING LOT COFFEEHOUSE
FACEBOOK LIVE / FM RADIO BROADCAST

If you're looking for something to do on

**Friday night, March 12
between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m.**

and want to get out of the house for a while, grab some snacks or order take-out, head to the parking lot [@falmouth.ucc](https://www.facebook.com/falmouthucc) and tune in!



PARKING LOT COFFEEHOUSE
FEATURING
Tim Winchester

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FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021 AT 6 PM EST - 7 PM EST
Parking Lot Coffeehouse Concert w/ Tim Winchester
Free - 267 Falmouth Rd, Falmouth, ME 04105-2005, United States



The Foreside Community Church is pleased to announce that it will again be hosting **Harvest Tide Organics** who will once again be offering a Thursday afternoon pick-up for their Community Supported Agriculture boxes this 2021 Summer and Fall. **“Early bird” share sign-ups will open on Monday February 8th at 8:00AM for the season.** Harvest Tide Farm is located in Bowdoinham, Maine and offers customizable boxes of seasonal, certified organic vegetables grown on the farm and delivered to the church on Thursdays weekly in the summer and bi-weekly in the fall. **Sign-ups are open to church members and the local community.** Boxes can also include add-on items such as cheese, dairy, and other local products. To learn more about the farm and sign up for share deliveries, visit their website: www.harvesttideorganics.com

March 2021

Be sure to check the calendar at [Foreside Community Church's website](http://ForesideCommunityChurch.org)
www.foresidechurch.org for any updates or changes.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:30 a.m. Online Worship w/ Rev. Jim Gertmanian Coffee hr. to follow (see pg. 3 for both links)	8 7:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry Monthly Mtg.	9 9:15 a.m. Tuesday Group 1-3:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitters (see pg. 7 for details)	10 9:00 a.m. Women's Breakfast (see pg. 7 for details) 4:00 p.m. Zoom Book Club (see pg. 6 for details)	11	12	13
14 9:30 a.m. Online Worship w/ Rev. Jim Gertmanian Coffee hr. to follow (see pg. 3 for both links) 4:00 p.m. Youth Group TBD	15 7:00 p.m. Governing Board Monthly Mtg.	16 9:15 a.m. Tuesday Group 1-3:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitters	17 9:00 a.m. Women's Breakfast (see pg. 7 for details)	18	19	20
21 9:30 a.m. Online Worship w/ Rev. Jim Gertmanian Coffee hr. to follow (see pg. 3 for both links)	22 deadline for April Steeplenotes material submittal	23 9:15 a.m. Tuesday Group 1-3:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitters	24	25	26	27
28  9:30 am Online Worship w/ Pastor Geoff Coffee hr. to follow	29	30	31 9:00 a.m. Women's Breakfast (see pg. 7 for details)			9-11 am Bell Rehearsal



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Daily Lectionary Readings for March 2021

Mon. Mar. 1

Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
 Genesis 21:1-7
 Hebrews 1:8-12

Tues., Mar. 2

Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
 Genesis 22:1-19
 Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19

Wed., Mar. 3

Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
 Jeremiah 30:12-22
 John 12:36-43

Thurs., Mar. 4

Psalm 19
 Exodus 19:1-9a
 1 Peter 2:4-10

Fri., Mar. 5

Psalm 19
 Exodus 19:9b-15
 Acts 7:30-40

Sat., Mar. 6

Psalm 19
 Exodus 19:16-25
 Mark 9:2-8

Sun., Mar. 7

Exodus 20:1-17
 Psalm 19
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
 John 2:13-22

Mon., Mar. 8

Psalm 84
 1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22
 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Tues., Mar. 9

Psalm 84
 2 Chronicles 29:1-11,
 16-19
 Hebrews 9:23-28

Wed., Mar. 10

Psalm 84
 Ezra 6:1-16
 Mark 11:15-19

Thurs., Mar. 11

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
 Genesis 9:8-17
 Ephesians 1:3-6

Fri., Mar. 12

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
 Daniel 12:5-13
 Ephesians 1:7-14

Sat. Mar. 13

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
 Numbers 20:22-29
 John 3:1-13

Sun., Mar. 14

Numbers 21:4-9
 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
 Ephesians 2:1-10
 John 3:14-21

Mon., Mar. 15

Psalm 107:1-16
 Exodus 15:22-27
 Hebrews 3:1-6

Tues., Mar. 16

Psalm 107:1-16
 Numbers 20:1-13
 1 Corinthians 10:6-13

Wed., Mar. 17

Psalm 107:1-16
 Isaiah 60:15-22
 John 8:12-20

Thurs., Mar. 18

Psalm 51:1-12
 Isaiah 30:15-18
 Hebrews 4:1-13

Fri., Mar. 19

Psalm 51:1-12
 Exodus 30:1-10
 Hebrews 4:14—5:4

Sat., Mar. 20

Psalm 51:1-12
 Habakkuk 3:2-13
 John 12:1-11

Sun., Mar. 21

Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Psalm 51:1-12 or
 Psalm 119:9-16
 Hebrews 5:5-10
 John 12:20-33

Mon., Mar. 22

Psalm 119:9-16
 Isaiah 43:8-13
 2 Corinthians 3:4-11

Tues., Mar. 23

Psalm 119:9-16
 Isaiah 44:1-8
 Acts 2:14-24

Wed., Mar. 24

Psalm 119:9-16
 Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23
 John 12:34-50

Thurs., Mar. 25

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
 Deuteronomy 16:1-8
 Philippians 2:1-11

Fri., Mar. 26

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
 Jeremiah 33:1-9
 Philippians 2:12-18

Sat., Mar. 27

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
 Jeremiah 33:10-16
 Mark 10:32-34, 46-52

Sun., Mar. 28**Passion or Palm Sunday*****Palms:***

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
 Mark 11:1-11 or
 John 12:12-16

Passion:

Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Mark 14:1—15:47 or
 Mark 15:1-39 [40-47]

Mon., Mar. 29

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

Tues., Mar. 30

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

Wed., Mar. 31

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



STEEPLENOTES

A Newsletter of

The Foreside Community Church, UCC

Office: 207-781-5880

E-mail: info@foresidechurch.org Web: www.foresidechurch.org

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Falmouth, ME 04105- 1428



Love. Grow. Serve.