



# Welcome Summer 2021!



*Connecting  
to God*

*Nurturing  
Community*

*Discovering  
how our Lives  
Make a  
Difference*

*As soon as they come out in leaf,  
you see for yourselves  
and know that the summer is already near.*

Luke 31:20

**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  
**Office Manager:** Christina Sklarz

Office: 207-781-5880  
 E-mail: [info@foresidechurch.org](mailto:info@foresidechurch.org) Web: [www.foresidechurch.org](http://www.foresidechurch.org)

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## Notes from Pastor Geoff

### *Let Us Walk in Love Upcoming Adaptations to Worship in a Changing Time of COVID-19*

As the Governing Board, other leaders, and you all through your participation in surveys and other gatherings have shared with me as we look forward with joy to the possibility of worshipping together again—even as we recognize the complexity of caring for individual and collective health concerns—I have been thinking of the early church and the ways in which its leaders wove together the various traditions and backgrounds of the believers gathered.

The Apostle Paul wrote to them in Rome, filled with a wide variety of followers in the way of Jesus. Some came from backgrounds with particular traditions and convictions around eating certain foods, some who observed special feasts and holy days, others who had none of these traditions. We can tell from Paul's careful instruction that all these differences of practice, tradition, and belief had caused divisions within the community.

*Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God... Let us therefore no longer pass judgement on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling-block or hindrance in the way of another. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. If your brother or sister is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love... Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual edification. Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Romans 14:5-6, 13-15*

Paul's solution is an evaluation of who stands most in need of care and support as a guide for the whole people. If one finds all food acceptable, he suggests, and her neighbor eats only vegetables, well, then they can happily dine together on vegetables. **In other words, when differing practices in our community are essential for faithful living for others, and cause no harm for us, we should celebrate our oneness by joining with them.**

Even more so, when we are at differing assessments of risk in this still present moment of pandemic, those who are comfortable without certain precautions may show love, welcome, and care by joining with others who will be more comfortable with precautions taken.

We are a community of different generations: some of whom do not have access to vaccines yet. We are a community of differing abilities and health backgrounds: some are not able to receive vaccines due to specific conditions, some remain vulnerable to illness still.

At the same time, we long to be together. There is a presence of the Spirit when we are gathered that can never *quite* be reproduced apart. Therefore, given the widening availability of COVID-19 vaccines, diminishing numbers of cases in our area, and changing seasons that allow us to use our space well, the Governing Board has decided on the following steps as we move towards regathering:

- ◇ **We will begin providing in-person worship in the sanctuary on June 20th. This worship will also be streamed on Facebook and YouTube just as it has been. We encourage those who are not vaccinated to participate in worship online.** We aim to put a stumbling block before no one who would worship, no matter their current risk assessment. Per results from our survey, as a congregation we are firmly on the path to vaccination of members who have access to them. We will not require, nor ask, for proof of vaccination in order to attend worship in person. Yet those who are unvaccinated are much more likely to fall ill with, face serious consequences of, and transmit COVID-19 to others. Part of our commitment to maintaining online worship as a part of our life together is to allow for those who are not vaccinated, or even simply do not feel well for another reason to make the faithful choice to worship at home.
- ◇ **In-person worship attendance will be by registration, beginning with a limit of 50 people.** Registration will be available online, or by calling the church office. We will require the names and contact information of those who are planning to attend. As we have done previously, registration will ask us to covenant to stay home if we are feeling ill, and to contact the church if—after a service—we feel ill. As we live into our return to the sanctuary, this limit may change.

(cont. on next page)

**Let Us Walk** (cont.)

- ◇ **In-person worship attendees will be required to wear masks in worship, and we will work to maximize ventilation.** Here again, we model behavior to protect those who are still vulnerable or may have people in their household who are. Windows will remain open for good ventilation. We will share in congregational music and responses quietly.
- ◇ **Above all, we will continue to evaluate developments and changes in the pandemic based on the data and advice from public health officials.**

As we move into this new pattern of life and worship, I would ask you to join me in giving thanks for our faithful leaders and staff who have guided us through the

last year, this recent round of decisions, as well as those that have come before. Please hold them and our entire congregation in prayer as we look forward to seeing one another more fully in the time to come!

Blessings,




## Staff Sabbath July 5 - 25

In the last year, our congregation's staff have ministered to us under previously unimaginable circumstances. They have adapted worship, programs, and ministries to make them accessible to all in the midst of the pandemic. They have learned new skills, put them to incredible use for the good of all, and even taught and trained us: to meet and learn, sing and ring, pray and praise in new ways and with new technologies. At the same time, they and those they care for have had adaptations and changed at home just as so many of us have. It has been a long stretch of faithful and hard work, and there has been little time to rest in it.

In order to celebrate the work the staff have done, and to honor the importance of renewing themselves in preparation for the year to come, the Governing Board has voted to give staff the time off while Pastor Geoff is on vacation from July 5th to July 25th. This will mean that the church office will be closed, and Sunday worship will not be held.

We would encourage members to attend worship with our sibling community, Falmouth Congregational Church, during this time, and Pastor Amelia will be available for emergency pastoral care.

## 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!***

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

### Coffee Hour is on Hiatus

### 51 Fantastically Fun Summertime Ideas for all Ages from Fellowship

This summer we want to encourage everyone to experience the great outdoors of Maine and to try new things. This is not a contest, although it will be fun to see if anyone decides to try all 51 ideas or who tries the most. We hope to use these activities as a way to stay in touch with each other by sharing what we are doing. So, as you do these things, snap pictures, and submit them to Christina for a Fall Member Celebration of Summer. Please include your name and where you are or what you are doing. Think about fun captions! Our hope is we will have enough digital pictures of all the fun we have all had over the summer that we can put a slide show together for this fall to celebrate our summers and share some of our memories together. The list is located on the next page so as soon as school is over, you can get started. Keep busy and stay smiling!!!

As we begin to move back indoors this summer, we are going to do so without coffee hour. The summer weather is normally glorious and we should all get out and enjoy it. The Fellowship Ministry will resume coffee hour after Labor Day. Heads up, the plan is for coffee hour, as well as all other Fellowship activities to go green, or at least more green. We will be asking you to bring your own cups or mugs, napkins, plates and silverware. This will simplify the job of the hosts as there will not be cups etc. to pick up and dishes to wash other than what the snacks are on and the drinks are in. This practice will make our future gatherings much more environmentally friendly. Additionally, it will make the clean up so much easier and shrink our trash output and save money. A win all around. If you forget one week, no worries, you will be able to borrow from the church; BUT you will need to plan to take it all home and wash it yourselves and bring it back.

To that end, use the summer to think about how you can bring your dishes to and from church in the easiest manner for you. Find a fun napkin to bring or make one yourself. See you in the fall!

### The Future Travelogues

FCC Travelogues have proved to be very popular this year. Thank you again to Deb Gray, Lisa and Jay Nash and Mary Schendel and Phil Gleason. We had over 20 people traveling through Vietnam via bicycle! I am so glad Phil and Mary were doing the pedaling! After each one, I got nothing but very positive feedback of how much they were enjoyed and how everyone was looking forward to more in the future.

We will resume Travelogues as the weather gets cooler next fall but only if you all help by agreeing to share your adventures. To that end, this summer if you take a trip anywhere, including the great state of Maine, snap those pictures and think about putting a travelogue together. If you have traveled but do not have your pictures pulled together, use some of those summer rainy days to do just that. We will be looking for more volunteers to share their travels for all of us armchair travelers to enjoy.



### June Birthdays! ~ Let us celebrate:

<i>Trevor Lavenbein</i>	6	<i>Wendi Maynard</i>	10
<i>Pete Ventre</i>	11	<i>Jim Gertmenian</i>	16
<i>Deb Gray</i>	20	<i>Shirley Pyles</i>	25
<i>Clifford Gilpin</i>	28		

# 51 FANTASTICALLY FUN SUMMERTIME IDEAS CHECK LIST

## More Active

1. Swim in an Ocean
2. Climb to the top of a Mountain
3. Experience a State Park
4. Walk on an island
5. Take a hike on a trail in your town
6. Go for a bike ride
7. Fly a kite
8. Build a Sandcastle
9. Camp out (this can be in your back yard)
10. Go to a playground and try out all of the equipment (as long as it is safe to do so)
11. Paddle a boat or paddleboard
12. Play a game outside that cannot be played inside

## Less Active

13. Identify 3 constellations
14. Sit on a park bench and observe what is around you. Answer the question: Why was this bench put here?
15. Visit a Maine Landmark or Historical site that you have never been to before – tell us why you chose to visit it.
16. Identify 5 different types of trees – tell us how you know what trees they were.
17. Identify 5 different birds that you find in your yard. Do they stay year-round, or do they migrate?

18. Spot 5 animals in their natural habitat.
19. During a rainstorm, measure the amount of rain that fell in inches or centimeters.
20. Learn about what the different cloud formations mean and try to find each during the summer.
21. Go to your library and take out a book to read under a tree or on a bench.
22. Learn how to whistle with either grass or an acorn top – or both!
23. Have a campfire.
24. Make a s'more.
25. Plant something that flowers or that you can eat (radishes are easy and grow fast).
26. Pick up litter outside and fill a plastic grocery size bag with trash.

27. Explore a tide pool.
28. Read in a hammock.
29. Go to a museum in Maine and tell us what you liked best that you saw.
30. Hug a tree.
31. Take a boat ride.
32. Go to a Drive-in Movie.
33. Have a Picnic.
34. Visit a Lighthouse

## Rainy Day

35. Do a Jigsaw Puzzle.
36. Play a board game.

37. Play a card game.
38. Cook a new recipe (parents may assist!) for a picnic outside.
39. Write a letter to a friend or relative and tell them about one of the things you have done on this list.
40. Paint a picture of nature.

## Food Related

41. Try an ethnic food restaurant with food you have not tried before – this can be takeout.
42. Eat at a food truck.
43. Have a soft serve ice cream.
44. Try some frozen custard.
45. Eat an Ice Cream Flavor you had never tried (you can see we like Ice Cream!!!).

## Creative

46. Build a fairy house.
47. Decorate your driveway with chalk.
48. Create a natural centerpiece for your table.
49. Bring something in from nature and draw a still life of it.
50. Make something out of shells you collect.
51. Draw a picture in the sand at the beach.

**(Print out this page and take with you through all your summer adventures!)**

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



Little Children of the World is a not-for-profit Christian service organization incorporated in 1987 in Georgia. LCW was founded for the purpose of assisting poor children in the developing world. LCW has a wide range of programs including education from preschool-college, safe housing and dormitories for families and street children, a farm, and a child sponsorship program- among the wide range of services.

The child sponsor program welcomes individuals and families to provide support for a specific child for as long as personal finances allow. My child, Diane, was in elementary school when I became her sponsor. Not only did my annual donation pay for Diane's school and school supplies, and food for her family but for a modest additional fee the entire family had their medical needs covered. This past year I received a lovely letter and photo of Diane when she graduated from High School.

The closest link that the entire congregation of the Foreside Community Church has with LCW is the annual financial support donated each year through the Ministry of Justice & Outreach. In 2000 high school student and member of FCC Alex Nickerson traveled to the Philippines as a volunteer. The extreme poverty that she witnessed in the blighted community of Dumaguete inspired her to found the LO-OC soup. LO-OC continues today-providing school lessons and food to more than 100 children as well as jobs for some of the parents.

**On June 27 a video Mission Moment** will update our congregation about the current situation in this section of the Philippines and also the current needs of LO-OC. Although Justice & Outreach makes an annual donation of \$2,400 to LO-OC, this currently pays only half the annual finances needed. LCW continues to make life changing contributions to these extremely poor children and would greatly benefit from your support. If you

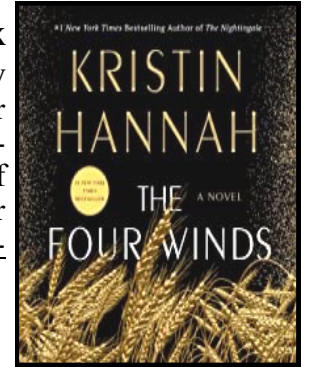


feel that you can make a contribution or would like more information, you can contact President Glenna Waller at 770-358-2771 or by mail, P.O. Box 37, Barnesville, GA 30200, or contact FCC Justice & Outreach. Thank you. Dorothy Blanchette- [dorothyb@maine.rr.com](mailto:dorothyb@maine.rr.com).

### The Foreside Book

**Club** wound up the season by laughing and sharing our thoughts about the Durrell family's time spent on the island of Corfu in Gerald Durrell's memoir titled My Family and Other Animals.

We will now take a summer break before resuming in September to discuss The Four Winds by Kristen Hannah. This has been hugely popular so you might want to get your name on the library list now.



The Four Winds is a rich, sweeping novel that stunningly brings to life the Great Depression and the people who lived through it—the harsh realities that divided us as a nation and the enduring battle between the haves and the have-nots. "Kristin Hannah, reminds us that the human heart and our Earth are as tough, yet as fragile, as a change in the wind. This mother's soul, suffering the same drought as the land, attempts to cross deserts and beat starvation to save her children with a fierce inner strength called motherhood. A timely novel highlighting the worth and delicate nature of Nature itself." (quoted from Delia Owens)

If you wish to read ahead, in October we will be talking about Someone by Alice McDermott. Enjoy the summer, read what you like, and we hope you'll join us this fall for another year of sharing great books. FMI: [mimihinkel@gmail.com](mailto:mimihinkel@gmail.com)

### ***2021-2022 Members and Friends Directory***

**now available, copies of which**

**can either be emailed**

**(PDF or Publisher format),**

**or snail mailed.**

**Please contact the office.**

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

### 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 May 29 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](#)

**OR,**

**outside on patio weather permitting.**

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

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

***JOB OPENING:*** FCC member wishes to hire strong, energetic, no nonsense, basically intelligent individual for yard and grounds work at home location in Falmouth, approximately 10 minutes from church. Work will include lawn mowing (you will need to bring your own mower), raking and general yard pick up, taking directions to perform tasks in the garden including mulching and weeding. Duties can extend into fall when it is time to "put the garden to bed." Pay is \$20.00 per hour and mower gas will be reimbursed. Please contact Claudia Kinnear at 781-2477. Position starts immediately.

### **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.

**July / August Steeplenotes**

**Deadline Is Friday,**

**June 18, 2021**

**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 and can be viewed and/or heard on FCC's website at:**

**<http://www.foresidechurch.org/index.php/category/sermons/>**

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

**ANNUAL GROUNDS CLEAN-UP CREW  
AT WORK**



Pete Ventre and Robin Singer debate compost; a "rich" discussion!



Stan Reed, a good man on the rake!



Graham Nash helps Kathy "supervise," including Stan!

Debra Coyman, Kathy Hillman Reed, Mark Munson, Pete Ventre, Robin Singer, Stan Reed, Sue Clark, Pastor Geoff, and Christina Sklarz answered the call on May 22 to clean up and put the grounds in good shape for the summer. A special "thank you" is extended to Kathy for facilitating this annual event, as event photographer, and for bringing the hot, fresh coffee. And a special call out to Neils Knudsen who lent his trailer, and hauled away the debris.



Stan discovered inside the stored grill a well constructed and hidden abode, complete with momma mouse and babies.

Robin and Sue Clark work their agricultural magic. A blooming great job!







## Daily Lectionary Readings for June 2021

**Tues., June 1**

Psalm 99  
1 Samuel 2:18-21  
Acts 15:1-5, 22-35

**Wed., June 2**

Psalm 99  
Samuel 2:22-36  
John 5:1-18

**Thurs., June 3**

Psalm 138  
1 Samuel 4:1-22  
1 Peter 4:7-19

**Fri., June 4**

Psalm 138  
1 Samuel 5:1-12  
2 Corinthians 5:1-5

**Sat., June 5**

Psalm 138  
1 Samuel 6:1-18  
Luke 8:4-15

**Sun., June 6**

1 Samuel 8:4-11 [12-15]  
16-20 [11:14-15]  
Psalm 138  
2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1  
Mark 3:20-35

**Mon., June 7**

Psalm 108  
1 Samuel 7:3-15  
Revelation 20:1-6

**Tues., June 8**

Psalm 108  
1 Samuel 8:1-22  
Revelation 20:7-15

**Wed., June 9**

Psalm 108  
1 Samuel 9:1-14  
Luke 11:14-28

**Thurs., June 10**

Psalm 20  
1 Samuel 9:15-27  
Hebrews 2:5-9

**Fri., June 11**

Psalm 20  
1 Samuel 10:1-8  
Hebrews 11:4-7

**Sat., June 12**

Psalm 20  
1 Samuel 13:1-15a  
Mark 4:1-20

**Sun. June 13**

1 Samuel 15:34—16:13  
Psalm 20  
2 Corinthians 5:6-10  
[11- 13] 14-17  
Mark 4:26-34

**Mon., June 14**

Psalm 53  
1 Samuel 13:23—14:23  
Galatians 6:11-18

**Tues., June 15**

Psalm 53  
1 Samuel 15:10-23  
Revelation 21:22—22:5

**Wed., June 16**

Psalm 53  
1 Samuel 15:24-31  
Luke 6:43-45

**Thurs., June 17**

Psalm 9:9-20  
1 Samuel 16:14-23  
Acts 20:1-16

**Fri., June 18**

Psalm 9:9-20  
1 Samuel 17:55—18:5  
Acts 21:1-16

**Sat., June 19**

Psalm 9:9-20  
1 Samuel 18:1-4  
Luke 21:25-28

**Sun., June 20**

1 Samuel 17:[1a, 4-11, 19-23] 32-49 and  
Psalm 9:9-20 OR  
1 Samuel 17:57—18:5,  
10-16 and  
Psalm 133  
2 Corinthians 6:1-13;  
Mark 4:35-41

**Mon., June 21**

Psalm 119:113-128  
1 Samuel 18:6-30  
Acts 27:13-38

**Tues., June 22**

Psalm 119:113-128  
1 Samuel 19:1-7  
Acts 27:39-44

**Wed., June 23**

Psalm 119:113-128  
1 Samuel 19:8-17  
Mark 6:45-52

**Thurs., June 24**

Psalm 130  
1 Samuel 19:18-24  
2 Corinthians 7:2-16

**Fri., June 25**

Psalm 130  
1 Samuel 20:1-25  
2 Corinthians 8:1-7

**Sat., June 26**

Psalm 130  
1 Samuel 20:27-42  
Luke 4:31-37

**Sun., June 27**

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27  
Psalm 130  
2 Corinthians 8:7-15  
Mark 5:21-43

**Mon., June 28**

Psalm 18:1-6, 43-50  
1 Samuel 23:14-18  
2 Corinthians 8:16-24

**Tues., June 29**

Psalm 18:1-6, 43-50  
1 Samuel 31:1-13  
2 Corinthians 9:1-5

**Wed., June 30**

Psalm 18:1-6, 43-50  
1 Chronicles 10:1-14  
Mark 9:14-29

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**S**TEEPLENOTES

A Newsletter of

**The Foreside Community Church, UCC**

**Office: 207-781-5880**

**E-mail: [info@foresidechurch.org](mailto:info@foresidechurch.org) Web: [www.foresidechurch.org](http://www.foresidechurch.org)**

*The Foreside Community Church, UCC*

*340 Foreside Road*

*Falmouth, ME 04105- 1428*