



*Connecting
to God*

*Nurturing
Community*

*Discovering
how our Lives
Make a
Difference*

*Foreside Flurry Flyers slide the slopes!
See page 8 for more pix!
(photo courtesy Rev. G. Parker)*

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

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Notes from Pastor Geoff

Lent: In the Shadow / In the Shelter

The season of Lent begins next week with Ash Wednesday, March 2nd. We mark ourselves with the reminder of the fragility of human life, and the certainty of God's grace.

As we move into Lent, I hope that this season invites you into a quieter time of noticing where you are in this journey of life and faith. As the author of our Lenten book study, Pádraig Ó Tuama, reflects on the story of a friend, he recalls her return to an area of Papua New Guinea she was born into but then traveled away from:

There was no word for "hello" in this local language in Papua New Guinea. Instead, upon seeing someone, one simply said, "You are here." The answer, as I recall it, was equally straightforward: "Yes I am." Whether by fact or fiction, it remains that for decades I have thought of the words "You are here" and "Yes I am" as good places to begin something that might be called prayer. - Pádraig Ó Tuama, In the Shelter

So, join our own Rev. Kelli Whitman as she leads our Ash Wednesday service March 2nd at 6:00 pm. Come to this quiet time of worship to notice where you are, and listen for where God might be calling you to move into.

I also hope that Lent invites you into a time of "re-telling," as well. You are invited to join me on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings for our study as we read *In the Shelter*, Ó Tuama's book in which he reminds his readers that we are called to confront our past readings or translations of the stories of our lives, and of the scriptures. Those stories may be heard and seen anew, and may change us.

"Ar scáth a chéile a mbaireas na daoine," ...is an Irish saying that translates in one way as "It is in the shelter of each other that the people live." Another way to translate it is "It is in the shadow of each other that the people live." The word scáth can mean both shelter and shadow.

How many of us are aware of those parts of our lives that can be seen from both perspectives? How can they, in this holy season, be transformed from one to the other, from shadow to shelter?


On Sunday, March 13th, we will invite children to return to Sunday School. It has been two long years since we were last able to gather with children in the sanctuary. I know I am excited to be able to sit together and to hear the voices of our young people in worship! I am looking forward to hearing the ways in which they have made their own stories new in the past few years... in the challenges, and the blessings they may have noticed along the way. They, and we, have known shadow and shelter—and it is with each other we may seek the latter over the former.

An important note on worship registration: Since children will depart for church school relatively quickly, families do not need to include them in their number attending worship when registering ahead of time.

Into this Lent, then, this season of noticing, of listening, and of re-telling our stories—and ourselves—into the great story of God's love... you are invited, friends.

Peace be with you,





not associate with wisdom.

what I have received;

for he is the guide even of a wisdom

16 For both we and our words are in his hand,

us are all understanding and a skill in crafts.

17 For it is he who gave me the knowledge

of what exists,

to know the structure of the world and

17 I called on God, and the spirit of wisdom came to me.

Re-telling Ourselves

Writing Lent as a New Story of God with Us

Sundays after worship
OR
Wednesdays, 6pm by Zoom

Lent, the season leading to Holy Week and Easter, is often named a season of repentance. To repent, though, really means “to change direction.” Or, we could say, to begin to tell a new story. Now, in-between the challenging days that have been in the last years, and the days we hope to come, what is the new story we are being called to begin to tell in our lives... with God? With each other? With ourselves? What old stories do we need to reframe or release? And, how can we practice telling this new story?

Starting March 6th or 9th, join Pastor Geoff for a Lenten reflection series, **either Sundays (in person after church) or Wednesday evenings (by Zoom)** to pray, reflect together and individually, and perhaps even write (though you need not be a "writer!") **We'll read *In the Shelter***, the spiritual memoir of the Irish poet, theologian, and leader Padraig O'Tuama. With O'Tuama, we'll wonder at the power of words and stories—in our lives and in the scriptures—and God's invitation to tell a new story through us.

You can order the book [online](#), at your local bookstore, or on [Kindle](#). Please [contact Pastor Geoff](#) if you're interested in joining us!

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Registration is requested please by clicking on

www.foresidechurch.org

You may also view services online at

<https://www.youtube.com/ForesideCommunityChurch>

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

A CALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT - Ministry of Worship

The Ministry of Worship is always open and welcoming to new members...

...quite simply put, our Ministry seeks to make the activity of weekly worship a positive, meaningful, and personal spiritual experience for all who join our weekly service.

This includes greeting and welcoming each and every congregant, making sure they are familiar with the service and the church building, helping each person to find a place to commune with others as well as the space to go within, and are aware of the order of service.

We work directly with our pastor, to take part in the conduct of each church service. Ministers of Worship perform the Call to Worship, share the Prayer of Offertory Dedication, and read the Scriptures each Sunday prior to the sermon. We also have the privilege of offering Communion, assisting the pastor in this monthly sacrament, and so ministering to our fellow church members.

The experience of worship is also enhanced with sanctuary design and decoration, depending on the season and liturgical calendar. This is a wonderful way to creatively invite and deepen our spiritual experience.

In this time of Covid and its pandemic restrictions, we have continued working closely with Pastor to record online services. Preparing the sanctuary, reaching out to parishioners personally, leading Calls to Worship, Offertory Prayers, and Scripture readings on video, is how we have sustained our commitment to worshiping together in these unusual times.

Now, with our welcome return to hybrid services – which includes both online and in person worship, we are resuming our roles as greeters and facilitators of Sunday services.

The gifts of serving FCC through enhancing worship are personally rewarding and collectively so important. Please reach out to co-chairs, Robin Singer (bsinger@maine.rr.com or 781-3515) or Cynthia Beggs (cynthia.beggs54@gmail.com or 450-1744), if you feel this opportunity of serving FCC speaks to you.

Contributions and Dedications of Sanctuary Arrangements

Now that we are back in the sanctuary on Sundays, the MOW's have reinstated the pleasing and decorative practice of floral dedications. A sign-up sheet is again located on a clipboard in the narthex if you wish to offer up a flower and/or plant arrangement to be placed in the sanctuary for Sunday services. Worded

dedications are not necessary, but always welcome. You may also reclaim the arrangement after worship to be taken home and enjoyed further.



UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Church Family

The pandemic has not stopped the congregation of The Foreside Community Church from helping families in need! Right from the start of the “shut-down” in March of 2020, The Falmouth Food Pantry realized that the traditional food distribution program would need to be re-designed. With a core team of determined volunteers and the generosity of Allagash Brewing Company, a no-contact car distribution system was established. Then when our Maine winter weather arrived, a new plan had to be implemented. Thanks to the compassion found in our church and in the Falmouth community, the Pantry was able to rebuild a team of hard-working volunteers.

The Pantry now packs boxes and bags of food in the rooms at the Pantry and our Home Delivery volunteers drive the food supplies directly to the doorsteps of our clients. In addition to providing much needed groceries, this system has allowed us to serve more elderly and disabled individuals. Without the commitment of time by more than two dozen FCC volunteers and the generosity of many more who support the Pantry with financial donations, this work would not be possible. Thank you all! Dorothy Blanchette



Kathy Hillman Reed and Stanley Reed load up at the Food Pantry store-room.



Catherine Hannon and Charlie Bernacchio making deliveries from the back of their vehicle.

**It's a party!
Come Celebrate
Mardi Gras
together in person
at FCC!**



Mask up! Join us from 2 to 4 p.m. (or any period of time between 2 and 4 p.m.) on February 26th outside at FCC for a Mardi Gras Celebration. In addition to your everyday safety mask, wear a fun Mardi Gras mask, a feather boa, some beads, a silly hat, or anything else you like for the festivities. Get creative and have some fun. There will be warm drinks, a fire pit, festive music, beads of course, **and our own version of the King Cake!** Who will find the baby Jesus and be crowned King of FCC for the Day?

There will also be a second winner that day – the winner of the best Mardi Gras themed cupcakes (mini King Cakes). We want to invite any of you who like to bake or more importantly like to create colorful Mardi Gras themed cupcakes to make one dozen for the gathering. You pick your favorite of the dozen to be set aside for our judges (the children and young adults in our church) to decide which is their favorite. The winner gets bragging rights and a small prize.



Parent Gathering on March 6th @ 6:00 p.m.

Join fellow FCC parents and Pastor Geoff at a gathering on Sunday, March 6, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. to connect with one another. We look forward to seeing everyone again, catching up and hearing what is on your mind. RSVPs encouraged to wendyrtracy@gmail.com, or just join us! The location is FCC's large classroom upstairs. If Zoom works better for you, please let Wendy know.

UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS (cont.)

The Foreside Book Club had a remarkable and thought provoking discussion in February "unpacking" East of Eden by John Steinbeck. The classics mean so much more when shared as an adult.

Our next gathering will be on Wednesday March 16 at 4:00 p.m. (probably through Zoom) to talk about Shuggie Bain by Douglas Stuart. It is not an uplifting story and deals with addiction and family dysfunction but has won several awards and will hopefully be worth reading.

Shuggie Bain is the story of young Hugh "Shuggie" Bain, a boy who spends his 1980s childhood in run-down public housing in Glasgow, Scotland. While his mother drinks away the family income, Shuggie's older siblings find a way to keep their distance. That leaves Shuggie to care for their mother as she swings from sobriety to alcoholic binges. A desperately moving, heart-breaking book: it places hope and despair, love and brokenness on the same page, treating them with equal weight and empathy. Written by Douglas Stuart, it has won British Book of the Year as well as Best Debut Novel in 2021.

Anyone is welcome to join us for any discussion, and all input is valued and encouraged. FM!: mimi-hinkel@gmail.com

~ FCC Yard Sale ~

Saturday May 13th ~ 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Your Christmas Fair volunteers have decided to empty the stage and clean out all the nooks and crannies of the church to start fresh collecting things for the fair 2022. We have been pricing donations on the stage already. Any unsold items will move directly to Goodwill!

Furthermore, if you have items you'd rather sell yourself, we are open to a "trunk sale," whereby you bring your items in your trunk, open the trunk, and sell directly to the public for as long as you wish to stay. Upon leaving, you donate a certain percentage of your proceeds to FCC,

whatever you think is appropriate, and take unsold items home. (No, you can't just leave them with us!)

In addition we are having a garden sale component to the sale, spearheaded by Lois Myers – Here is her message:

Attention gardeners!

The FCC yard sale is planned for May 13th, just as we will all be looking around and wondering where to begin on our yards and gardens. It would be a perfect time to look around any garages and shed for donations – ceramic pots, tools in duplicate, gloves, lawn ornaments, etc. (Where did all those flamingoes go??)



We could also sell seedlings or rooted cuttings. I do know we will have **Jill Fox's red dahlia tubers** for sale. How about zinnias or other annuals you started the month before? Or herbs? Basil and parsley are popular. Or dig up some mint!

I am definitely not among the serious gardeners in our congregation, so I welcome suggestions from members and others.

Think GREEN!

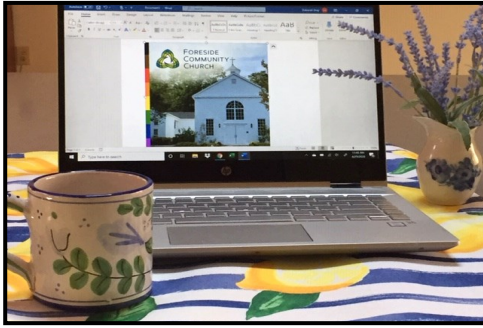
Lois Myers

We will also have coffee and nibbles and maybe even light lunch opportunities. This promises to be a social event for all. Pray for good weather, and stay tuned as things develop!

Carol Ward

The Men's Breakfast
 Meets every other Saturday.
The next virtual gatherings are scheduled for
March 5 & 19
@ 8:30 a.m.
 Join the gents here ([Zoom](#))

UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS (cont.)



The Women’s Weekly Breakfast Continues

Deborah Gray continues to host this well attended gathering on **Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.** If you can stay for just one cup, or your schedule allows the full meal, please **“Zoom”** in and join the female members and friends of FCC. *Fill up and catch up!*

You may also link up by going to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85920636293?pwd=c0xxblhzdkRmbjNRcjRBakNjZW4vQT09>

Meeting ID: 859 2063 6293 and Passcode: 913726.

FYI contact Deborah at 443-0427

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!

March Birthday Greetings

Our Pisces ~ Smart, creative, and deeply intuitive, can be close to psychic, have incredibly strong gut reactions:

- ◆ **Dick Shand - 8**
- ◆ **Julia Parker - 8**
- ◆ **Chuck Erb - 11**
- ◆ **Laura Rodas - 14**
- ◆ **Ann Deering - 14**
- ◆ **Lyll Rogers - 19**

Our Aries ~ Trailblazers, passionate and independent, will never do something just because everyone else is doing it:

- ◆ **Debra Coyman - 21**
- ◆ **Phil Gleason - 24**
- ◆ **Jean Chapman - 25**
- ◆ **Caroline Tracy - 27**
- ◆ **Rebecca Erb - 27**
- ◆ **Gretchen Lacombe - 28**
- ◆ **Jackie Bates - 31**



April Steeplenotes

Deadline Is Friday,

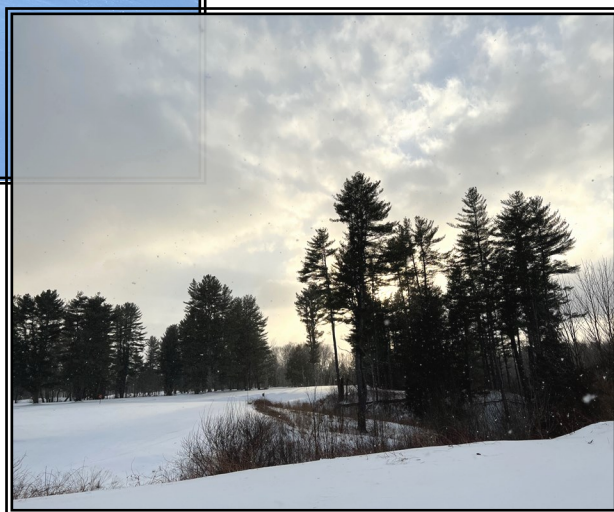
March 25, 2022



A group of intrepid FCC'ers took to the hills on Sunday, February 6 at Riverside Golf Course for an afternoon of sledding fun. The whole group enjoyed the fast runs following the snow storm and the continuingly gently falling flurries. The occasion was coordinated by the members of the Ministry of Christian Education and is just one of many family oriented events organized by CE. Stay tuned for the next outing announcement!



Photos courtesy of
Wendy Tracy & Pastor Geoff



We have returned to worship in the sanctuary!

(with our most recent COVID prevention protocols in place):

- Attendance on Sundays will still be limited to 50 people at one time.
- Click the website below to register.
- Masks will be required for all attendees.
- We ask households to give each other good social distance.
- Windows will be opened enough to increase ventilation.
- Worship will also be live-streamed for any who cannot—or do not feel comfortable—attending.



www.foresidechurch.org



Photo courtesy of C. Penrose

"So there he sits, post benediction and postlude, properly masked and socially distanced, like a child fearful his parents have gone home and forgotten him, patiently awaiting an usher to dismiss him and tell him it's ok to leave now."

Two fine examples on how to occupy our sanctuary!



To the left, FCC member The Rev. Chuck Erb.

Below, choir director Trevor Lavenbein leads practice.



Photo courtesy of D. Coyman

"First the singers...and then the ringers!"

March 2022

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
<p><i>After Worship</i> Online Coffee Hour <i>via Zoom</i> following all four March Sunday Services</p>		<p>1 9:15 a.m. Tues Morn Study Group 1 p.m. Knitting Group via Zoom 6:20 p.m. Chancel Choir 6:45 to 9 p.m. Large AA Group 7:15 p.m. Bell Choir</p>	<p>2 9:00 a.m. Women's Breakfast (see pg. 7 for details) 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service w/ Rev. Kelli Whitman in sanctuary, registration required</p>	<p>3 9:00 a.m. Handbell Workshop for developing Ringers in sanctuary</p>	<p>4 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (now more than ever)</p>	<p>5 Men's Breakfast (see pg. 6 for details)</p>
<p>6 9:30 a.m. hybrid worship schedule (see pg. 3 for details) Lenten Studies series to follow service (see pg. 3 for details) 6:00 p.m. CE Parents' Mtg. (see pg. 5 for details)</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 9:15 a.m. Tues Morn Study Group 1 p.m. Knitting Group via Zoom 6:20 p.m. Chancel Choir 6:45 to 9 p.m. Large AA Group 7:15 p.m. Bell Choir</p>	<p>9 9:00 a.m. Women's Breakfast (see pg. 7 for details) 6:00 p.m. Lenten Studies (see pg. 3 for details)</p>	<p>10 9:00 a.m. Handbell Workshop for developing Ringers in sanctuary</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 9:30 a.m. hybrid worship schedule (see pg. 3 for details) Lenten Studies series to follow service 3:00 p.m. CE Ministry Mtg.</p>	<p>14 7:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry Monthly Mtg.</p>	<p>15 9:15 a.m. Tues Morn Study Group 1 p.m. Knitting Group via Zoom 6:20 p.m. Chancel Choir 6:45 to 9 p.m. Large AA Group 7:15 p.m. Bell Choir</p>	<p>16 9:00 a.m. Women's Breakfast (see pg. 7 for details) 4:00 p.m. Foreside Book Club (see pg. 6 for details) 6:00 p.m. Lenten Studies</p>	<p>17 9:00 a.m. Handbell Workshop for developing Ringers in sanctuary</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Men's Breakfast (see pg. 6 for details)</p>
<p>20 9:30 a.m. hybrid worship schedule (see pg. 3 for details) Lenten Studies series to follow service (see pg. 3 for details)</p>	<p>21 7:00 p.m. Governing Board Monthly Mtg.</p>	<p>22 9:15 a.m. Tues Morn Study Group 1 p.m. Knitting Group via Zoom 6:20 p.m. Chancel Choir 6:45 to 9 p.m. Large AA Group 7:15 p.m. Bell Choir</p>	<p>23 9:00 a.m. Women's Breakfast (see pg. 7 for details) 6:00 p.m. Lenten Studies (see pg. 3 for details)</p>	<p>24 9:00 a.m. Handbell Workshop for developing Ringers in sanctuary</p>	<p>25 April Steeplnotes Deadline</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 9:30 a.m. hybrid worship schedule (see pg. 3 for details) Lenten Studies series to follow service (see pg. 3 for details) ~ One Great Hour of Sharing Observed ~</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 9:15 a.m. Tues Morn Study Group 1 p.m. Knitting Group via Zoom 6:20 p.m. Chancel Choir 6:45 to 9 p.m. Large AA Group 7:15 p.m. Bell Choir</p>	<p>30 9:00 a.m. Women's Breakfast (see pg. 7 for details) 6:00 p.m. Lenten Studies (see pg. 3 for details)</p>	<p>31 9:00 a.m. Handbell Workshop for developing Ringers in sanctuary</p>		

Daily Lectionary Readings for March 2022

Tues., Mar. 1

Psalm 35:11-28
Ezekiel 1:1—2:1
Acts 10:23b-33

Wed., Mar. 2***Ash Wednesday***

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or
Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Thurs., Mar. 3

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Exodus 5:10-23
Acts 7:30-34

Fri., Mar. 4

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Exodus 6:1-13
Acts 7:35-42

Sat., Mar. 5

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
John 12:27-36

Sun., Mar. 6***First Sunday in Lent***

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

Mon., Mar. 7

Psalm 17
1 Chronicles 21:1-17
1 John 2:1-6

Tues., Mar. 8

Psalm 17
Zechariah 3:1-10
2 Peter 2:4-21

Wed., Mar. 9

Psalm 17
Job 1:1-22
Luke 21:34—22:6

Thurs., Mar. 10

Psalm 27
Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18
Philippians 3:2-12

Fri., Mar. 11

Psalm 27
Genesis 14:17-24
Philippians 3:17-20

Sat., Mar. 12

Psalm 27
Psalm 118:26-29
Matthew 23:37-39

Sun., Mar. 13***Second Sunday in Lent***

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17—4:1
Luke 13:31-35 or
Luke 9:28-36

Mon., Mar. 14

Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42
Exodus 33:1-6
Romans 4:1-12

Tues., Mar. 15

Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42
Numbers 14:10b-24
1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Wed., Mar. 16

Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42
2 Chronicles 20:1-22
Luke 13:22-31

Thurs., Mar. 17

Psalm 63:1-8
Daniel 3:19-30
Revelation 2:8-11

Fri., Mar. 18

Psalm 63:1-8
Daniel 12:1-4
Revelation 3:1-6

Sat., Mar. 19

Psalm 63:1-8
Isaiah 5:1-7
Luke 6:43-45

Sun. Mar.20***Third Sunday in Lent***

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

Mon., Mar. 21

Psalm 39
Jeremiah 11:1-17
Romans 2:1-11

Tues., Mar. 22

Psalm 39
Ezekiel 17:1-10
Romans 2:12-16

Wed., Mar. 23

Psalm 39
Numbers 13:17-27
Luke 13:18-21

Thurs., Mar. 24

Psalm 32
Joshua 4:1-13
2 Corinthians 4:16—5:5

Fri., Mar. 25

Psalm 32
Joshua 4:14-24
2 Corinthians 5:6-15

Sat., Mar. 26

Psalm 32
Exodus 32:7-14
Luke 15:1-10

Sun., Mar. 27***Fourth Sunday in Lent***

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Mon., Mar. 28

Psalm 53
Leviticus 23:26-41
Revelation 19:1-8

Tues., Mar. 29

Psalm 53
Leviticus 25:1-19
Revelation 19:9-10

Wed., Mar. 30

Psalm 53
2 Kings 4:1-7
Luke 9:10-17

Thurs., Mar. 31

Psalm 126
Isaiah 43:1-7
Philippians



STEEPLENOTES

A Newsletter of

The Foreside Community Church, UCC

General Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday and Friday

9:00 a.m. to Noon

or unless otherwise posted

Office: 207-781-5880

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

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