



### The Foreside Community Church United Church of Christ



*Connecting  
to God*



*Nurturing  
Community*



*Discovering  
how our  
Lives  
Make a  
Difference*



Recently, a number of members and friends of the Foreside Community Church came together to hold service outside and joined in worship under the pines.

I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

Romans 1: 11-12

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**Notes from Reverend Geoff Parker**

Dear Foreside Friends,

Writing to you, this last week of October, snow has already fallen here at our house. Thanks be to God, it hasn't quite stuck yet... it was maybe a cosmic warning shot to let me know the leaves are going to get raked up this weekend, or not at all!

We are in that time: of "putting things to bed." I am thankful for the seasons here in Maine which tell us sacred stories in creation through the passage of time, of season, of weather. Trees, birds, creatures of the field... and yes, humans, are preparing ourselves to hunker down to our winter patterns of activity, which is to say... a little less than during the warm months.

This year, that feeling has a wary echo in the current trends and numbers of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations here in Maine and around the country. Some activities are being called to a close to preserve public health and safety. Some activities and traditions which usually sustain us in the darker and colder times will inevitably be altered to be "closer to home," to honor these commitments to care for ourselves and our neighbors.

In all these things, I hear the invitation to focus our attention, to slow our pace, and to notice more fully the life and gifts around us.

I'll be teaching a class this month, "How to Do (a Holy) Nothing", in which we'll bring the biblical command of Sabbath into conversation with a newer book, *How to Do Nothing* by the artist and professor Jenny Odell. Professor Odell's book asks what I think are important questions about time, about creativity, and most importantly about attention. If you'd like to join us on Wednesday evenings, please email me at [gparker@foresidechurch.org](mailto:gparker@foresidechurch.org).

One of the challenges and gifts of the Sabbath practice is an intentional "hallowing" of time, and of ourselves as creatures who live in time. By doing so, we remind ourselves that our worth, our belovedness, is not based on our activity, but is a free gift of God... and we are invited to withdraw from the anxious busy-ness that drives so much of the world around us.

I know that many of us have our attention drawn to our nation's election next week. It is good and right for that to be true: we should strive to make our deepest held values—showing God's love and care to neighbor, stranger, and creation—real in our public life. Indeed, it is part of how we remind each other that we the beloved... so much more than our "production." I hope that you will join us online for an evening vigil on Monday, November 2nd at 7:00 p.m., as we pray for our nation and each other... that we might discern wisely and fairly as a people.

However, I also want to encourage you to make a holy space in time for yourself, for friends, for loved ones. I pray that you will jealously guard your attention, and be unafraid to withdraw from some of the "economies" of news and social media that can sometimes lead us to feelings of despair. It is good to be informed! It can be less so to be trapped in cycles of activity and attention which feel hopeless. We remember and observe the Sabbath to be reminded of our worth, but also to be revived for those actions and issues which will bring flourishing and justice for our communities and neighbors.

In all we do this month, may we also rest gently in the knowledge that God is with us, and calling to us, still.





*Worship Online*

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

*Morning Prayers*

**8:30 a.m.**  
every Tuesday and Thursday  
Join Pastor Geoff for a brief time of  
readings, prayer, and reflection  
*watch weekly updates for Zoom link*

**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!**



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

## 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!

## A Reminder as it Gets Colder Outside

In August the Governing Board made the difficult but necessary decision to continue with online Sunday worship and close the church building for most uses until at least late January. This decision was made with the intent to *keep our congregation and those we love safe from COVID-19*. We are using new and old ways to “gather,” such as the telephone, online video meetings, online worship, and even some small gatherings outside, like the late Wednesday outdoor service held in September. As the weather gets colder and the days get shorter, we will need to stay creative in how we gather. Luckily the Holy Spirit is unlimited in imagination and God can gather us together even in these circumstances. Most of us have tools like telephones, reliable internet service, and wool blankets and warm winter coats. Let’s use all the tools we can think of to gather, love one another, and keep one another safe. May the Peace of Christ be with you!

**Nancy Olmstead , Moderator**



## Welcome Newest Members!

Charles and Rebecca, once known as Chuck and Becky, met in the summer of 1953 at the junior high camp of the Evangelical and Reformed (E&R) Church at the Dunkirk Conference Grounds on the shores of Lake Erie. He remembers much of that week; she, relatively little. They met, next eight years later at Eden Theological Seminary, also E&R, in Webster Groves, Missouri. They were married in the seminary chapel, and their son Stephen was born in Deaconess Hospital, St. Louis. He currently is an IDEXX man and lives in Cumberland. Daughter Susan, a humanitarian consultant with special skills in and concerns for working with the elderly and handicapped, lives in the UK and is contracted with Her Majesty's Government, her professional work having taken her to at least sixty countries over the years.

The Erbs who were welcomed into membership on October 25, individually or collectively have served parishes, judicatories, and ministries in a dozen states from Arizona to Maine and have been here among the pine trees since 1998. Besides the joy and pride of children and grandchildren, Chuck's greatest joys have been completing a marathon at 52 and still being able to bicycle. Rebecca's creativity emerges in her image-filled poetry and her amazing quilts. They have been privileged to travel in all fifty states and all Canadian provinces, and have had the delight of knowing five of the seven continents. Their two grandchildren are Hannah, a senior at Colby College, currently applying to seminaries, and Matthew, a sophomore at Carleton College in Northfield Minnesota, a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) man like his father. Rebecca is the holder of spiritual depth in the family and is a strong introvert. Chuck is activity oriented, has a terrible need to be needed, and will no doubt be seen around the FCC community with some frequency. They both are extremely grateful for this congregation's ministry of worship and avidly follow Morning Prayer as well as the Sabbath service.



## A Thanksgiving Dinner Invitation!

Friends, for the past several years we have had a Thanksgiving dinner at church for people who wanted to share the day with more than their own household. This year, we can't do that in the same way, but it doesn't mean we can't do something!

***This year you are invited to join a group of us [via Zoom](#)***

**3:00 pm ~ November 26th**

Have your dessert or other part of a meal  
while chatting with others who are doing the same.

**Questions:** contact Carrie Penrose 207-415-5513 or [carriepenrose@gmail.com](mailto:carriepenrose@gmail.com)

**Meeting ID:** 824 8855 2726 **Passcode:** 854988

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

### Justice and Outreach Updates

Another round of applause for the congregation, who donated nearly 200 items of personal clothing, socks, t-shirts, and hair supplies to the **Preble Street Homeless Teen Center**! The items went off in a bin stuffed like Santa's bag to be used as they are needed this winter. And they will be needed.

As the comment above shows, people in our church have continued to reach out to those in need during the pandemic. Throughout the year J&O provides funds to local, national, and international organizations, using the money budgeted for this use.

But another part of the J&O budget is the **Good Samaritan Fund**, which is available to all church members. If there is a person or specific project you support personally or financially, you can apply for up to \$200 of additional help. Past Good Samaritan projects have ranged from money for a computer, tuition, and rent deposit to supplies for Native Americans. Contact Christina in the office ([csklarz@foresidechurch.org](mailto:csklarz@foresidechurch.org) or 781-5880) to get a Good Samaritan application; then return it to the church. A member of J&O will then contact to you to discuss the details of your request. Help us to help others in our wider community.

Additional volunteers are still desperately needed to assist with home deliveries for **Falmouth Food Pantry** clients. The pantry is currently serving over 330 families and distribution from the pantry's physical location is still not feasible due to the pandemic. If you can possibly free up one day a week, or month, or if your schedule allows you to offer more time, please contact Dotty Blanchette at just as soon as you read this notice. Your involvement will make a huge difference.

### 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



### CHRISTMAS WREATH ORDERS

*If you want your usual order, regardless of price  
**PLEASE EMAIL CAROL WARD @**  
[cwardmd2@gmail.com](mailto:cwardmd2@gmail.com) now.*

Skills has not given us prices yet, and this year has been hard on them - **we need to support our neighbors!**

If prices are truly prohibitive, you can always withdraw, but we should start collecting our orders now!



### 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

group meets every other Saturday. **The next gathering is scheduled for October 31 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](mailto:carriepenrose@gmail.com). This gathering is for knitters of all levels, including beginners!

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



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

### The early bird, fall, Christmas half-a-fair was a big success...

...even though we were forced into a rain date, and outside on a Sunday, many church members and a healthy number of visitors strolled by, in masks and at a distance, and enjoyed the warmth of community again! The light was golden, the knits were across the rainbow, and the bright leaves drifted down. The cookies, cakes, muffins, loaves and pies were delicious. We even had live Christmas music in the background, with Trevor and David playing on the patio. We even took in over \$3000, with over \$1000 due to the sale of several of David Clough's donated pieces of art.



The fair brought out Tina Noyes (pictured to the left) – who remembers her father helping to build the foundation of our fellowship hall in the 1940's.... *"The church hall was added when I was in jr. high or high school. A group of men...volunteers... poured concrete for the foundation, using wheelbarrows filled w/ concrete, up a wooden ramp and then dumping the concrete. It would have been in the late 1940's. My dad's name was Joel D. King. He blamed his knee problem....later in life....on the concrete pouring.....no surgery back then, just some exercises the doctor recommended. He was also in a talent show at the church with a group of men....silly stuff...great turnout and a good fund raiser....it might have been a nice fashion show and then the men getting into ladies old clothes, etc.....good laughs...."*

And the fair also brought out the newest Gattis (pictured to the right with grandmother Betsy), visiting his grandparents and playing with the leaves...



(pictured to the left) A couple of happy Clough art buyers! Thank you David!



All told, a big success.

Now it's on to the December 5 half of the fair, which shall also be outside, mid-day, with lots of warm edibles and potables, a fire pit or two, and hopefully a decorated tree to give the season some visible sparkle and shed some light during this dark, dark year!

See you then!!

Carol Ward

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

### CE/Sunday School Updates



**We've put together a fun pageant with roles for folks of all ages—from our youngest members to adults!**

Pageant actors will simply need to record their part and upload it. No special equipment, other than a cell phone or digital camera, is needed. If your child would like to participate in our **Annual Christmas pageant** and you've not yet expressed their interest, please email Sunday School Administrator Laura Rodas (lnash8@aol.com) just as soon as possible!

### FCC bakers are offering delicious homemade pies for your Thanksgiving dinner!!

Apple and pumpkin pies are \$15 and pecan pies are \$18. If you have not yet ordered your pies and would like to do so, contact Margaret Perkins (margaretperkins1028@gmail.com or 207-767-1183) to place your order. **Pies will be ready for pickup at the church the morning of Tuesday, November 24.**



**DECEMBER *STEEPLENOTES***

**DEADLINE IS**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

**A very grateful round of "Thanks!" is extended to Stan Reed and Kathy Hillman Reed** for all of the yard work they have donated over the summer. Their last volunteer hours were spent extricating the overgrown floribunda rose bush on the edge of the upper parking lot. As shown in the photos below, it was no easy task!

**Before**



**During**



**After**





## COMMUNITY UPDATES

### Virtual Community Supper: Many Hands, Many Hearts Made for An Internet Hit!

Nancy Lightbody, Falmouth Community Church, UCC



Thank you, Falmouth! This past Thursday (October 22<sup>nd</sup>) would have been the 13<sup>th</sup> annual free turkey dinner hosted by all the faith communities in Falmouth, but this year it was the very first VIRTUAL Community Supper. And it turned out to be a huge success!

It is impossible to list everyone who made this happen, but many thanks to Rivalries restaurant for helping to provide turkey pot pies and apple crisp desserts to many homebound Falmouth residents, to the Girl Scouts for providing cheerful cards and homemade games, and to the Boy Scouts for delivering it all.

Many thanks to all the talented members of our community who were willing to speak, play music, share their stories, provide pictures of their art, and even show some scenes from a play in an hourlong virtual presentation.

Many thanks to the Town for providing lots of publicity and sharing its very talented IT expert.

Many thanks to those Falmouth residents who have continued to make donations to the Falmouth Food Pantry as they have done in the past at the in-person Suppers. The now-annual Community Supper is an opportunity to bring Falmouth residents together to break bread as a community and to ask for free-will donations to support the Falmouth Food Pantry, given the urgent and growing need of many families for assistance from the Food Pantry for both food and winter fuel.



Thank you all, and if you would like to see the Virtual Community Supper show, you can go to <https://www.youtube.com/user/FalmouthMaine> and click on the lower left square. (A special "shout out" to Pastor Geoff and Foreside Community Church's Towne Lyne Ringers for their time and talent contributions as well!)





# NOVEMBER 2020

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> <b>7:00 p.m. Service of Prayer Pre-Election</b> (see pg. 2 for details)	<b>3</b> <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Morning Prayers (see pg. 3 for details) <b>1-3:00 p.m.</b> Prayer Shawl Knitters (see pg. 5) (see pg. 8 for details)	<b>4</b> <b>9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Women's Breakfast</b> (see pg. 5 for details) <b>7 to 8:00 p.m. How to Do (a Holy) Nothing</b> (see pg. 2 for details)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Online Worship w/ coffee hr. to follow <b>4 pm</b> Youth Zoom	<b>9</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Stewardship Ministry Monthly Meeting	<b>10</b> <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Morning Prayers (see pg. 3 for details) <b>1-3:00 p.m.</b> Prayer Shawl Knitters (see pg. 5)	<b>11 ~ The office will be closed ~ in observation of Veterans Day</b> <b>9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Women's Breakfast</b> (see pg. 5 for details) <b>7 to 8:00 p.m. How to Do (a Holy) Nothing</b> (see pg. 2 for details)	<b>12</b> <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Morning Prayers (see pg. 3 for details)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>8:30 am.</b> <b>Men's Breakfast</b> (see pg. 5 for details)
<b>15</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Online Worship w/ Rev. Jim Gertmenian w/ coffee hr. to follow	<b>16</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Governing Board Monthly Meeting	<b>17</b> <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Morning Prayers (see pg. 3 for details) <b>1-3:00 p.m.</b> Prayer Shawl Knitters (see pg. 5) (see pg. 8 for details) <b>4:00 p.m.</b> Staff Mtg.	<b>18</b> <b>9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Women's Breakfast</b> (see pg. 5 for details) <b>7 to 8:00 p.m. How to Do (a Holy) Nothing</b> (see pg. 2 for details)	<b>19</b> <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Morning Prayers (see pg. 3 for details)	<b>20</b> <b>Deadline for December Steeplenotes material submittal (this is "drop dead" deadline!)</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Online Worship Blessing of the Gifts w/ coffee hr. to follow <b>4 pm</b> Youth Outside weather permitting	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Morning Prayers (see pg. 3 for details) <b>1-3:00 p.m.</b> Prayer Shawl Knitters (see pg. 5)	<b>25</b> <b>9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Women's Breakfast</b> (see pg. 5 for details) <b>7 to 8:00 p.m. How to Do (a Holy) Nothing</b> (see pg. 2 for details)			<b>28</b> <b>8:30 am.</b> <b>Men's Breakfast</b> (see pg. 5 for details)
<b>29</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Online Worship Joint service w/ Falmouth Congo, Julian Edson baptism w/ coffee hr. to follow	<b>30</b>					

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**DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2020****Sun. Nov. 1**

Joshua 3:7-17  
 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 1  
 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
 Matthew 23:1-12

**Mon., Nov. 2**

Psalm 128  
 Joshua 4:1-24  
 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

**Tues., Nov. 3**

Psalm 128  
 Joshua 6:1-16, 20  
 Acts 13:1-12

**Wed., Nov. 4**

Psalm 128  
 Joshua 10:12-14  
 Matthew 15:1-9

**Thurs., Nov. 5**

Psalm 78:1-7  
 Joshua 5:10-12  
 Revelation 8:6—9:12

**Fri., Nov. 6**

Psalm 78:1-7  
 Joshua 8:30-35  
 Revelation 9:13-21

**Sat., Nov. 7**

Psalm 78:1-7  
 Joshua 20:1-9  
 Matthew 24:1-14

**Sun., Nov. 8**

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25  
 Psalm 78:1-7  
 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
 Matthew 25:1-13

**Mon., Nov. 9**

Psalm 78  
 Joshua 24:25-33  
 1 Corinthians 14:20-25

**Tues., Nov. 10**

Psalm 78  
 Nehemiah 8:1-12  
 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

**Wed., Nov. 11**

Psalm 78  
 Jeremiah 31:31-34  
 Matthew 24:29-35

**Thurs., Nov. 12**

Psalm 123  
 Judges 2:6-15  
 Revelation 16:1-7

**Fri., Nov. 13**

Psalm 123  
 Judges 2:16-23  
 Revelation 16:8-21

**Sat., Nov. 14**

Psalm 123  
 Judges 5:1-12  
 Matthew 12:43-45

**Sun., Nov. 15**

Judges 4:1-7  
 Psalm 123  
 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
 Matthew 25:14-30

**Mon., Nov. 16**

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18  
 Judges 4:8-24  
 Romans 2:1-11

**Tues., Nov. 17**

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18  
 Exodus 2:1-10  
 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

**Wed., Nov. 18**

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18  
 Esther 7:1-10  
 Matthew 24:45-51

**Thurs., Nov. 19**

Psalm 100  
 Genesis 48:15-22  
 Revelation 14:1-11

**Fri., Nov. 20**

Psalm 100  
 Isaiah 40:1-11  
 Revelation 22:1-9

**Sat., Nov. 21**

Psalm 100  
 Ezekiel 34:25-31  
 Matthew 12:46-50

**Sun., Nov. 22**

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
 Psalm 100  
 Ephesians 1:15-23  
 Matthew 25:31-46

**Mon., Nov. 23**

Psalm 28  
 Numbers 27:15-23  
 2 Timothy 2:8-13

**Tues., Nov. 24**

Psalm 28  
 Zechariah 11:4-17  
 Revelation 19:1-9

**Wed., Nov. 25**

Psalm 28  
 Jeremiah 31:10-14  
 John 5:19-40

**Thurs., Nov. 26**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
 Zechariah 13:1-9  
 Revelation 14:6-13 or  
 Deuteronomy 8:7-18 and  
 Psalm 65  
 2 Corinthians 9:6-15  
 Luke 17:11-19

**Fri., Nov. 27**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
 Zechariah 14:1-9  
 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

**Sat., Nov. 28**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
 Micah 2:1-13  
 Matthew 24:15-31

**Sun., Nov. 29**

Isaiah 64:1-9  
 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
 Mark 13:24-37

**Mon., Nov. 30**

Psalm 79  
 Micah 4:1-5  
 Revelation 15:1-8



**S**TEEPLENOTES

A Newsletter of

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