

November 2021

A Newsletter of

The Foreside Community Church, UCC



Connecting to God

Nurturing Community

Discovering how our Lives Make a Difference

This month, we give thanks for our youth, and (hoped for) future members of our church. (See pages 9 & 10 for the story behind this art work, and more on our younger members and friends.)

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

Pastor: Choir Director: Organist/Accompanist: Sunday School Administrator: Sunday School Teacher: Office Manager: The Reverend Geoff Parker Trevor Lavenbein David Bartoletti Laura Rodas Beth Penrose Christina Sklarz

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Notes from Pastor Geoff

Out of Many, One

As we enter both a season of gratitude and thanksgiving, and the colder season that may challenge us all as we strive to weather the ongoing state of the pandemic, I find myself turning above all to a deepening gratitude that I have for our church community: the way in which we both experience—and practice—oneness here.

Division and discord seems to be the norm for the larger scale of our public life. On matters of inequality and injustice, on the basic human dignity of people across race or gender identity, and now to the very basics of public health and information... there is a distressing violence and dehumanizing nature to the public (and often anonymous) conversation our nation and the world is having. For those who have the privilege of being able to do so, disengagement and apathy are too often a temptation.

In the last month I've had opportunity to reflect on and honor the lives of two dear friends whose political and ideological views were very different, even as they raised amazing children and nurtured decades and decades of committed marriage together. Lots of people have asked me if I knew their secret, and if I could teach it to others in advance of any family gatherings over the holidays!

The Tuesday morning study group has been reading *Love is the Way*, the by The Most Rev. Michael Curry, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, USA. As head of his denomination in the United States, he inevitably faces conflicts within the life of the Episcopal Church, and the global Anglican Communion. At a crux of one these moments, he says to another:

"This is my brother, we follow Jesus. He teaches us the way of love; he didn't teach us the way of agree-

ment. That love dominates our relationship, not our agreements or disagreements."

This loving way of Jesus is alive and visible in our congregation often, and I give thanks to God for it. We don't always agree on every matter here in this congregation, whether they be the details of governance and finance in our ministry, or the wide-ranging scope of how our church is called to serve and bear witness to Christ in the world. We **do** love each other, and love the Christ we meet in each other, as we discuss and discern the path forward together. Even more, we don't turn away from, or avoid, important matters of our days and our life together as the church.

I don't know if you hear this enough: but all of this is a pure gift of the Holy Spirit at FCC, and of the faithful commitment that each of you make to this community. You bear witness to the *one-ness* of Christ in the ways in which you listen to and engage faithfully the diversity of spirit, of heart, and of mind here. In a culture which seems ever more divided, I need to say thank you for the loving and "counter-cultural" community of belonging you nurture and prioritize here with each other.

In other corners of our life, I think I'll leave us with of the spirit oriented practices of finding and forging oneness Bishop Curry names:

• Identify the shared moral values and spiritual principles where you agree.

• Share your personal story about how those values and principles became important to you.

• Seek to apply those values to current challenges, and identify commonalities.

Craft ways forward that best approximate those values and principles.

• On the state of the pandemic, and hoping for more chances to be together as one!: as we have every hope that vaccines will be even more widely available in the near future, and as we move into what is often a busier season in our church and worship life, I want to be sure to remind you about our current worship practices to help you decide how you would like to participate.

Please register ahead of time to attend worship in the sanctuary. Follow the link to hybrid worship from our website: <u>foresidechurch.org</u>, and click on the date that you would like to attend. We are currently limited to 50 attendees, and are regularly approaching that limit.

• When you arrive, you'll find that all the sanctuary windows are open to provide good ventilation. (You may want to dress in an extra layer!)

• Please wear a mask from the time you enter the sanctuary until you leave. Worship leaders may remove their masks at the microphones in the front of the sanctuary, where we have additional fans moving air out.

• Please be careful to give others space as you enter, find a seat, and again as you leave.

- During worship, you are invited to respond and sing hymns *quietly* rather than projecting.
- An offering plate will be available at the back of the sanctuary as you leave, but we will minimize the passing of plates during the offertory and communion services.
- Please stay tuned in the next month for information and guidance on how we can all participate in the coming Advent and Christmas season.

Hoff

worship in person by first registering at <u>www.foresidechurch.org</u> or calling 781-5880

or online

By joining us through **our YouTube channel**. *

Coffee hour on Sunday following Worship at 10:15 a.m. And can be joined by accessing <u>this link</u>

Grab a cup and join your friends, family, and fellow members! In person coffee hour to resume after Labor Day so stay tuned!

* As we continue on in hybrid worship, we will be moving away from Facebook live as a streaming platform in the coming months. You can be ready for this transition by visiting our YouTube Channel page and clicking the red "Subscribe" button. You will need to sign in or create an account. (If you already have a Google (Gmail) account, you can sign in that way.) Thank you for your help with this change to make it easier for us to share our worship!



I am fully vaccinated and am available for times to visit, sit, or pray together as you would like. If you would like to schedule a meeting, <u>you can do so</u> here, or by contacting me <u>by</u> email.

Blessings of the Spirit to you.

Stoff

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/. **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 <u>giving page</u> 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!

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

On Sunday October 31st Pastor Geoff and FCC members and friends in attendance will be extremely pleased to welcome the following new members into the congregation:



Hello! I am Grace High. I have strong roots to Maine and grew up locally in Cumberland Foreside. I also grew up coming to this very church when young! I have such fond memories of this community - both Foreside Community Church and Maine. I now live in New York City with my fiancé John and work at a technology company. I am excited to be baptized and officially join this wonderful community.

Bob and Joan Murray hail from Boston, where Bob continues to manage a small investment advisory business. Joan is a retired UCC minister, who served unhoused people in ministries in Boston and Waltham, MA. While they have owned a condo in Falmouth since 2010 and have attended FCC sporadically, they became residents of Falmouth at the beginning of the pandemic and are pleased to become members of FCC. They have a daughter and son-in-law and two grandchildren in Falmouth and a son and daughter-inlaw and two grandchildren in San Francisco. Bob and Joan have transferred their membership from the Wellesley Village Church, UCC in Wellesley, MA.



UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS AT FCC



days, and the sign-up sheets are in Christina's office. yet, please do that as well. Liz You can also sign up for your Christmas wreath, a small will be dividing us up into groups green arrangement, a red amaryllis, and/or chili. All of 6-8 so we can enjoy a smaller group setting and get to these items will be able to be picked up at our second know better some other members of our community. fair, Dec 4th, also outside and from 12-2.

And this year, we have welcomed the Internet as a tool, with the silent auction and sale ONLINE! Laura Rodas is leading the charge into the 21st century tober to discuss <u>Bitter Almonds</u> by Laurence Cosse. We and organizing the sale. There will be a link and explanation on the FCC website. I encourage EVERYONE to check it out.... there will be wrinkles, but we have very nice donations! Mary and Phil have offered their new again to talk about A Brother's Blood by Michael lake house near Saddleback for school vacation; Lyle Rogers has donated her treasured hutch; We have five full meals to be made and delivered for your dining exposes a little-known chapter of 20th century history -pleasure. And we have more coming in every day – something for every budget.

Speaking of pieces of furniture, now that we can sell items online, if your donation is larger, we can list and photograph it without moving it into the church. So.... contact Carol Ward (838-8235 / cwardmd2@gmail.co) if you have something that your children don't want but you can't bear to send to Goodwill....

SAVE THE DATE! Friday November 12th 7-8 pm

To piggy back of the success of the tea and to provide another COVOD safe and all age friendly activity, Fellowship is planning gatherings around several fire pits. yond her imagining." Fellowship will provide the s'more fixings and participants will bring their own s'more stick as well as their preferred hot beverage.

If you are worried about being cold, several of our Anyone is welcome and encouraged to youth are working with Jill Fox to make corn filled bags join us. This will probably be a Zoom which you can put in your microwave to make them hot meeting and a link will be provided. and then place them in your lap under a blanket. Or you FMI: mimihinkel@gmail.com can fill a hot water bottle and bring that. I put them in a small cooler to keep them warm until I need them.

We have just en- We are hoping you will dress joyed our October fair – It warm and join a fire pit and start was a success as a fellow- your weekend off right. Please ship event - We could email Liz Ventre at evenhave sold more treasures tre1@maine.rr.com if you wish and knits, and probably to join us. Let her know if you should have had more ad- need the easiest accessible fire pit vertising, but what's done as those who have volunteered to is done. You can still or- host are letting her know accessider many custom pies and bility. If you would be willing to other desserts for the holi- host and have not let her know



The Foreside Book Club met outside in Ochad a lesson in Montessori education and learning that helped shed some light on a difficult and frustrating book. On Wednesday November 17, we will meet White.

"This extraordinarily engrossing literary mystery the detention in the U.S. of nearly 400,000 German prisoners of war during World War II. The landscape of rural Maine provided a surreal sort of shelter for these most reviled casualties during the war. While many prisoners served their time peacefully enough, some escaped and others -- like the brother of Wolfgang Kallick -- were simply reported to have died. A Brother's Blood commences decades after the war, with Wolfgang Kallick's arrival in America to learn the details of his brother Dieter's death. When he discovers that Dieter escaped from the camp and was found dead months later, he vows to find out how his brother died. Libby, a flinty local woman who grew up during the war, is drawn into the drama, only to find that her family is implicated. After her brother is slain, Libby undertakes her own quest for solutions to both deaths -- suspecting they are somehow related -- and exposes a darkness be-

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, November 17 at 4:00 p.m. for what should be another rewarding and friendly conversation.



2020 Bob Fuller Award Presented to Jill Fox (D. Gray)

The Governing Board is delighted to announce that Jill Fox is the recipient of the 2020 Bob Fuller Award. She joins a distinguished list of FCC members recognized for their outstanding service to the church and its ministries.

Jill is a creative mainstay of the Christmas Fair. Who doesn't have one of her handmade hats, scarves, sweaters, shawls, aprons, bags, catnip mice.....? Her legendary baked goods are bestsellers, and she has an eagle eye for spotting treasures among donated items.

Jill served on the Search Committee that called Geoff as pastor of FCC. And if you've ever walked into the church kitchen and marveled at the sparkling clean refrigerator, neatly organized drawers and scrubbed countertops---that was likely after one of Jill's legendary "deep cleans".

Jill has a soft spot for the youngest members of our church. She has taught Sunday School and staffed the nursery. She helps the kids with craft projects, and cajoles (and trains) the older ones into serving as waiters for the Christmas Fair Cafe. She's even enthusiastically participated in the children's Christmas Pageant--- of Foreside Community Church for many years. As Asappropriately as an angel.

ministry of our faith community.

FCC. A donation in Jill's name has been made to the hat. Salmon Brook Historical Society located in Washburn.





John Kipp **Honored for FCC Service** (D. Gray)

John has been an integral part of the fabric sistant Treasurer, he has overseen the church finances, But it's Jill's quiet kindnesses that have touched keeping the books, preparing monthly statements for so many of us. Her warm smile in greeting, a call or a Stewardship and the Governing Board, drafting the annucard to mark a special date, a funny shared email, a wel- al budget, and participating in the annual appeal. His excome meal in a time of need. Jill embodies the shared haustive grasp of the church database and general institutional knowledge have been invaluable resources to the Please join the Governing Board in expressing ministries and staff. And he clearly enjoys his role as our sincere gratitude to Jill for her faithful service to cashier at the Christmas Fair, usually wearing a Santa

> But John is more than a "numbers man". He has a strong commitment to the youth of the church, enthusiastically participating in Youth Group activities as well as family retreats, and supporting Pilgrim Lodge. He has been the long-time representative of our church in the Cumberland Association and the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ. John is also called to extend our outreach, locally as well as globally. And from time to time, John has stepped into the pulpit and opened his heart to us.

> John received the Bob Fuller award in 1991 in recognition of his faithful service to FCC, and we honor that commitment again as he steps down from his "official" duties. Knowing John, though, he will continue to be a vital and valued member of the congregation.

> Please join the Governing Board in expressing our sincere gratitude to John for his many years of faithful service to FCC. A donation in John's name has been made to the Good Shepherd Food Bank.

Calling all strong Men, Women and Youth..... WE NEED YOU!!!

Want to give back to our church community but don't have a lot of free time? Have so many meetings now that you just can't face another? Have some muscles that need to be put to good use and not just at the gym? Want to be appreciated by many in our community? If you answered yes to any or all of these questions, then join the *FCC Muscle Brigade*. It will be perfect for you!

Fellowship is hoping to organize a list of members who live close to the church who would be willing to be on a call list for our committee as well as any other committee, ministry, or group in the church who need help in setup for events. Christina will keep the list, so it is available to all. Many times, it is a very quick thing but impossible for those of us who are organizing the events due to our physical condition or age. If you volunteer, as a need for strength arises another church member will call you to ask for help. They should be able to give you a time to show up and about how long it will take to set up. You just have to show up and carry and/or move things. Normally there



are plenty of people around after an event to help pick up so I suspect this will be mostly set up.

If you are willing to help us, please email Christina with your name, email address and phone number

(csklarz@foresidechurch.org). Give any times that just will not work for you so we don't waste your time or ours with a call.

Your Christian Education Ministry hopes you will hold the following dates on your calendar!



You're Invited! Carols & Cocoa Save the Date

DECEMBER 19, 2021 FAMILY CHURCH (SO ALL ARE INVITED!) 4 PM AT THE CHURCH





Christmas Angels 2021

Justice & Outreach is looking to have some of our traditional programs fit back into the church even as our church family continues to cope with the impact of the pandemic. This year we hope that our congregation will be able to provide a limited number of warm winter clothes for children who are part of the Falmouth Food Pantry. Because we do not want to have people crowded into the narthex selecting angel tags from a tree, we will have two ways for those sponsors to sign out a child:

- 1. On Halloween Sunday October 31, Resa and Dotty will wait in the narthex with a sign-up sheet listing each child and sponsors can choose a name.
- The names of all children not signed out on Halloween will be available on the church website. This year we are asking sponsors to provide only warm jackets and for some children, boots or shoes. We also welcome anyone who wishes to add gloves, mittens, or socks. Gifts can be returned No later than November 28 they can be wrapped or in a bag, but it is important to secure a name tag to the gift!

Gifts can be left in the church office between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., five days a week, unless availability is otherwise noted in the weekly email updates. For questions or more information please contact Resa Jones; <u>Resabird@gmail.com</u> or Dorothy Blanchette: <u>dorothyb@maine.rr.com</u>



This month's cover picture was drawn on the iPad of 9-year-old Cora Nanovic as part of an art exhibit recently coordinated by the Falmouth Public Library, where the original work is still on display. Fourth grader Cora shared that the picture "*is about coziness*." Cora and the Nanovic family (mother Anne, father Rob, and brother Kasey have been attending services and actively supporting FCC since 2018). When asked what is most special about FCC, Cora enthusiastically noted, "*getting together downstairs after the service, and the holiday decorations in the church.*" We hope you will stay with us Cora!

Talented Cora Nanovic (pictured right) hopes to pursue art as a profession, media yet to be determined.







Under the tutelage of Jill Fox, several of the church's younger attendees gathered at Jill's home recently to learn how to create and assemble "corn bags" for sale at the upcoming, 2-part annual fair. The bags can be heated in the microwave and then applied to body parts for warmth and comfort, and can be used repeatedly. A total of 30 bags were completed that afternoon and delivered for sale. Be sure to check out these beautifully crafted items, excellent for gifting or just to treat your-The day was rounded out with the self. serving of homemade cookies and apple cider. Well done ladies!

The afternoon following worship on October 24, a good number gathered outside for "Family Church," a time of fellowship, creativity, readings, and music. The craft activities were facilitated by FCC's Sunday school administrator Laura Rodas, and Sunday school teacher Beth Penrose. Everyone was mindful and respectful of needed safety protocols.

A special part of the afternoon agenda was when Pastor Geoff extended the "blessing of the pets" ceremony to the four-footed members of the attending families.



COMMUNITY UPDATES



Friday, November 19th - 7:30 PM

First CongregationalChurch 301 Cottage Rd. So. Portland, ME

Adults \$20/\$23 day of concert — Kids 15 and under: \$10 Tickets online at: staines.brownpapertickets.com and available at Nonesuch Books & church office. PLEASE NOTE: All attendees must show proof of vaccination and wear a mask throughout the concert.

November 2021

Be sure to check the calendar at Foreside Community Church's website

ww.foresidechurch.org for any updates or changes.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		2 9 a.m. Tues Morn Book Club 1 p.m. Knitting Group-Irg elsrm 5:30 p.m. Pastoral Relations 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 to 9 p.m. Large AA Group 7:30 p.m. Bell Rehearsal	E)	4	5 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meeting in progress, church office closed to traffic.	6 Men's Breakfast (see pg. 8 for details)
7 9:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship (see pg. 3 for details)	8 7:00 p.m. Stewardship Monthly Mtg.	9 9 a.m. Tues Morn Book Club 1 p.m. Knitting Group-Irg elsrm 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 to 9 p.m. Large AA Group 7:30 p.m. Bell Rehearsal	10	To All Veterans To All Veterans Wether At Home Or Alroad All Americans Say: THANK YOU	12 Firepit Gatherings! (see pg. 5 for details)	13
14 9:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship (see pg. 3 for details) Youth Group	15 7:00 p.m. Governing Board Monthly Mtg.	 a.m. Tues Morn Book Club a.m. Tues Morn Book Club p.m. Knitting Group-Irg elstrm 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 to 9 p.m. Large AA Group 7:30 p.m. Bell Rehearsal 	17 4:00 p.m. FCC Book Club (see pg. 5 for details)	18	19 December <i>Steeplenotes</i> deadline	20 Men's Breakfast (see pg. 8 for details)
21 9:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship (see pg. 3 for details) 4:00 p.m. Family Church	3	23 9 a.m. Tues Morn Book Club 1 p.m. Knitting Group-Irg elsrm 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 to 9 p.m. Large AA Group 7:30 p.m. Bell Rehearsal	24	Cheppy Ch	harlesgiving	27
28 9:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship (see pg. 3 for details) Deadline for Christmas Angel drop off (see pg. 8 for details)	29	30				

Daily Lectionary Readings for November 2021

Mon., Nov. 1 Psalm 18:20-30 Ruth 2:15-23 Romans 12:17-21; 13:8-10 Luke 4:16-30

Tues., Nov. 2 Psalm 18:20-30 Ruth 3:1-7 Acts 7:17-29

Wed., Nov. 3 Psalm 18:20-30 Ruth 3:8-18 John 13:31-35

Thurs., Nov. 4 Psalm 127 Ruth 4:1-10 Romans 5:6-11

Fri., Nov. 5 Psalm 127 Ruth 4:11-17 Hebrews 9:15-24

Sat., Nov. 6 Psalm 127 Ruth 4:18-22 Mark 11:12-14, 20-24

Sun., Nov. 7 Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 Psalm 127 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44

Mon., Nov. 8 Psalm 113 Genesis 24:1-10 1 Timothy 5:1-8

Tues., Nov. 9 Psalm 113 Genesis 24:11-27 1 Timothy 5:9-16

Wed., Nov. 10 Psalm 113 Genesis 24:28-42

Thurs., Nov. 11 1 Samuel 2:1-10 1 Samuel 1:21-28 1 Timothy 6:11-21

Fri., Nov. 12 1 Samuel 2:1-10 1 Samuel 2:18-21 Colossians 2:6-15

Sat. Nov. 13 1 Samuel 2:1-10 1 Samuel 3:1-18 Mark 12:1-12

Sun., Nov. 14 1 Samuel 1:4-20 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25 Mark 13:1-8

Mon., Nov. 15 Psalm 3 1 Samuel 3:19-4:2 Hebrews 10:26-31

Tues., Nov. 16 Psalm 3 Deuteronomy 26:5-10 Hebrews 10:32-39

Wed., Nov. 17 Psalm 3 1 Kings 8:22-30 Mark 13:9-23

Thurs., Nov. 18 Psalm 132:1-12 [13-18] 2 Kings 22:1-10 Acts 7:54-8:1a

Fri., Nov. 19 Psalm 132:1-12 [13-18] 2 Kings 22:11-20 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Sat., Nov. 20 Psalm 132:1-12 [13-18] 2 Kings 23:1-14 John 3:31-36

Sun., Nov. 21 Psalm 132:1-12 [13-18] Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37

Mon., Nov. 22 Psalm 63 2 Kings 23:15-25 Revelation 11:1-14

Tues., Nov. 23 Psalm 63 1 Samuel 17:55-18:5 Revelation 11:15-19

Wed., Nov. 24 Psalm 63 2 Samuel 2:1-7 John 16:25-33

Thurs., Nov. 25 Thanksgiving Psalm 25:1-10 Nehemiah 9:6-15 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Fri., Nov. 26 Psalm 25:1-10 Nehemiah 9:16-25 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

Sat., Nov. 27 Psalm 25:1-10 Nehemiah 9:26-31 Luke 21:20-24

Sun., Nov. 28 Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36

Mon., Nov. 29 Psalm 90 Numbers 17:1-11 2 Peter 3:1-18

Tues., Nov. 30 Psalm 90 2 Samuel 7:18-29 Revelation 22:12-16



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