

The Foreside Community Church United Church of Christ

September 2022



*Connecting
to God*

*Nurturing
Community*

*Discovering
how our Lives
Make a
Difference*

*The first annual Family Outing was a wonderful success. See page 4 for more!
(Photo courtesy of Vivian, attendee and cherished friend of the Glovers.)*



THE FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH, UCC
340 Foreside Road
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Choir Director: Trevor Lavenbein
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Pastoral Notes

Ancient Questions, New Beginnings

*This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.*

*For by the life and death of Jesus,
love's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of diff'rence,
as faith and hope are born again.*

- Brian Wren, "This is a Day of New Beginnings"

The words to this hymn have been with me in the mornings of late. Each day, Julia and I wake up with Grace, she shows us in her eyes what is always true, but we can often forget: each new day is a beginning of its own, filled with wonders, possibilities, uncertainties, and struggles. Her mind and senses change and develop so quickly, each day might as well be a new first. Each day is different from the one before, asking her to release what she may have known yesterday, and hopefully to carry what is essential—a sense of trust and love—forward. (This is true of Grace's parents, too, especially when we seem to have to learn new skills and patterns each day!)

Here at FCC we are beginning a new program year, still adjusting to and grieving the changes and losses of the past years' struggles, but looking expectantly to a new day together.

This fall, we'll "begin again" in worship with a series called "I Believe? Faithful Questions." Last spring, one of our classes was wrestling with ancient creeds of Christianity which begin with a series of statements: "I believe in...[God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit]." For many, these "believe" statements were a given of what it meant to be Christian. For some, the statements of belief represented a "test" which isolated them from churches when their own beliefs differed, or "failed." For others, the statements felt like small box, limiting and diminishing their faith as it longed to grow and transform through the years. Instead, we began to wonder what it might look like if we started "from the beginning" defining our faith by questions, rather than statements. Questions like:

Who is the God we believe in?

How is Jesus related to God?

**What do the church, forgiveness,
and resurrection have to do with each other?**

How might you answer, if you asked yourself anew those questions which arise from our traditions and scriptures: who God is, what resurrection means... but in the asking made space for wonder and mystery, and for the fact that throughout our lives, faith changes... transforming, and often deepening? Even more, how might community be strengthened among us as we found that our answers did not separate us from each other so much as our questioning connected us to one another?

For many of our older children, this year offers a new beginning as they join in our Confirmation program exploring their own questions and wonders of faith. This year, confirmands and their mentors will join with friends from the Falmouth Congregational Church on their way to discerning if they will confirm and answer the loving promises made over them at their birth in their life, membership, and service in the church.

This is a day of new beginnings for us all: we are—in this life—never done living into the fullness of God's love, never done discovering the path Christ calls us to follow, never done being transformed by the power of the Spirit. How might we invite others on the journey with us, considering that questioning, rather than surety, defines the faith life of more and more people in our community and in the world? If we understood that to journey together as God's people means less a common assent to certain *statements* of belief, but more a commitment to exploring the *questions* together, trusting in God to guide us?

Thanks be to God for this community of believers living into faithful questions, exploring and discovering our common calling to Christ's service, and finding in our common life and ministry the Spirit's loving guidance through all our wandering and wonderings.



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? Pastor Geoff's sermons in both written and audio form from May 2019 to the present can be viewed and/or heard on FCC's website at:

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



worship in the sanctuary...

...and attendance on Sundays is open to all with the following prevention protocols in place:

- 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 by going to:

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

Bulletins for each service, including words to that day's hymns are also posted at this website address.

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!

UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

First Annual Family and Friends Gathering A Great Success!

Event coordinator and chair woman of the facilitating Christian Education Ministry, Wendy Tracy noted: *“A lovely time was had at our first ever lawn games gathering on Sunday, August 7th. Almost 30 members and friends got together and enjoyed bubbles and popsicles, tag and obstacles courses in the back lawn at FCC. It was a delight to catch up and play games with folks of all ages.”*



Photos courtesy
of
Wendy Tracy.

July “Prayers on the Patio” Very Well Received, and Attended

During three consecutive Sundays in July during Pastor Geoff’s paternity leave, FCC was extremely grateful to receive the lay support of Judy Courn and the Meditation Group, **John Bischof**, and **Kathie McCatherin**. Held outside on the church patio, these services provided guided worship along with hymns and readings. Judy noted that: *“The members of the Meditation Group who participated in the service appreciated the opportunity to reconnect and refocus on their meditation experience together.”* John’s and Kathie’s homilies can be viewed by clicking on their respective names above.

Pastor Geoff was pleased with the congregational response as well and shared upon his return: *“I give thanks for the wonderful gifts of leadership and worship shared in July, and the invitation to worship in a slightly different way amongst the beauty of our summer season. I hope Prayers on the Patio will become a July tradition for our congregation in the years ahead. SO! if you have ever wondered what it might be like to lead a gathering for prayer, or song, or meditation, reach out to me or the Ministry of Worship so we can support you in exploring that call to ministry among us!”*

John Bischof, no stranger to FCC’s pulpit, led the first July outside service, which included some of the congregation’s favorite hymns, *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*, and *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*.



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

We've Moved - Internally!

Pastor Geoff and the music staff of Trevor Lavenbein and David Bartoletti are pleased to announce that they have switched offices. The move will allow for re-vamped storage while ensuring uninterrupted and confidential space for interaction with congregational members when required. The proximity to the sanctuary will also prove beneficial to Pastor Geoff, while allowing David and Trevor access to office equipment and resources not currently at their disposal. Geoff reminds folks that he is fully vaccinated and remains available for times to visit, sit, or pray together as needed by members and friends of the church. If you would like to schedule a meeting with Pastor Geoff [you can do so](#) here, or by contacting him [by email](#).

A special shout out to Dorothy Eckhart for donating a lateral file in excellent condition for David's and Trevor's new office, as well as members John Goodrich and Bruce Gray for taking time to pick up and deliver the file directly, all coordinated by Deborah Gray. We love the team work!



John (left) and Bruce (right) answer the call by recently donating their Saturday morning.

The Tuesday Morning Book Group will resume meeting starting **September 13th at 9:00 a.m.** on the church patio. We will begin by meeting in person but as the weather gets too cold for outside, we will continue to meet by Zoom. The first meeting is to come together to decide on our next book. If you have never come to a meeting, but thought you might like to join, this is a good one to come to since you will have a say in what we read next. We love new faces around the circle! Please come with lots of ideas! If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to me, Liz Ventre @ eventrel@maine.rr.com.

Holiday Fair Workshops Announced

Three Holiday Fair Workshops have been scheduled for this fall and will be held in the Fellowship Hall. This will be an opportunity to work on arts/crafts that you are working on, individually, for the fair OR you can join the attendees in a variety of projects that will be brought to the group by facilitator Kathie McCatherin. All who were involved agree that a wonderful time of fellowship and creativity was had when the crafters met last spring. Please consider joining in this time. Email Kathie McCatherin at kathiejov@maine.rr.com or call at 207-272-4364 with questions and be sure to get these dates on your calendar:

Wednesday, 9/21 @ 7 p.m.

Thursday, 10/27 @ 7 p.m.

Wednesday, 11/30 @ 7 p.m.

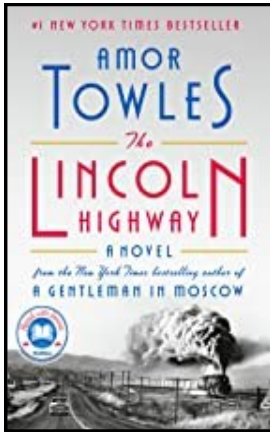


Coffee Hour Hopes to Return but IT NEEDS YOU!

Coffee Hour, hopefully, will resume outside beginning September 18th which is the Sunday after the Welcome Back Potluck. However, coffee hour can only happen if each of you step up and volunteer to host. The sign-up sheet for Coffee Hour can be found downstairs on the big buffet in the reception area on a clipboard. Fellowship has come up with a system to make it as easy as possible with all the needed directions in one place. [\(See link attached here\).](#) We recommend you find a friend to host with you as everything is more fun with a friend and many hands make lighter work. Coffee hour will continue outside as long as the weather permits.

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

FCC Book Club Gathers Again



I hope you all had a refreshing and enjoyable summer and are ready to usher in a new season of reading. We have some great books chosen for this year and are always open to suggestions.

If you have never joined us, please consider participating this year. We are a friendly, open and respectful group who welcome all ideas and viewpoints. Anyone is encouraged to attend and share your thoughts at any discussion.

Come and see for yourself. We all

learn and benefit from each other.

The first discussion will be on **Wednesday, September 21 at 4:00 p.m.** at the church when we will talk about the very popular The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles.

"In June, 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother, Billy, and head to California where they can start their lives anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future, one that will take them all on a fateful journey in the opposite direction—to the City of New York."

This is a fun, fast reading adventure story that is hard to put down. So start reading now. There is still time to finish it and be part of our discussion. Hope to start off the year with a big group and welcome some new faces. Masks optional! FMI: mimihinkel@gmail.com



The lodge building located at 5 Homewood Circle and the site of the September 30 Game Night, (pictured left and article to right) is a short ten minute drive north up Rte. 88 from FCC and has ample parking.

Welcome Back Potluck and *Surprise Box Auction!*

It is time for everyone in The Foreside Community Church to gather and celebrate, to share summer stories, and renew our church community. On **Sunday September 11 after church service (with a rain date of September 18)**, we will gather in the parking lot for a potluck lunch and to help a new church friend. In addition to sharing a meal, this event will be a special fundraiser to help Museveni raise needed funds to bring his wife and daughter from Uganda to join him here in Maine.

You are each asked to participate by providing a "mystery gift box" and then to bid on these attractively wrapped "One Pound Surprises." What could be inside each box? It could be a treasure or a trick!

Fellowship is asking that attendees (last name) A-G bring an entree, H-P bring a side dish, and Q-Z bring desserts. Fellowship will provide the beverages.



SET-UP will take place on Saturday, September 10 at 5:00 p.m. Fellowship is in need of a group of able-bodied carriers to help move the tables and chairs. It should only take half an hour if enough people come to help. Please consider helping with the set-up and then join in the fun on Sunday. Any questions about the food contact Liz Ventre eventrel@maine.rr.com. Any questions about the One Pound Auction contact Dotty Blanchette at dorothyclemenizib@gmail.com.

Game Night at Homewood Village Friday, September 30 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. 5 Homewood Circle, Yarmouth

Dana Humphreys, with a helping hand from Liz Ventre, is hosting a church game night at the Lodge at Homewood Village in Yarmouth. All ages are welcome! Depending on the number and ages of people who come, we'll decide if we'll do group games, round robin card games, or some other play.

The Lodge has lots of windows for fresh air, masks are optional. Soft drinks and water will be provided; feel free to bring a light nibble to share if you'd like.

If you'd like to get your game on, please reply to Dana Humphreys at sdh Humphreys@aol.com by **Wednesday September 28**, with the number of people and, if any children are coming, their ages.

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

A Helping Hand is Needed

(D. Blanchette)

Many folks in the congregation at FCC have met and talked with one of the new friends of our community, **Museveni Msafiri Aimable**. Museveni not only regularly attends services at our church, but he has extended a helping hand to several projects and has even cooked a traditional African treat to share at coffee hour. Now he needs help in order to be able to bring his wife and daughter here to Maine after seven long years apart.

Museveni was originally from the Congo but when he was 18 years old his local tribe was viciously attacked, and his family and friends were forced to flee for their lives. Museveni managed to reach a refugee camp in Tanzania where he survived for nine years under very harsh conditions. It was years before he even knew that his parents had also survived. Now he is a fully employed American citizen and he is desperate to bring his family to Maine from where they now live in Uganda. Through the Pastor's Good Neighbor Fund and Justice & Outreach's designated budget, our church family has recently paid to have the required final documents translated for the family visas. But the cost of flying the family to Maine is beyond Museveni's financial resources.



Museveni Msafiri Aimable is a regular service attendee and welcomes self-introductions from FCC family and friends.

Monday, September 12
starting at 6:30 p.m. until ?
35 Old Powerhouse Road / Falmouth
(The Ward's bay view, back deck)

If you are on, ever been on, or plan to be on the Stewardship Ministry, please come to the newly reincarnated post-Covid potluck celebration of working together.....and I include those who attend clean up days, helping with maintenance inside and out, and those who organize and support the fair as stewards!!

There will be an open grill, and you should bring your own "grill able" item. In addition, please bring something to share - salad, appetizer, dessert. The beauty of the potluck is that no matter how many people show up, the amount of food for the group is always just right. And if you find yourself empty handed, come anyway! there is always plenty to go around. I will provide plates, glasses, flatware, and potables. ~ **BYOB** ~

If there is no parking space in my drive, park at the top of the Portland Yacht Club parking lot (right next door, lots of room). They are not open on Mondays. See you then!!

Carol



The Stewardship Ministry was very pleased to receive yard assistance from former ministry volunteer Ron Stadden. In July Ron was in the state visiting and was kind enough to stop by and roll up his virtual sleeves, assisting with some tree pruning. Though now located in Florida (his address is in the current directory, a copy of which can be obtained in the church office), Ron continues his active support of FCC, in more ways than just one! **Thanks so much Ron!!**

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

September Birthday Greetings

All Our Virgos ~ You know the expression, "*If you want something done, give it to a busy person?*" Well, that definitely is the Virgo anthem. Virgos are logical, practical, and systematic in their approach to life. Virgo is an earth sign historically represented by the goddess of wheat and agriculture, an association that speaks to Virgo's deep-rooted presence in the material world. This earth sign is a perfectionist at heart and isn't afraid to improve skills through diligent and consistent practice. Above all else, Virgos want to help. They are kind, gentle, and supportive friends and lovers who use their incredible intellect and resourcefulness to problem-solve. Please extend warm birthday greetings to:

6 - John Kipp

6 - Lester Noyes

6 - Marilyn Reynolds

7 - Jean Hubbell

9 - Mary Davies

15 - Barbara Saabye

16 - Phyllis Hewitt

18 - Chuck Sanders

The Men's Breakfast...

...will be gathering on

Saturday, September 10 @ 8:30 a.m.

An enjoyable repast and lively discussions are always on the menu!

FMI John Bischof

jegbischof@gmail.com or 781-2391

The October Steeplenotes


deadline is Friday,

September 23, 2022

The collection of 2023 calendars continues. Like last year, these calendars will be included in the December boxes delivered to

food pantry clients. This year the projected need is **175!** A decorative, appropriately labeled bag is now located on the small table outside the interior office door so feel free to drop off any calendars that you might receive between now and the end of November, please.


175, that's a lot of calendars!



January						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 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
				1	2	3
			Office closed, reopening on Tuesday September 6.			
4 9:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Schedule (See pg. 3 for details.)		6 6:45 p.m. Large AA Group	7	8	9	10 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ FCC (See pg. 8 for details.)
11 9:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Schedule (See pg. 3 for details.) "Welcome Back Potluck" (See pg. 6 for details.)	12 6:30 p.m. Stewardship and Support Volunteers' Potluck at the Carol's (See pg. 7 for details.)	13 9:00 a.m. Tues Morn Bk Grp. (See pg. 5 for details.) 1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitters 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. Large AA Group 7:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal	14	15	16	17
18 9:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Schedule (See pg. 3 for details.) After Service Coffee Hour Begins (hopefully) again!	19 7:00 p.m. Governing Board Monthly Meeting	20 9:00 a.m. Tues Morn Bk Grp. (See pg. 5 for details.) 1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitters 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. Large AA Group 7:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal	21 4:00 p.m. FCC Book Club - large classroom (See pg. 6 for details.) 7:00 p.m. Holiday Fair Workshop (See pg. 5 for details.)	22	23	24 October Steeplenotes Deadline
25 9:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Schedule (See pg. 3 for details.) After Service Coffee Hour	26	27 9:00 a.m. Tues Morn Bk Grp. (See pg. 5 for details.) 1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitters 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. Large AA Group 7:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal	28	29	30	

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Daily Lectionary Readings for September 2022

Thurs., Sept. 1

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 Jeremiah 15:10-21
 Philippians 2:25-30

Fri., Sept. 2

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 Jeremiah 16:14—17:4
 Colossians 4:7-17

Sat., Sept. 3

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 Jeremiah 17:14-27
 Matthew 10:34-42

Sun., Sept. 4

Jeremiah 18:1-11
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 Philemon 1-21
 Luke 14:25-33

Mon., Sept. 5

Psalm 2
 Jeremiah 18:12-23
 1 Timothy 3:14—4:5

Tues., Sept. 6

Psalm 2
 Jeremiah 19:1-15
 1 Timothy 4:6-16

Wed., Sept. 7

Psalm 2
 Jeremiah 20:1-18
 Luke 18:18-30

Thurs., Sept. 8

Psalm 14
 Jeremiah 13:20-27
 1 Timothy 1:1-11

Fri., Sept. 9

Psalm 14
 Jeremiah 4:1-10
 2 Peter 2:1-10a

Sat., Sept. 10

Psalm 14
 Jeremiah 4:13-21, 29-31
 John 10:11-21

Sun., Sept. 11

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
 Psalm 14
 1 Timothy 1:12-17
 Luke 15:1-10

Mon., Sept. 12

Psalm 94
 Jeremiah 5:1-17
 1 Timothy 1:18-20

Tues., Sept. 13

Psalm 94
 Jeremiah 5:18-31
 2 Peter 3:8-13

Wed., Sept. 14

Psalm 79:1-9
 Jeremiah 14:1-10, 17-22
 Luke 22:31-33, 54-62

Thurs., Sept. 15

Psalm 79:1-9
 Jeremiah 12:14—13:11
 Romans 3:1-8

Fri., Sept. 16

Psalm 79:1-9
 Jeremiah 8:1-13
 Romans 8:31-39

Sat., Sept. 17

Psalm 74
 Jeremiah 8:14-17; 9:2-11
 Mark 12:41-44

Sun., Sept. 18

Jeremiah 8:18—9:1
 Psalm 79:1-9
 1 Timothy 2:1-7
 Luke 16:1-13

Mon., Sept. 19

Psalm 106:40-48
 Jeremiah 9:12-26
 Acts 4:1-12

Tues., Sept. 20

Psalm 106:40-48
 Jeremiah 10:1-16
 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Wed., Sept. 21

Psalm 106:40-48
 Jeremiah 10:17-25
 Luke 20:45—21:4

Thurs., Sept. 22

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
 Jeremiah 23:9-22
 2 Corinthians 8:8-15

Fri., Sept. 23

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
 Jeremiah 23:23-32
 Ephesians 2:1-10

Sat., Sept. 24

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
 Jeremiah 24:1-10
 Luke 9:43b-48

Sun., Sept. 25

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
 1 Timothy 6:6-19
 Luke 16:19-31

Mon., Sept. 26

Psalm 119:49-56
 Jeremiah 32:16-35
 Revelation 3:14-22

Tues., Sept. 27

Psalm 119:49-56
 Jeremiah 32:36-44
 James 5:1-6

Wed., Sept. 28

Psalm 119:49-56
 Jeremiah 33:1-13
 Matthew 19:16-22

Thurs., Sept. 29

Lamentations 3:19-26
 Jeremiah 52:1-11
 Revelation 2:8-11

Fri., Sept. 30

Lamentations 3:19-26
 Jeremiah 52:12-30
 Revelation 2:12-29



STEEPLENOTES

A Newsletter of

The Foreside Community Church, UCC

General Office Hours:

**Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

or unless otherwise posted

Office: 207-781-5880

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

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