



A Newsletter of

The Foreside Community Church United Church of Christ

October 2022



*Connecting
to God*

*Nurturing
Community*

*Discovering
how our Lives
Make a
Difference*

And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month;
in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops
of the mountains were seen. [Genesis 8:5](#)

THE FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH, UCC
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Pastoral Notes

The Pause, The Breath, The Beginning...

October is always an interesting month in our congregation, because it almost always begins with us all taking a Sunday off, despite all of the energy of our church program year revving up to full speed. The Maine Marathon is, for many people, the culmination of time of preparation, training, and commitment. For us, it is a lovely community event that prevents us from getting to the driveway, and so we are “forced” to rest this first Sunday.

Yet I have come to give thanks for this annual tradition. In it, I find the reminder that before one starts “the race”, it is good—and in fact necessary—to stop, to breathe, to gather in our resources and our energy, to be a body at rest before being in faithful and directed motion... that reminder is a good and holy thing, no matter which accident of the calendar brings it to us.

Often, when I am worshipping with folks in a time of major life transitions: yes, a baptism, wedding, funeral or memorial service, but also other moments of profound change... I find it bears repeating, quietly, sometime in the service: Take a breath. When you reach the top of the aisle, before dipping your hand in the water, before we strive to bring to words our memories and loss.... Take a breath. God has prepared this moment for you like the vigil kept before Easter Sunday’s first light. God—and all those gathered—are willing to allow for it to be expansive, welcoming, transformative. A lot of life can flow in the small space of a breath, and it can empower a more engaged and abundant beginning together.

The energy of our congregation is palpable as I walk together with you and with our ministries these days. There are new ways of learning together: with children, with our teenagers, and with adults. We are returning to the fullness of our expressions of worship, including weekly evening prayer and Family Church. We are gathering with and welcoming new members in our congregation, and preparing to welcome into the life of the church children through baptism—including Grace—on October 30th. (And if you are considering baptism or membership for you or your family, I would invite you to be in touch with me so that you might join in the celebrations!)

Still. Take a breath. Call it the smallest Sabbath. Take a breath. What a chance to capture a moment of gratitude.

Here, in this time every year, I give thanks for the work of our Stewardship Ministry to invite us to pause, reflect on all the gifts we receive here, and then share abundantly from our lives as we gather our gifts and resources to fund next year’s work and ministries in our Annual Appeal. I hope you will all take that grateful breath, pause, and consider how you might support our common life together in your pledge this coming year.

Here—in this breath before beginning again, I find that I am moved to give thanks again for the many ways in which you all give of your lives into our congregation: yes, for the ministries you work here in our church and around our community and the world; yes, for the gifts that you share to fund and sustain all we do; yes, for the ways in which you reach out, connect, and care for one another as beloved community. But even more, for the pure gift of God that you are—even at rest; even just breathing. Your unique presence and life with us is a gift that deepens and expands our sense of how Christ is alive in us all, and calling us into the world.

Take a breath. What a gift to be alive, to be together, to rejoice in God’s spirit moving in us, even when we are at rest... and then, dear friends? We begin again.



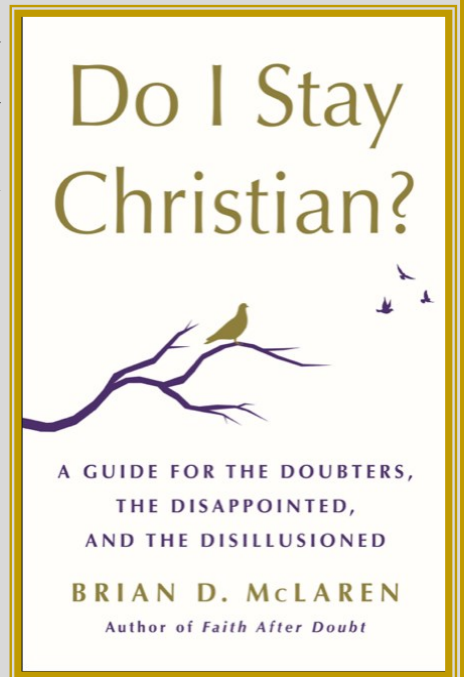
Evening Prayers return!

Join us Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. for a brief service of prayer, candlelight, quiet, and communion. All are welcome to this chance to reflect and renew in the middle of the week.

Followed by...

Adult Education Bring a brown bag for dinner and stay for discussion **beginning at 6:30 p.m.** *In October*, Pastor Geoff will be discussing the recent book by writer, pastor, and theologian Brian McLaren, *Do I Stay Christian?: A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned*.

McLaren sets out to honestly engage with real challenges, questions, and problems that have led people to say, "no," and leave the faith for personal and ethical reasons... and the inspirations and possibilities that may lead us to say, "yes," to Christian life, and how to do so with integrity, honesty, and hope. If you or others in your life sometimes struggle with the faith's painful history—and sometimes painful present—while longing for the beloved community we believe Christ offers us, this may be an important book and discussion to engage with.



Oct. 5 - Read Introduction
Oct. 12 - Read section "No"
Oct. 19 - Read section "Yes"
Oct. 26 - Read section "How"

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, [you can do so](#) here, or by contacting me [by email](#).

***Blessings of the Spirit to you,
 Pastor Geoff***

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:

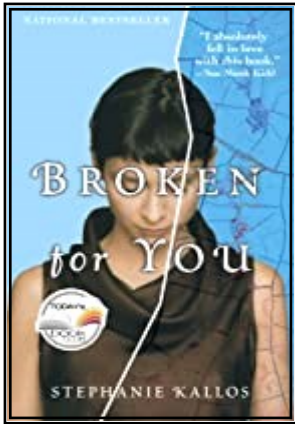
- Masks will be required for all attendees.
- We ask households to give each other good social distance.
- Windows will be opened enough to increase ventilation.
- Worship will also be live-streamed for any who cannot - or do not feel comfortable - attending by going to:

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

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

UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

The Foreside Book Club had a great turnout for this season's first discussion of The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles. We discovered that it was so much more than just a great adventure story as we analyzed all the characters and themes. The books become so much more meaningful after listening to everyone's insights. Thanks to all who participated.



We will be meeting again on Wednesday, **October 19th at 4:00 p.m.** to talk about Broken for You by Stephanie Kallos. "This is the story of two women in self-imposed exile whose lives are transformed when their paths intersect. Stephanie Kallos's debut novel is a work of infinite charm, wit and heart. It is also a glorious homage to the beauty of

broken things. When we meet septuagenarian Margaret Hughes, she is living alone in a mansion in Seattle with only a massive collection of valuable antiques for company. Enter Wanda Schultz, a young woman with a broken heart who has come west to search for her wayward boyfriend. Both women are guarding dark secrets and have spent many years building up protective armor against the outside world. As their tentative friendship evolves, the armor begins to fall away and Margaret opens her house to the younger woman. This launches a series of unanticipated events, leading Margaret to discover a way to redeem her cursed past, and Wanda to learn the true purpose of her cross-country journey." (quoted from Grove Press)

We always welcome new readers at any meeting and encourage you to become part of our dynamic group. FMI: mimihinkel@gmail.com

The Men's Breakfast...

Will be gathering on
Saturday, October 1
@ 8:30 a.m.

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

FMI John Bischof
jegbischof@gmail.com or 781-2391

Let's Gather Around the Fire Pit



Corey and John Goodrich have generously offered share their back yard fire pit on **Friday October 21 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. (Rain date is Saturday October 22nd same time, same place.)** Their address is 9 Wildwood Blvd. in Cumberland Foreside which is within a mile of the church.

[Link to Google directions from church](#)

The ground is very level so everyone should have no problem walking to their backyard. Based upon all the fun that was had last year by those of us able to attend, it will be a wonderful evening of fire pit fun and catching up with old friends. **Fellowship will bring the S'mores fixings, you just bring your favorite stick.** Please join us for what will be a fun evening for all ages.

Holiday Fair Workshops Announced

Two more Holiday Fair Workshops have been scheduled 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 kathiejoy@maine.rr.com or call at 207-272-4364 with questions and be sure to get these dates on your calendar:

Thursday, 10/27 @ 7 p.m.

Wednesday, 11/30 @ 7 p.m.

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

Stewardship Updates

(C. Ward)

In our bell choir, we have the little bitty high G bell, all the way down to the GREAT BIG lower than low G bell. By themselves they make a ding or a dong. But with all the other bells, they make the most beautiful music!



The next item on the Stewardship calendar is the pledge campaign. Your pledges are like those bells. We are so much more together than the individual parts. Fall is here, and with fall comes pledging season. FCC needs every one of you to step up and make our music together, whether your contribution is big or small.

Stewardship is also involved in putting together a memorial garden behind the apostle rocks. Do you have plans for your earthly remains? No matter what happens to your ashes or body, your name could be engraved in our memorial patch, where we could all be gathered beside each other for eternity. Who do you want your name to sit beside? It may be time to make those plans now! See Pastor Geoff to join in the planning phase.

Financially, our church is on solid ground. We meet our budget and don't have to invade our investment account for more than 4% per year. Our needs are modest, and we support good works. We are blessed!

Christmas Fair Updates

Do you believe it's almost October?!?! This year has flown by, and even though Covid has not flown by, too,

we are virtually all vaccinated and careful and can probably plan on getting together to celebrate the season at the FAIR! Of course, there will be those among us who don't want to gather, who make things at

home and send them in, or come in with masks – and we must remain flexible and remember that we offer ways for everyone to contribute, even remotely.

I think we should offer the champagne/sparkling cider preview again, Friday Dec 2nd, just for members with whom we are comfortable gathering. We should make sure that we offer rides to those among us who don't like to drive after dark, to be inclusive. The twinkly lights look so pretty after dark! Members should be allowed to buy at this event just as long as we are not "cleaned out" of any one thing. We will need an organizer for this preview event.

I am hopeful that those who facilitated/chaired the specialty tables are willing to organize their areas again, as they do such a good job coordinating and staffing the tables on the day of the fair.

You may be asking yourself "What can I do for the fair?" – If you don't have a readymade answer to this question, we can certainly help you! Baker, crafter, sewer, knitter, appreciator of beautiful things, creative assembler of baskets of donated goodies, window dresser of surfaces, lifter of boxes and tables, keeper of orderly wreath lists – There is a job for everyone, whether you have an hour to spare or want to make it your full time job for a week or two.



Do you have ideas about new twists for the fair? We need to be enough like years past to be recognizable, and enough different to feel fresh!

Pick something to work on for the fair during October, and in the November Steeplenotes, we'll be back at you with more details. My favorite season!!

*Creatively Yours –
Carol*

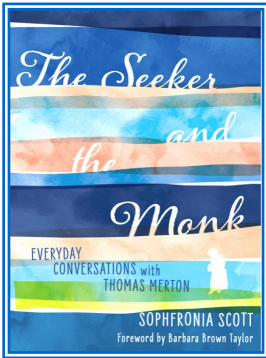


UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS (cont.)

FCC's two newest employees, Julia Tracy and Adey Wrona will be providing nursery care this year on Sunday mornings, during the service (9:15-10:45 a.m.). Parents are welcome to drop their children off. The nursery is up one flight of stairs to the left of the sanctuary. Both girls are Red Cross certified as babysitters.

The Tuesday Morning Study Group will be reading "The Seeker and the Monk" by Sophronia Scott. Scott mines the extensive private journals of one of the most influential contemplative thinkers of the past—mystic, Trappist monk, and activist Thomas Merton—for guidance on how to live in these fraught times.

As a Black woman who is not Catholic, Scott both learns from and pushes back against Merton, holding spirited, and intimate conversations on race, ambition, faith, activism, nature, prayer, friendship, and love. She asks: What is the connection between contemplation and action? Is there ever such a thing as a wrong answer to a spiritual question? How do we care about the brutality in the world while not becoming overwhelmed by it?



**Join us Tuesday mornings
at 9:00 a.m.!**

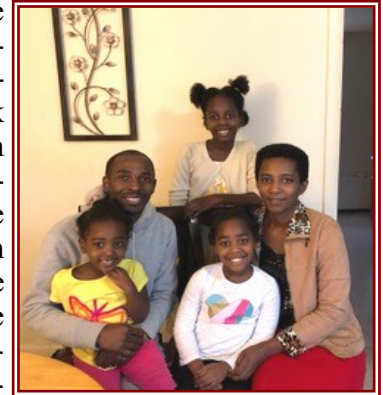
The Calendar Collection Still Going Strong!

Actively collecting 2023 calendars which will be included in the December boxes delivered to food pantry clients. A decorative, appropriately labeled bag remains on the small table outside the interior office door just waiting for your donation of any and all 2023 calendars that might come your way between now and the end of November.



October Mission Moment Announced

On October 16 the Justice & Outreach Mission Moment focus on Maine immigration will end with a talk by an immigrant from Rwanda, Marc Habimana. Marc has an impressive background in education in Rwanda where he was the Director of Education in one of the 30 Districts of Rwanda. He supervised and oversaw the education of over 100 schools in the area. Despite this prestigious professional position, Marc realized that there was no real freedom in his native country and he wanted a better life for his young family. The family immigrated to the USA in June of 2015. His background has not helped him to obtain a position in education here in Maine so to support their family Marc works at two jobs, full time at Maine Medical Center, and when needed, he works part time at Preble Street. Francine, his wife, works evenings so that they do not have to leave their three daughters alone. Just this summer the family moved into their Habitat for Humanity home in Freeport.



(pictured above) Marc Habimana with Francine Mukamana, and daughters Araella (age 6), Ariella Nicky (age 8) and Brielle (age 11).

A warm thank you to everyone in The Foreside Community Church for their energy, sharing, and generosity in participating in the "**Welcome Back**" potluck and "**Pound Auction**" held on Sunday, September 11. The food was plentiful and delicious and our enthusiastic auctioneers Carol Ward and Lisa Nash helped to raise **\$3,118.00**. This included donations from several members who were unable to attend in person but called in their bids (via a truly wireless phone connection!). Our church family has met the financial goal to cover the travel and incidental expenses of Museveni Msafiri Aimable's family to fly from Uganda to Maine. Afterwards, additional donations brought the total **collected to \$3,940.00**. Dotty Blanchette is working with the family and will provide updates as this endeavor continues.



Museveni is a regular service attendee and looks forward to introducing his family to FCC.

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

Hello

my name is

On Sunday October 30, just in time for “*New Member Sunday*,” name tags will be ready, filed alphabetically by first name and located in one of two separated index boxes on the side board in the narthex, accompanied by a basket of lanyards. At the end of service, return the lanyard to its basket, and place your name tag in the second basket. If you are unable to locate a name tag for yourself, temporary self-adhesive tags will be available with markers. Like the permanent name tags, leave your temporary one in the designated basket. A permanent one will be created and ready for you the following Sunday.

How easy is that?!?



Don't forget to check out our lending library located in the reception area across from the elevator. The books keep coming, and we also have games and puzzles for your borrowing pleasure.

October Birthday Greetings

Our Libras ~ Balance, harmony, and justice define Libra energy. As a cardinal air sign, Libra is represented by the scales (interestingly, the only inanimate object of the zodiac), an association that reflects Libra's fixation on establishing equilibrium and strives to create symmetry in all areas of life — especially when it comes to matters of the heart.

Christina Sklarz ~ 1

Beth Shaw ~ 5

Adrianne Shetenhelm ~ 7

Carrie Robert ~ 7

Dorothy Eckhardt ~ 14

Kathie McCatherin ~ 18

Dotty Blanchette ~ 21

Adey Wrona ~ 21

Our Scorpions ~ Elusive and mysterious, Scorpio is one of the most misunderstood signs of the zodiac. Scorpio is a water sign that uses emotional energy as fuel, cultivating powerful wisdom through both the physical and unseen realms. Scorpio derives its extraordinary courage from its psychic abilities, which is what makes this sign one of the most complicated, dynamic signs of the zodiac.

Margaret Perkins ~ 28

Tyler Lacombe ~ 30

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUTDOOR FALMOUTH
COMMUNITY COOKOUT

Thursday, October 6th 4:30pm - 6pm (Free)

Rain or Shine

Hosted by Falmouth

Faith Communities

Please Register Online

tinyurl.com/zwybk4rf

You Are Invited to enjoy

~Chicken/Hot Dogs/Veggie Burgers~

~Salads ~ Apple Crisp ~ S'mores~

Where: Falmouth Congregational Church's Backyard

267 Falmouth Road

Free Will Giving to the
Falmouth Food Pantry

"After two years without our beloved Community Supper, we are providing a safer alternative with an outdoor cookout! We will have an attendance limit of 300 to be mindful of everyone's health and safety, so please key in the above web address to pre register. Join us to eat, sing, and enjoy our Falmouth community. Free-will giving is available for the Falmouth Food Pantry."

Falmouth Community Church Members

October 2022

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Men's Breakfast on Saturday, October 1 starting at 8:30 a.m.						
2 - Maine Marathon - 4:00 p.m. Hybrid Worship Schedule AND <i>Blessing of the Animals</i>	3 9 a.m. Tues Study Group (See pg. for details.) 1 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitters 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. AA Meeting 7:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal	4 9 a.m. Tues Study Group (See pg. for details.) 1 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitters 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. AA Meeting 7:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal	5 6:00 p.m. Evening Prayers (See pg. 3 for details.) 6:30 p.m. Adult Education (See pg. 3 for details.)	6 9 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Outdoor Falmouth Cookout (See pg. 8 for details.)	7	8
9 9:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Schedule (See pg. 3 for details.) 4 to 6:00 p.m. Youth Group @ FCC	10	11 9 a.m. Tues Study Group (See pg. for details.) 1 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitters 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. AA Meeting 7:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal	12 6:00 p.m. Evening Prayers (See pg. 3 for details.) 6:30 p.m. Adult Education (See pg. 3 for details.)	13 9 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay	14	15
16 9:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Schedule Mission Moment (See pg. 6 for details.)	17 6 p.m. Stewardship Ministry Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. Governing Board Monthly Meeting	18 9 a.m. Tues Study Group (See pg. for details.) 1 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitters 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. AA Meeting 7:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal	19 4 p.m. FCC Book Club (See pg. 4 for details.) 6:00 p.m. Evening Prayers (See pg. 3 for details.) 6:30 p.m. Adult Education (See pg. 3 for details.)	20 9 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay	21 November Steeplenotes Deadline 7 to 9 p.m. Fire Pit @ Goodrich's (See pg. 4 for details.)	22 7 to 9 p.m. Fire Pit Rain Date
23 9:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Schedule 4 to 6:00 p.m. Youth Group @ Falmouth Congo	24 Justice & Outreach Monthly Meeting Details to follow.	25 9 a.m. Tues Study Group (See pg. for details.) 1 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitters 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. AA Meeting	26 6:00 p.m. Evening Prayers (See pg. 3 for details.) 6:30 p.m. Adult Education (See pg. 3 for details.)	27 9 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay 7 p.m. Holiday Fair Workshop (See pg. for details.)	28	29
30 9:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Welcome New Members & <i>Baptism Sunday</i>	31					

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Daily Lectionary Readings for October 2022

Sat., Oct. 1

Lamentations 3:19-26
Lamentations 1:7-15
Matthew 20:29-34

Sun., Oct. 2

Lamentations 1:1-6
Lamentations 3:19-26 or
Psalm 137
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

Mon., Oct. 3

Psalm 137
Lamentations 1:16-22
James 1:2-11

Tues., Oct. 4

Psalm 137
Lamentations 2:13-22
1 John 5:1-5, 13-21

Wed., Oct. 5

Psalm 137
Lamentations 5:1-22
Mark 11:12-14, 20-24

Thurs., Oct. 6

Psalm 66:1-12
Jeremiah 25:1-14
2 Timothy 1:13-18

Fri., Oct. 7

Psalm 66:1-12
Jeremiah 27:1-22 2
Timothy 2:1-7

Sat., Oct. 8

Psalm 66:1-12
Jeremiah 28:1-17
Luke 5:12-16

Sun., Oct. 9

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Psalm 66:1-12 2
Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

Mon., Oct. 10

Psalm 102:1-17
Jeremiah 29:8-23
Acts 26:24-29

Tues., Oct. 11

Psalm 102:1-17
Jeremiah 29:24-32
Ephesians 6:10-20

Wed., Oct. 12

Psalm 102:1-17
Jeremiah 25:15-32
Matthew 10:5-15

Thurs., Oct. 13

Psalm 119:97-104
Jeremiah 26:1-15
Acts 17:22-34

Fri., Oct. 14

Psalm 119:97-104
Jeremiah 26:16-24
2 Timothy 2:14-26

Sat., Oct. 15

Psalm 119:97-104
Jeremiah 31:15-26
Mark 10:46-52

Sun., Oct. 16

Jeremiah 31:27-34
Psalm 119:97-104
2 Timothy 3:14—4:5
Luke 18:1-8

Mon., Oct. 17

Psalm 129
Jeremiah 8:14-17; 9:2-11
Mark 12:41-44

Tues., Oct. 18

Psalm 129
Jeremiah 39:1-18
James 5:7-12

Wed., Oct. 19

Psalm 129
Jeremiah 50:1-7, 17-20
Luke 22:39-46

Thurs., Oct. 20

Psalm 65
Joel 1:1-20
2 Timothy 3:1-9

Fri., Oct. 21

Psalm 65
Joel 2:1-11
2 Timothy 3:10-15

Sat., Oct. 22

Psalm 65
Joel 2:12-22
Luke 1:46-55

Sun., Oct. 23

Joel 2:23-32
Psalm 65
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

Mon., Oct. 24

Psalm 87
Joel 3:1-8
1 Peter 4:12-19

Tues., Oct. 25

Psalm 87
Joel 3:9-16
1 Peter 5:1-11

Wed., Oct. 26

Psalm 87
Joel 3:17-20
Matthew 21:28-32

Thurs., Oct. 27

Psalm 119:137-144
Jeremiah 33:14-26
2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Fri., Oct. 28

Psalm 119:137-144
Habakkuk 1:5-17
2 Peter 1:1-11

Sat., Oct. 29

Psalm 119:137-144
Habakkuk 2:5-11
John 8:39-47

Sun., Oct. 30

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
Psalm 119:137-144
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10

Mon., Oct. 31

Psalm 142
Habakkuk 2:12-20
1 Corinthians 5:9-13



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

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