



A Newsletter of

The Foreside Community Church United Church of Christ

April 2023



~ Popham Beach, Maine ~

*Connecting
to God*

*Nurturing
Community*

*Discovering
how our Lives
Make a
Difference*

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

THE FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH, UCC
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Pastoral Notes

Dear Foreside Friends,

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. - Luke 24:13-49

There is a theme in the scripture stories we tell after Easter Dawn: Jesus is alive and with the disciples, but they keep failing to recognize him at first. We can often be followers of these disciples: the activities of our lives, good and holy work, service, and experiences we share in, our anxieties and care for the world—all these can crowd out our ability to witness Christ's resurrection life. We miss the joy of discovering Jesus with us, and miss the chance to retell ourselves into God's narrative of new life.

So I hope that you will find stillness, quiet, and space this month: in the remembrances of Holy Week, and in the celebrations of Easter and the season after. I hope you will take time to see Jesus in our midst, and in our lives, and in our world. The story of Jesus's final days, death, and resurrection offer ancient and new invitations to be in the presence of the Holy, in tenderness and sorrow and in joy beyond all telling.

Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday invite us to consider our deep need for God in the presence of Christ, and the ways in which human life can still turn us away... towards fear, injustice, and violence. On Maundy Thursday, we share in the communion meal Jesus shared with his disciples, and then in quiet and candlelight we tell the story of Jesus's last day. In the heartbreak of the tomb, we mourn and wait for the hope of Easter dawn.

This year, Good Friday invites us into that hopeful prayer for new life and resurrection—in stillness or in motion. All are invited to come and go as you feel called from 6am to 6pm, in stillness and quiet prayer in the sanctuary, or in walking a simple labyrinth downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

By Easter Sunday's first light, we greet the amazing news of resurrection at dawn (or close, 6:00am) at the Portland Yacht Club. We share in services (8:30 and 10:30am) of rejoicing in our sanctuary, and enjoy the rush of children on the hunt for easter eggs in-between at 9:30am.

This year, Easter Sunday will be filled with even more signs of new life in Christ: at the 10:30am Easter service, the young people of our Confirmation class will come to honor the promises made over them at their baptisms, joining in full membership in the church.

They have spent 7 months in collaboration with each other and their mentors, deepening their understanding of our church and its history, our scriptures, traditions, and reflecting on their own beliefs, meaningful spiritual practices, and callings. They have worked hard to prepare for this day!

Above all, we celebrate again what was true at their (and our!) baptisms: they are a gift of life to life, and their unique gifts and interests are calling them into resurrection work and life here in our congregation, and in the wider world. I hope you will join us as we welcome and give thanks for these newest members of our congregation!

Even more, I hope you will simply notice and enjoy the gifts of being part of life—ever new and transforming—here with us in this season. The *season* of Easter also mirrors what many have come to call “The Season of Creation”, so you can look forward to further gifts of our Green Team, Adult Education Ministries, and more inviting us to enjoy and reflect on the creation of which we are called to be loving participants and members.

After challenging years, it is a source of joy and inspiration of late to see the many ways this congregation continues to come to life, and to find that Christ is indeed risen, and present, and moving in the Spirit of our common life here.



SAVE THE DATE

Join us for a reading of poems by FCC friend,
Susan Deborah (Sam) King

Wednesday Evening, May 3rd
FCC Sanctuary

Sam will read poems from her various books
including her most recent,
Though It Can't Last, a conversation across nature

with the work of photographer Hal Watson



FORESIDE
COMMUNITY
CHURCH

foresidechurch.org



Maundy Thursday April 6: 7pm

Communion & Tenebrae

Good Friday April 7: 6am to 6pm

Vigil and Labyrinth Walk

Easter Sunrise April 9: 6am

Portland Yacht Club

Easter Services 8:30 & 10:30am

with Easter Egg Hunt between!

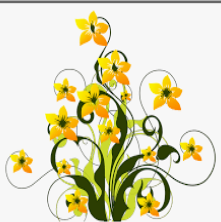
Holy Week 2023



The Rev. Joan Murray has arranged for a **labyrinth walk to be available downstairs in Fellowship Hall throughout the day on April 7.** Using a labyrinth involves moving one's body and opening one's heart to Jesus. All you have to do is follow the path and you will find the center. Unlike a maze the labyrinth has no tricks. **However, to assist newcomers, a one page instructional will be available in the narthex and the hall.**

If you would like to place a plant or floral arrangement (please consider plants such as tulips or other greens that do not have "strong" floral scents) in our sanctuary in memory and/or celebration of those special to you, you may bring your donation *and place on the stage downstairs* between **9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday of Holy Week.** Please plan to retrieve your arrangement after the **10:30 a.m. Easter service, or by the following week.** If you would like to have a dedication published in the Easter Sunday bulletins

please fill out the form located at this link, or pick up a copy in the narthex and return to the office **no later than Wednesday, April 5.**



Worship in the sanctuary...

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

- **Masks are currently being requested (a supply of which can be located in the narthex).**
- 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/>

GREEN TEAM UPDATES, CELEBRATIONS, AND TIMELY INFO

Author Discusses Spiritual Optimism Needed To Advocate for the Environment

“Advocacy for the environment grows out of our earth stories, the power of our hearts, our deepest truths, our spiritual lives and desire to make life affirming choices,” author and educator Susan B. Inches told a gathering at FCC on February 15.

Sharing insights from her book Advocating for the Environment, Sue spoke about the spiritual optimism needed to confront and reverse climate change and the world’s often overwhelming environmental crises, many of which, she said, come from the misuse of power and ignorance.

“No political or corporate leaders will act without the support of citizens,” she added. “Citizen advocacy restores the balance of power needed in our world.”

The author cited these hopeful trends:

14 states, including Maine, now ban PFAS, the highly toxic “forever chemicals” from fluorinated substances used in numerous products such as cookware and clothing.

Despite the agenda of the well-funded American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and other lobby groups pushing to overturn long-standing clean air and water laws and other environmental protections, Maine’s **Environmental Priorities Coalition (EPC)** is “an effective voice in our state.”

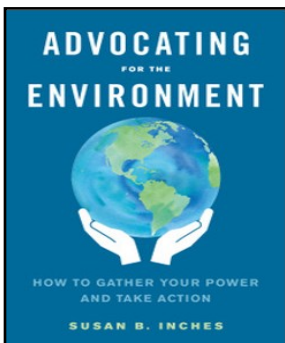
The coalition is a partnership of 37 environmental, conservation and public health organizations — representing more than 120,000 members — working together to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides.

One especially active citizen advocacy group in the coalition is Maine Youth Climate Justice; the Maine Council of Churches is another coalition member.

Falmouth’s town government employs a “Sustainability Coordinator” and will soon vote on its Climate Action Plan.

For more information about the Environmental Priorities Coalition, visit the coalition’s website at

<https://protectmaine.org/epc>.



To learn more about Sue’s work and order a copy of her book, visit her website at <https://sueinches.com/>



February’s Green Team guest speaker Sue Inches (pictured right) works as an author, consultant, teacher and advocate with a focus on the environment and climate change. She also provides strategic planning, advising and communications services to clients.

Postponed Pollinator Gardening Program Slated for Wednesday, April 26

Join us on Wednesday, April 26 at 6:30 p.m. immediately following Evening Prayers service to hear **Andrew Tufts, “Bringing Nature Home.”** Andrew is an educator with the Maine Audubon and he will present a program on how to create a garden or yard that attracts birds, bats and insects essential for carrying pollen and helping fertilize plants.

Andrew will also discuss the importance of cultivating native, indigenous plants critical as food and habitat for insects, which, in turn, become food for birds, bats, shrews, foxes, raccoons, turtles and other wildlife.

Nearly 90% of flowering plants use a range of animals to achieve pollination. Food production depends upon this natural partnership. However, human-induced environmental changes in recent decades have markedly reduced the diversity, density and distribution of pollinators and non-pollinating insects around the world.

This presentation will conclude the Green Team’s “*Four Ways to Love the Earth*” series.



GREEN TEAM UPDATES, CELEBRATIONS, AND TIMELY INFO cont.

Who Speaks for the Trees?

Besides enjoying nature and leading nature walks for others, I also have a habit of going to Augusta once a year and talking with my legislators about pending environmental legislation. I do this as part of a coalition of 37 Maine environmental organizations called the Environmental Priorities Coalition. They agree on seven priorities every year. For example, one priority this year is protecting habitat for endangered species, based on research by Maine Audubon. The coalition provides a briefing, free food, and tips on approaching legislators, which we do the same day.

This year we are going to Augusta on May 4 from 8:30 to noon. If you would like to join us, let me know. Other members of the Green Team are also coming, so we can carpool, and parking is easy.

**For more info, see State House Action Day
on the website of NRCM
(Natural Resources Coalition of Maine)
<https://www.nrcm.org/>**

Susan Gilpin

susanogilpin@gmail.com and the **Green Team**

ECOMAINE TO CELEBRATE EARTH DAY 2023 WITH ECOFEST

ECOMaine will host ecofest, a celebration of sustainability on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at North Yarmouth's Wescustogo Hall and Community Center, a solar-powered facility.

The event is designed as a community-oriented event with paper making and other activities, giveaways, food, music, and exhibitor and vendor tables with information and resources to help live more sustainably through waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting and other home life.

Joining ECOMaine, the state's leader in single-sort recycling and sustainable waste management, are Goodwill of Northern New England, GoGo Refill, Ruth's Reusables, Habitat for Humanity's ReStore, Green & Healthy Homes Maine, PaintCare, WormMaine, Garbage to Garden, AgriCycle, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Standard Biofuels, Dental Lace, and more.

**More information is available at
www.ecomaine.org/ecofest**

Citizen Power Helped Launch First Earth Day, 'Golden Age' of Environmental Legislation

The very first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970, bringing together 20 million Americans — almost 10% of the U.S. population at the time — for events across the country that day.

During the following decade, what is known as the "golden age" of environmental legislation, 28 major laws were enacted with support from prominent Republicans and Democrats in Congress, most signed by President Richard Nixon, a Republican. Among other protections, these laws were foundational in setting standards for clean water and air, banning the pesticide DDT and other toxic substances and protecting endangered species.

**For information about this year's
worldwide Earth Day events
and to access the toolkit link posted below:
www.earthday.org/earth-day-2023**



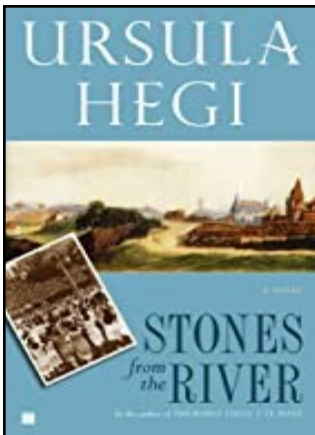
UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

FCC Book Club Updates

Many thanks to those who attended our discussion of State of Wonder in March. It was a very stimulating and thought-provoking conversation on so many levels. I love hearing all your insights. Remember that we are always open and welcoming to anyone who wants to join us for any discussion. FMI: mimihinkel@gmail.com

Our next book will be Stones from the River by Ursula Hegi. We made the decision to go back to meeting in person then, since with daylight savings in effect, that will allow everyone time to get home before dark. **So mark your calendar for April 19 at 4:00 p.m. in the upstairs classroom** for that discussion. It is a fairly long story so you may want to get started soon. It won't be hard to get a copy at a library. Then, hopefully by May, we should all be able to get a copy of Mad Honey to discuss on May 17. This is a summary of Stones from the River:

Stones from the River is a daring, dramatic and complex novel of life in Germany. It is set in Burgdorf, a small fictional German town, between 1915 and 1951. The protagonist is Trudi Montag, a Zwerg — the German word for dwarf woman. As a dwarf she is set apart, the outsider whose physical "otherness" has a corollary in her refusal to be a part of Burgdorf's silent complicity during and after World War II. Trudi establishes her status and power, not through beauty, marriage, or motherhood, but rather as the town's librarian and relentless collector of stories. Through Trudi's unblinking eyes, we witness the growing impact of Nazism on the ordinary townsfolk of Burgdorf as they are thrust on to a larger moral stage and forced to make choices that will forever mark their lives. *Stones from the River* is a story of secrets, parceled out masterfully by Trudi — and by Ursula Hegi — as they reveal the truth about living through unspeakable times."



Mimi



Our adult education class, Exploring the Bible: Introducing the New Testament will begin on **Sunday, April 16th** after church. We will be meeting weekly for six weeks from **11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the large upstairs classroom.**

We have an enthusiastic group of ten students already, but it's not too late to sign up! This class is designed for those who might know something about the New Testament but have gaps in their knowledge, as well as for those who want to build a stronger foundation for Bible study. We will be using the student text available from Amazon as well as our Bibles. Please contact Deb Gray at deborah.gray48@gmail.com if you're interested in joining, or would like more information.



Spring is in the air and that means that it's time for the Habitat for Humanity Fundraising Walk!

On Saturday, April 29th, Cumberland, Yarmouth, North Yarmouth and Falmouth will be hosting a Habitat for Humanity walk at Twin Brooks in Cumberland from 9 AM till 12 Noon. It will be a 5K Walk/Run Family Fun and Pet Friendly Fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity Greater Portland. We will be walking a 5K marked path at Twin Brooks but you can determine the distance you want to go. This is not a contest!

It is the 37th year of the walk and all are welcome to join us in an effort to raise funds to build homes for families. Please see the link below if you are interested in walking, running, and/or donating to a great cause. BTW Pastor Geoff will be walking again this year and could use your pledge support! <https://habitatportlandme.org/springwalk/>. Our own Claudia Kinnear is fundraising once again for Habitat for Humanity. She can be reached at 207-781-2477. If you have any questions about the walk, please contact Resa Jones (resabird@gmail.com - 207-329-3399).

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

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/>

[The Men's Breakfast...](#)

Will be gathering on

Saturday, April 1, 2023 @ 8:30 a.m.

at the church

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

FMI John Bischof

jegbischof@gmail.com or 781-2391

[April Birthday Greetings](#)

Aries ~ The first sign of the zodiac, and loves to be number one. This dynamic fire sign is no stranger to competition. Bold and ambitious, Aries dives headfirst into even the most challenging situations.

Bob Murray ~ 11

Claudia Kinnear ~ 11

Taurus ~ An earth sign represented by the bull, Taureans aren't afraid to roll up their sleeves and work hard to earn big rewards. They're ambitious, focused, and resilient and they feel most secure when steadily putting money into a savings account.

Gail Shand ~ 20

Mary Schendel ~ 28

Abigail Lacombe ~ 30

The May Steeplenotes

deadline is Friday

April 21, 2023

Let's do (a continental)

Breakfast Ladies!

Women of the church, members and friends
are invited to breakfast on

Thursday, April 20 @ 8:30 a.m.

in the FCC coffee area,

we'll provide the food,

you bring your appetite.

~ good food, good conversation ~

it's a great way to start your day!

Please RSVP to deborah.gray48@gmail.com

or 952-4041 by Monday,

so we can plan accordingly.

See you there!



FALMOUTH
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH UCC



Registration

EASTER EGG HUNT



Saturday, April 8th
11am – 1pm (Rain or Shine)



~Free Outdoor Event~
Bring Your Own Basket
Enjoy Entertainment,
Concessions, Bunnies
and more!

ALL ARE WELCOME
267 FALMOUTH ROAD

PLEASE REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.FALMOUTHCONGREGATIONALCHURCH.ORG

**AND
BEFORE
YOU
GO...**



Throughout its rich history, the people of **State Street Church** embraced and challenged the social assumptions of their times. Beginning in 1852, *"The way of faith is the way into life"* at State Street.
www.statestreetchurch.org

On March 16th, I spent 2 ½ hours at the newly opened **Family Shelter at State Street Church UCC, in Portland**. I was there to be part of a welcoming group for three families who were there to spend the night. They are just a few of the new Mainers who have fled their country due to violence, famine, and poverty etc. Most of them walked for months prior to arriving on American soil. I used a translation application to communicate with them, since I don't speak Portuguese. I spent time playing with a couple of children, while their parents spent time chatting with a new arrival, helping to make her feel more at ease.

The shelter will be open every night through April, and needs volunteers to staff it in the evening and overnight. What will happen to these families starting in May is up in the air. The two shifts are from 6pm-8:30pm, and 8:30pm-7:30am. (There are cots for you to sleep on, but you will need to bring a sleeping bag.)

The families are very self sufficient, getting their own food as needed, and picking up after themselves. (Even the teenagers!)

To sign up, [visit this link](#).

This is an easy way to put our faith into action, and one of the key "actions" that people identified at our retreat in February. To find ways to welcome and support our new neighbors.

Carrie Penrose



State Street Church (UCC) is developing an overnight warming shelter and is partnering with local churches to staff the site. Their short-term plan is to allow nighttime shelter to one or two families. They are working with the Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition (MIRC) and serving as an overflow shelter as immigrants continue to arrive in the Portland area.



www.foresidechurch.org for any updates or changes.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 30 9:30 hybrid service (See pg. 3 for details.) 11:00 a.m. Exploring the Bible-lrg classroom (See pg. 6 for details.)						1 8:30 a.m. Men's Monthly Breakfast (See pg. 8 for details.)
2 9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday & hybrid service (See pg. 3 for details.)	3	4 9 a.m. Tues Study Group 12 p.m. 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	6 9:00 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay - sanctuary 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service	6:00 a.m. ~ 6:00 p.m. Good Friday Vigil Sanctuary Labyrinth Walk Fellowship Hall	8 Confirmand Dinner by invitation
9 Easter Services 6:00, 8:30, & 10:30 a.m. (See pg. 3 for details.) Confirmation @ 10:30 a.m.	10 Church holiday, office will closed.	11 12 p.m. Prayer Shawl Kntrrs 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. AA Meeting 7:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal	12	13	14	15
16 9:30 hybrid service The Rev. Jim Gertmenian 11:00 a.m. Exploring the Bible-lrg classroom (See pg. 6 for details.)	17 6:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry Mnthly Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Governing Brd. Mnthly Mtg.	18 9 a.m. Tues Study Group 12 p.m. Prayer Shawl Kntrrs 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. AA Meeting 7:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal	19 4:00 p.m. FCC Book Club large classroom (See pg. 6 for details.)	20 9:00 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay - sanctuary 8:30 a.m. Women's Monthly Breakfast (See pg. 8 for details.)	21 Deadline for May Steeplenotes material submittal	22 1:00 p.m. Jan Schrock Memorial
23 9:30 hybrid service (See pg. 3 for details.) 11:00 a.m. Exploring the Bible-lrg classroom (See pg. 6 for details.)	24	25 9 a.m. Tues Study Group 12 p.m. Prayer Shawl Kntrrs 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. AA Meeting 7:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal	26 6:30 p.m. Green Team Presentation (See pg. 4 for details.)	27 9:00 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay - sanctuary	28	29 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Habitat Spring Walk (See pg. 6 for details.)

Daily Lectionary Readings for April 2023

Sat., Apr. 1

Psalm 31:9-16
Lamentations 3:55-66
Mark 10:32-34

Sun., Apr. 2

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Matthew 21:1-11
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14—27:66
or Matthew 27:11-54

Holy Week**Mon., Apr. 3**

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15
John 12:1-11

Tues., Apr. 4

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 71:1-14
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 12:20-36

Wed., Apr. 5

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 70
Hebrews 12:1-3
John 13:21-32

Thurs., Apr. 6**Maundy Thursday**

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Fri., Apr. 7**Good Friday**

Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25 or
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1—19:42 Sat.,

Apr. 8**Holy Saturday**

Job 14:1-14 or
Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16
1 Peter 4:1-8
Matthew 27:57-66 or
John 19:38-42

Sun., Apr. 9**Easter**

Acts 10:34-43 or
Jeremiah 31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4 or
Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or
Matthew 28:1-10

Mon., Apr. 10

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21
Colossians 3:5-11

Tues., Apr. 11

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Exodus 15:1-18
Colossians 3:12-17

Wed., Apr. 12

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Joshua 3:1-17
Matthew 28:1-10

Thurs., Apr. 13

Psalm 16
Song of Solomon 2:8-15
Colossians 4:2-5

Fri., Apr. 14

Psalm 16
Song of Solomon 5:9—6:3
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Sat., Apr. 15

Psalm 16
Song of Solomon 8:6-7
John 20:11-20

Sun., Apr. 16

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

Mon., Apr. 17

Psalm 114
Judges 6:36-40
1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Tues., Apr. 18

Psalm 114
Jonah 1:1-17
1 Corinthians 15:19-28

Wed., Apr. 19

Psalm 114
Jonah 2:1-10
Matthew 12:38-42

Thurs., Apr. 20

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Isaiah 25:1-5
1 Peter 1:8b-12

Fri., Apr. 21

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Isaiah 26:1-4
1 Peter 1:13-16

Sat., Apr. 22

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Isaiah 25:6-9
Luke 14:12-14

Sun., Apr. 23

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

Mon., Apr. 24

Psalm 134
Genesis 18:1-14
1 Peter 1:23-25

Tues., Apr. 25

Psalm 134
Proverbs 8:32—9:6
1 Peter 2:1-3

Wed., Apr. 26

Psalm 134
Exodus 24:1-11
John 21:1-14

Thurs., Apr. 27

Psalm 23
Exodus 2:15b-25
1 Peter 2:9-12

Fri., Apr. 28

Psalm 23
Exodus 3:16-22; 4:18-20
1 Peter 2:13-17

Sat., Apr. 29

Psalm 23
Ezekiel 34:1-16
Luke 15:1-7

Sun., Apr. 30

Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10



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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