



STEEPLENOTES

A Newsletter of

The Foreside Community Church United Church of Christ

Connecting to God ~ Nurturing Community ~ Discovering how our Lives Make a Difference

July/August 2023



What kind of school do you go to
if you're an ice cream man?
Sundae school.



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

Pastor: The Reverend Geoff Parker
Choir Director: Trevor Lavenbein
Organist/Accompanist: David Bartoletti
Office Manager: Christina Sklarz

Office: 207-781-5880

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

PASTORAL NOTES

with July's "Prayers on the Patio" schedule, and
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Rest and Renew - Summer 2023

One of the most distinguished words in the Bible is the word 'qadosh', holy; a word which more than any other is representative of the mystery and majesty of the divine. Now what was the first holy object in the history of the world? Was it a mountain? Was it an altar?... How extremely significant is the fact that it is applied to time: 'And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy.' - Abraham Joshua Heschel, The Sabbath

Dear Foreside Friends,

Indeed, time is holy, and precious. Our church life has seasons and patterns of how we honor and move through this holy gift. Some time we hallow with candlelight by night, some we greet with the dawn with singing and loud alleluias; some is marked by the many and magnificent ministries and activities of this congregation, and some... some time we slow ourselves to notice, give thanks for, and bless in quiet, in wonder... and even in joy and ease.

Jesus spoke some of the holiness of time—and maybe reminded us to give ourselves a break on meal preparation—when confronted after picking grain and eating it with his disciples on the sabbath. “The Sabbath was made for humankind, not humankind for the Sabbath,” he said... the observance of this time was to be a blessing to the creation, not a labor of obligation to the divine in and of itself.

So, in case you needed reminding: in the physics of God, you are beloved just as you are, as a body at rest. It is a holy use of time to be still and give thanks for the abundance of God's love and creation. Observe this time in relationship and community, trusting that together we carry one another... as one rests, another takes up loving care, trusting God to be present and generous through us in the dance and weave of belonging. Bear witness to this holy rest in the world: be sure our neighbors, coworkers or employees, family, children, and friends know that we wish this same time and blessing for them.

In the weeks to come, I hope that you'll enjoy the blessing of this summer's gentler pace in your own life, and here on the Foreside. I know that we are all residents of this particular State of Maine in which we often have more

houseguests than rooms in the summer months... but! Be sure to invite yourself—and those with you—into the reminders above: beloved for your very being, not solely all your doings.

Gather and worship in community, rejoicing in the wonder of creation and our place in it. Come to our second annual **“Prayers on the Patio”** series each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

July 2nd - John Bischof

July 9th - Kathie McCatherin

July 16th - The Green Team

July 23rd - The Rev. Joan Murray and a Labyrinth!

Gather for fun with friends and neighbors, and maybe bring some of those house guests to our second annual **“Mock-tails on the Patio”** gatherings, **July 20th and August 17th at 5:30 p.m.**

I will be away from church during these weeks, taking my own time to rest and renew, to share in the gifts of Maine in the summer with some friends and family, and to revel in this special and fast-changing time of our family life together with Grace.

During my vacation, should any pastoral emergencies or needs for care arise, please contact The Rev. Joan Murray at 781-540-4503. Joan will respond and will be coordinating care while I am away. I will return to work on Monday, July 24th.

I wish you many blessings in this season: blessings of rest, of holy and sacred time, of joy with beloved companions, blessings of wonder at the gifts of this life and creation in which we live...

And the blessing of God's peace...



¹ Mark 2:27, but I like its companion in Matthew 12:1-12. Out there in the fields eating and resting with friends, Jesus says, “...something greater than the temple is here.”

UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

FCC's Sunday June 11 service included a graduation ceremony saluting those students in the congregation who are moving up in either their academic or spiritual pursuits. Also celebrated were the volunteer teachers (pictured below) who have supported the church's youth programs throughout the year, as well as FCC's employed nursery care providers Adey Wrona and Julia Tracy. All were extended gift certificates in appreciation. The day concluded with a well attended ice cream sundae social (see front page) hosted by Fellowship Ministry co-chair Liz Ventre and Fellowship member Lynn Thomas-Harrison, by recent high school graduates and youth members Caroline Tracy and Rhys Harrison, and Wendi Tracy. Also acknowledged for his high school graduation was FCC's Nico Mpemba. Lucas Rodas was recognized for his progression through the church's Sunday School program and was awarded a student Bible by Pastor Geoff.

(Picture left top row , l to r - CE Ministry Chairwoman Wendi Tracy, volunteer teachers consisting of Music Committee Chair Deb Reifsnnyder, recently hired Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator Tori Johnson, Governing Board member Jill Fox, and Justice & Outreach ministry member Lisa Nash. Not pictured Lynn Thomas-Harrison and Liz Ventre.)

(Picture right - The Rev. Geoff Parker, FCC pastor blesses the graduates.)



Summer is here and FCC's nursery and Sunday School providers are taking time off until the first of September. Let's thank them again for their caring services and make note that these two youth activities will not be available until the fall.



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 (minus "Prayers on the Patio" can be viewed and/or heard on FCC's website at:

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

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

Join us for Summer

Mocktails on the

Patio

Summer is a time we all go our separate ways. In order to stay connected in community, Fellowship invites everyone to stop by the church for a refreshing mocktail, a few light snacks and some friendly conversation.

When:

Thursdays July 20 and August 17

Time: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Where:

Church side patio

To keep set up and clean up to a minimum, please bring your own glass and, if able, a camp chair (if you'd like one). There will be a few chairs for those who cannot lug one.

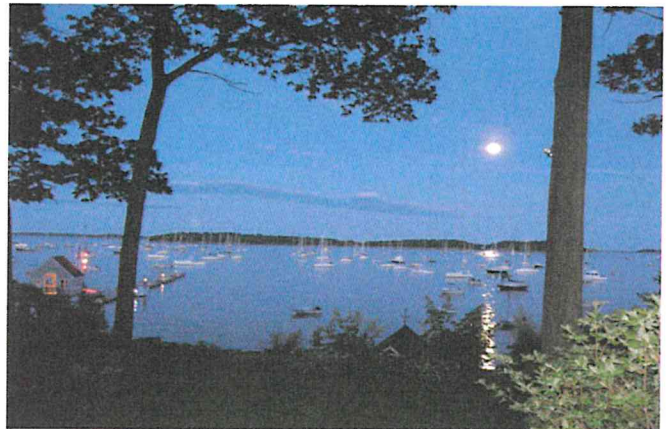
Rain cancels!

Questions? Call or email Debra Coyman
(dlcoyman@me.com or 207-781-0998)

All past and present members of the F.C.C. Stewardship ministry, memorial garden and Christmas fair ministers, their spouses or significant others and special FCC friends are hereby invited to a

Full Moon Potluck Dinner

**Monday July 31, 6:30 p.m....
till whenever...**



*come for a quick "adult beverage"
or stay all evening...*

Open grill –

Bring something to grill for yourself,
and a side dish to share.

And enjoy the full moon rising
over the water at 9:03 p.m.!

Carol Ward (*husband will be fishing!*)

35 Old Powerhouse Road, Falmouth
(to the right of Portland Yacht Club)

Our driveway will accommodate 5 cars – over-
flow parking at upper margin of PYC lot –

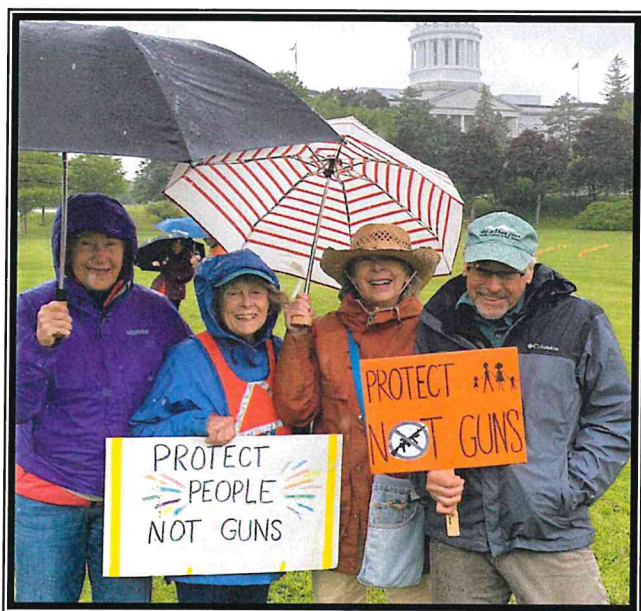
Mondays are not race days!

mocktails

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

Gun Safety Proponents Don Orange in Support

FCC members Judy Coburn, Lois Myers, John Goodrich, and Deb Reifsnyder braved a soaking rain to end gun violence at a rally in Augusta on Saturday, June 3rd. This was part of the National Gun Violence Awareness weekend and co-sponsored by the Maine Gun Safety Coalition and Moms Demand Action organization. Dozens of supporters of increased gun safety measures in Maine, including clergy, prosecutors, lawmakers, physicians and teachers attended. Speakers at the demonstration said 120 Americans die per day as a result of gun violence.



(pictured l to r) - Judy, Lois, Deb, and John provide community passion during the "End Gun Violence" rally at the Augusta state capital earlier this month.



A Green Team Announcement

Falmouth Climate Talk Series: Garbage to Garden

*Tuesday, June 27, 3:30-4:30pm in the Russell Room
at Falmouth Memorial Library
5 Lunt Road, Falmouth*

Please join the Town of Falmouth and the Falmouth Memorial Library in welcoming Annika Schmidt from [Garbage to Garden](#), who will discuss all things compost, including a look at the process of community scale composting as it differs from home composting, the numerous environmental benefits of composting to the environment (air, water, and soil quality), as well as the important role of composting in soil health & growing nutritious food by closing the Farm-to-Table-to-Farm nutrient loop in our local food system. They will discuss how the curbside composting service first started and how it has changed as they enter their 11th year, with increasing awareness of the positive impact of diverting food waste from the waste stream. A Q&A session will follow the presentation. For more information, email: reference@falmouthmemoriallibrary.org

The Foreside Community Church, UCC has been an active client of the Garbage to Garden program since September 2016. Supporting two buckets a week which are never at capacity, members and friends are encouraged to use this service by bringing in appropriate household scraps. Pick up is every Wednesday by 10:00 a.m.



Worship in the sanctuary...

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

- Mask wearing is voluntary (a supply 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 continues to also be live-streamed for attending convenience by going to:

[https://www.youtube.com/
ForesideCommunityChurch](https://www.youtube.com/ForesideCommunityChurch)

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

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

Summer Stewardship 2023

Memorial Garden – Expect to see dirt moving, drainage repair, and major stone placement this summer! Rodney Coleman with his big machines is on line to push around a lot of dirt, move rhododendrons (hope they make it!) and contour the site during July. The big rocks should come in thereafter, followed by the patio itself. Unclear when the pieces of fence should be set, but the final step will probably be the bushes, decorative trees (dogwoods?), and finally ferns and bulbs. We hope to have the memorial garden up and running this fall, with a formal dedication next Easter.

Summer cleanup – yet to be scheduled. Weeding, clipping, raking, pulling out metal fenceposts! It's always something! If you wish to be on the email list for outside work in the gardens and grounds, contact Carol Ward via email at cwardmd2@gmail.com. The hearty "Ministry of Outside Space" would be glad to have you!!

*Have you seen the church's mountain laurels
this summer? Spectacular!*



Let's do (a continental)

Breakfast Ladies!

Women of the church, members and friends
are invited to breakfast on
Wednesday, September 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 9/18/23,

so we can plan accordingly.

See you there!

The Men's Breakfast...

Will be gathering on

Saturday, September 9 @ 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

The September edition of
Steeplenotes material submittal
deadline is
Tuesday, August 22, 2023

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

July Birthday Greetings

Cancer ~ Represented by the crab, Cancer seamlessly weaves between the sea and shore representing Cancer's ability to exist in both emotional and material realms. Cancers are highly intuitive and their psychic abilities manifest in tangible spaces.

Lisette Rodas - 8

Terry Skillin - 9

Olivia Knudsen - 15

Catherine Hannon - 22

August Birthday Greetings

Leo ~ Roll out the red carpet because Leo has arrived. Passionate, loyal, and infamously dramatic, Leo is represented by the lion and these spirited fire signs are the kings and queens of the celestial jungle. They're delighted to embrace their royal status: Vivacious, theatrical, and fiery, Leos love to bask in the spotlight and celebrate.

Emily Demetriou - 11

Virgo ~ 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.

Ebbe Curtis - 24

Paul Dodson - 25

Deb Reifsnyder - 26

Jill Fox - 28

The Birthday Corner ~

One of the many ways that Covid-19 has impacted our lives, and believe it still does, is to severely limit birthday celebrations. However, we can each do our part to make someone's birthday a little brighter by sending birthday wishes via a phone call, a text, an e-mail, or a card. **(Please contact the office for a copy of the current Members and Friends Directory.)** Who doesn't love to find something other than junk mail and bills in their (snail) mailbox? To that end, please consider giving some joy to one of church members and friends who are celebrating a big day in July or August!



THE BTS
CENTER

Spiritual Leadership for a Climate-Changed World

RECEIVED JUN 07 2023

June 5, 2023

Christina Sklarz-Libby
Foreside Community Church
340 Foreside Road
Falmouth, ME 04105

Dear Christina and friends at Foreside Community Church,

On behalf of The BTS Center, I want to thank you for your generous gift of \$100 in honor of Debra L. Coyman. Your support means so much to us and to all who are part of our growing circle of friends.

With roots dating back to 1814, The BTS Center is a private foundation in Portland, Maine, building on the legacy of the former Bangor Theological Seminary. Although no longer a degree-awarding institution, today the BTS Center seeks to catalyze *spiritual imagination, with enduring wisdom, for transformative faith leadership* by offering theologically grounded programs of continuing education and vocational formation, all oriented around our programmatic focus: *Spiritual leadership for a climate-changed world.*

Inspired by the vision of *human hearts renewed, justice established, and creation restored*, we are paying particular attention to deep and important questions about global climate crisis and the ways in which that must inform and transform spiritual practice and faith leadership — and of course, how climate devastation also intersects with other issues of social justice, spirituality, and the practice of faith. As we undertake this work, we are so grateful to be connected with imaginative leaders, spiritual teachers, faith-rooted activists, academics, authors, poets, artists, music makers, and dreamers. This work to which we are called requires all of us.

Over the past several years, we have been convening important online conversations; gathering people together for retreats and workshops; offering courses, book studies, and cohorts like our recent Small Church Leadership Community; and always taking a posture of rigorous and reverent curiosity: asking big questions, listening intently, collecting stories, and exploring trends in spiritual leadership. Our programs are engaging hundreds and hundreds of people representing many different Christian denominations, plus members of Jewish, Buddhist, Bahá'í, Unitarian Universalist, Quaker, interfaith, and secular traditions, and a wide range of ages. Our community extends to nearly every state in the country, plus Washington DC and several Canadian provinces, together rooted in faith, in our commitment to the common good, in justice and equity, and in hope.

With God's help, your gift blesses us with the resources and the encouragement to equip and support faith leaders who seek to discern and embody a radically reoriented vision of what it means to be God's people in the world. We are deeply grateful for your support, your encouragement, and your companionship on this journey.

Blessings,


Rev. Dr. Allen Ewing-Merrill
Executive Director

No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution,
which is tax deductible according to the provisions of the law.

97 India Street • Portland, Maine 04101 • 207.774.5212

thebtscenter.org

*Dear friends -
We are so grateful
for this gift in honor
of Debra, recipient of the
Bob Fuller Appreciation
Award. Debra is such a
gift to the BTS Center,
as I'm sure she is to
Foreside Community
Church, and to
the world!*

Dear friends -

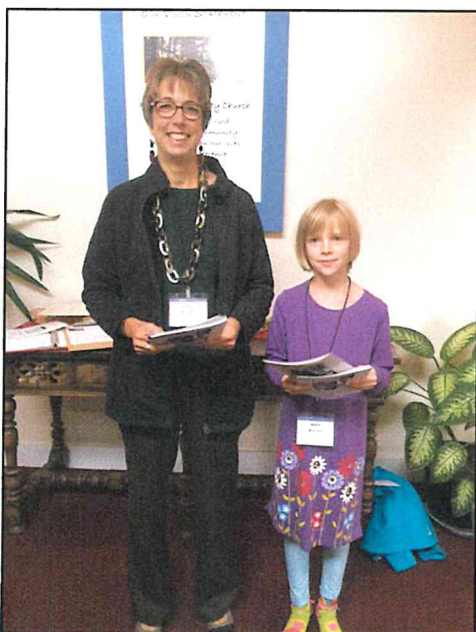
We are so grateful for this gift in honor of Debra, recipient of the Bob Fuller Appreciation Award. Debra is such a gift to the BTS Center, as I'm sure she is to Foreside Community Church, and to the world!

Blessings,

Rev Dr. Allen Ewing-Merrill
Executive Director


From the Archives

**AND
BEFORE
YOU
GO...**



July 2023

Be sure to check the calendar at The Foreside Community Church's website www.foresidechurch.org for any updates or changes.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 9:30 a.m. Prayers on the Patio w/ John Bischof	3		5	6 9 a.m. Preschool Spanish Class (lrg classroom)	7	8
9 9:30 a.m. Prayers on the Patio w/ Kathie McCatherin	10	11 9 a.m. Preschool Spanish Class (lrg classroom)	12	13	14	15
16 9:30 a.m. Prayers on the Patio w/ The Green Team	17	18	19	20 5:30 p.m. Mocktails (fmi pg. 5)	21	22
Church office closed. Emergency contact: Rev. Joan Murray (781-540-4503)						
23 9:30 a.m. Prayers on the Patio w/ Rev Joan Murray & labyrinth	24 6:30 p.m. Potluck @ Carol's (fmi pg. 5)	25 9 a.m. Preschool Spanish Class (lrg classroom)	26	27	28	29
30 9:30 hybrid service (fmi pg. 6)	31					

August 2023

Be sure to check the calendar at The Foreside Community Church's website www.foresidechurch.org for any updates or changes.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 9:30 hybrid service (fmi pg. 6)	7	8 9 a.m. Preschool Spanish Class (lrg classroom)	9	10 9 a.m. Preschool Spanish Class (lrg classroom)	11	12
13 9:30 hybrid service (fmi pg. 6)	14	15	16	17 5:30 p.m. Mocktails (fmi pg. 5)	18	19
20 9:30 hybrid service (fmi pg. 6)	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:30 hybrid service (fmi pg. 6)	28	29	30	31		

Church office closed.

Deadline for September
Steeplenotes material
submittal into office.

Daily Lectionary Readings for July 2023

Sat., July 1

Psalm 13
 Genesis 26:23-25
 Luke 17:1-4

Sun., July 2

Genesis 22:1-14
 Psalm 13
 Romans 6:12-23
 Matthew 10:40-42

Mon., July 3

Psalm 47
 Genesis 22:15-18
 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Tues., July 4

Psalm 47
 1 Kings 18:36-39
 1 John 4:1-6

Wed., July 5

Psalm 47
 Isaiah 51:1-3
 Matthew 11:20-24

Thurs., July 6

Psalm 45:10-17
 Genesis 25:19-27
 Romans 7:1-6

Fri., July 7

Psalm 45:10-17
 Genesis 27:1-17
 Romans 7:7-20

Sat., July 8

Psalm 45:10-17
 Genesis 27:18-29
 Luke 10:21-24

Sun., July 9

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49,
 and 58-67
 Psalm 45:10-17 or
 Song of Solomon 2:8-13
 Romans 7:15-25a
 Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Mon., July 10

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
 Genesis 27:30-46
 Romans 1:18-25

Tues., July 11

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
 Genesis 29:1-14
 Romans 3:1-8

Wed., July 12

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
 Genesis 29:31-35
 John 13:1-17

Thurs., July 13

Psalm 119:105-112
 Exodus 3:1-6
 Romans 2:12-16

Fri., July 14

Psalm 119:105-112
 Deuteronomy 32:1-10
 Romans 15:14-21

Sat., July 15

Psalm 119:105-112
 Isaiah 2:1-4
 John 12:44-50

Sun., July 16

Genesis 25:19-34
 Psalm 119:105-112
 Romans 8:1-11
 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Mon., July 17

Psalm 142
 Micah 1:1-5
 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Tues., July 18

Psalm 142
 Jeremiah 49:7-11
 Ephesians 4:17—5:2

Wed., July 19

Psalm 142
 Obadiah 15-21
 Matthew 13:10-17

Thurs., July 20

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
 Isaiah 44:1-5
 Hebrews 2:1-9

Fri., July 21

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
 Ezekiel 39:21-29
 Hebrews 6:13-20

Sat., July 22

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
 Exodus 14:9-25
 Matthew 7:15-20

Sun., July 23

Genesis 28:10-19a
 Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
 Romans 8:12-25
 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Mon., July 24

Psalm 139:13-18
 Genesis 32:3-21
 Revelation 14:12-20

Tues., July 25

Psalm 139:13-18
 Genesis 33:1-17
 Galatians 4:21—5:1

Wed., July 26

Psalm 139:13-18
 Genesis 35:16-29
 Matthew 12:15-21

Thurs., July 27

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
 Genesis 29:1-8
 1 Corinthians 4:14-20

Fri., July 28

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
 Genesis 29:9-14
 Acts 7:44-53

Sat., July 29

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
 Genesis 29:31—30:24
 Matthew 12:38-42

Sun., July 30

Genesis 29:15-28
 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
 or Psalm 128
 Romans 8:26-39
 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Mon., July 31

Psalm 65:8-13
 Genesis 30:25-36
 James 3:13-18