



A Newsletter of

The Foreside Community Church United Church of Christ

September 2023

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



As August closed out, work began on the yet-to-be named church memorial garden. Detailed progress reports to follow.

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
Youth & Family Director: Tori Curtis
Office Manager: Christina Sklarz

Office: 207-781-5880

PASTORAL NOTES	2
The SECOND HALF OF THE JOURNEY Reflection Series Begins	3
WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY protocol and offsite attendance info	3
UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, & UPCOMING EVENTS	
Welcome Back Potluck Scheduled	4
Sunday School Reconvenes	4
Green Team Announces Gilsland Farm Nature Walk Event	4
FCC Book Club Reconvenes & Announces Next Book	4
Justice & Outreach Announces the start of It's Fall Agenda	5
Sneaker Collection Successful	5
2024 Calendar Collection Starts Up	5
September Birthdays Announced	6
Men's and Women's Separate Breakfast Schedules for September	6
October SteepleNotes' Deadline	6
GOOD DEEDS	
The College Guild Expresses Gratitude	7
COMMUNITY EVENTS ANNOUNCED	
October 1 Ecumenical Worship Event	8
September 24 St. Mary Schola	8
AND BEFORE YOU GO	
Some FCC Summer 2023 Highlights	9
SEPTEMBER 2023 CALENDAR-AT-A-GLANCE	10
DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023	11

Pastoral Notes

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. - Philippians 1:9-11

I used to share this piece of Paul's love letter to one of his churches with graduating high school seniors on their way off to their next adventure. I think I attached to it because it was a prayer for increasing knowledge and insight, and so many folks in that stage of life were heading off to more learning, and I didn't want to miss a chance to be on theme.

These days, it is more an ancient prayer I pray over myself, and over our congregation, and over more of us who are in later stages of life... partly because in the past I missed the source of knowledge and insight that Paul references: these things come from an *overflowing of love*. There are many days early on in life that ask us to learn new knowledge and skills from varied sources... the longer I hang around on earth, the more I find myself certain that the later stages of life are to learn from love.

Since long before the days of one-room church meetinghouses which became schools, education has been core to the mission of the church. When we approach our sacred texts, we have a Bible "Study." We call authorized clergy to be Pastor "and Teachers". We continue to host those ministries known as Sunday "Schools."

What is the *curriculum* we are to share in? Some of our Christian cousins in other denominations share in catechisms and creeds that might shape that learning and discussion, but many of those are built on bright and clear lines which may serve us well early in life, but which may seem a little more complex and gracious the more we live. Surely it is in stories of God's care and presence throughout our bibles and particularly the gospel stories, but those stories take on new and deep meanings which shift as we grow and experience more. We learn from the traditions, worship, and prayer that we share in. But even more, we learn the love we are called to live more deeply in sharing the journey of our lives together, and by sharing in God's gracious welcome and service to each other and to all.

Two ways I want to invite you into learning this fall, while sure that there will be many more for us along the way:

In **Adult Education**, we will be offering a book read and reflection group, and practical events alongside, exploring *The Second Half of the Journey*, understanding and developing a spirituality for the second half of life. We'll read along with Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward* as we make meaning of the challenges, gifts, and opportunities of overflowing love and life that we might find as individuals—and in community—as we follow God's calling and the gifts of the Holy Spirit into our later years... Where and what are we learning as we move through milestones like retirement or changing vocations, challenges of aging and health, and the transformations of relationship with family and friends along the way?

Also this fall, **Justice and Outreach** will be focusing their efforts on *Deepening Our Welcome*. In 2010, after an intentional time of learning, growth, and sharing together, our congregation affirmed our common belief that LGBTQ+ folk are created in the divine image, and are called to full life, ministry, and leadership within the church. In United Church of Christ parlance, we became *Open and Affirming*. This was an important, and active process, but there is more to be done, especially in a time in which our LGBTQ+ siblings are—in many communities, and many Christian churches—facing renewed assaults on their rights and freedoms, and on their full inclusion and belovedness within our society and the church universal. So, I hope you will join us for these Mission Moments and discussions and help us gather that knowledge and full insight of love and welcome.

What a gift it is to teach, yes, but more to learn among you, friends, as we journey together in the Spirit through this life.

Many blessings,



The Second Half of the Journey: *Spirituality in the Second Half of Life*

Join Pastor Geoff for a book read and reflection series as we explore the spiritual journey of the latter half of life alongside Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*. How do we discover and name the particular challenges, gifts, and opportunities of the spiritual journey in each phase of life? How are these different as we move from our younger days and reach for days of being wise elders? How do we become wise, for that matter? You are welcome if you are an experienced hand at this phase of life, or if you are just thinking about how you will set off on this "next leg of life's journey!"

We'll also have chances to engage with practitioners who work alongside elders as they make important practical decisions on how they live out their values from medicine, caregiver support, and legal and estate issues.

All Sunday sessions are following worship.

Sunday, September 24th - Introductions

Wednesday, October 4th - *Medical Preparations and Decisions with Dr. Mark Wrona*

Sunday, October 8th - *The Journey Out / Journey Home, The Two Halves*
Read Chapters 1-5

Wednesday, October 11th 6:30pm - *Caring Through Cognitive Decline and Loss*
with Southern Maine Agency on Aging

Sunday, October 15th - *Suffering, Home and Homesickness*
Read Chapters 6-7

Wednesday, October 18th 6:30pm - *Legal Considerations and Arrangements*
with Sarah Coburn, Esq.

Sunday October 22nd - *The Big Picture and a Second Simplicity*
Read Chapters 8-9

Sunday, October 29th - *A Bright Sadness and the Shadowlands*
Read Chapters 10-11

Sunday, November 5th - *New Directions and Falling Upward*
Read Chapters 12-13

Worship in the sanctuary...

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

- **Masks are optional (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/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

Welcome Back Potluck

Save the date 9/17/23

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 17 after church service**, we will gather in the parking lot for a potluck lunch. There will be fun activities for those young in age or young in heart. **We are planning on it being outside weather depending, if not, in downstairs!**

Fellowship is asking that attendees (last name) A-G bring a dessert, H-P bring an entree, and Q-Z bring a side dish. Of course, if you have a dish you bring every year and it would not be the same without, feel free to bring that instead. The hope is to have a nice variety. Fellowship and CE will provide the beverages.

SET-UP will take place on Saturday, September 16 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 eventrel1@maine.rr.com.

~ Sunday, September 10 ~

We are excited to welcome back families for the beginning of the **Sunday School** year on September 10th..

Sunday School Starts Back Up.

We can't wait to see you again!



Botany, Birds, and Bugs - a nature learning walk at

Maine Audubon's Gilsland Farm Sanctuary

2-3pm Sunday 9/17; rain date Sunday 9/24, 2-3pm

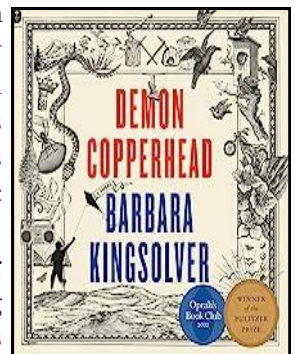
Join us for an all-ages, slow walk on the trails at Gilsland Farm to behold the plants, birds, insects, and other creatures. Members of the Green Team will lead us in learning

about some of our more-than-human kin. Jesus appreciated spending time with nature, and so do we! We will learn and give thanks for the beauty of the Earth. Bring your curiosity and sense of wonder. Optional and helpful gear: binoculars, small magnifying glass or hand lens, small notebook for taking notes/sketches. Please dress to be outside for 1 hour and practice tick prevention. Note, due to Maine Audubon rules, no pets are **allowed**.

FCC Book Club Reconvenes with Another Excellent Read!

The summer sure got off to a slow start this year with all the rain but has fortunately improved this month. I hope you all found time to relax and do some fun reading. The Foreside Book Club is scheduled to kick off a new season of book discussions on Wednesday, September 20, at 4:00 in the upstairs church classroom, when we will be talking about Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver. It has been on the best seller list for a very long time now (for good reason) but hopefully many of you have had a chance to read it by now.

"Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, this is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. In a plot that never pauses for breath, relayed in his own unsparing voice, he braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities." (quote from Goodreads)



We are a small and friendly group of readers open to anyone at any meeting who is interested in about an hour of lively and non-threatening conversation. All opinions are welcomed and encouraged for a rewarding experience. Please consider joining us this month for what is sure to be a wide-ranging discussion. FMI: mimihinkel@gmail.com

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

Welcome to Foreside Community Church:
~A congregation focused on connecting to
God, nurturing community, and
discovering how our lives make a difference~
(J. Goodspeed)



Last spring the Justice & Outreach Committee had a brainstorming session, hoping to come up with an initiative that would bring our congregation together in making a positive difference in our communities. We discussed several possibilities and, after some research, decided to focus on what we could do to mitigate the shaming and abuse of the LGBTQ community. But where would we begin? Clearly it's an enormous problem, but our next steps were not so clear.

I decided to ask Marvin Ellison, an old friend who is a minister and has been very active in the LGBTQ community, if he would meet me for coffee, and I asked him for help. First he asked me why we thought this matters, and then he suggested that we educate ourselves. Really understanding not only the issues, but even the vocabulary, will give us the tools we need to have meaningful discussions and, hopefully, come up with action items.

As we were talking, Gia Drew happened to walk by. I contacted her and we met for coffee a couple of weeks later. She is a very engaging trans woman who is the Executive Director of EqualityMaine. She will give our Mission Moment on September 17 and will stay for coffee hour afterwards. This will be, as Marvin put it, LGBTQ 101. We have tentative plans to follow this with a Mission Moment from a representative of MaineTransNet on October 22 though the specific speaker hasn't been confirmed. And then on October 25, Marvin will join us for a round table discussion at 6:30 p.m., following evening prayers.

I encourage everyone to make an effort to join us on these dates. We have such a great opportunity to learn, digest, think, and then act in a way that, we hope, will have a positive impact on our community.



A big shout out to all FCC members and friends who donated used sneakers to the collection being taken up by St. Marys. **FCC donated a total of 30 pairs....WOW!** Thanks for helping our sister church. For more info on this "Green Team" activity, go to <https://gotsneakers.com/> St. Mary's youth will be responsible for voting on where the funds received for these used shoes will be applied. Stay tuned!

The collection of 2024 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 **185!!** 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.

185 ~ that's a lot of calendars!

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

September Birthday Greetings

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.

Liz Dodson ~ 1

John Kipp ~ 6

Marilyn Reynolds ~ 6

Jean Hubbell ~ 7

Mary Davies ~ 9

Barbara Saabye ~ 15

Phyllis Hewitt ~ 16

Chuck Sanders ~ 18

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 October edition of
Steeplenotes material submittal
deadline is
Friday, September 22, 2023**

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COLLEGE GUILD

Educating Incarcerated People for Over 20 Years

* RECEIVED JUL 24 2023

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Patty Barnhart
Scottsdale, AZ

Mary G. Malia
Executive Director
Brunswick, ME

"Respect reduces
recidivism"

June 30, 2023

Foreside Community Church
340 Foreside Rd
Falmouth, ME 04105-1428

Dear Pastor Parker and Congregation of Foreside Community Church, Sunday, June 25th.

Thank you for your gift of \$200 received on 6/25/23. It is so deeply appreciated and will be used to keep our courses free for our students. It means so much to me to have your support.

It was an honor to be invited to speak to you and share a little bit about College Guild, our work and our students. I'm delighted to say that some members of the congregation have reached out to learn more about volunteering with College Guild. We can't do anything without the support and work of our 300 volunteers. They make our program and courses come to life through the interaction of the written feedback they provide to our 600 students.

Imagine how your support gives hope to incarcerated individuals, relieving some of the misery of prison, helping to keep our courses free and supporting a dream of a better life when a student is released.

With much gratitude,

Mary G. Malia
Executive Director

Check Number: 16214

"This is your receipt for tax purposes."

*Thank you all so much for
your interest & support. We've used
your generous gift to help pay for
postage. The cost just went up again!
We will spend about \$8000 on postage
this year getting courses out to our students!*

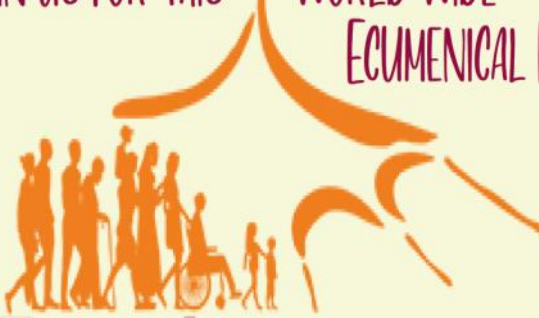
P.O. Box 998 | Brunswick, ME | 04011 | 207-729-0049 | www.collegeguild.org

From the College Guild, dated June 30, 2023 and addressed to "**Pastor Parker and Congregation of Foreside Community Church:**

Thank you all so much for your interest & support. We've used your generous gift to help pay for postage. The cost just went up again! We will spend about \$8000 on postage this year getting courses out to our students! Signed, With much gratitude, Mary G. Malia, Executive Director.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

JOIN US FOR THIS WORLD-WIDE
ECUMENICAL EVENT



Together A GATHERING
OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD


Let's journey together

- with leaders of the Christian Churches
- with the people of God in all its diversity
- with those on the margins of our societies
- with those who hear the cry of the earth
- with young adults from many countries
- with people of all generations
- with all who are seeking a meaning to life

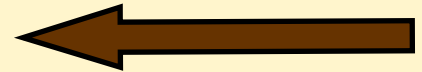
October 1, 2-3 pm
Holy Martyrs Church
266 Foreside Road
Falmouth


Join Falmouth ecumenical clergy and church members in the area, for a time of prayer, listening to sacred scripture, and singing praise to God, in communion with those gathering with Pope Francis in Rome.

DETAILS @ www.together2023.net

... let's enlarge the place of our tent 
(according to Isaiah 54:2)

Services at The Foreside Community Church, UCC will not be held at the regular time of 9:30 a.m. on October 1. Instead the congregation is invited to take part in the ecumenical services to be held later in the day at 2:00 p.m. at Holy Martyrs.



 **ST MARY SCHOLA**


presents
Dido and Aeneas
the earliest English opera
by Henry Purcell

St Luke's Cathedral, Portland,
Sept 23, 2023 at 4:00pm

—
St Mary's Church, Falmouth,
Sept 24, 2023 at 4:00pm

Dr. Christina Scott Edelen,
guest director

There will be a preconcert talk at 3:30pm.



Tickets available at www.stmaryschola.org

A few highlights from FCC's Summer of 2023



**AND
BEFORE
YOU
GO...**

Green Team members Nancy Olmstead, Susan Gilpin, and Susan Clark were part of the committee's in-depth and thoughtful presentation during a "Prayers on the Patio" service in July. Given the worldwide observances of Sea Sunday in July, oceans and those who care for our seas and water were the theme of worship. Participants offered memories and reflections about their connections with the ocean as part of the sharing of joys and concerns. A tribute to biologist and acoustical engineer Roger Payne, who recently died after a long career researching and recording the mysterious communications of humpback whales, was the lead in to a meditation listening to whale music.

Also presenting as part of the 2023 Summer "Prayers on the Patio" series were:

John Bischof who provided the following reflection afterwards: "So, remembering Jesus, who suffered and then triumphed, I would say if you are a nice guy or gal and are weighed down or troubled by the often unfairness of this life and its frequent inequities, be of good cheer, for in God's world, the world that is for everyone, the world that is eternal and everlasting, nice people finish first. In this sure and certain knowledge, let us rejoice;"

Kathie McCatherin who provided the following link to her presentation "[Love Your Neighbor As Yourself](#)";

And Reverend Joan Murray (pictured standing below) who concluded the "Prayers" series by mapping out a labyrinth both in the upper parking lot and in Fellowship Hall as part of her worship service.



FCC member Debra Coyman (pictured on right) did another knock out job facilitating "Mocktails on the Patio" in July and August. Left to right, Joyce White, Susan Gilpin, and Cliff Gilpin enjoy the mellow evening ambience, along with some fine cold beverages and snacks. Can't wait until next year Deb!

photo courtesy of Pete Ventre



FCC's recently hired Youth and Family Director Tori Johnson, brought the church a chance to host pre school Spanish classes in July and August geared towards young members (4 to 6 years of age) of local families, facilitated by Freeport teacher Andrea Hernandez, a Maine native who holds a Masters in Education. Andrea utilized mostly song and game based learning for the 4 to 6 students who attended the 8 class series. Andrea shared: "This has been a very fun and rewarding start to the preschool Spanish class. I loved playing with the kids in helping them open themselves to new languages and cultures." Andrea pictured left along with several of the students and accompanying nanny on the last day.

September 2023

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 a.m. Hybrid Service		5 6:15pm Choir 6:45pm AA 7:15pm Bells	6	7	8	9 8:30 a.m. Men's Monthly Breakfast
10 9:30 a.m. Hybrid Service Sunday School! 2:00 pm MOW mtg. in large classroom	11	12 12pm Knitters 6:15pm Choir 6:45pm AA 7:15pm Bells	13	14 5:30pm Women's AA large clsrn 7:pm Stewardship Mnthly Mtg.	15	16
17 9:30 a.m. Hybrid Service <i>Mission Moment</i> & Welcome Back Potluck!	18 7pm Governing Board Mnthly Mtg.	19 12pm Knitters 6:15pm Choir 6:45pm AA 7:15pm Bells	20 8:30am Women's Breakfast 4pm FCC Book Club	21	Deadline for October <i>Steeple</i> notes material submittal into office.	
24 9:30 a.m. Hybrid Service	25 4:00 pm J&O ministry mnthly mtg. (Zoom)	26 12pm Knitters 6:15pm Choir 6:45pm AA 7:15pm Bells	27 6pm Evening Prayers 6:30pm <i>Green Team</i> Large classroom	28	29	30

Daily Lectionary Readings for September 2023

Fri., Sept. 1

Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Exodus 3:16-25
2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Sat., Sept. 2

Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Exodus 4:1-9
Matthew 8:14-17

Sun., Sept. 3

Exodus 3:1-15
Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

Mon., Sept. 4

Psalms 83:1-4, 13-18
Exodus 4:10-31
Revelation 3:1-6

Tues., Sept. 5

Psalms 83:1-4, 13-18
Exodus 5:1—6:13
Revelation 3:7-13

Wed., Sept. 6

Psalms 83:1-4, 13-18
Exodus 7:14-25
Matthew 12:22-32

Thurs., Sept. 7

Psalms 149
Exodus 9:1-7
2 Corinthians 12:11-21

Fri., Sept. 8

Psalms 149
Exodus 10:21-29
Romans 10:15b-21

Sat., Sept. 9

Psalms 149
Exodus 11:1-10
Matthew 23:29-36

Sun., Sept. 10

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalms 149
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

Mon., Sept. 11

Psalms 121
Exodus 12:14-28
1 Peter 2:11-17

Tues., Sept. 12

Psalms 121
Exodus 12:29-42
Romans 13:1-7

Wed., Sept. 13

Psalms 114
Exodus 13:1-10
Matthew 21:18-22

Thurs., Sept. 14

Psalms 114
Exodus 13:17-22
1 John 3:11-16

Fri., Sept. 15

Psalms 114
Exodus 14:1-18
Acts 7:9-16

Sat., Sept. 16

Psalms 114
Exodus 15:19-21
Matthew 6:7-15

Sun., Sept. 17

Exodus 14:19-31
Psalms 114 or
Exodus 15:1b11, 20-21
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

Mon., Sept. 18

Psalms 77
Joshua 3:1-17
Hebrews 11:23-29

Tues., Sept. 19

Psalms 77
Nehemiah 9:9-15
Romans 14:13—15:2

Wed., Sept. 20

Psalms 77
2 Kings 2:1-18
Mark 11:20-25

Thurs., Sept. 21

Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45
Exodus 15:22-27
2 Corinthians 13:1-4

Fri., Sept. 22

Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45
Exodus 16:1-21
2 Corinthians 13:5-10

Sat., Sept. 23

Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45
Exodus 16:22-30
Matthew 19:23-30

Sun., Sept. 24

Exodus 16:2-15
Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

Mon., Sept. 25

Psalms 119:97-104
Exodus 16:31-35
Romans 16:1-16

Tues., Sept. 26

Psalms 119:97-104
Numbers 11:1-9
Romans 16:17-20

Wed., Sept. 27

Psalms 119:97-104
Numbers 11:18-23, 31-32
Matthew 18:1-5

Thurs., Sept. 28

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16
Isaiah 48:17-21
James 4:11-16

Fri., Sept. 29

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16
Numbers 20:1-13
Acts 13:32-41

Sat., Sept. 30

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16
Numbers 27:12-14
Mark 11:27-33



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

The Foreside Community Church, UCC

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Falmouth, ME 04105- 1428