



## The Foreside Community Church United Church of Christ

# November 2023

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



Family Church on October 15 included the “Blessing of the Animals.” Afterwards congregants crafted cozy animal blankets/beds which were then donated to the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland. See page 4 for more details on the well attended, afternoon event.

**THE FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH, UCC**  
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Falmouth, Maine 04105-1428

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## Pastoral Notes

### Saints who See and Shine

As I write this, there is very little that shines... in the dark of a morning in which many of us, our family, our friends are still being asked to shelter in place, and remembering Wednesday evening, as we shared in Evening Prayer, and then moved to meaningful and engaging conversation with The Rev. Dr. Marvin Ellison in our education time, 18 people were killed in shootings in Lewiston.

In the wake of all these lives, and all the unique gifts and beauty of these people lost... I have been thinking about saints, and sitting with Jesus's "[Beatitudes](#)," the Gospel reading for *The Feast of All Saints*, as it is sometimes called, which we will celebrate on November 5th.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness... Blessed are those who mourn... Blessed are the peacemakers...

It is easy to hear in these words, I find, a kind of immediate and lasting categorization... Jesus sorting the laundry: "Here are those who knew always knew how to stand for righteousness (and those who didn't), who made peace (and didn't), who knew and made friends with humility (and...)" If the lines are that bright and clear, or that permanent, I'm not always sure I will find myself among the blessed. Sometimes, saints feel far away.

Of course, that wouldn't match with the rest of Jesus's life, teaching, and ministry, which constantly invited people to constantly turn toward God, and invited people into the practice of seeing the indwelling of God he sometimes called "The Kingdom of Heaven" in their midst, in the world. This turning and seeing, then, is active... it asks something of us each day to participate in this kind of blessed community, which we may sometimes (or often) miss the mark of... but are invited back to again and again. To choose to see the blessing and the blessed... the shining saint in each and all of us.

I've been reading a little from the musician and songwriter, Nick Cave, in the book *Faith, Hope, and Carnage*, a series of interviews as he reflects on life, addiction, art and its creation, and very centrally, the learning and rending grief after the loss of a son. In the book, Cave says:

*Cynicism is not a neutral position — and although it asks almost nothing of us, it is highly infectious and unbelievably destructive. In my view, it is the most common and easy of evils.*

*Unlike cynicism, hopefulness is hard-earned, makes demands upon us, and can often feel like the most indefensible and lonely place on Earth. Hopefulness is not a neutral position either. It is adversarial. It is the warrior emotion that can lay waste to cynicism. Each redemptive or loving act, as small as you like... keeps the devil down in the hole. It says the world and its inhabitants have value and are worth defending. It says the world is worth believing in. In time, we come to find that it is so.*

In this light, The Beatitudes and Nick Cave feel like they're inviting me to remember that hope is both a gift of the Holy Spirit... and a spiritual practice in and of itself: something that I need learn through repetition, attempts, failures, and returns.

If you have experienced a loss of hope in these last days, I hope you know you are not alone. It can knock the wind out of us, this grief. But I hope you also know, the Spirit blows around you and this community, and you can reach out for others—saints: friends, counselors, psychiatrists... if no one else is available, even a pastor will do, I hear—to support you as we all try again and again, and stumble and stammer our way to the blessings Jesus proclaimed.

Even now when there is so much that we cannot see through our grief, our anger, our disbelief in this time of pain... I am thankful for the vision of saints among us, those who have gone before us, and those here with us now... those whose lives show us God's dream for the world is here, now, among us... and today, even today, we may reach for it again.

May the peace of God be with you,



## 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 when appropriate.
- 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.**

**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/>

## Supporting the Ministry of FCC

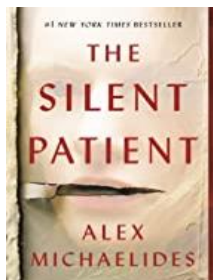
As we work to continue to offer ministry inside and out of our congregation in a time of so much instability, we would invite you consider how you can continue to support our work in the world. Please know that if you would like to mail a gift or regular pledge payment to the church office, the office will be open to receive that gift.

**If you would like to make a one time gift online, or if you would like create an account for a monthly recurring gift, you may do so through PayPal by going to our [giving page](#) and clicking the "Donate" button.**

Thank you for the ways you share from your lives and empower the ministry of the church, offering connection, nurturing, and support here and in the wider world!

## UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

**The Foreside Book Club** is switching gears next month to a mystery and psychological thriller called The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides. We will be meeting on Wednesday, November 15 at 4:00 in the upstairs church classroom for this discussion. The summary follows:



"Alicia Berenson's life is seemingly perfect. A famous painter married to an in-demand fashion photographer, she lives in a grand house with big windows overlooking a park in one of London's most desirable areas. One evening her husband Gabriel returns home late from a fashion shoot, and Alicia shoots him five times in the face, and then never speaks another word. Alicia's refusal to talk, or give any kind of explanation, turns a domestic tragedy into something far grander, a mystery that captures the public imagination and casts Alicia into notoriety. The price of her art skyrockets, and she, the silent patient, is hidden away from the tabloids and spotlight at the Grove, a secure forensic unit in North London. Theo Faber is a criminal psychotherapist who has waited a long time for the opportunity to work with Alicia. His determination to get her to talk and unravel the mystery of why she shot her husband takes him down a twisting path into his own motivations—a search for the truth that threatens to consume him." (from Macmillan Publishers)

I hope you can join us for this discussion that promises to be another hour of friendly conversation. As always anyone is welcome and encouraged to attend and participate in any of our meetings. FMI: [mimihinkle@gmail.com](mailto:mimihinkle@gmail.com)



We will have two Maker's-craft nights for the Christmas Fair, starting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 2 and Thursday, November. Bring any projects you are working on! To

share ideas or discuss supplies needed call Kathie McCatherin at 207-272-4364. Hope to see you there for this wonderful opportunity for fellowship, fun and to make items that profit our FCC Church Fair!

A gathering of both human and furry friends took place at our family church on October 15th. Susan Hayhurst (pictured right) an FCC member, and a veterinarian, who recently started work-



ing at the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland, graced us with her presence. Susan shared heartwarming pictures and stories about her special patients, shedding light on the incredible work of the shelter and ways in which we can contribute. As a community, we came together to craft two animal blankets/beds and twenty dog/cat toys from felt. A loving FCC family will soon deliver these donations to the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland, fostering a deeper connection with the shelter and its mission.

### Upcoming Events:

- October 29th - 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. - Youth Group Movie Night:** (Disney's CoCo and a focus on Dia de Muertos and All Saints Day)
- November 5th - 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. - Parent Night:** Join us for an early dinner and childcare services, providing parents with an opportunity to engage in open discussions about the joys and challenges of parenting. Bring your children and your appetite; our aim is to nourish both you and your family! RSVPs encouraged to Wendy at [Wendyrtracy@gmail.com](mailto:Wendyrtracy@gmail.com) for planning purposes.
- November 12th - 4:00 p.m. Family Church:** Get ready for a special Family Church event featuring John Adams from OUTMaine. Together, we will explore creative ways to make our family table more inclusive and welcoming for all during the holiday season. We will also participate in a group activity to create a meaningful addition to your Thanksgiving table while discovering more about OUTMaine and its mission to create supportive and affirming communities for Maine's LGBTQ+ youth.



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

*What did the pumpkin say after thanksgiving? ~ Good-pie everyone ~*

*Why did the apple pie turn red? ~ Because it saw the salad dressing ~*

*What do you get if you cross a train engine with an blueberry pie? ~ Puff pastry ~*

**Now that we have your attention, are you ready to order?**

**The following pies have been donated for purchase at \$25.00 each,  
collected contributions will kick off the 2023 annual Christmas Fair.**

**Please stop by (M-F 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.) or call the office (781-5880) to place your order.**

**These will go fast so please do not hesitate.**

***Unless otherwise arranged, all pies will be delivered to the church kitchen area  
and can be picked up between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday November 21<sup>st</sup>.***

**Apple = 4**

**Apple w/ Strudel Topping = 1**

**Blueberry = 4**

**Dutch Apple = 1**

**Four Berry = 1**

**German Chocolate = 1**

**Pumpkin = 2**

**Pumpkin Cheese = 1**

**Pecan = 1**

**Pumpkin Pecan = 1**

***Who led all the apples to the bakery?***



***~ The Pie Piper!! ~***

**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 labeled basket is now located in the narthex 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.)

### CHRISTMAS FAIR UPDATES

(C. Ward w/some classic photos from past seasons)

Note to self:

#### *Put on the Calendar:*

- \* Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> – Champagne and cider preview party – 5:30 p.m.
- \* Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Open to the public – 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. *Buy Christmas presents there!*



*And right now....*

- \* Join friends and members in the Fellowship Hall every Thursday between now and November 30, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. for the sorting, labeling, and compiling of donations. There is a plethora of fun tasks that need your two hands.
  - \* Sort those housewares and donate – all month long
    - \* Knit – all month long
    - \* Make jams, jellies, pickles – all month long
    - \* Bake - week before the fair
  - \* Order wreathes – sign up with Catherine Hannon – she will call
  - \* Sign up to work on December 2 – see Carol – We need you!
  - \* Ask your favorite merchant for a gift certificate for the fair!



(not Skillins, Ace Hardware, or  
ket –  
they're  
done!)



Town Landing Mar-



#### Early Bird art sale!

Donations of bigger art pieces have been coming in and we don't have enough room to display them all! Feel free to come peruse our offerings. You may borrow a piece or two to try it in your space. Many of them came from the Sanders' home. Prices are attached. Leave your checks with Christina, with "Christmas Fair" in the memo!



**UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS (cont.)****Memorial Garden Progress ..... Hurry up and wait!  
(C. Ward)**

Some of you may have noticed that we have a large green tarp instead of big rocks in our memorial garden space – That is because now that we have the money to buy the rocks, the quarry is closed for the season! The quarry re-opens around April 1<sup>st</sup>, and with a down payment, we will be one of the first jobs on their spring schedule, as soon as the state allows their heavy trucks on the smaller roads.

When we do get these rocks, you'll be interested to know that we will have the same granite as Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Hirschorn Museum, and Tiffany's.....

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

### November Birthday Greetings

**Scorpio** ~ 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. In fact, 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.

**David Bartoletti ~ 7**

**Erlene Skillin ~ 10**

**David Clough ~ 19**

**Tina Noyes ~ 20**

**Sagittarius** ~ Represented by the archer, Sagittarians are always on a quest for knowledge. The last fire sign of the zodiac, Sagittarius launches its many pursuits like blazing arrows, chasing after geographical, intellectual, and spiritual adventures.

**Prudence Kraft ~ 22**

**Carrie Penrose ~ 27**

**Cynthia Beggs ~ 27**

### Let's do (a continental)

#### Breakfast Ladies!

Women of the church, members and friends are invited to breakfast on  
**Wednesday, November 15 @ 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](mailto:deborah.gray48@gmail.com)

**or 952-4041 by November 13,**  
**so we can plan accordingly.**

**See you there!**

### The Men's Breakfast...

will be gathering on

**Saturday, November 4 @ 8:30 a.m.**

**at the church**

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

**FMI John Bischof**

[jegbischof@gmail.com](mailto:jegbischof@gmail.com) or 781-2391

The December edition of *Steeplenotes*  
material submittal deadline is  
Friday, November 17, 2023

Submitted articles should be final and print  
ready, pictures complete with captions.

**Thank you.**



## COMMUNITY EVENTS



  
**Cobblestone Quilters**  
**Holiday Market**  
 November 18, 2023  
 9am-2pm  
 Woodford Club  
 Portland, ME  
*Follow us on Instagram*  
 @CobblestoneQuilterME

  
 Quilt Raffle  
  
 Handmade Quilts  
  
 Craft Vendors

  
 Fabric Sale  
  
 Quilted Items  
  
 Bake Sale

FCC's own skidded quilter Jill Fox, will be adding another of her masterpieces to those quilts offered at this annual event. Her quilt was made from material donated by FCC member Rebecca Erb. Proceeds from this specific sale will be returned to The Foreside Community Church.

***Can't think of a better reason to attend, and spend!***

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*"A note of thanks to all of you who came for Covid shots after church on Sunday, October 22. Twenty-five people waited while I worked my way through each one, giving what I hope was a very painless vaccination. It was wonderful that so many folks came, not only for themselves but the protection of loved ones as well, and were 'patient' with the process!"*



***Lois Myers***

Registered nurse and Ohio native Lois has worked at Maine Medical as well as in the Falmouth School System. She is an active member of the Justice and Outreach Ministry, and a continuing strong, hands-on volunteer of the annual Christmas Fair. We are so lucky to have her as a decades long Foreside member!



# November 2023

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5 9:30am Hybrid Service –link on pg. 3 12:15pm MOW Mnthly Classroom or <a href="#">Zoom</a> 4:30pm Parent Nite See pg. 4 for details</p>			<p>1 6pm Evening Prayers 6:30pm Green Team 6:30pm Camerata Rehearsal</p>	<p>2 9am Bells of Casco Bay 6:00pm Women's AA 7pm Makers-Craft (see pg. 4 for details)</p>	<p>3 </p>	<p>4 8:30 a.m. Men's Monthly Breakfast</p>
<p>12 9:30am Hybrid Service –link on pg. 3 4pm Family Church See pg. 4 for details</p>	<p>6 9am Tues Book Grp Classroom or <a href="#">Zoom</a> 12pm Knitters 6:15pm Choir 6:45pm AA 7:15pm Bells</p>	<p>7 9am Tues Book Grp Classroom or <a href="#">Zoom</a> 12pm Knitters 6:15pm Choir 6:45pm AA 7:15pm Bells</p>	<p>8 6pm Evening Prayers 6:30pm Caring Cogn Presentation/Discssn (Large classroom)</p>	<p>9 9am Bells of Casco Bay 6:00pm Women's AA</p>	<p>11</p>	
<p>19 9:30am Hybrid Service –link on pg. 3 <i>The Rev. Jim Gertmenian in the pulpit</i> <b>Christmas Angels Launch!!</b></p>	<p>20 7pm Governing Board Mnthly Mtg. (Zoom)</p>	<p>21 <b>Pick up Pies!!</b> 9am Tues Book Grp Classroom or <a href="#">Zoom</a> 12pm Knitters 6:15pm Choir 6:45pm AA 7:15pm Bells</p>	<p>15 8:30am Women's Breakfast 4pm Book Group 6:30pm Camerata Rehearsal</p>	<p>16 9am Bells of Casco Bay 6:00pm Women's AA 7pm Stewardship Mtg 7pm Makers-Craft (see pg. 4 for details)</p>	<p>17 <b>Deadline for December Steeplenotes material submission</b></p>	<p>18</p>
<p>26 9:30am Hybrid Service –link on pg. 3 4-6pm Youth Group @ Falmouth Congo</p>	<p>27 9am Tues Book Grp Classroom or <a href="#">Zoom</a> 12pm Knitters 6:15pm Choir 6:45pm AA 7:15pm Bells</p>	<p>28 9am Tues Book Grp Classroom or <a href="#">Zoom</a> 12pm Knitters 6:15pm Choir 6:45pm AA 7:15pm Bells</p>	<p>22 6pm Evening Prayers</p>	<p>30 9am Bells of Casco Bay 6:00pm Women's AA</p>	<p>25 </p>	
			<p>29 6pm Evening Prayers</p>	<p>30 9am Bells of Casco Bay 6:00pm Women's AA</p>		

## Daily Lectionary Readings for November 2023

### Wed., Nov. 1

Psalm 119:41-48  
Deuteronomy 26:16—27:7  
Matthew 19:16-22

### Thurs., Nov. 9

Psalm 78:1-7  
Joshua 5:10-12  
Revelation 8:6—9:12

### Fri., Nov. 17

Psalm 123  
Judges 2:16-23  
Revelation 16:8-21

### Fri., Nov. 24

Psalm 100  
Isaiah 40:1-11  
Revelation 22:1-9

### Thurs., Nov. 2

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
Joshua 1:1-11  
Romans 2:17-29

### Fri., Nov. 10

Psalm 78:1-7  
Joshua 8:30-35  
Revelation 9:13-21

### Sat., Nov. 18

Psalm 123  
Judges 5:1-12  
Matthew 12:43-45

### Sat., Nov. 25

Psalm 100  
Ezekiel 34:25-31  
Matthew 12:46-50

### Fri., Nov. 3

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
Joshua 2:1-14  
2 Peter 2:1-3

### Sat., Nov. 11

Psalm 78:1-7  
Joshua 20:1-9  
Matthew 24:1-14

### Sun., Nov. 19

Judges 4:1-7  
Psalm 123  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25:14-30

### Sun., Nov. 26

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Psalm 100  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Matthew 25:31-46

### Sat., Nov. 4

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
Joshua 2:15-24  
Matthew 23:13-28

### Sun., Nov. 12

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25  
Psalm 78:1-7  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13

### Mon., Nov. 20

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18  
Judges 4:8-24  
Romans 2:1-11

### Mon., Nov. 27

Psalm 28  
Numbers 27:15-23  
2 Timothy 2:8-13

### Sun., Nov. 5

Joshua 3:7-17  
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
Matthew 23:1-12

### Mon., Nov. 13

Psalm 78  
Joshua 24:25-33  
1 Corinthians 14:20-25

### Tues., Nov. 21

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18  
Exodus 2:1-10  
1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

### Tues., Nov. 28

Psalm 28  
Zechariah 11:4-17  
Revelation 19:1-9

### Mon., Nov. 6

Psalm 128  
Joshua 4:1-24  
1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

### Tues., Nov. 14

Psalm 78  
Nehemiah 8:1-12  
1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

### Wed., Nov. 22

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18  
Esther 7:1-10  
Matthew 24:45-51

### Wed., Nov. 29

Psalm 28  
Jeremiah 31:10-14  
John 5:19-40

### Tues., Nov. 7

Psalm 128  
Joshua 6:1-16, 20  
Acts 13:1-12

### Wed., Nov. 15

Psalm 78  
Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Matthew 24:29-35

### Thurs., Nov. 23

Psalm 100  
Genesis 48:15-22  
Revelation 14:1-11 OR  
Deuteronomy 8:7-18 and  
Psalm 65  
2 Corinthians 9:6-15  
Luke 17:11-19

### Thurs., Nov. 30

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Zechariah 13:1-9  
Revelation 14:6-13

### Wed., Nov. 8

Psalm 128  
Joshua 10:12-14  
Matthew 15:1-9

### Thurs., Nov. 16

Psalm 123  
Judges 2:6-15  
Revelation 16:1-7





**S**TEEPLENOTES

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](mailto:info@foresidechurch.org) Web: [www.foresidechurch.org](http://www.foresidechurch.org)**

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