



FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Connecting to God

Nurturing Community

Discovering our Callings

April 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Festal Fanfare

Steven Scott

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God invites all who are weary to come. Come now with the burdens of work, home, and community. Christ promises:

Many: I will give you rest.

God invites all who are weary to come. Come now with the burdens of illness, of fear, of hopelessness. Christ promises:

I will give you rest.

God invites all who are weary to come. Come now with the burdens of anger, of prejudice, of alienation. Christ promises:

I will give you rest.

God invites all who are weary to come, lay down their burdens, and find peace.

We come in hope and find rest in God.

* HYMN

O Come to Me, You Weary

#484 (Black Hymnal)

* PRAYER OF APPROACH

God of wisdom and mercy, in your kingdom, the lowly are made great as they rest in you and receive your grace. Open our hearts to this kingdom today. Free us from all that oppresses us, and renew our faith, as we hear your word and sing your praises. Gracious God, we hear Christ's invitation to freedom and confess that we are afraid to throw off our chains. We cling to our habits and our possessions, our prejudices and our preconceptions, unconscious of the way they bind and limit us. You invite us to let go of the things to which we cling for security, but we are afraid to step into the unknown of total faith in you. Our striving leaves us exhausted, overstressed and overwhelmed, unable to relax, oblivious to the beauty of life. Help us to take up the invitation of rest for our souls and spirits, of comfort for our bodies and minds. Open us to receive your gentling spirit and your relaxing presence. Amen.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

ANTHEM *Softly and Tenderly* Thompson and Raney

SCRIPTURE *Matthew 11:28-30*

SERMON *The Invitation of Lady Wisdom* The Rev. Cheryl Anderson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO THE SERVICE OF GOD

Electronic gifts may be shared here:

<https://www.foresidechurch.org/index.php/giving/> or by pointing your phone's camera at the image to the right and clicking on the link displayed.



Offertory Anthem

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

arr. Ben Logan

* Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.*

* Prayer of Dedication

* HYMN

Lord of All Hopefulness

Red Hymnal, #444

*COMMISSION

Leader: Let us go from here to share the love and wisdom of God in the world.

All: We will go with courage; holding fast to what is good; rendering to no one evil for evil. We will strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, and help the afflicted. Honoring all beings, we will serve God; rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Bring Many Names

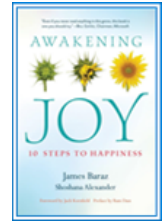
Wren and Young

**Today's Ministers of Worship:
Robin Singer and Charlie Bernacchio**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday "Mindful" Class still welcoming new participants!

Led by Pastor Cheryl, you will learn mindfulness practices to help you cultivate a sense of well-being and even happiness in the midst of all the troubling personal, local, national and world events. Each session will include a talk, discussion, a guided meditation, and additional mindfulness exercises to practice during the week. There is no required reading, but the class will be loosely based on the book Awakening Joy by James Baraz and Shoshona Alexander so you may be inspired to read it. This class is open to anyone interested and will continue to build to accommodate new attendees as awareness spreads. **FMI The Rev. Cheryl Anderson 207-560-7052 or 781-5880 canderson@foresidechurch.org.**



Sunday April 21 In celebration of Earth Day the Green Team invites you to come to Falmouth Town Landing **at 1:00 p.m.** to experience high tide and learn about the health of Casco Bay. Led by Susan Gilpin and sponsored by the Falmouth Land Trust.

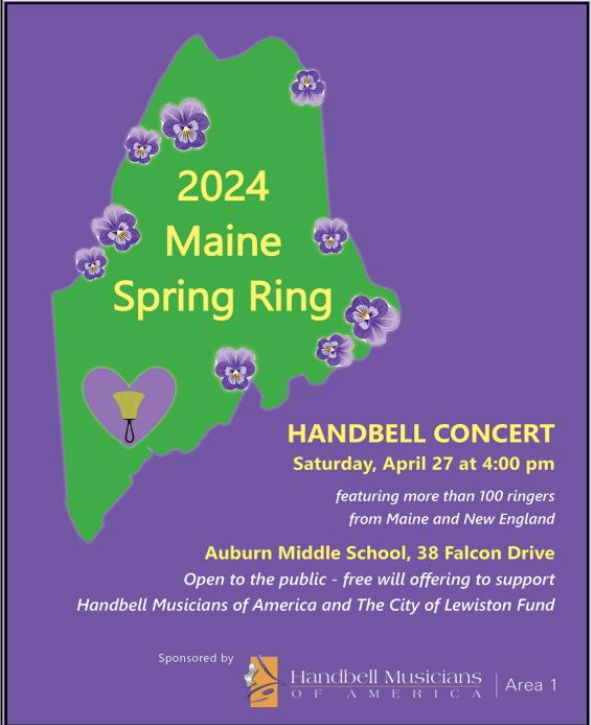


Pilgrim Lodge, 103 Pilgrim Lodge Lane, W. Gardiner, the Maine Conference camp and retreat center for outdoor ministries, is seeking volunteers for P.L.'s **annual spring clean-up days, Fri. - Sun., April 26, 27, 28.** Children eight and up, teens and adults of all ages are encouraged to participate. Tasks include stocking cabins w. first aid kits, tp, lt. bulbs, freshly charged fire extinguishers and smoke detectors, picking up twigs, sweeping the boardwalks, pruning shrubs, painting, and whatever other tasks the camp manager perceives as essential to the cause. Free breakfast @ 8:00 a.m. and lunch @ 12 p.m. served Saturday and Sunday. Free ice cream mid-afternoon every day. The labyrinth will be available for walking and meditating. **FMI Chuck Erb @ 844-8929 or call Liz McGough directly @ Pilgrim Lodge 724-3200.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.)

REMEMBER, EACH OF FCC'S MINISTRIES, *Christian Education, Justice & Outreach, Stewardship, Fellowship, and Worship*, are looking for new volunteers to join their ranks and support each of their individualized missions. Interested? You will find a description of each, along with contact information on a one-page handout on the main table in the narthex. *Try it for one year, you might like it!*

**DON'T
FORGET
TO
HOLD
THIS DATE!**




The poster features a green outline of the state of Maine on a purple background. The text "2024 Maine Spring Ring" is written in yellow. Several purple pansy flowers are scattered around the state outline. A purple heart containing a yellow handbell is located in the bottom left corner of the state outline.

HANDBELL CONCERT
Saturday, April 27 at 4:00 pm

*featuring more than 100 ringers
from Maine and New England*

Auburn Middle School, 38 Falcon Drive
*Open to the public - free will offering to support
Handbell Musicians of America and The City of Lewiston Fund*

Sponsored by  Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA | Area 1

THIS WEEK AT FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

- Sunday, April 14:** **9:30 a.m.** Sunday Worship
(sanctuary and online)
Mission Moment to be rescheduled.
*Fellowship Coffee Hour immediately afterward
hosted by the Men's Breakfast Group*
- Monday, April 15:** **7:00 p.m.** Governing Board Monthly Meeting
(Zoom)
- Tuesday, April 16:** **9:00 a.m.** Mindfulness Class(parlor)
See "**Announcements**" for further details.
12:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitters (large classroom)
6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary)
6:45 p.m. AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
7:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal (sanctuary)
- Wednesday, April 17:** *Church office opening @ 10:30 a.m.*
8:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast
Please RSVP Deborah Gray (Deborah.gray48@gmail.com or 952-4041) by 4/15/24
4:00 p.m. FCC Book Club (Zoom)
- Thursday, April 18:** **9:00 a.m.** Bells of Casco Bay (sanctuary)
- Friday, April 19:** **Deadline to submit material for May Steeplenotes**
- Sunday, April 21:** **9:30 a.m.** Sunday Worship
(sanctuary and online)
1:00 p.m. **Green Team Event @** Town Landing
See "**Announcements**" for further details.
3:00 p.m. MOW monthly meeting
(Zoom)

Welcome to all who are visiting with us this morning!

We hope that you discover here what you have come seeking.

In the hymnal rack in front of you is a **welcome card** that you may fill out to let us know that you were here. It has a place to indicate how we might help you to learn more about us. Please check those boxes if that would be helpful. The card can be placed in the offering plate as it is passed. We are glad that you have come, and would be privileged to welcome you further.

Nursery care is always available during worship. The nursery is located through the side door at the front of the sanctuary, up the stairs, and down the hallway, third door on the right. Parents are welcome to walk their children to the nursery and then return to worship at any time.

Children aged 3 through grade 6 are invited to attend Sunday school. Classes are scheduled to run through 10:40 a.m., at which time children can be picked up from the large Sunday school classroom at the end of the hall. If services conclude prior to 10:40 a.m. please feel free to enjoy refreshments and fellowship downstairs until pick-up time. Otherwise, children can be picked up immediately following the service.

Comfortable seating is available during Sunday service. An assortment of cushions is available at the back of the church. If you need assistance in retrieving one, please do not hesitate to ask a Minister of Worship usher.

Join us for coffee and conversation immediately following worship! We gather in our reception area downstairs which can be reached via the stairs, or the ADA accessible elevator, both located at the rear of the sanctuary. Please come and say hello!

Communion Sundays are usually held the first Sunday of each month.

The Foreside Community Church strives to be a **fragrance-free environment**. Please help us to accommodate our members and visitors who are chemically sensitive to fragrances and other scented products. Thank you for not wearing perfume, aftershave, scented hand lotion, fragranced hair products, and/or similar products.

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info@foresidechurch.org

www.foresidechurch.org

The Rev. Geoff Parker, Pastor
Trevor Lavenbein, Choir Director
David Bartoletti, Organist/Accompanist
Christina Sklarz, Office Manager

General Office Hours:

Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
unless otherwise posted

Sabbatical Co-Pastors

Pastor Cheryl ~ canderson@foresidechurch.org

Pastor Sarah ~ swhitfield@foresidechurch.org

781-5880 to leave message

An Open and Affirming Congregation

