

A Newsletter of

# May 2024

# The Foreside Community Church United Church of Christ

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



#### A sweet, sonorous success!

(Please see inside cover for details.)

# 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
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### (Guest) Pastoral Notes

# Good people of Foreside Community Church,

We are three quarters of the way through the first month of our "tag-team" Sabbatical Pastorate at the time of writing this. These three weeks have given us (Cheryl especially) a delightful introduction to a faithful, friendly, and welcoming congregation with a top-notch staff. The support of the office and music staff and the lay ministers of this church have made it easy to hit the ground running.

On our first Sunday, when we introduced ourselves and shared our faith backgrounds, we discovered that The Foreside Community Church members come from many different denominational backgrounds. Unlike some of the churches you may have grown up in, the governance of the United Church of Christ is "bottom up" rather than "top down." Each church is autonomous, self-governing, and self-supporting. All decisions about every aspect of congregational life are made by a vote of the congregation. Even our pastors are chosen by the congregation and become members of the church with one vote in a congregational meeting. All the ministries that the congregation carries out – within and beyond the "Meeting House" – are carried out by volunteers from within the congregation.

This system of governance and these volunteer ministries depend on your participation. The Annual Meeting of the Church is coming up this month on May 19th, following the Sunday service. We hope you are planning to participate. One of the decisions up for vote at this year's meeting will be a structural change to the Stewardship Ministry, which will separate the financial responsibilities from the care of buildings and grounds. It makes sense. Those two ministries require different gifts and talents. That will make six different volunteer ministries that keep the church functioning and pursuing its mission; and all of the ministries are seeking new volunteers. None of them require a huge time commitment, and "many hands make light work." There is sure to be a ministry that fits your interests and abilities. Take a look at one of the flyers in the narthex (or open this link for a copy) that describe the different ministries and sign up for the one that most closely matches your gifts. Working together is a great way to get to know other members of the church a little better.

Cheryl has found the mindfulness meditation and knitting groups a great way to get to know some of the members on a deeper level. You can too. All of the ministries, **committees**, choirs, study groups, and church projects are opportunities to connect more deeply, support one another and be supported by a caring community. We can all be blessings to one another.

# see you in church! Pastors Cheryl and Sarah

Cover photo ~ L to R back row = Debbie Reifsnyder, Sue Priest, Janet Yancey-Wrona, Debra Coyman, Kim Visbaras, L to R front row = Beth Shaw, Dana Humphreys, Lois Myers, Liz Ventre

(photo courtesy of Rev. Cheryl Anderson)

"The Towne Lyne Ringers played a terrific solo during the Spring Ring concert held on April 27. The audience was very generous in their free will offering. A donation of \$500.00 will be made to The LewistonOne Resilience Fund. A number of Foreside Community Church members and friends were in the audience to cheer us on. Thank you!"

(Event facilitator, Dana Humphreys)

## Well-being in the midst of it all

The on-site morning mindfulness class will be continuing through May on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the parlor. All are welcome to come check it out. We will continue to focus on mindfulness practices to help us weather the storms of daily life and build resilience

and maintain equanimity and a sense of well-being in the midst of

all the troubling personal, national, and world events.

The class is loosely based on the book Awakening Joy, by James Baraz and Shoshana Alexander. It is "recommended," but not "required" reading. Each hour-long session includes some teaching and a guided meditation. No previous meditation experience is necessary.



## 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

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 March 31, 2024 and including Easter services (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!

#### **SPRING MEETING NOTICE**

#### Message to FCC Membership from Cynthia Beggs, Moderator Governing Board

Hello wonderful FCC Members,

Our Spring Annual Meeting is coming up soon - on Sunday, May 19. Our meeting will follow the Sunday worship service. Hopefully, there will be a brief intermission to stand up, stretch our legs, and grab a cup of coffee to bring back to our meeting in the Sanctuary.

We will be announcing our Ministry rosters for the upcoming year, voting on our Governing Board for the next year, practicing a fire drill (at the very end), and recognizing members of our church community, among other orders of business.

One of those business items will be to approve by vote a recommendation from the Governing Board to reconfigure our Stewardship Ministry into two separate ministries: Finance, and Buildings and Grounds.

Please see the recommendations below and I encourage you to reach out to me, or any of our Board members, if you have questions.

#### Proposed Structure Change to Stewardship Ministry:

The Governing Board is recommending a change to the Stewardship Ministry. We propose that our Stewardship Ministry be re-organized as two separate entities: a Finance Ministry and a Building and Grounds Care Ministry.

The Finance Ministry is quite straightforward and self-explanatory. This group of members will be working directly with the Treasurer and shall focus on the management of church funds, tracking investments, overseeing cash flow, etc. They will send financial recommendations to the Governing Board, as agreed upon in their collective decision making.

The Building and Grounds Care Ministry will focus solely on the management of the church buildings and grounds, recommending repairs, improvements, and maintenance, as they agree collectively. Recommendations will be sent to the Governing Board. This group will work closely with the Treasurer in order to prepare the annual maintenance budget to maintain the FCC property in good condition and in compliance with safety codes and regulations.

Because this is a change to our organizational structure, the by-laws will need to align and reflect that. Therefore, a change to by-laws language needs to be approved by you all as well. We will conduct a vote at our spring meeting.

#### Click here to read the proposed by-law wording.

The language will also be included in the annual meeting notice to be distributed next week.

Thank you all for your membership and your commitment – your time, your talent, your treasure, your unique, individual commitments, your energy, and gifts.

#### NOTICE OF SPRING MEETING

You are hereby notified that the annual Spring Meeting of the Foreside Community Church will be held in the sanctuary at The Foreside Community Church at 340 Foreside Road, Falmouth, Maine on Sunday, May 19, 2024, *immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service* for the following purposes:

- Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes for January 28, 2024
- (Review only) 2023-2024 Annual Reports
- Stewardship Ministry and Bylaws Language Recommendations
- Election of Ministry Members for 2024-2025
- Election of Governing Board Members for 2024-2025
- Election of Church Officers for 2024-2025
- Presentation of the 2023 Bob Fuller Award
- To conduct any other business that may properly come before the meeting.
- Review and practice of fire drill/evacuation at the close of the meeting.

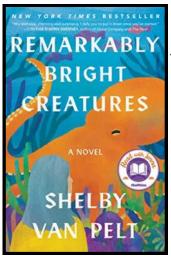
ORES/OR ONES/OR TOWN

Respectfully submitted, Janette Gustafson, Clerk

#### UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

#### FCC Book Club Updates ~

Six of us gathered on April 17th for a very lively discussion of The Lemon Tree by Sandy Tolan. Once we started, we couldn't stop talking! I wish I could say we solved all the long-standing conflicts between the Israelis and Palestinians, but not so simple! We did all agree, though, that it was worth plowing through all the painful history and that we are much better informed now as a result. I hope Chuck doesn't mind my sharing his quote: "Share knowledge. gain knowledge." I have learned so much from sharing our book discussions with all of you and am grateful for your continued participation. In May we are switching gears to a fun and fast reading fiction story called:



tures," friendship, reckoning, hope, tracing a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus.

After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working Bay Aquarium, mopping floors Erik, mysteriously vanished on numerous enthusiastic volunteers.

a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago. Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows cious welcoming of Kathy Kroll as our March Mission more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of Moment speaker. She shared her 20 years of leading lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors-until Maine Adaptive's 'Veterans No Boundaries' semiannual he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova. Ever the multiday program for veterans and their families in westdetective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night ern Maine. She and her husband, Bob, both veterans as Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use Navy Corpsmen, also joined coffee hour to share much every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to un- more about their personal experiences in this organizaearth the truth for her before it's too late. (summary Ama-tion. zon website)

That meeting will be at the church in the upstairs classroom on Wednesday, May 22 at 4:00 p.m. and should be a fun and light discussion for a change of pace. Hope you will plan to join us then. As always, anyone is welcome and encouraged to join us at any time for any book. FMI: mimihinkel@gmail.com

May Travelogue, May 16, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

**Zoom Link Here** 

"Thelma and Louise's Cross Country Tesla Adventure Colorado to Congress St!"

Come along with Carol Ward and Kathy Hillman Reed as they deliver Chuck's Tesla and the dog, Moxie, back to Maine from Colorado, braving snow flurries and snowy mountain passes, hippie towns, Indian reservations, hot springs, a deep gorge,



a boogie bar, many truck stops, green chili sauce and mu-"Remarkably Bright Crea- seums, both open and closed, while praying that chargers an exploration of were both present and working over 2500 miles.

#### A Letter To: J & O members and our FCC Community

I cannot thank all of you enough for your generous the night shift at the Sowell support of MAINE ADAPTIVE. You did this with a wonderful contribution to our annual fundraising Ski-Aand tidying up. Keeping busy Thon celebration at Sunday River several weeks ago. The has always helped her cope, huge success of this event allows us to continue offering which she's been doing since what Maine Adaptive is known for, free participation in eighteen-year-old son, many year round recreational activities made possible by

I also want to thank our FCC community for the gra-

I will end by simply saying Maine Adaptive is impactful in so many people's lives who are challenged with disabilities. This is due to the generous backing of individuals and organizations like our own Foreside Church.

Warm regards, John (Goodrich)



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

#### ~ ROOM INQUIRY NOTICE ~

A young, independent male refugee who is waiting for asylum status is looking for a clean, safe room starting May 15. He is a former teacher, and his English is intermediate level. He is currently a student in Susan Gilpin's ESL (English as a Second Language) class. He has a co-signer. He does not expect to be fed, but he does need to be on a bus line as he does not have a car. He does expect to pay a modest All Foreside Community Church members and friends are rent for the room and is also willing to help with chores. His work permit is in process and once he can work he hopes to find his own apartment in southern Maine. If anyone has an extra bedroom to share, please call Susan Gilpin at 207-310-0329 as soon as you are able. Thank you in advance for your consideration.



invited to attend the Gathering of Green Teams hosted by the BTS Center on Sunday afternoon, May 19 from 2 -5 p.m. The program is free and will be held at the Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church, 280 Ocean House Road, Cape Elizabeth. The afternoon is an opportunity for conversation, connection and exploring ways for area faith communities to network as we build the foundation for resilience and thriving in a climate-changed world. For more information and to register, visit the BTS Center's at www.thebtscenter.org and scroll down the page for the above announcement and the **red** "register" button.

> FMI please contact Susan Clark at susanmannclark@gmail.com.



Eclipse Glasses

If you have some of these left and are wondering what to do with them I have a solution! I am collecting eclipse glasses to send to Safe Passage in Guatemala. There will be an eclipse over Latin America in October and there is a need for the glasses.

Safe Passage is ... "a progressive school dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty through education, healthcare, nutrition, and social services. We have been working in Guatemala City since 1999." I had the opportunity to join a volunteer team to go to Safe Passage from Greely High School with our younger daughter 10 years ago. It is a very impressive program trying to lift children whose parents work in the garbage dump to better opportunities through education. This is a great opportunity to help them out in a small way.

I will have a basket placed in the Narthex for the next few Sundays where you can drop off any glasses. They will be greatly appreciated.

https://www.safepassage.org/

Thank you! Sally Somes

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

Friends, Due to the increased need for shelters in the Portland area, State Street Church is opening the shelter housed in their church- until the end of the school year. It will be the same size as the one that was opened last Fall, and in the same space. Next Fall, after the whole build out is completed, it will open in the newer, larger space in the basement.

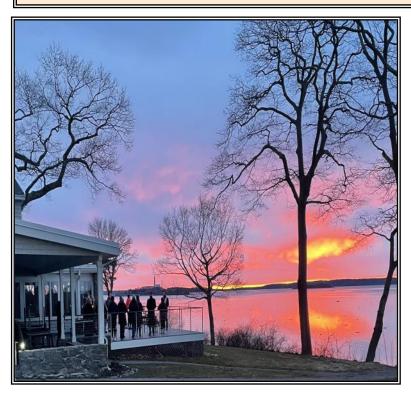
One new thing from last fall is the need to have a background check done. (This was a request from the volunteers last fall). To request the form for the background check, please email volunteercoordinatorssc@gmail.com

Our church is teaming up with Falmouth Congregational Church (and other places of worship in Falmouth) to cover the week of May 5-11. Each evening there is an opportunity to cover from 6:00 to 8:30pm, and then for two people to be there overnight from 8:30pm-7:30am.

You can access the needed availability by this link. <a href="https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/242582212060/false#/invitation.">https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/242582212060/false#/invitation.</a> Any questions, call/text/write to me Carrie Penrose 207-415-5513 <a href="mailto:carriepenrose@gmail.com">carriepenrose@gmail.com</a>.

One last look at Easter 2024 ~ Three moving services, one great egg hunt and gourmet coffee in between, and as always, excellent attendance! Don't you love this church?

(Sunrise Service @ Portland Yacht Club photo courtesy of Carol Ward - Young attendees assembling flower cross photo courtesy of Deborah Gray)





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



#### **May Birthday Greetings**

Taurus ~ An earth sign represented by the bull. Like their celestial spirit animal, Taureans enjoy relaxing in serene, bucolic environments surrounded by soft sounds, soothing aromas, and succulent flavors. Pleasure is a necessity for epicurean Taureans and they feel most content when pampered.

Susan Clark ~ 1

Cathy Sanders ~ 15

**Gemini** ~ Spontaneous, playful, and adorably erratic, Gemini is driven by its insatiable curiosity. Appropriately symbolized by the celestial twins, this air sign was interested in so many pursuits that it had to double itself.

Nancy Ladd ~ 22

Grace Parker ~ 23

Sam Ladd ~ 26

Alan Saabye ~ 28

Joan Murray ~ 29

Joyce White ~ 29

Henry Demetriou ~ 30

#### Let's do (a continental) Breakfast Ladies!

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

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 @ 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 May 13 so we can plan accordingly. See you there!

#### The Men's Breakfast...

will be gathering on

Saturday, May 11, 2024 @ 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 June edition of *Steeplenotes* material submittal deadline is Friday, May 17, 2024

Submitted articles should be final and print ready, pictures complete with captions in jpeg format can be included. Thank you.



#### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

Pilgrim Lodge has announced an extensive 2024 program with an ambitious agenda, offering a variety of training, camping, workshops, and gatherings geared to a wide range of current topics for all ages. Pilgrim Lodge is a ministry of the Maine Conference UCC. For further information on advertised dates, or to view the full mission statement of the lodge, go to www.pilgrimlodge.org, or contact:

Karen Steelhammer Office Administrator / Registrar Pilgrim Lodge 103 Pilgrim Lodge Lane West Gardiner, ME 04345 Office: (207) 724-3200









# **May 2024**

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
			1	church office opening @ 10:30 a.m. 9 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay 6 p.m. AA	ಣ	4
9:30 hybrid service (see pg. 3 for details & link) 12-1:00 p.m. Music Pot Luck in Topsham	9	7 9 a.m. Mindfulness Class (see pg. 3 for details) 12 p.m. Knitters 6:15 p.m. Choir 6:45 p.m. AA 7:15 p.m. Bells	80	9 9 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay 6 p.m. AA	10	8:30 a.m. Men's Monthly Breakfast (see pg. 8 for details)
9:30 hybrid service (see pg. 3 for details & link)	13	14 church office opening  (2) 11 a.m. 9 a.m. Mindfulness Class 12 p.m. Knitters 6:15 p.m. Choir 6:45 p.m. AA 7:15 p.m. Bells	8:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast (see pg. 8 for details)	16 9 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay 6 p.m. AA 7:00 p.m. Travelogue (see pg. 5 for details)	JUNE STEEPLENOTES SUBMITTAL DEADLINE	18
9:30 hybrid service (see pg. 3 for details & link) Annual Meeting (see pg. 4 for details) 2-5 p.m. Green Teams (see pg. 6 for details)	2:00 p.m. Memorial Garden (classroom) 7:00 p.m. Governing Board Mnthly Mtg.	9 a.m. Mindfulness Class 12 p.m. Knitters 6:15 p.m. Choir 6:45 p.m. AA 7:15 p.m. Bells	22 4:00 p.m. FCC Book Club (classroom)	23 9 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay 6 p.m. AA	24	25
9:30 hybrid service (see pg. 3 for details & link)	HONOR A REMEMBER	28 CHURCH OFFICE> 9 a.m. Mindfulness Class 12 p.m. Knitters 6:15 p.m. Choir 6:45 p.m. AA 7:15 p.m. Bells	29 >>>> <u>WILL</u> <u>BE CLOSED</u> <u>MAY 27 THRU 29</u> <u>STAFF ON P.T.O.</u>	30 9 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay 6 p.m. AA	31	

# **Daily Lectionary Readings for May 2024**

Wed., May 1

Psalm 80

Isaiah 65:17-25

John 14:18-31

Thurs., May 2

Psalm 98

Isaiah 49:5-6

Acts 10:1-34

Fri., May 3

Psalm 98

Isaiah 42:5-9

Acts 10:34-43

Sat., May 4

Psalm 98

Deuteronomy 32:44-47

Mark 10:42-45

Sun., May 5

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

Mon., May 6

Psalm 93

Deuteronomy 7:1-11

1 Timothy 6:11-12

Tues., May 7

Psalm 93

Deuteronomy 11:1-17

1 Timothy 6:13-16

Wed., May 8

Psalm 93

Deuteronomy 11:18-21

Mark 16:19-20

Thurs., May 9

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

Fri., May 10

Psalm 47

Exodus 24:15-18

Revelation 1:9-18

Sat., May 11

Psalm 47

Deuteronomy 34:1-7

John 16:4-11

Sun., May 12

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

Mon., May 13

Psalm 115

Exodus 28:29-38

Philippians 1:3-11

Tues., May 14

Psalm 115

Numbers 8:5-22

Titus 1:1-9

Wed., May 15

Psalm 115

Ezra 9:5-15

John 16:16-24

Thurs., May 16

Psalm 33:12-22

Genesis 2:4b-7

1 Corinthians 15:42b-49

Fri., May 17

Psalm 33:12-22

Job 37:1-13

1 Corinthians 15:50-57

Sat., May 18

Psalm 33:12-22

Exodus 15:6-11

John 7:37-39

Sun., May 19

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21 or

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:22-27 or

Acts 2:1-21

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Mon., May 20

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Joel 2:18-29

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Tues., May 21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Genesis 11:1-9

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Wed., May 22

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Ezekiel 37:1-14

John 20:19-23

Thurs., May 23

Psalm 29

Isaiah 1:1-4, 16-20

**Romans 8:1-8** 

Fri., May 24

Psalm 29

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 8:9-11

Sat., May 25

Psalm 29

Isaiah 5:15-24

John 15:18-20, 26-27

Sun., May 26

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

Mon., May 27

Psalm 20

Numbers 9:15-23

Revelation 4:1-8

Tues., May 28

Psalm 20

Exodus 25:1-22

1 Corinthians 2:1-10

Wed., May 29

Psalm 20

Numbers 6:22-27

Mark 4:21-25

Thurs., May 30

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Samuel 1:1-18

Acts 25:1-12

Fri., May 31

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Samuel 1:19-27

Romans 8:31-39



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

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