

**The Foreside Community Church
United Church of Christ**

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

July/August 2025



***FCC celebrates
with its 2025 graduates.
Turn to page for 4 for details.***

THE FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH, UCC
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PASTORAL NOTES

Rest...

Dear Foreside Friends,

The heat is here, summer has arrived, and I suspect for many of you house guests may not be far behind. Often, that feels like a time of busy-ness, I know. But I hope that summer here for our community also invites that most challenging spiritual practice, rest and renewal. Our traditions and scripture embed in our common life patterns of great activity and great stillness: God creates for six days, and rests on the 7th; the prophet Elijah, hounded and hunted, hears God in the sound of sheer silence; and indeed, the silence of the tomb sits close to the sights and sounds of Easter resurrection; searching Advent becomes joyous Christmas and Epiphany, quiet Lent gives ways to Easter's trumpet blasts.

These patterns mimic and mirror the patterns that our ancestors found around them: sun and moon, growth and retreat, the lengthening and shortening of days, the change of seasons. All these patterns are a gift. If all was sun, nothing would grow. If plants only flourished, the soil would be depleted. Here is wisdom of our faith, and wisdom of "the Book of the World."

So it is for us. We need both meaningful work and activity, and meaningful (and sometimes meaningless!) rest: both as a theological statement of our worth and belovedness apart from our productivity, and also a necessary component of full flourishing and growth.

In keeping with this pattern, **Prayers on the Patio begin Sunday, July 6th and continue through the month.** The ritual of moving our worship to the outdoors, and sharing leadership in a more informal setting and structure of worship has become a cherished tradition of this season. This year we give thanks to worship leaders John Bischof, the Green Team, and Kathie McCatherin for sharing their gifts with us. (And I would invite *you* to reflect on if you might be called to lead a service or a portion of one in the future!)

I will be away from the church for my own rest and renewal from July 1 - July 20. **Pastoral Care is available and will be coordinated during this time through the gifts of our own Rev. Joan Murray, who you can connect with through the office or at (781) 540-4503.** I hope you will join me in giving thanks for this gift which Joan shares with us in the summer, offering her own caring presence, and the presence of God, to our community members in time of need.

... and Renewal!

As we prepare to rest, it can be a lovely thing to look forward to a new time of activity to come! After a year of watching to see what might grow, the Christian Education Ministry and I have a happy announcement. **It is our joy to share that dear friend of our congregation, Elise Wulff, has accepted the position as our next Youth and Families Ministry Coordinator.** In that role, she will help to lead Sunday School classes, as well as coordinate the efforts of our incredible volunteer teachers. Elise will also work collegially with the CE team on additional programming, and help tend to the church's relationship and communication with families in our work of creating a beloved community in learning.



Pastoral Notes (cont.)

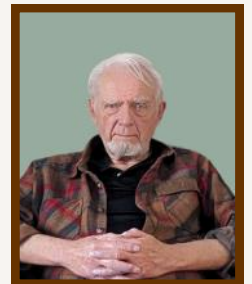
Elise shares that she is thrilled to be joining the team and grateful to have the opportunity to give back to this exceptional community. Currently with Mass General Brigham, she has worked in education for more than 20 years, with specific training and expertise in creating inclusive environments, social-emotional learning, and parent/caregiver support. She works locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally as a consultant and speaker to support schools of all models, organizations, community settings, and corporations to enhance their accessibility and inclusion. Most important to Elise is that individuals feel valued for who they are and encouraged to be curious in learning about themselves and others.

Elise will start with us on Monday, August 18th in preparation for the Sunday School year to come. This opportunity comes as Elise and her family: Bryan Gattis Wulff, Orle, and Robin Jay, complete their final stage of moving to Falmouth year-round. As such, we can certainly understand all the wobbly and wondering feelings that can come with major transitions and changes (even welcome ones), and hold them in prayer and support as they get settled into life here among us full-time. I hope that if you see Elise over the summer, you will take a moment to thank her and welcome her into the life and ministry of the church in this new role!



Memorial Service Scheduled for FCC Member Couple

Many in the Foreside Church will remember ***Ricki and Peter Boehmer*** who were important members of our church. Ricki died in July of 2017 after a brave but difficult struggle with her health. In October of 2024, 92-year-old Peter died surrounded by his family. Both ***will be memorialized on Monhegan Island this summer on August 6***. Beautiful Monhegan was the home of the Boehmer family for many years. ***Their children have extended an invitation to anyone from FCC who would like to join in the memorial service.***



Please contact Dotty Blanchette for more information at dorothyb@maine.rr.com.

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 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/>

UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

FCC Celebrates with its 2025 Graduates

During the June 1 worship service, FCC friends and members acknowledged and feted the following church youth for their schooling accomplishments and future plans.

Audrey Farnham ~ Audrey earned high honors and her STEM endorsement at Falmouth High School and served as captain of the ice hockey and lacrosse teams. She is fortunate to have good friends across different groups, from athletics to Science Olympiad and Science Bowl. She also is a lifeguard and has been a camper, CIT and counselor at Camp Wohelo on Sebago Lake. Last summer, she was selected for a MERITS internship and did marine biology research at the Wels National Estuarine Research Reserve. Audrey will continue that interest as a marine biology major at UNC Chapel Hill next year. She also hopes to work in a research lab and play club ice hockey. Before she heads off to North Caroli

Theo Demetriou ~ Theo will be attending Northeastern University in Boston this fall. He is planning to major in politics, philosophy and economics. He was a good student in high school and enjoyed playing tennis, piano, and hanging out with friends. A highlight was spending his junior year as an exchange student in Spain.

Tyler Lacombe ~ Tyler graduated this year from North Yarmouth Academy. He was a four-year member of the golf, basketball, and lacrosse teams. Tyler has been a volunteer with the NYA 3rd and 4th grade classes, mentoring math activities. He will be attending Bentley University in the fall to study finance.

Willy Mpemba ~ Willie graduated from Biddeford High School with high honors, receiving a Worthington Scholarship to attend York County Community College in the fall. Willie excelled as a skilled athlete in soccer, lacrosse, and cross country skiing.

Pictured on left side of cover: **Willy Mpemba** (center in photo). Beside him on the left is his brother **Jorin Ngoy** who graduated from Biddeford High School in 2022 and is now studying nursing at St. Joseph's College, and on the right his brother **Nico** who graduated from Biddeford High School 2023 and is now studying criminal justice and pre-law at Husson University.

Pictured on right side of cover: Pastor Geoff blesses **Audrey Farnham** and **Theo Demetriou**, who are taking the ceremony with gravitas.

Justice & Outreach Ministry Bulletin Board Update

The Justice & Outreach Ministry is excited to unveil its newly redesigned bulletin board in the narthex. The ministry also wishes to especially thank its volunteer member Caroline Jackson for her time and talents in updating this valuable communication tool. The bulletin board highlights the impactful ways our church is serving the community through compassion and justice—locally and globally. Through efforts like Mission Moments, Good Samaritan Grants, and Annual Commitments, the Justice & Outreach Ministry invites everyone to get involved. Stop by to learn more and see how you can be part of the work toward a more just and loving world.

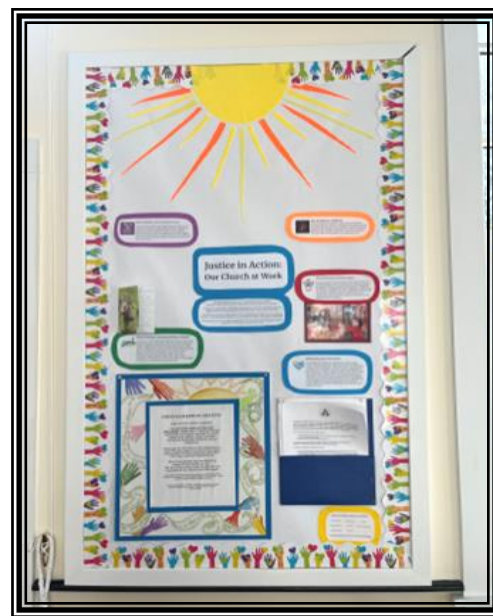


Photo Directory 2025 ~ There's Still Time!

This summer, our congregation is preparing our brand new photo directory to help us all stay connected and get to know one another better, and we would like all of our members and friends to feel included! **Upload a photo of your household.** If you have an existing recent photo you would like to use for the directory, you can upload it at [this link](#). Simply select your photo on your computer or phone, and enter your last name. We'll handle the rest!



Mocktails on the Patio

Join us for *"Mocktails on the Patio"* on Thursday
August 21st from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

A toast to summer in Maine.
Enjoy some refreshing summer libations
with your Foreside community.
A special mix or two will be available.

**Please bring your own cup,
and your own camp chair if you'd like.**

Please help us acknowledge
the following...

HAPPY SUMMER BIRTHDAYS!

J U L Y

Terry Skillin ~ 9
Robin Singer ~ 12
Olivia Knudsen ~ 15
Poppy Herring ~ 18
John Gaston ~ 19
Catherine Hannon ~ 22
David N. Clark ~ 22

A U G U S T

Lisette Rodas ~ 8
Laura Lepine ~ 13
Rayan Lahlou ~ 18
Paul Dodson ~ 25
Debbie Reifsnyder ~ 26
Jill Fox ~ 28

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!

Sunday worship (minus *Prayers on the Patio*) continues to 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.

The September edition of *Steeplenotes* material submittal deadline is
Friday August 22, 2025

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

Thank you!

July 2025

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
		<div>Church office closed – Staff on P.T.O.</div>		<div>6pm AA-Fellowship</div>	<div>Happy 4th of July</div>	5
6	7	<div>8</div> <div>6:45pm AA</div>	9	<div>10</div> <div>6pm AA-Fellowship</div>	11	12
<div>9:30am</div> <div>Prayers on the Patio</div> <div>w/ John Bischof</div>						
13	14	<div>15</div> <div>6:45pm AA</div>	16	<div>17</div> <div>6pm AA-Fellowship</div>	18	19
<div>9:30am</div> <div>Prayers on the Patio</div> <div>w/ The Green Team</div>						
20	21	<div>22</div> <div>6:45pm AA</div>	23	<div>24</div> <div>6pm AA-Fellowship</div>	25	26
<div>9:30am</div> <div>Prayers on the Patio</div> <div>w/ Kathie McCatherin</div>						
27	28	<div>29</div> <div>6:45pm AA</div>	30	31		
<div>9:30am</div> <div>Prayers on the Patio</div> <div>w/ Pastor Geoff</div>						

August 2025

Be sure to check the calendar at The Foreside Community Church's website
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:30 am hybrid service (See pg. 6 for link.)					1 10:30 am Roy Schultz Memorial	2
3 9:30 am hybrid service (See pg. 6 for link.)	4	5 6:45pm AA	6 Ricki & Peter Boehmer Memorial Mohegan Island (See pg. 3 for details.)	Church office closed ~ Staff on P.T.O. 6pm AA-Fellowship	Church office closed ~ Staff on P.T.O.	9
10 9:30 am hybrid service (See pg. 6 for link.)		6:45pm AA	Church office closed ~ Staff on P.T.O.	6pm AA-Fellowship		16
17 9:30 am hybrid service (See pg. 6 for link.)	18	19 6:45pm AA	20	21 5:30 pm Mocktails on the Patio! (See pg. 5 for details.) 6pm AA-Fellowship	22	23
24 9:30 am hybrid service (See pg. 6 for link.)	25	26	27	28	29	30

Daily Lectionary Readings for July 2025

Tues., July 1

Psalm 75
2 Kings 3:4-20
Ephesians 5:6-20

Wed., July 2

Psalm 75
2 Kings 4:1-7
Matthew 10:16-25

Thurs., July 3

Psalm 30
2 Kings 4:8-17
Romans 7:14-25

Fri., July 4

Psalm 30
2 Kings 4:18-31
2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Sat., July 5

Psalm 30
2 Kings 4:32-37
Luke 9:1-6

Sun., July 6

2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Mon., July 7

Psalm 6
2 Kings 5:15-19a
Acts 19:21-27

Tues., July 8

Psalm 6
2 Kings 5:19b-27
Acts 19:28-41

Wed., July 9

Psalm 6
2 Kings 6:1-7
Luke 10:13-16

Thurs., July 10

Psalm 82
Amos 1:1—2:3
James 2:14-26

Fri., July 11

Psalm 82
Amos 2:4-11
Acts 7:9-16

Sat., July 12

Psalm 82
Amos 2:12—3:8
John 3:16-21

Sun., July 13

Amos 7:7-17
Psalm 82
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

Mon., July 14

Psalm 7
Amos 3:9—4:5
James 2:1-7

Tues., July 15

Psalm 7
Amos 4:6-13
1 John 3:11-17

Wed., July 16

Psalm 7
Amos 5:1-9
Matthew 25:31-46

Thurs., July 17

Psalm 52
Amos 5:10-17
Hebrews 5:1-6

Fri., July 18

Psalm 52
Amos 5:18-27
Ephesians 3:14-21

Sat., July 19

Psalm 52
Amos 6:1-14
Luke 8:4-10

Sun., July 20

Amos 8:1-12
Psalm 52
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

Mon., July 21

Psalm 119:17-32
Amos 7:1-6
Colossians 1:27—2:7

Tues., July 22

Psalm 119:17-32
Amos 8:13—9:4
1 John 2:1-6

Wed., July 23

Psalm 119:17-32
Amos 9:5-15
John 6:41-51

Thurs., July 24

Psalm 85
Hosea 4:1-19
Acts 1:15-20

Fri., July 25

Psalm 85
Hosea 5:1-15
Acts 2:22-36

Sat., July 26

Psalm 85
Hosea 1:11—2:15
Luke 8:22-25

Sun., July 27

Hosea 1:2-10
Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]
Luke 11:1-13

Mon., July 28

Psalm 44
Hosea 2:14—3:5
Colossians 2:16—3:1

Tues., July 29

Psalm 44
Hosea 6:1-10
Romans 9:30—10:4

Wed., July 30

Psalm 44
Hosea 6:11—7:16
Matthew 5:43-48

Thurs., July 31

Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Hosea 8:1-14
Romans 11:33-36

Daily Lectionary Readings for August 2025

Fri., Aug. 1

Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Hosea 9:1-17
Ephesians 4:17-24

Sat., Aug. 2

Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Hosea 10:1-15
Mark 10:17-22

Sun., Aug. 3

Hosea 11:1-11
Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

Mon., Aug. 4

Psalm 60
Hosea 11:12—12:14
Colossians 3:18—4:1

Tues., Aug. 5

Psalm 60
Hosea 13:1-16
Colossians 4:2-6

Wed., Aug. 6

Psalm 60
Hosea 14:1-9
Luke 12:22-31

Thurs., Aug. 7

Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Isaiah 9:8-17
Romans 9:1-9

Fri., Aug. 8

Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Isaiah 9:18—10:4
Acts 7:1-8

Sat., Aug. 9

Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Isaiah 1:2-9, 21-23
Matthew 6:19-24

Sun., Aug. 10

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

Mon., Aug. 11

Psalm 11
Isaiah 2:1-4
Hebrews 11:1-7

Tues., Aug. 12

Psalm 11
Isaiah 24:1-13
Hebrews 11:17-28

Wed., Aug. 13

Psalm 11
Isaiah 24:14-23
Luke 12:41-48

Thurs., Aug. 14

Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Isaiah 2:5-11
Hebrews 10:26-31

Fri., Aug. 15

Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Isaiah 3:1-17
Hebrews 10:32-39

Sat., Aug. 16

Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Isaiah 3:18—4:6
Matthew 24:15-27

Sun., Aug. 17

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Hebrews 11:29—12:2
Luke 12:49-56

Mon., Aug. 18

Psalm 74
Isaiah 5:8-23 1
John 4:1-6

Tues., Aug. 19

Psalm 74
Isaiah 5:24-30
Acts 7:44-53

Wed., Aug. 20

Psalm 74
Isaiah 27:1-13
Luke 19:45-48

Thurs., Aug. 21

Psalm 71:1-6
Jeremiah 6:1-19
Hebrews 12:3-17

Fri., Aug. 22

Psalm 71:1-6
Jeremiah 6:20-30
Acts 17:1-9

Sat., Aug. 23

Psalm 71:1-6
Jeremiah 1:1-3, 11-19
Luke 6:1-5

Sun., Aug. 24

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

Mon., Aug. 25

Psalm 10
Jeremiah 7:1-15
Hebrews 3:7—4:11

Tues., Aug. 26

Psalm 10
Jeremiah 7:16-26
Revelation 3:7-13

Wed., Aug. 27

Psalm 10
Jeremiah 7:27-34
Luke 6:6-11

Thurs., Aug. 28

Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Jeremiah 11:1-17
1 Peter 3:8-12

Fri., Aug. 29

Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Jeremiah 12:1-13
1 Peter 4:7-11

Sat., Aug. 30

Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Jeremiah 2:1-3, 14-22
Matthew 20:20-28

Sun., Aug. 31

Jeremiah 2:4-13
Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14



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

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