



June 2026

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



*Congratulations 2025 Bob Fuller awardees Cynthia Beggs and Bruce Kaake!
Turn to page 4 for the full story.*

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PASTORAL NOTES

Summer Reading

*The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.* - Psalm 19

'And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?... in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' - Acts 2

Dear Foreside Friends,

As I write, we're preparing to celebrate with our graduating seniors. We'll bless them for milestone celebrations and the tender letting go of the communities that have formed them so far... and for the excitement (and trepidation) which can come from discovering new places of learning and belonging. It's always a meaningful expression of the way this community forms and nurtures us through each stage of life.

But! Spare a thought also for those who have instead a brief pause in the months to come before they begin another cycle of their schoolwork! Spare a thought for the circle and cycle of time, and this quiet break in each in the summer months... And maybe, say a blessing for them over that most delicious scholarly exercise... summer reading.

At least as it was practiced at my high school, summer reading was delightfully unstructured. Usually, each grade was encouraged to read one book in particular, but then... we were set free to simply read. What's more, to read for the fun of it... to take in new stories, new language, new images with no thought for how it would be chewed up and spat out into papers or projects. Here in the freedom of reading what came to us, rather than what was assigned to us, and to take these in for the joy and newness of it, rather than a lofty goal.

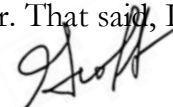
I know that often I find myself tempted by the illusion that to be informed in this world I must read every bit of news, every report and noise of our intersecting calamities. But I also find that reading the present day sometimes crowds out the stories and surprises of a wander through the library or the bookstore, those stories that we only find when we free ourselves from the frame of our daily lives, stories which can bring new insight, and new joy.

I wonder what you will read this summer, friends? I wonder if you will read something that seems wildly unconnected to the "text" of our church life or your own life which might be just the wild flame of the Holy Spirit we mentioned a few weeks ago at Pentecost: an offering of a new language which speak to you, a new story of God's "deeds of power"? Will you bring it back to us and share it with us?

Then I will remind you of some other essential reading: "*Sacred writings are bound in two volumes—that of Holy Scripture and that of creation,*" said Thomas Aquinas. Or, as the psalmist would say: "The heavens are telling the glory of God." Among the commitments we made a few weeks ago as we affirmed our *Covenant of Right Relationship with the Earth* was this: "*We promise to celebrate and deepen our bonds with the natural world.*"

So, with that encouragement to read wildly, might I encourage you to read deeply into the wonder of this wild life and earth, the stories of the creatures and the land in which we are blessed to dwell alongside? Read the stories of others with the joy of simply discovering the story, allowing your own enjoyment of this reading of the beauty of the world to teach through the ways in which it captures your attention and imagination.

Ours is a congregation that still finds much life and meaning in our life together in the summer, but we also recognize the holy change in pace as well. May we find in gentle ways of this season how God's Spirit is still communicating in creation, in creativity, in story... waiting to be read in wonder. That said, I expect your book reports to be handed in promptly in September. Or... maybe not...





*A memorial service for Shirley Pyles
will be held at FCC on
Saturday, May 30 at 10:30 a.m.
All attendees are invited downstairs afterwards
for coffee and light refreshments,
and a gift from the family.*

WELCOME!

On Sunday, May 24, FCC was excited to welcome the following new members into the congregation:

Lily and Marc Cappelletti
Jamie Caulley Gaudion
Kate and Dillon Hamill
Sheila and Randy Hamill

Please be sure to introduce yourself to our new members next Sunday!

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/>

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

I am available for times to visit, sit, or pray together as you would like. If you would like to schedule a meeting, [you can do so](#) here, or by contacting me [by email](#).

*Blessings of the Spirit to you
Pastor Geoff*



2025 BOB FULLER AWARDEES

(Peter Bates, GM Moderator)

The Foreside Community church established the Bob Fuller Award in January 1991 to recognize and honor Bob who unselfishly contributed to the life of our church over several decades. Bob lived nearby on Hedge-row Drive in Falmouth and served FCC in many roles, including leadership of its church council, and was an ever-present volunteer who helped maintain our building and grounds. This annual award recognized members and friends of FCC who give of their “time, energy and enthusiasm in the spirit of Bob Fuller.”

This year, the Governing Board has voted unanimously to recognize Cynthia Beggs and Bruce Kaake with this singular award. Cynthia and Bruce currently serve as co-chairs of the Building and Grounds Ministry but their impact on our church is broader and deeper than even those important roles.

As Building and Grounds co-chairs, they have worked with others to maintain our aging building to a standard that serves the needs of our community. In recent years this responsibility has included improvements such as replacing our stove and oven, identifying a contractor to remove tree limbs that pose risk to parishioners and cars, and developing a process to replace our elevator. To these challenges, and others, Cynthia and Bruce bring a cheerfulness that is infectious and an optimism that overcomes almost any challenge. If you’ve participated in recent fall and spring cleanups you know how they make the work fun and time pass quickly.

Bruce, who works at Bowdoin College, became an FCC member in 2023 and seems to have a tool for every job, including a large utility trailer for garden and parking

lot leaf disposal. This spring he led the cleanup crew with- in weeks of undergoing a knee replacement—an inspiring leadership model for all of us. And no one can forget his performance as Santa Claus soliciting traffic for the church fair last December.

Cynthia joined our church in 2017 and has held so many FCC roles that it is challenging to recount them all. In addition to the Building and Grounds Ministry, she has served on the Governing Board as a member, Vice Moderator and Moderator, and she partnered with Eric Tracy in leading recent annual pledge drives with sincerity and engaging humor. She has even written a liturgy for Geoff Parker with Mary Ryder. By one account Cynthia is responsible for ten or more new individuals in our church community, having recruited not only Bruce but her daughters and their families.

In all these roles, Cynthia and Bruce bring smiles, encouragement and a celebration of mutual accomplishment that makes volunteering fun and desirable. They are indispensable members of our church community and part of the secret sauce that makes FCC so unique. Bob Fuller would have been proud to know them as fellow church members. Please join the members of our Governing Board in congratulating Cynthia and Bruce as our 2025 Bob Fuller awardees and thanking them for their contribu- tions.



UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Justice & Outreach Ministry Announces Next Mission Moment

From Houses to Homes: Home Building in Guatemala

Kristen and Audrey Farnham travelled to Antigua, Guatemala in March 2026 and worked with an NGO (non governmental organization) to build a house with and for an indigenous family. In their Mission Moment to be presented during service on **Sunday, June 7**, they will share about their experience getting to know the Vasquez family, their new skills in cement mixing and mortaring, and what home means to them.



Swing Into Spring Dance

On Saturday, April 25 a group of spring revelers and dance lovers met at the church to a Spotify Playlist that kept us dancing and grooving for several hours. Think Earth, Wind and Fire; Elvis Presley with a bit of Maroon 5 thrown in. Joyce Bailey, local Line Dancing teacher extraordinaire showed up to entertain and teach some fun line dancing moves and sequences. Refreshments were enjoyed by all. It was a great evening of movement, revelry, learning and joviality! Total proceeds collected of \$190.00 were donated to FCC's Neighbors in Need fund. Come join us next time!

Kathie McCatherin

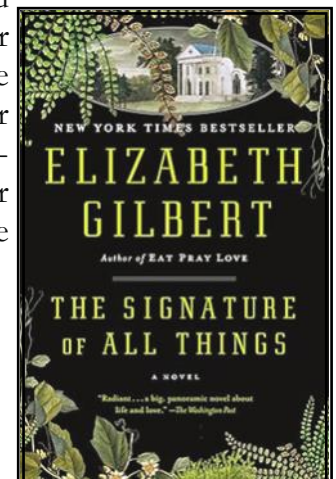
FCC Book Club Updates

The FCC book club wound up this reading season with an in-depth discussion of the many ethical and moral questions related to raising "wild leverets" in Raising Hare by Chloe Dalton. Thanks to all of you for such a thought-provoking conversation! We will now take a summer break and resume meeting in September when we will discuss The Signature of All Things by Elizabeth Gilbert. Summary follows:

"From the moment Alma Whittaker steps into the world, everything about life intrigues her. Instilled with an unquenchable sense of wonder by her father, a botanical explorer and the richest man in the New World, Alma is raised in a house of luxury and curiosity. It is not long before she becomes a gifted botanist in her own right. But as she flourishes and her research takes her deeper into the mysteries of evolution, the man she comes to love draws her in the opposite direction - into the realm of the spiritual, the divine and the magical. The Signature of All Things soars across the globe of the nineteenth century, from London and Peru, to Philadelphia, Tahiti and beyond. Peopled with extraordinary characters along the way, most of all it has an unforgettable heroine in Alma Whittaker." (quoted from Amazon)

Remember to send me your suggestions over the summer for future choices. I will compile a list to send out towards the end of August from which you can vote, and we will choose the ones with the most votes. If I hear no response, you will be stuck with my choices!

Now go forth and enjoy the summer, wherever it may take you. Stay safe and keep reading whatever brings you joy. Your suggestions are always welcome for future meetings. Send to me at mimihinkel@gmail.com



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



Trevor Lavenbein ~ 6

Michaela Lahlou ~ 7

Wyatt Hamill ~ 10

Wendi Maynard ~ 10

Charlotte Talmadge ~ 11

Pet Ventre ~ 11

Marion Walsh ~ 14

The Rev. Jim Gertmenian ~ 16

Deborah Gray ~ 20

Parker Albee ~ 23

Ella Verena Bartoletti ~ 27

Cliff Gilpin ~ 28

Your church family would love to help you celebrate your special day! If you haven't seen your birthday listed in the monthly newsletter, that means the office does not have it. How about special anniversaries? We will gladly print those as well.

Please consider sharing your days and months by emailing info@foresidechurch.com.

Who knows, you might even be "gifted!?"

You can also call 781-5880.

The Men's Breakfast...

will be gathering on

Saturday, June 13 @ 8:30 a.m.
at the church

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

FMI John Bischof

jebischof@gmail.com or 781-2391

The Women's Monthly Breakfast

has concluded for the summer.

Please stay tuned for the

next scheduling in

September.

The July/August 2026 edition of *Steeplenotes*
material submittal deadline is
Thursday, June 18, 2026

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

Thank you!

COMMUNITY EVENTS



notice brought to you by the FCC Green Team

2026 Community Cleanup Events



The ocean is downstream from everything, so let's clean up our neighborhoods for a cleaner community and a healthier Casco Bay. We will provide everything you need to help out, including gloves, bags, and trash grabbers! Bring your friends and family for some good, clean fun. *All ages welcome. Registration is recommended so we know how many to expect.* We encourage carpooling, biking, or walking. Look for Friends of Casco Bay's big white pickup truck upon arrival.

Bug Light Clean-Up with Dirigo Science

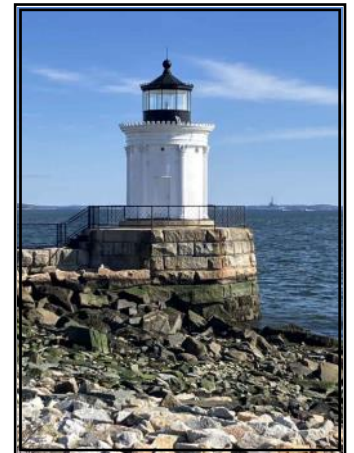
Sunday, June 7

11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Meet at [Bug Light Park, South Portland, ME](#)

Look for Friends of Casco Bay's big white pickup truck when you arrive.

[Register](#)



Coveside Community Cleanup

Friday, July 31

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Meet at Coveside Coffee, [28 Vannah Ave, Portland, ME](#)

We'll start at Coveside Coffee and fan out into the neighborhoods in Woodford Corner and Back Cove areas.

[Register](#)

COMMUNITY EVENTS (cont.)

STUDENT-LED CHANGE
AT FALMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

CLEAN OUT YOUR WINTER CLOSET!

♡ DONATE COATS & BOOTS ♡
to Maine Needs



COATS



BOOTS

YOUR DONATION
MAKES A
BIG DIFFERENCE!



Pass along warmth to
someone in need.

DONATION BINS LOCATED IN:



MAIN
LOBBY



END OF
GRADE WINGS



COMMON
AREAS

NEW OR
GENTLY USED
ITEMS
WELCOME!



THANK YOU FOR HELPING
MAINE FAMILIES!



LEARN MORE:
studentledchangemaine@gmail.com




www.studentledchange.org

Student-Led Change is a student organization at Falmouth High School
working to make a positive impact in our community.



June 2026

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 7:30pm Pastoral Relations	2 9am Tuesday Book Grp. 12pm Knitters 6:15pm Choir 7:15pm AA 7:15pm Bells	3 10am Centering Prayer (parlor)	4 6pm AA Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)	5	6
7 9:30am Service Sanctuary/Online The Rev. Susan Gilpin in the pulpit <i>Mission Moment</i> 11am Green Team (classroom)	8	9 12pm Knitters 6:15pm Choir 7:15pm AA 7:15pm Bells	10	11 6pm AA Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)	12	13 8:30am Men's Breakfast
14 9:30am Service Sanctuary/Online The Rev. Chuck Erb in the pulpit	15	16 12pm Knitters 6:15pm Choir 7:15pm AA 7:15pm Bells	17 12 to 7pm Labyrinth 7pm Finance Ministry Mtg. (Zoom)	18 6pm AA Mtg. (Fellowship Hall) 7:30pm Building & Grounds Mtg. (Zoom) <i>Deadline to submit print-ready material for the July/August Steeplenotes</i>	19 <i>Church will be closed.</i> 	20
21 9:30am Service Sanctuary/Online <i>Last choir performance of the summer!</i>	22 7:00pm Governing Board Mtg. (Zoom)	23 12pm Knitters 7:15pm AA	24	25 6pm AA Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)	26	27
28 9:30am Service Sanctuary/Online	29	30 12pm Knitters 7:15pm AA				

Daily Lectionary Readings for June 2026

Mon., June 1

Psalm 69:1-3, 13-16, 30-36
 Genesis 4:1-16
 Romans 2:1-11

Tues., June 2

Psalm 69:1-3, 13-16, 30-36
 Genesis 4:17—5:5
 Romans 3:9-22a

Wed., June 3

Psalm 69:1-3, 13-16, 30-36
 Genesis 11:1-9
 Matthew 7:13-20

Thurs., June 4

Psalm 33:1-12
 Genesis 13:1-18
 2 Peter 2:17-22

Fri., June 5

Psalm 33:1-12
 Genesis 14:17-24
 Acts 28:1-10

Sat., June 6

Psalm 33:1-12
 Genesis 15:1-20
 Matthew 9:27-34

Sun., June 7

Genesis 12:1-9
 Psalm 33:1-12
 Romans 4:13-25
 Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Mon., June 8

Psalm 119:41-48
 Genesis 16:1-15
 2 Corinthians 6:14—7:2

Tues., June 9

Psalm 119:41-48
 Genesis 17:1-27
 Hebrews 13:1-16

Wed., June 10

Psalm 119:41-48
 Genesis 18:16-33
 Matthew 12:1-8

Thurs., June 11

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
 Genesis 21:1-7
 Hebrews 3:1-6

Fri., June 12

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
 Genesis 24:1-9
 Acts 7:35-43

Sat., June 13

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
 Genesis 24:10-52
 Mark 7:1-13

Sun., June 14

Genesis 18:1-15 [21:1-7]
 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
 Romans 5:1-8
 Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

Mon., June 15

Psalm 126
 Genesis 23:1-19
 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Tues., June 16

Psalm 126
 Genesis 25:7-11
 2 Thessalonians 2:13—3:5

Wed., June 17

Psalm 126
 Nehemiah 9:1-8
 Luke 6:12-19

Thurs., June 18

Psalm 86:1-10
 Exodus 12:43-49
 Hebrews 2:5-9

Fri., June 19

Psalm 86:1-10
 Genesis 35:1-4
 Acts 5:17-26

Sat., June 20

Psalm 86:1-10
 Ezekiel 29:3-7
 Luke 11:53—12:3

Sun., June 21

Genesis 21:8-21
 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
 Romans 6:1b-11
 Matthew 10:24-39

Mon., June 22

Psalm 86:11-17
 Genesis 16:1-15
 Revelation 2:1-7

Tues., June 23

Psalm 86:11-17
 Genesis 25:12-18
 Revelation 2:8-11

Wed., June 24

Psalm 86:11-17
 Jeremiah 42:18-22
 Matthew 10:5-23

Thurs., June 25

Psalm 13
 Micah 7:18-20
 Galatians 5:2-6

Fri., June 26

Psalm 13
 2 Chronicles 20:5-12
 Galatians 5:7-12

Sat., June 27

Psalm 13
 Genesis 26:23-25
 Luke 17:1-4

Sun., June 28

Genesis 22:1-14
 Psalm 13
 Romans 6:12-23
 Matthew 10:40-42

Mon., June 29

Psalm 47
 Genesis 22:15-18
 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Tues., June 30

Psalm 47
 1 Kings 18:36-39
 1 John 4:1-6

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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

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