



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



*The last day of Sunday School involved such good cheer,
bubbles, and delicious ice cream sundaes.
See you in September!*

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
Youth & Families Coordinator: Elise Wulff
Office Manager: Christina Sklarz

Office: 207-781-5880

E-mail: info@foresidechurch.org

Web: www.foresidechurch.org

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PASTORAL NOTES

Dear Foreside Friends,

I wish you many blessings of this summer!

In this season of beauty in the creation, may you be filled with wonder. “The heavens are telling the glory of God,” we are told... so may you have time to listen for songs of praise from a slightly *wilder* choir than usual and persist in prayer and listening for the Spirit’s voice in sanctuaries with slightly higher ceilings!

In the season of the houseguest, may you remember “to extend hospitality to strangers” (and friends, and family) “for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” The scripture is less clear whether angels help with the dishes and the washing before they go, but they tell us to “be not afraid,” so I’m guessing they come bearing good news one way or another!

And in this season of rest, may you enjoy the peace that arrives in moments of stillness, in which we are reminded that we are worthy of blessing and grace not for what we *do* or *produce*, but for what we *are*: beloved of God.

I have come to love the traditions of our congregation each summer,

The ways in which we invite each other to enjoy the beauty around us by worshipping outside.

The ways we welcome each other and our gifts, sharing leadership of worship and care.

The ways in which we honor and nurture our each other’s rest, by allowing each other, volunteers, and staff times of rest and renewal. (*Your staff in particular give you thanks!*)

I pray you might enjoy—and share—these gifts together, and with friends and neighbors in the time to come!

Summer Prayers on the Patio Worship Series

July 12

Pastor Geoff leading

July 19

Green Team leading

July 26

Kathie McCatherin leading

August 2

John Bischof leading

Please note:

I will be away on vacation from July 13 – August 2. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact:

July 13 – July 26

The Rev. Kelli Whitman (717) 756–4992

July 27 – August 2

The Rev. Susan Gilpin (207) 310–0329

Neighbors in Need Fund

A final note: amongst the many joys of this season, we know that there are many in our community who are also in the midst of deep challenges and struggles: who cannot make ends meet, and who live with uncertainty and anxiety for food, shelter, medical care, and other necessities.

One of the ways our congregation offers a sign of God’s care and support in these times is through our *Neighbors in Need Fund*. Usually, the fund is replenished through the gifts we gather together in our Christmas Eve and Easter worship services. However, in this time of increased need, the fund is running dangerously low. In a time in which we give thanks for much, if you would like to support others from a spirit of gratitude and generosity, please consider making a gift to this important resource by sending a check marked “Neighbors in Need” to the church office.

Blessings to you all,

Geoff

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!

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>

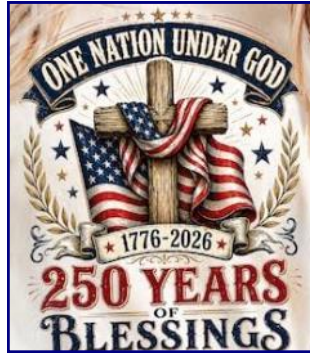
Bulletins for each service, including words to that day's hymns are also posted at the above website address.

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*



Celebrating the 250th in Falmouth



The official town-wide 250th anniversary events schedule for Falmouth, Maine, is integrated into the broader **Revolutionary Maine: America at 250** initiative. Because historical Falmouth originally encompassed Portland, Westbrook, and Cape Elizabeth, major celebrations are happening at both the town level and in coordination with regional organizations.

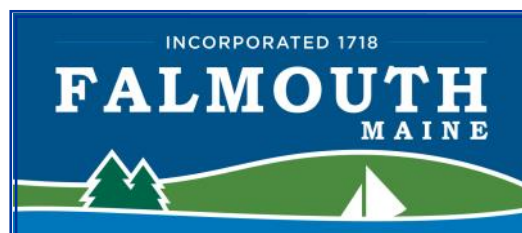
Primary statewide and regional events include:

- **The Dunlap Broadside Tour (July–Oct 2026):** A rare 1776 printing of the Declaration of Independence is traveling across all 16 Maine counties.
- **Maine Celebrates 250! Independence Day (July 4, 2026):** The Maine Historical Society in nearby Portland is hosting a civic ceremony, community reading of the Declaration, and musical performances.

Local town and historical activities include:

- **Historical Exhibits (Summer/Fall 2026):** The Falmouth Historical Society hosts ongoing exhibits detailing local life, town heritage, and figures from the Revolutionary era.
- **Summer Outdoor Events:** Falmouth's outdoor recreation and concert programs include **Village Park Summer Concerts** and **Tidewater Farm** film screenings hosted by the Falmouth Land Trust.

Additional schedules and community gatherings can be tracked directly through local updates provided by the [Town of Falmouth](#) or by visiting [Revolutionary Maine](#).



UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Fair 2026 ~ Let's Start Planning!

Do you have bumper crop of cucumbers that want to be pickles? Are you knitting while your grandchildren frolic on the beach? Are you finally sorting that closet and giving away skates, or the unused croquet set, or your grandmother's silverware? Start a box for the Christmas Fair! **DON'T BRING IT TO CHURCH YET, PLEASE.** We are not ready to sort and price, but that day will come.

Are you good with numbers? As we size up the volunteer opportunities, we will need financial facilitation help, including at the cashier's tables, and would like to line up support/staffing earlier rather than later. You will be shocked how fast the next five months will pass by. Please contact Christina directly for further details. You will be fully supported so jump in and let's talk!

Do you need a lovely set of 10 dining room chairs? The Cinelli's are downsizing and these lovelies need a new home. And if maroon is not in your chosen palate, seats are easily recovered, even by a rookie.

Finally, "The Lord's Lupines" will come back this fall – If anyone would like to go out with me in a week or two to collect seeds, we can bring back an FCC tradition. They originally came from George Lord's pasture about 15 years ago!!

Have a Jolly July!!

Carol W.



Would these chairs look great in your home? Contact Carol Ward to discuss!

Memorial Garden News

Our memorial garden is looking lovely. The three white dogwoods are currently blooming, and climbing hydrangeas are thinking about climbing. The serenity of the spot is completed by the ferns that surround the rocks, despite a few of them being mowed by mistake. They will come back!

If you would like to claim your spot this year on the memorial stones, the office should have your paperwork by early August to get on the engraver's schedule. Annual dedication will always be around November 1st, All Saints Day. To discuss fees and other details, speak with [Deb Reifsnyder](#), the garden registrar..

FCC Lending Library – More than Just Books

Searching for an enjoyable book to read this summer? Looking for a way to spend a rainy day? Heading to camp where there is not internet or TV? Want to unplug for a while? **The Fellowship Ministry** continues to facilitate a lending library at the church, free for the borrowing with no time limits.

And, we would love additions from our community. Bring books and audio books you loved, games you enjoyed but have now outgrown or are tired of playing, and puzzles you have completed for the last time (please be sure all the pieces are there) to the shelves downstairs next to the ADA bathroom. **Fellowship** will try to maintain some sort of organization. If you want, add a little review to entice the next person to take it home to enjoy. Please be selective on what you bring as there is limited space. Any questions? Please be sure to reach out to [Liz Ventre](#). She has great answers!



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

Lisette Rodas ~ 8
 Emily Demetrious ~ 11
 Laura Lepine ~ 13
 Polly Burke ~ 13
 Rayan Lahlou ~ 18
 Paul Dodson ~ 25
 Debbie Reifsnyder ~ 26
 Jil Fox ~ 28

**July Birthdays**

Maddy Jones ~ 8
 Tommy Johnson ~ 8
 Terry Skillin ~ 9
 Kate Hamill ~ 11
 Robin Singer ~ 12
 Olivia Knudsen ~ 15
 Poppy Herring ~ 18
 Catherine Hannon ~ 22
 David N. Clark ~ 22

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!?"

 FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH



**Our new Photo and
 Contact Directory
 is available!**

If you would like a copy, please be in touch with [Christina](#) (781-5880) in the office. The directory is available only in hardcopy to protect member contact information. If you have not yet submitted a household photo for the directory, you may do so at [this link](#).

Photo and Contact Directory
 2026

340 Foreside Road
 Portsmouth, NH 03801 | (207) 781-5880
foresidechurch.org

The September 2026 edition
 of *Steeplenotes*
 material submittal deadline is
 Friday, August 21, 2026

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

Thank you!

July 2026

Be sure to check the calendar at The Foreside Community Church's website
www.foresidechurch.org
 for any updates or changes.

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1	2 6pm AA Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)	3 Church office closed in observance of the 4th of July federal holiday.	
5 9:30 a.m. service & communion Sanctuary/online	6	7 7:15pm AA	8	9 6pm AA Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)	10	11
12 9:30 a.m. Prayers on the Patio w/ Pastor Geoff	13	14 7:15pm AA	15	16 Church office closed. 6pm AA Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)	17	18
19 9:30 a.m. Prayers on the Patio w/ The Green Team	20 Church office closed.	21 7:15pm AA	22 7 p.m. Finance Ministry Mtg. (Zoom)	23 6pm AA Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)	24	25
26 9:30 a.m. Prayers on the Patio w/ Kathie McCatherin	27 Church office closed.	28 7:15pm AA	29	30	31	

August 2026

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www.foresidechurch.org
 for any updates or changes.

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
August 30 9:30am service sanctuary/online	August 31					1 Kaake Family Reunion Fellowship Hall
2 Prayers on the Patio w/ John Bischof	3	4 7:15pm AA Mtg. Fellowship Hall	5	6 6pm AA Mtg. Fellowship Hall	7	8
9 9:30am service sanctuary/online	10	11 7:15pm AA Mtg. Fellowship Hall	12	13 6pm AA Mtg. Fellowship Hall	14	15
16 9:30am service sanctuary/online	17	18 7:15pm AA Mtg. Fellowship Hall	19 7pm Finance Ministry (Zoom)	20 6pm AA Mtg. Fellowship Hall 7:30pm Building & Grounds Ministry	21 Deadline for September Steeplenotes material submittal	22
23 9:30am service sanctuary/online	24 7pm Governing Board Mtg. (Zoom)	25 7:15pm AA Mtg. Fellowship Hall	26	27 6pm AA Mtg. Fellowship Hall	28	29

Daily Lectionary Readings for July 2026

Wed., July 1

Psalm 47
Isaiah 51:1-3
Matthew 11:20-24

Thurs., July 2

Psalm 45:10-17
Genesis 25:19-27
Romans 7:1-6

Fri., July 3

Psalm 45:10-17
Genesis 27:1-17
Romans 7:7-20

Sat., July 4

Psalm 45:10-17
Genesis 27:18-29
Luke 10:21-24

Sun., July 5

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45:10-17 or
Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Mon., July 6

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Genesis 27:30-46
Romans 1:18-25

Tues., July 7

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Genesis 29:1-14
Romans 3:1-8

Wed., July 8

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Genesis 29:31-35
John 13:1-17

Thurs., July 9

Psalm 119:105-112
Exodus 3:1-6
Romans 2:12-16

Fri., July 10

Psalm 119:105-112
Deuteronomy 32:1-10
Romans 15:14-21

Sat., July 11

Psalm 119:105-112
Isaiah 2:1-4
John 12:44-50

Sun., July 12

Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 119:105-112
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Mon., July 13

Psalm 142
Micah 1:1-5 1
Thessalonians 4:1-8

Tues., July 14

Psalm 142
Jeremiah 49:7-11
Ephesians 4:17—5:2

Wed., July 15

Psalm 142
Obadiah 15-21
Matthew 13:10-17

Thurs., July 16

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Isaiah 44:1-5
Hebrews 2:1-9

Fri., July 17

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Ezekiel 39:21-29
Hebrews 6:13-20

Sat., July 18

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Exodus 14:9-25
Matthew 7:15-20

Sun., July 19

Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Mon., July 20

Psalm 139:13-18
Genesis 32:3-21
Revelation 14:12-20

Tues., July 21

Psalm 139:13-18
Genesis 33:1-17
Galatians 4:21—5:1

Wed., July 22

Psalm 139:13-18
Genesis 35:16-29
Matthew 12:15-21

Thurs., July 23

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Genesis 29:1-8 1
Corinthians 4:14-20

Fri., July 24

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Genesis 29:9-14
Acts 7:44-53

Sat., July 25

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Genesis 29:31—30:24
Matthew 12:38-42

Sun., July 26

Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or
Psalm 128
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Mon., July 27

Psalm 65:8-13
Genesis 30:25-36
James 3:13-18

Tues., July 28

Psalm 65:8-13
Genesis 30:37-43
Ephesians 6:10-18

Wed., July 29

Psalm 65:8-13
Genesis 46:2—47:12
Mark 4:30-34

Thurs., July 30

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Isaiah 14:1-2
Philippians 4:10-15

Fri., July 31

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Isaiah 41:8-10
Romans 9:6-13

Daily Lectionary Readings for August 2026

Sat., Aug. 1

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Genesis 31:1-21
Matthew 7:7-11

Sun., Aug. 2

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Mon., Aug. 3

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Genesis 31:22-42
Romans 1:8-15

Tues., Aug. 4

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Genesis 32:3-21
Acts 2:37-47

Wed., Aug. 5

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Isaiah 43:1-7
Matthew 15:32-39

Thurs., Aug. 6

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Genesis 35:22b-29
Acts 17:10-15

Fri., Aug. 7

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Genesis 36:1-8
Acts 18:24-28

Sat., Aug. 8

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Genesis 37:5-11
Matthew 16:1-4

Sun., Aug. 9

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

Mon., Aug. 10

Psalm 28
Genesis 37:29-36 2 Peter 2:4-10

Tues., Aug. 11

Psalm 28
Genesis 39:1-23
Romans 9:14-29

Wed., Aug. 12

Psalm 28
Genesis 40:1-23
Matthew 8:23-27

Thurs., Aug. 13

Psalm 133
Genesis 41:14-36
Revelation 15:1-4

Fri., Aug. 14

Psalm 133
Genesis 41:37-57
Acts 14:19-28

Sat., Aug. 15

Psalm 133
Genesis 42:1-28
Matthew 14:34-36

Sun., Aug. 16

Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Mon., Aug. 17

Psalm 130
Genesis 43:1-34
Acts 15:1-21

Tues., Aug. 18

Psalm 130
Genesis 44:1-34
Romans 11:13-29

Wed., Aug. 19

Psalm 130
Genesis 45:16-28
Matthew 8:1-13

Thurs., Aug. 20

Psalm 124
Genesis 49:1-33
1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Fri., Aug. 21

Psalm 124
Genesis 49:29—50:14
2 Corinthians 10:12-18

Sat., Aug. 22

Psalm 124
Genesis 50:15-26
Matthew 16:5-12

Sun., Aug. 23

Exodus 1:8—2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

Mon., Aug. 24

Psalm 8
Exodus 1:1-7
Romans 2:1-11

Tues., Aug. 25

Psalm 8
Exodus 2:11-15a
Romans 11:33-36

Wed., Aug. 26

Psalm 8
Exodus 2:15b-22
Matthew 26:6-13

Thurs., Aug. 27

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Exodus 2:23-24
Ephesians 5:1-6

Fri., Aug. 28

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Exodus 3:16-25
2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Sat., Aug. 29

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Exodus 4:1-9
Matthew 8:14-17

Sun., Aug. 30

Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

Mon., Aug. 31

Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18
Exodus 4:10-31
Revelation 3:1-6

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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

E-mail: info@foresidechurch.org Web: www.foresidechurch.org

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