



FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Connecting to God

Nurturing Community

Discovering our Callings

Sunday, October 25, 2026

The Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children will remain with us in worship today.

Children 4 and under are welcome in the nursery at any time in the service as needed.

PRELUDE

A Mighty Fortress

Martin Luther
arr. Brent Edstrom

GATHERING IN WORSHIP

One: Children of God, God is love.

1 John 4:8

All: We will love God with all our hearts.

God restores our souls and leads us in right paths.

Psalm 23:3

We will love God with all our souls.

God gives us wisdom to understand what is right.

Proverbs 2:6

We will love God with all our minds.

Love does no wrong to a neighbor,
and love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:10

We will love our neighbor as ourselves.

* HYMN

Love the Lord

Red Hymnal, #359

Vs. 1&2: Children Sing, Vs. 3&4 All Sing

Love the Lord, love the Lord, love the Lord with all your heart.

Love the Lord and love each other. I will love the Lord with all my heart.

Love the Lord, love the Lord, love the Lord with all your soul.

Love the Lord with all your being. I will love the Lord with all my soul.

Seek the Lord, seek the Lord, seek the Lord with all your mind.
In God's word and truth I find. I will seek the Lord with all my mind.

Serve the Lord, serve the Lord, serve the Lord with all your strength.
Heart and soul and mind and strength. I will love the lord with all I am.

*** OPENING PRAYER**

TIME FOR ALL AGES

Blessing of Shawls

ANTHEM

Psalm 24: A Psalm of Creation

Heather Sorenson

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:34-46

SERMON

The Rule and the Lens

The Rev. Geoff Parker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: BUBBLE PRAYERS

Pastor: May God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

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

My Lord, What a Morning

Cindy Berry

*** 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.**

*** Blessing of Gifts**

*** HYMN**

Like a Tree Beside the Waters

Black Hymnal, #313

**Like a tree beside the waters, nurtured by your loving care,
We, O God, your sons and daughters, your enduring witness bear.
In each passing generation may your voice of love be heard.
Bless, we pray, this congregation with your holy, loving Word.**

**Like a tree beside the river, drawing life from holy streams,
Fill us with your love forever; recreate our hopes and dreams.
Through the storms of life sustain us by the wisdom of your grace.
May the changing of the seasons find us in your warm embrace.**

**We, beside the living waters, drink from your eternal life.
Give to all, your sons and daughters, faith that rises over strife.
O Living God, most glorious, strengthen us for life today.
By the hope of timeless promise guide your church upon the Way.**

*** BLESSING AND SENDING**

Today's Sanctuary Arrangement:

*Is offered up by Laura Lepine with one irreplaceable word:
"Peace"*

Today's Ministers of Worship:

Charlie Bernacchio, John Bischof, Robin Singer
and Sunday School Children

Sunday School Staff

Elise Wulff and Lindy Glover

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clothing – Reuse and Recycle!



Consignment shops are great for turning in your clean, used clothing and buying new-to-you clothing:

1. Forget-Me-Nots, The Fashion Gods and Lots for Tots, all in Falmouth
2. Haberdashery, Mothertree, and Kargos, all in Freeport
3. Woods & Waters Gear Exchange, in Freeport

Donate good used clothing to Community Groups:

1. Maine Needs, 2385 Congress Street, Portland (please use small bags, folded and sorted by size)
2. Seventh Day Adventist Church, 105 Allen Ave., Portland
3. Freeport Community Center, 53 Depot Street, Freeport

Is your old clothing not good enough to donate? Look for "*Apparel Impact*" bins, large white bins with their red logo. There are many in our area: in Falmouth bins are located next

(Clothing – cont.)

to Lamey Wellehan and F. O. Bailey; in Cumberland at the Town Hall; in Yarmouth at the transfer station. "*Apparel Impact*" accepts clothing, shoes, underwear, accessories and linens in any condition. They will donate decent clothing to community groups; anything too worn is upcycled or responsibly recycled. For more information on this dynamic company, go to www.apparelimpact.com.

Take clean, used bedding to shelters, including pet shelters; look for a local clothing swap through the online Meetup site; check out Birdie Blue online where your used winter skiwear is converted into beautiful bags. There are a lot of options for "disposing" your used clothing somewhere other than the landfill!

CALLING ALL PIE MAKERS!!



It is that time of year again when we kick off the church fair proceeds with our annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale. In order for it to be a success, once again, I am asking all of you pie bakers to volunteer to make a 9-inch pie for someone in our congregation to buy. The pies are only made if I have buyers, so nothing goes to waste. **If you are willing to bake a pie for the sale, please contact Liz Ventre at eventrel@maine.rr.com or 207-653-4117 (Text is best and allows me to keep track.) ~ Thank You! ~**

LIKE TO WORK WITH YOUR HANDS?



Justice and Outreach has been working with a friend of the church who had extremely high heating bills last winter. In further support J&O is now also working with WindowDressers, a volunteer group that builds custom-measured wood and plastic film window-insulating inserts. (For more information on this amazing non-profit please check out WindowDressers.org.) The windows have been measured, and now the assembly will take place at PassivHaus on 35 Main Street, Suite B in Freeport from October 23rd through October 27th, with shifts from 8-12 and 1-5 p.m. It is hoped that some of you can help. There are skilled volunteers supervising the work. You can sign up on line at the above WindowDressers web page or contact me if you are interested or have questions. Thank you. Lois Myers ~



A Call For Volunteers!

The 2026 Christmas Fair is right around the corner.....and every Thursday, between 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. join us in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your donations or your hands to lend, or your brain to share ideas. We work, we talk, we laugh – and the more fun we have, the greater success we can plan for on the big day, and the more lasting the memories; an unbeatable combination!

The Christian Education Ministry says, "Hold this date!"

Connect with other FCC parents! Join Pastor Geoff and fellow FCC parents for another open-ended conversation about parenting, family life, and how our church community can best support you. The next opportunity for gathering with other FCC parents is as follows:

- **Sunday, November 1** from 4-5 pm in FCC's large classroom upstairs. This conversation will focus on teen/young adult years. (No childcare).

Have questions or want to know more? Contact Wendy at wendyrtracy@gmail.com. Hope you can join us! *Also, save this date: Christmas Fair Crafting!*

- **November 15**, after worship, in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join as we create crafts for the Christmas Fair.



Last call for November Steeplenotes material!
Please do not hesitate to contact the office
(781-5880 or info@foresidechurch.org) with any questions.

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. Alternatively, the nursery is equipped with a sound system so that you may listen to the service even if you would like to remain with your child.

Children age 4 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 on 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.

THIS WEEK AT FORESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday, October 25:

- 9:30 a.m.** Sunday Worship (Sanctuary and Online)
- After Worship** Parents Gathering (Pastor's Office)
- After Worship** Green Team Meeting (Classroom)
- 2:00 p.m.** Cumberland Assoc. UCC Annual Meeting
(High St. Church, Auburn)

Monday, October 26: 7:30 p.m. Christian Education Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, October 27:

- 12:00 p.m.** Prayer Shawl Knitters (Classroom)
- 6:15 p.m.** Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 7:15 p.m.** Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 7:15 p.m.** AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, October 28: 10:00 a.m. Centering Prayer (Parlor)

Thursday, October 29:

9:30 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay (Sanctuary)

1:00 p.m. Christmas Fair Prep (Fellowship Hall)

6:00 p.m. Women's AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, October 31:



Sunday, November 1:

9:30 a.m. All Saints Sunday Worship
with Dedication of Memorial Garden Names
(Sanctuary and Online)

4:00 p.m. Parents *of teens and young adults*
Gathering (Classroom)

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www.foresidechurch.org



An Open and Affirming Congregation

General Office Hours:

Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
unless otherwise posted

The Rev. Geoff Parker, Pastor – gparker@foresidechurch.org
Trevor Lavenbein, Choir Director – tlavenbein@foresidechurch.org
David Bartoletti, Organist/Accompanist – dbartoletti@foresidechurch.org
Elise Wulff, Youth and Families Coordinator – ewulff@foresidechurch.org
Christina Sklarz, Office Manager – csklarz@foresidechurch.org
Kate Hollinger, Bookkeeper – khollinger@foresidechurch.org

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