



Falmouth Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

267 Falmouth Road

Falmouth, Maine 04105

207.781.3413



Serving Christ and Community since
1754 Third Parish Church;
1833 The Brick Church

The Reverend Amelia Edson



THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*“To get the full value of joy you must have someone to divide it with.”—
Mark Twain*

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

***WELCOME AND THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

PRELUDE

“How Beautiful Are the Feet of Them”

from Messiah,
G. F. Handel

***CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE¹**

One: The problems are huge, and solutions complicated. Bad news crowds the world, refuses passage to delight. Who will prepare the way of joy?

All: The One who exchanged a garland of beauty for the taste of ashes.

One: When the poor long for just enough to stop worrying, while the rich read books to divest from excess, Who will prepare the way of joy?

All: The One who made the earth and all its contents good. The One who promises to bring all things to fulfillment.

One: When the seas are choked with garbage, color is still a measure of personhood, and wealth is still a measure of worth, who will prepare the way of our joy?

All: The One who came with human needs, and heavenly desire, a human brain, and God’s own thoughts, a human heart, and Eternity’s love.

One: Desire of Nations, Glory of Heaven, Light of the World:

All: Come into our hearts and fill us with your joy. Let us prepare our hearts and worlds for your advent.

The third candle is lit, symbolizing Joy.

One: Like calls to like. Deep calls to deep. After shadows, light.

All: Deep calls to deep. Like calls to like. After shadow, light.

¹ Call to worship adapted from The Christmas Fund resources, written by Rev. Quinn Caldwell

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: When Mary was with child the world viewed her with suspicion.

All: We admit that we, too, struggle to believe other’s truths, and even silence the knowledge of our own hearts.

One: When Joseph and Mary searched for a place to stay the world closed its doors.

All: We confess that we, too, close ourselves off from the suffering of this world, choosing apathy over empathy and ignorance over engagement.

One: When Jesus was born the powerful attacked his family, trying to stamp out the hope he promised.

All: We realize that we, too, participate in systems that oppress the vulnerable. We, too, are often afraid to fully embrace the hope that God offers us.

One: Emmanuel, God with us, forgive us our trespasses and open our hearts.

All: So that on Christmas Day we will be ready to receive you in our midst and our lives may be testaments of the Christmas story. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Let us remember: Christ came to earth so that we might be redeemed.

All: There is nothing we can do, think, or say, that can separate us from our God who loves us.

One: Hallelujah!

All: Hallelujah!

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 11:2-11

(NRSV p. 622; RSV p.629†)

(NRSV p. 9; RSV p.10†)

THE SERMON

“Joy”

Rev. Amelia Edson

***HYMN and GREENING OF THE CHRISMON TREE**

“Wait for the Lord”

During this song, Ushers will collect prayer cards for the Pastoral Prayer.

Wait for the Lord

(Attendez le Seigneur, son jour est proche. Prenez cœur. / Ждите Господа, ибо близок день Его; бодрствуйте, будьте крепки сердцем. cf Ps 27, 14)

2

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Wait for the Lord'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

THE OFFERTORY

“Why Not Buy an Extra Present?”

Joel Raney

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessing flow:
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: May the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts.

All: Christ is our peace, our light, and our hope.

One: Let us pray.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Next Page

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE “Go in Peace”**

No.445

POSTLUDE “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” arr. Anna Laura Page

*** During the postlude, you may be seated to listen, or you may leave.**

In the Bleak Midwinter

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, Frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, Nor earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels May have gath - ered there,
 4 What can I give him, Poor as I am?

Earth stood hard as i - ron, Wa - ter like a stone;
 Heaven and earth shall flee a - way When he comes to reign;
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim Throng - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, Snow on snow,
 In the bleak mid - win - ter A sta - ble place suf - ficed The
 But his moth - er on - ly, In her maid - en bliss,
 If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet

In the bleak mid - win - ter, Long a - go.
 Lord God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 Wor - shipped the be - lov - ed With a kiss.
 what I can I give him - Give my heart.

Throughout the order of worship, if print is in bold, words may be spoken in unison.

(*)Please rise in body or spirit.

*NRSV Bibles are on the pulpit side and the RSV Bibles are on the lectern side of the sanctuary.

Next Sunday's Lectionary

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Visiting Falmouth Congregational this morning? Please fill out a blue visitor card and put it in the offering plate so that we can send you a (personal, non-spam) welcome email!

The chancel flowers are given by Maureen Grubb and family in loving memory of her husband, Charles L. Grubb, Jr. on his birthday today.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Greeter: Carol Dow
Liturgist: Virginia Eddy
Ushers: John Boothby, Tyler Henderson
Rodney & Anne Coleman
Advent Lighters: Craig & Marybeth Page
Bus Driver: Phil Pierce

**PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE
IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS**

Leon Kauffman
Jo Blinick
Maureen Grubb
Ginny Hamilton
James Klenk
Rev. Beinema



Don Worthen
Joan Bamel
Bee O'Brien
Myron Krueger
Maytha Southard

Please let the church office know if we have missed someone and please update us so that we may better pray for them. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We **welcome** you to worship and invite you to join us after the service in Fellowship Hall for refreshments. If you are visiting us today, please pick up a **Welcome Bag** in Fellowship Hall or in the Narthex and fill out a **blue Welcome card**.

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**Longest Night Service, Thursday, December 19, 6:00 PM.** Please join us for this service of comfort and hope.  
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Congratulations to Myron Hager, who has been given the Golden Cane Award for being the eldest Falmouth resident at 102 years young!

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**Christmas Caroling: Today, Sunday December 15** meet at the church at 12:30 and the bus will leave at 12:45 and be back at about 3:30pm.

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Have a good joke, theological question, or just low on caffeine? Drop by for **Coffee with the Pastor**, every **second and fourth Tuesday from 12:30-2:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall. **Next Coffee with the Pastor will be January 14 and 28. (No Meeting Christmas Eve)**

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**FCC BUS DRIVERS Please call if you need to cancel your ride.** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Jack Davis, 233-1707 |2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Paul Davis, 332-7268 |3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Phil Pierce, 781-3769 |4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Ann Sanborn, 318-6906 |5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Mark Horton, 838-1544

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The Falmouth Food Pantry is open the following days in December:

Mondays,	December 16:	9:00 - 11:00 AM
Tuesdays,	December 17:	9:30 - 11:30 AM
Thursdays,	December 19, 26:	4:30 - 6:30 PM

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**Nursery News:** The Children's ministry and Elena Parr are still in need of volunteers to become "on-call" nursery helpers. Please sign up on the volunteer sheet on the CE bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

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Chancel Flowers: The cost of altar flowers from Skillins has increased from \$38 to \$45.

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**Advent Group: Christian Meditation. Monday December 16, 23 5:30- 6:00 PM:**

In the busy Advent Season, take a moment to pause and reconnect through the Christian Meditative practice of Centering Prayer. Centering prayer is a gentle practice of silent, spacious communion with God. Grounded in Western Christian monastic practices, Centering Prayer encourages us to spend quiet time with our ever-present God.

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This year's Holly Days Fair was filled with holiday cheer as friends and families gathered to enjoy the fun. Credit and thanks go to the over 100 volunteers who worked on fair day and countless others who contributed behind the scenes. And, if happy smiles weren't reward enough, we also raised over \$15,000! Congrats to all for a successful day.

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**Offerings for the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross** may be placed in the purple envelopes that will be in the church pews throughout Advent, through Dec. 22.

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Annual Reports Due December 16: Reminder to the ministries that Annual Reports are due by Monday December 16 at 9:00 AM! (Except for year-end financials)

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, December 15th

9:00 AM Choir Practice
10:00 AM Worship Service
11:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship
12:40 PM Christmas Caroling
4:30 PM Memorial Service

Monday, December 16th

Annual Reports Due

9:00 AM Food Pantry Open
5:30 PM Christian Meditation Group

Tuesday, December 17th

9:30 AM Food Pantry Open
10:00 AM Bible Study at Ocean View
11:30 AM Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 18th

6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 19th

4:30 PM Food Pantry Open
5:00 PM Forever Growing Pageant
6:00 PM Longest Night Service
7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting

Sunday, December 22nd

Christmas Fund Due

9:00 AM Choir Practice
10:00 AM Worship Service
11:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship
11:30 AM Ministry of Education Meeting

Tuesday, December 24th

Christmas Eve

5:00 PM Christmas Pageant
8:00 PM Candlelight Service



Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Closed on Friday

Church Phone: 207.781.3413

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