



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

10:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2019



THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“The opposite of war isn’t peace, its creation.”

— RENT

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

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Plainsong

Chancel Handbell Choir

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

One: Conflict convulses the world. Where is the peaceable realm?

All: Borne in the most unexpected hands.

One: Conflict tears our nation. Where is the peaceable realm?

All: Borne into our midst when we least expect it.

One: Conflict echoes in our streets. Where is the peaceable realm?

All: Borne by the most unlikely of vessels.

One: Conflict rips at our homes and hearts. Where is the peaceable realm?

All: Borne in the heart of one with a heart like ours.

One: Denial, distraction, silence, acquiescence- false peace is offered at every turn. Where is the realm of true peace?

All: Borne in One we didn’t know we needed.

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

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

The fourth candle is lit, symbolizing Peace.

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 7:10-16

Matthew 1:18-25

(NRSV p. 596; RSV p.605†)

(NRSV p. 1; RSV p.1†)

THE SERMON

“Peace”

Rev. Amelia Edson

***HYMN** **“People, Look East”** No.142
During this song, Ushers will collect prayer cards for the Pastoral Prayer.

THE OFFERTORY **“Christmas is Coming”** 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** **“O Little Town of Bethlehem”** No. 144

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** **“Go in Peace”** No.445

POSTLUDE **“Raise Now Your Song on High”** Camille Saint-Saens/
From Christmas Oratoria

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

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.

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!

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Greeters: Don & Marion Olen
Liturgist: Marilee Beinema
Ushers: Paul Davis, Steve Hendry
Mark & Peggy Horton
Advent Lighters: Virginia Eddy & Jennifer Bissell
Bus Driver: Ann Sanborn

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

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



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

The Wulbrecht Family

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.



Next Sunday's Lectionary

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

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**.

Congratulations to Myron Hager, who has been given the Golden Cane Award for being the eldest Falmouth resident at 102 years young!

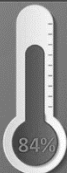
Have a good joke, theological question, or just low on caffeine? Drop by for **Coffee with the Pastor**, every **second and fourth Tuesday from 12:30-2:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall. **Next Coffee with the Pastor will be January 14 and 28. No Meeting Christmas Eve.**

Stewardship 2020 Update:

2020 Pledge Goal - \$200,000

\$168,000 YTD

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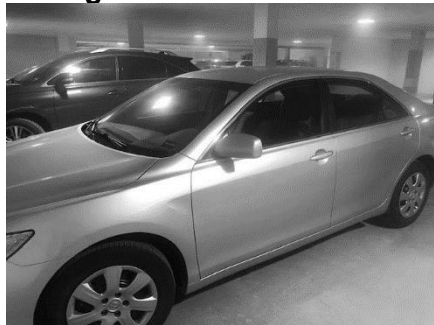
84%

As of this week, we have received 60 pledges which puts us way ahead of last year at this time. Total amount pledged to date is \$170,000 or 84% of our goal of \$200,000!

Thank you all for making the effort to make a pledge before the end of the year so we can develop a budget for all the ministries in January.

If you have not sent in your pledge or do not understand what pledging is all about, email the office at fcocffc@gmail.com and request the letter and pledge card. There are also letters and pledge cards on the table just outside the sanctuary doors.

A car has been donated to the church, and the proceeds of the sale will be shared amongst the church ministries.



This **2010 Toyota Camry LE with 17,580 miles** is in perfect condition but will need snow tires for winter driving. Kelly Blue Book estimates the car to be worth \$8,000-9,000, but we are first offering it to **members of the congregation at \$7,500.**

If the car does not sell, we will advertise outside the church with a price of \$8,000.

Please call the church office if you are interested and would like to see the car.

Hospitality table: The Hospitality Table will be set with goodies and available on Communion Sundays and special Sundays. If you would like to contribute to the Hospitality Table, there is a sign-up poster is located in Fellowship Hall!

And anytime you are baking, you may like to save a few extra contributions for our "Feed the Freezer" campaign. We greatly appreciate your assistance.

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

Mondays, January 6, 20: 9:00 - 11:00 AM
Tuesdays, January 14, 21, 28: 9:30 - 11:30 AM
Thursdays, Dec. 26, Jan. 9, 16, 23: 4:30 - 6:30 PM

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.

Advent Group: Christian Meditation. Monday December 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.

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.

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

Interested in learning more about membership at Falmouth Congregational Church? There will be a short meeting on January 12, and a joining ceremony on January 26.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

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

Monday, December 23rd

5:30 PM Christian Meditation Group

Tuesday, December 24th

Christmas Eve- Office Closed

5:00 PM Family Service / Pageant
7:00 PM Fiddle-icious Rehearsal
8:00 PM Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 25th

Christmas Day- Office Closed

Thursday, December 26th

Office Closed
4:30 PM Food Pantry Open

Sunday, December 29

No Church School or Choir

10:00 AM Worship Service
11:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship

Church Office Hours

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

Church Phone: 207.781.3413

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Katharina Roderick
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Holiday Office Hours:

In celebration of Christmas and the New Year,
The office will be closed Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next week
(December 24, 25 and 26)

The office will be closed New Year's Eve and New Year's Day
(December 31 and January 1)

We will reopen on Thursday, January 2, 9 AM- 3 PM