



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**

*“The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference.... The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.”— Elie Wiesel*

**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**

“Song of Hope”

Trad. Hebrew/  
Richard Warner

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE<sup>1</sup>**

One: Jesus said, “Love your neighbor.”

All: **But we haven't met our neighbors. The town is growing fast, and life is busy. How do we love whom we have not met?**

One: Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

All: **But we often see ourselves as incomplete, and do not fully embrace the beloved identity given to us by God. How do we love whom we have not met?**

One: Jesus said, “Love your enemies.”

All: **But our enemies have eyes we can't look into. They live behind screens and in the back corners of our minds. How do we love whom we have not met?**

One: Jesus and the Torah say “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.”

All: **But we cannot see or control the Mystery. How do we love whom we have not met?**

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

All: **You are the source of love. Come into our hearts again. Let us prepare our hearts and worlds for your advent.**

*The second candle is lit, symbolizing Love.*

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

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

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

**\*HYMN**

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

No. 119

## **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 11:1-10**

(NRSV p. 600; RSV p.609<sup>†</sup>)

**Matthew 3:1-12**

(NRSV p. 2; RSV p.2<sup>†</sup>)

**THE SERMON**

**“Love”**

Rev. Amelia Edson

**\*HYMN**                                    **“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”**                                    No. 160  
*During this song, Ushers will collect prayer cards for the Pastoral Prayer.*

**THE OFFERTORY**    **“E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come”**                                    Paul Manz

**\*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**                                    **“There's a Voice in the Wilderness”**                                    Next Page

**\*BENEDICTION**

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

**POSTLUDE**                                    **“On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry”** Michael Praetorius  
/David Cherwien

**\* 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.



**Next Sunday's Lectionary**

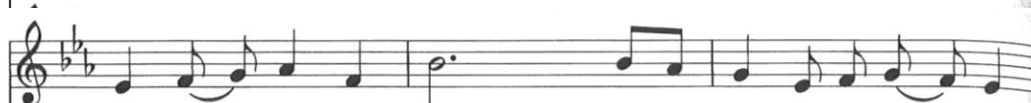
Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

*There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

*J. Lewis Milligan*



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
2 O Zi - on, who of - fers good tid - ings, to the  
3 But the word of our God is for - ev - er, our De -



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
height of the moun - tains dare! Lift your voice to the cit - ies of  
fend - er's will is strong; God stands in the midst of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The  
Ju - dah: "Be - hold your God!" de - clare. Like the  
na - tions, to ren - der right the wrong. Then



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the loft - y hills brought  
flowers of the field we per - ish, our hu - man works de -  
God shall be as a shep - herd, the lambs gath - ered to God's



low: make straight all the crook - ed pla - ces  
cay, the power and pomp of na - tions  
breast; and pas - tures of peace shall greet them,



where Em - man - u - el may go!  
shall pass like a dream a - way,  
to give to the wea - ry rest.

*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!*

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**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

**Greeter:** Sam Davidson  
**Liturgist:** Barbara Fleming  
**Ushers:** Jack Davis & Jim Parr  
**Advent Lighters:** James & Elba Parr with granddaughter, Elena  
**Bus Driver:** Jack Davis

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**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  
Kathy Whitmore & Her Family  
Heidi, Jane Stegemann's Grand Niece

Owen Fess, Barbara Graustein's Grandson

*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.*

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**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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Join **Called to Care** on Wednesday, December 11 at 1:00 PM to write **Christmas cards** to our home bound and members with whom we wish to keep in touch. Let Carol Kauffman or Jane Stegemann know if you will be coming. Snow date is December 12<sup>th</sup>.  
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**Coffee House, December 13 at 6:30 PM, Salvation Army Salute:** Join Craig Page and friends for an interactive evening of Christmas Caroling to get you in the Christmas Spirit!

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**Christmas Caroling: Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>** meet at the church at 12:30 and the bus will leave at 12:45 and be back at about 3:30pm. For info contact Sarah Davis, 781-5959.

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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 December 10<sup>th</sup>**

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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 10, 17:	9:30 - 11:30 AM
Thursdays,	December 12, 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 Dec. 9, 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 the countless others who contributed behind the scenes. Through your combined gifts of time and talent, a festive event greeted visitors with a wide variety of gift and food offerings. And, if happy smiles weren't reward enough, we also raised over \$15,000! Congrats and thanks 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.

# THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

## **Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM Choir Practice  
10:00 AM Worship Service  
Church School Cookie  
Decorating  
11:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship  
11:30 AM Council of Ministries  
12:00 PM Eagle Scout Ceremony

## **Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 PM Christian Meditation Group  
7:00 PM Fiddle-icious Rehearsal  
7:00 PM Worship & Covenant  
(Snow Date)

## **Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 AM Food Pantry Open  
10:00 AM Bible Study at Ocean View  
11:30 AM Staff Meeting  
12:30 PM Coffee with the Pastor

## **Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 PM Called to Care: Card-Writing  
6:00 PM Cub Scout Meeting  
6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

## **Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**

1:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry  
4:30 PM Food Pantry Open  
7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting

## **Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 PM Coffee House: Christmas  
Caroling with Craig Page

## **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

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

## ***Church Office Hours***

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

**Church Phone: 207.781.3413**

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