



Falmouth Congregational Church United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

267 Falmouth Road

Falmouth, Maine 04105

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

The Reverend Michael H. Richards
Pastor and Teacher

FALMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

10:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 5, 2017

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*How shall we observe Lent, the time of preparation for Easter?
With almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. Jesus' words from his Sermon on
the Mount provide instructions for the season of Lent.
Lent's rigorous discipline can school the Christian in grace.*

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

HONORING OUR CALL TO BE PEACEMAKERS

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(As a sign of our reconciliation with God and one another, we invite you to turn and greet those around you sharing the peace of Christ saying: "The Peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you.")

PRELUDE

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

arr. Charles Yocum

BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather with the disciples. The enthusiastic crowds of Judea and Galilee are behind us.

All: God fills us with thankfulness for Jesus: skilled healer, wise teacher, close friend.

One: The highway to Jerusalem stretches ahead of us.

All: God gives us courage to walk the challenging Lenten Way with Jesus, the Chosen One.

One: At the end of the journey there is a hill and a cross.

All: God calls on us to wonder at what sacrificial love will do, and to respond to Christ's love in practical ways.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: God loves this congregation so much, and has gifted us Jesus;

All: through Jesus we are encouraged to bring our heartfelt praise and prayer to God.

One: God loves the wider church so much, and has gifted us Jesus;

All: through Jesus we are challenged to broaden our vision of cooperation and responsibility.

One: God loves the world so much, and has gifted us Jesus;

All: through Jesus we are prepared to serve those most at risk, both near and far away.

One: God loves each one of us so much, and has gifted us Jesus;

All: through Jesus, we have the promise of salvation and of eternal life. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

No. 180, vs. 1,3,4

*OUR LORD'S PRAYER (sung in unison)

No. 307



*The flowers this morning are given to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of my parents
Robert and Ethel Rhoades
with love from Gini Rhoades Medford*

Worship Participants

Greeter: Carol Dow
Liturgist: Marilee Pillsbury
Ushers: Jack Davis, Jim Parr, Kim Mason, Mollie Mason
Communion: Jim Parr, Barbara Fleming, Mollie Mason, Jo Blinick

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. We encourage you to sign the guest book.

Children will go directly to Beinema Hall for Kids' Church today. **Visiting children are always welcome!** Children will come into church for Communion.

The first Sunday of each month Pastor Michael and a member of the Ministry of Worship and Covenant take **Communion to home-bound persons**. Should you know of someone who would like communion in their home please contact Pastor Michael.

Lenten Bible Study will begin today following worship and every Sunday thereafter **through April 2**. A study guide will be available to all participants. Soup and bread will also be provided. Please come to Beinema Hall following worship.

The next **Women's Spiritual Book Group** gathering will be on **Wednesday, March 8 at 1 PM** at Eunice Wilcox's home. The current selection is, "*The Faith Club: A Muslim, Christian and Jew – Three Women Search for Understanding*" by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner. Join us! Please contact Molly Mason or Cathy Bowden for more information.

Prayer Shawl Ministry will be gathering **Thursday, March 9 at 1:30 PM** in the Grant Room. The more the merrier so please plan on joining us, all are welcome! Please contact Judy Nilsen at 781-3664 for more information.

The next **Coffee House** event will be on **Friday, March 10 from 6:30 to 9:00 PM**. Enjoy a beverage and listen to music from local artists. This month we welcome back our very own *Mark Horton*. Invite your friends and neighbors to this family-friendly event!

Please join us for an **Italian Dinner on Saturday, March 18, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM**. There will be salads, lasagna, Italian dishes, and desserts, as well as live violin music! A portion of the proceeds will go to supporting the Church's Mission efforts including helping the Italian earthquake victims. If you would like to volunteer that evening, please sign up on the lists in Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there. Ciao!

One Great Hour of Sharing: This important offering from our church is one of the "5 for 5" missions of the National United Church of Christ. OGHs supports international programs of health, education, agricultural development, relief, and refugee assistance in more than 80 countries. Your donations will be collected during Lent, with **Dedication Day on Sunday, March 26**.

The church office is now accepting **Easter flower orders**. You may use the enclosed insert or a form from Fellowship Hall for your order. Please note that all orders should be received by Monday, April 3.

The **Falmouth Food Pantry will be open on the following days in March:** Mondays, March 6 and 20 from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM; Tuesdays, March 14, 21 and 28 from 9:30 AM until 11:30 AM; and on Thursdays, March 9, 16 and 23 from 4:30 PM until 6:30 PM.



PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

**Robbie Coleman
Charlie Grubb
Maureen Grubb**



**Mimi Mahirwe
Chrisanne Salazar
Joyce Harmon**

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Joyce Harmon and other family members of David Harmon. David passed to his eternal rest last week. A memorial service will be held here on Saturday, March 11 at 2 PM.

“In life and in death we hold fast to the promises of the Gospel.”

Please let the church office know if we have missed someone. We will keep people on the prayer list for one month. If you would like them to continue on the prayer list, please update us so that we may better pray for them. Thank you.



Next Sunday's Lectionary

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

Falmouth Congregational Church is 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.

Church Office Hours
Monday-Thursday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Closed on Friday
Church Phone: 207.781.3413
Visit our Web site: www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org
Church Office e-mail: fccdesk@maine.rr.com

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 Minister
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Matthew Strobel
 Sexton
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Laurie Logan
 Office Assistant
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This Week's Schedule

Sunday March 5 ~ Communion ~ First Sunday in Lent

- 10:00 AM Worship**
- 10:00 AM Kids' Church**
- 11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship**
- 11:30 AM Lenten Bible Study (Beinema Hall)**

Monday March 6

- 7:00 PM Ministry of Worship & Covenant (Grant Room)**

Tuesday March 7

- 10:00 AM Bible Study (OceanView)**

Wednesday March 8

- 1:00 PM Women's Spiritual Book Group (Eunice Wilcox's home)**
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal**

Thursday March 9

- 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry (Grant Room)**

Friday March 10

- 6:30 PM Coffee House – *Mark Horton and Friends***

Saturday March 11

- 2:00 PM David Harmon Memorial Service**

Sunday March 12

- 9:00 AM Choir Practice**
- 10:00 AM Worship**
- 10:10 AM Kids' Church**
- 11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship**
- 11:30 AM Council of Ministries (Grant Room)**
- 11:30 AM Lenten Bible Study (Beinema Hall)**

Deadline for April *Congregator* submissions

