



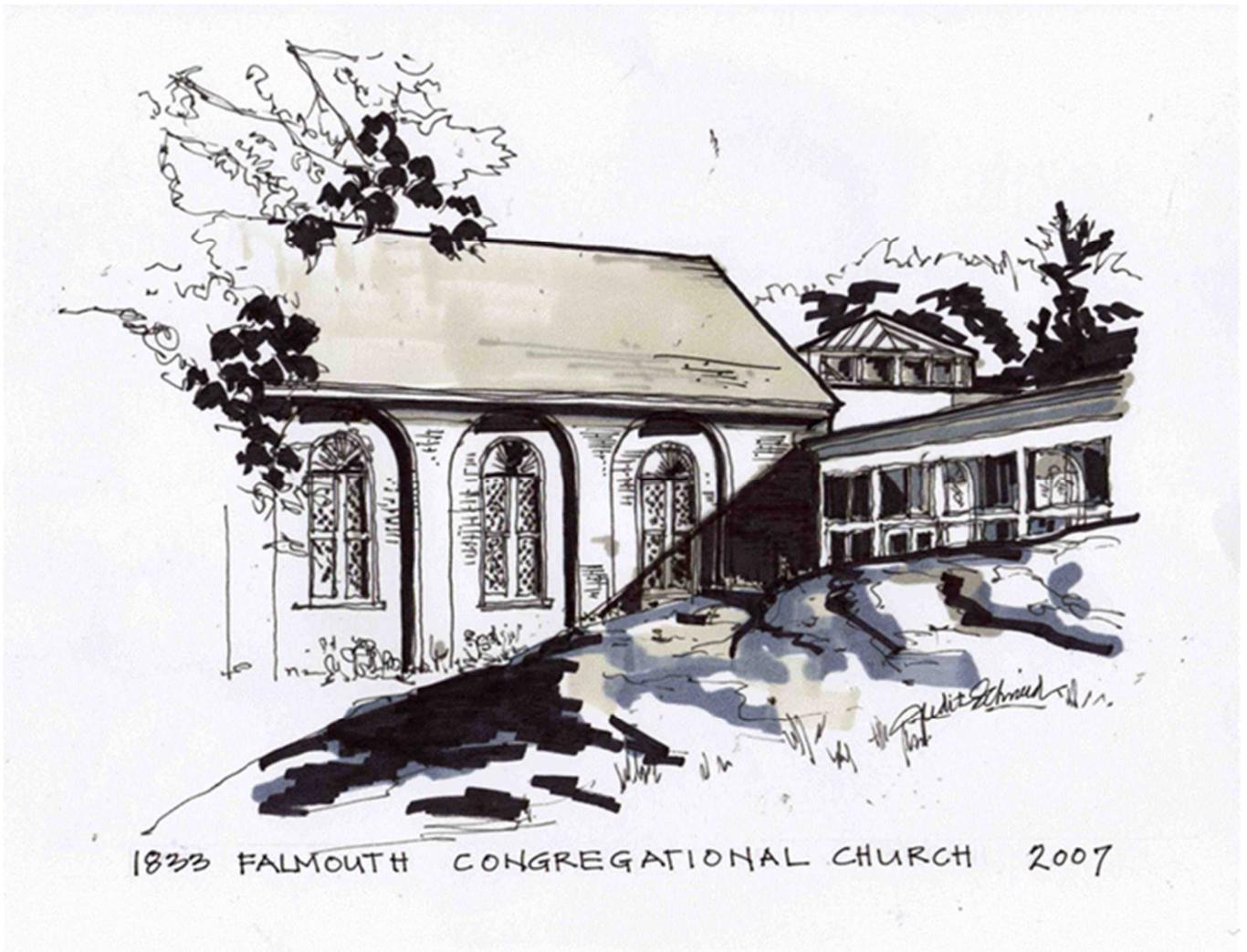
Falmouth Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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 Michael H. Richards
Pastor and Teacher

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

10:00 AM

NOVEMBER 26, 2017

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The picture of a faithful shepherd guides clergy and laity in their ministries. Care for the earth, all its creatures, and our human brothers and sisters requires raising up the suffering, the weak, and the scattered, while giving justice to the proud and the haughty.

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

"Benedictus"

Karl Jenkins

BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In our circle of uncertainty and hurry,

All: You, O God, are the fixed point of calm.

One: In our stretched moments of stress and emotion,

All: You, O God, are the settled feeling of peace.

One: In our well-worn routine of the everyday,

All: You, O God, are the flash of fresh inspiration.

One: In our ordinary and earthbound moments,

All: You, O God, are the Spirit that transforms through the holy.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

"We Gather Together"

No. 276

***OUR 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

A TIME FOR THE CHILDREN

At the conclusion, children in preschool through grade 6 may leave worship to attend Kids' Church. Visitors are always welcome.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: Come, O Risen Christ, and reign among us!

All: Our worship will be joyful, insightful, and free.

One: Come, O Risen Christ, and reign among us!

All: Our faith community will be enthusiastic, supportive, and ready to serve.

One: Come, O Risen Christ, and reign among us!

All: The downhearted will know hope, and the suffering, peace.

One: Come, O Risen Christ, and reign among us!

All: The faiths of the world will join hands, and fear will come to an end. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: We long for Christ's reign on earth; we will know release from all that keeps us bound.

All: Where we lack freedom, O God, give us the courage to risk change.

One: We long for Christ's reign on earth; the poor and powerless will get a fair deal.

All: Where we lack generosity, O God, encourage us to share.

One: We long for Christ's reign on earth; the vulnerable ones will gain confidence.

All: Where we lack acceptance, O God, open our eyes to see the downtrodden.

One: We long for Christ's reign on earth; those held back and restricted will feel free.

All: When we lack a liberating attitude, O God, enable us to work in fresh ways.

One: We long for Christ's reign on earth; the faithful will be joyful and active in the community.

All: When we lack involvement, O God, open us up to new initiatives of compassion and community support.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor Michael

One: Work patiently to bring closer the reign of Christ.

All: We will need new attitudes, fresh vision, and a change of heart.

One: God will grant you the strength – spiritual, emotional, and practical.

All: We are ready!

One: Pardon, peace, and a new determination are yours.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

(NRSV p. 759; RSV p. 761[†])

One: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 25:31-46

(NRSV p. 25; RSV p. 27[†])

One: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON

"All Are Kings"

Pastor Michael

*HYMN

"Give Thanks"

No. 528

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

The Invitation

The Offertory

"The Swan"

Camille Saint-Saëns

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

One: These gifts will enable the face of Christ to be seen –

All: among the sick, among the distressed, among the fearful, among the lonely, among the depressed, among those who lack confidence –

One: a compassionate, understanding, and friendly face.

All: Bless these offerings, for we bring them in Christ's name. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

No. 23, vs. 1, 3, 5

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day. Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always. Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate new Life! Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

POSTLUDE

"Now Thank We All Our God"

J.S.Bach/Virgil Fox

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

(* Please rise in body or spirit.

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

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

Please silence or turn off your cell phone before you enter the sanctuary. Thank you!

Worship Participants

Greeter: Carol Kauffman

Liturgist: Jack Davis

Ushers: Jo Blinick, Joe Blinick, Mollie Mason, Kim Mason

Special thanks to Barbara Graustein for sharing her wonderful gift of music with us today.



*The flowers that grace the Chancel this morning
are given to the Glory of God and
in loving memory of my mother, Anita Davidson*

From Sam Davidson

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 be dismissed for Kids' Church following "A Time for the Children." **Visiting children are always welcome!** Kids' Church takes place in the downstairs classrooms, and runs until 11:15 AM. Children in preschool through grade 2 will not be dismissed after class until picked up by a parent.

The **Ministry of Community Life** will meet on **Wednesday, November 29** at **1 PM** in the Grant Room. Refreshments will be served and all are invited to attend. Come out and join us as we make some plans for the New Year. Kindly RSVP to Carol Kauffman or Judy Currier at.

The **Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund** is a United Church of Christ annual offering that supports ministries to lower-income retired clergy and lay employees as well as to active clergy facing unforeseen financial crises. Retired pastors, church office assistants, or ministers of music continue to touch the lives of all of us. Thank you for your generosity in honoring their ministries in a way that will help them. Offerings may be placed in the purple envelopes that will be in the church pews now through **Sunday, December 24**.

Our **Angel Tree** gifting is underway for the Christmas Holiday Season! The "Angels" will be available **today and next Sunday, December 3**. Gifts should be wrapped and returned to the church office no later than **Sunday, December 10**. Each angel will include one gift. Feel free to take one or several! There is also an additional possibility for giving. Some families served by the Falmouth Food Pantry could use additional help by way of items for a Christmas meal, or badly needed clothing for the adults in the family, or even warm blankets, for example. If you would like to provide some additional help for the holidays, please contact Nancy Lightbody. Thank you!



Once again we will be decorating our sanctuary with **poinsettias** for Christmas. You may purchase a plant in memory of a loved one or in honor of a loved one to celebrate this Holy Season. Listings will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Forms have been sent out in the November and December *Congregator* and are available on the table in Fellowship Hall. The deadline for a listing to be included in the bulletin is **Monday, December 4**.

FCC's Women's Spiritual Book Group will meet at **1:30 PM on Tuesday, December 5** at Jane Stegemann's home, located at 211 Winn Road in Falmouth. The reading is, "Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor, and Laughter Are at the Heart of Spiritual Life," by James Martin. Do plan to join the conversation with this lively and welcoming group as we explore our faith and grow in Christian fellowship, together. Contact Mollie Mason or Cathy Bowden with questions.

We are pleased to welcome back the **St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble** this year. Their musical talents and blends of harmony are delightful to listen to. Tickets are now available for the concert on **Friday, December 15 at 7 PM**. Tickets are \$15 and available to purchase in advance after worship, in the office or the night of the performance.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Robbie Coleman
Charlie Grubb
Maureen Grubb
Joyce Harmon
Bee O'Brien
Phoebe Horne
Maytha Southard



Barry Hamilton
Jane Barton
Kerry Golding
Susan Southard Fortier
Don Lindall
Amy Richards

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Marion and Don Olen. Marion's sister, Priscilla, passed into her eternal rest last week.

Our deepest sympathy is also extended to Bill and Jillian Geary. Bill's mother passed into her eternal rest last week.

"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.



Office Hours

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

Church Phone: 207.781.3413

Visit our Web site: www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org

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This Week's Schedule

Sunday November 26

10:00 AM Worship

10:10 AM Kids' Church

11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship

11:15 AM Angel Tree

Family Promise guests arrive

Tuesday November 28

10:00 AM Bible Study - OceanView

Wednesday November 29

1:00 PM Ministry of Community Life (Grant Room)

Sunday December 3 ~ Communion Sunday ~ First Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM Choir Practice

10:00 AM Worship and Kids' Church

11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship

11:15 AM Angel Tree

11:30 AM Bible Study (Parlor)

Family Promise guests depart



Next Sunday's Lectionary

Isaiah 64:1-9; **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37