



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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
COMMUNION

MAY 6, 2018

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

God's Spirit is given so that we may love. "The maxim of the kingdom is that of all love and all revolution: ecce, omnia novo facio – behold, I make all things new."

– Charles Williams, *He Came Down from Heaven*

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

"When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder"

**James M. Black/
Wilbur Held**

BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The whole of planet Earth is singing as we come to worship God.

All: Birds are dawn-chorusing, bees are humming, and elephants are trumpeting. Seas are roaring, rivers are applauding, hills are singing a chorus of joy.

One: God's steadfast love and faithfulness is for us and for all people.

All: And so the orchestras are performing, the jazz bands are jamming, the choirs are harmonizing, and the groups are "out of sight."

One: God has done marvelous things!

All: And the singing will never be done; never ever be done.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: Friends of God, you are called to praise and prayer.

All: It is our joyful and thankful response to God's goodness.

One: Friends of God, you are called to hear the Word:

All: the Word that instructs, the Word that challenges, the Word that reveals the teachings of Jesus Christ.

One: Friends of God, you are called into faith community:

All: a community that encourages, a community that brings out talent, a community that works in harmony.

One: Friends of God, you are called to a far-reaching vision:

All: a vision beyond the local church, even beyond the boundaries of the nation. Our giving and our service will honor the name of Jesus. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

No. 25

*OUR LORD’S PRAYER (sung in unison)

No. 307

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

THE WORD OF GOD

New Testament Lesson

Acts 10:44-48

(NRSV p. 113; RSV p. 123[†])

One: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Lesson

John 15:9-17

(NRSV p. 96; RSV p. 104[†])

One: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON

“Love Defined By What It Does”

Pastor Michael

*HYMN

“Bind Us Together”

(See next to last page)

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

“Amen”

Danish

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

The Invitation

The Offertory

“But the Lord Is Mindful of His Own” from St. Paul

Felix
Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

*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: Loving God, You are the source of all blessing.

All: **Alert us to Your generosity and in love enable us to return the blessing.**

One: Bless those whose needs are great; in our families, in our community, in our church, and in our troubled world.

All: **We pray in the name of Jesus, who is a blessing to us. Amen.**

KIDS’ CHURCH SINGERS

“She’ll Be Coming ‘Round the Mountain”

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Gifts of God for the People of God

See Communion Insert
(Communion is offered by intinction.)

*CLOSING HYMN

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

No. 433

*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

“Rondeau”

Jean-Joseph Mouret

(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.

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### Worship Participants

**Greeter:** Sam Davidson  
**Liturgist:** Virginia Eddy  
**Ushers:** Larry Perry, Sue Perry, Tyler Henderson  
**Communion:** Larry Perry, Pam Carroll, Mollie Mason

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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.

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

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The **Ministry of Community Life** will be meeting **Wednesday, May 9 at 2 PM** in the Grant Room. Refreshments will be provided, and newcomers are always welcome!

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The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** will be gathering on **Thursday, May 10 at 1:30 PM** in the Grant Room. All are welcome! Please contact Judy Nilsen for more information.

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The next **Coffee House** event will be **Friday, May 11 from 6:30 to 9:00 PM**. Enjoy a beverage and listen to music from local artists. This month features *Steamboat Gypsy*. Invite your friends and neighbors to this family-friendly event!

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If there are any **graduates** this spring who would like to be recognized by the church for their hard work, please contact the church office at 781-3413 or [fccdesk@maine.rr.com](mailto:fccdesk@maine.rr.com). Let us know the graduate's plans, whether it is to attend college (and where), go on to a technical school, or pursue a job opportunity. This information is needed by **May 14** to be published in the June *Congregator*.

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Strengthen the Church is a "5 for 5" mission offering which helps develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults, establish new churches, and awaken new ideas in existing churches. *Strengthen the Church* funds will also be used to award grants to help congregations communicate the "God is still speaking" message. Your donations will be collected on **Pentecost Sunday, May 20**, which is 50 days after Easter.

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With the help of many of our own volunteers and other local church's volunteers, we will host **Family Promise** families the week of May 27 through June 3. Training is required for any volunteers interacting with the families. There will be a training session on Saturday, May 12 at Woodfords Congregational Church in Portland from 9 AM to 12 PM. Many other volunteers are needed for several other jobs. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or if you have any questions, please contact Dolores Vail. Thank you!

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Today begins **National Nurses Week 2018**. Let us recognize our nurses and congratulate them on their efforts to *Inspire, Innovate and Influence* as they practice their craft in our behalf. Hug a nurse today!

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The **Falmouth Food Pantry will be open on the following days in May:** Mondays, May 7 and 21 from 9 AM until 11 AM; Tuesdays, May 8, 15 and 22 from 9:30 AM until 11:30 AM; and Thursdays, May 10, 17 and 24 from 4:30 PM until 6:30 PM.



#### Next Sunday's Lectionary

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE  
IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS



Robbie Coleman  
Charlie Grubb  
Maureen Grubb  
Bee O'Brien  
Maytha Southard  
Laurie & Roger Marin  
Kerry Golding

George Sanborn  
Hazel McLeod (Scott and Barbara  
McLeod's baby granddaughter)  
Barry Hamilton  
Ryan Barton  
Don Worthen

*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.*



**This Week's Schedule**

**Sunday**                    **May 6 ~ Communion**  
    **10:00 AM**            **Worship**  
    **10:00 AM**            **Kids' Church**  
    **11:15 AM**            Coffee Fellowship  
**Monday**                    **May 7**  
    **7:00 PM**            Ministry of Worship & Covenant (Grant Room)  
**Tuesday**                    **May 8**  
    **10:00 AM**            Bible Study – OceanView  
**Wednesday**                **May 9**  
    **2:00 PM**            Called to Care (Grant Room)  
    **7:30 PM**            Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
**Thursday**                    **May 10**  
    **1:30 PM**            Prayer Shawl Ministry (Grant Room)  
**Friday**                      **May 11**  
    **6:30 PM**            Coffee House – *Steamboat Gypsy*  
**Sunday**                      **May 13 ~ Mother's Day**  
    **9:00 AM**            Choir Practice  
    **10:00 AM**            **Worship**  
    **10:10 AM**            **Kids' Church**  
    **11:15 AM**            Coffee Fellowship  
    **Deadline for June Congregator submissions**



# 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](http://www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org)  
Church Office e-mail: [fccdesk@maine.rr.com](mailto:fccdesk@maine.rr.com)

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Laurie Logan  
Office Assistant  
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## Bind Us Together



Bind us to- geth- er, Lord, bind us to- geth- er with cords that

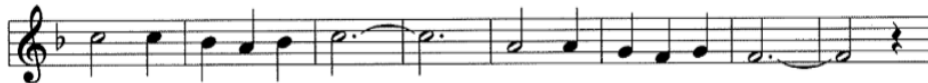


can- not be bro - ken. Bind us to- geth- er, Lord,



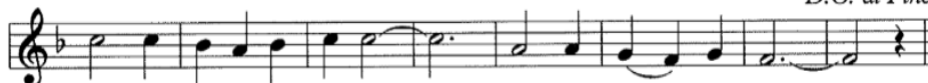
bind us to- geth- er, Lord, bind us to- geth- er in love. \_\_\_\_

*Fine*



There is on- ly one God, \_\_\_\_ there is on- ly one King; \_\_\_\_

*D.C. al Fine*



There is on- ly one bod- y, \_\_\_\_ that is why we sing. \_\_\_\_

WORDS: Bob Gillman (Col. 3:14)

MUSIC: Bob Gillman

BIND US TOGETHER

Irregular