



Falmouth Congregational Church United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

267 Falmouth Road

Falmouth, Maine 04105

207.781.3413

Jesus speaks openly about what it means to follow him. "Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it" (Mk 8:35).



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

Reverend Michael H. Richards
Pastor and Teacher

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

HONORING OUR CALL TO BE PEACEMAKERS

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: 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

"Overture"

George Frederick Handel

BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather to worship:

All: a sign that we are faithful to God.

One: We listen for God's word to us:

All: a sign that God, who has spoken in times past, still speaks to the people of God.

One: We resolve to serve the living God.

All: a sign that our faith has meaning and purpose for good, meaning and purpose for ourselves, and meaning and purpose for those in our community who have practical and spiritual needs.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

"We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God"

No. 64

*OUR LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

No. 307

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastor Michael

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: At the dawn of a new day, You are with us, O God,

All: filling us with hope, giving us a clear vision of the way to be taken.

One: In the heat of the day, You are with us, O God,

All: strengthening us in the struggle and encouraging us when the way ahead is rough and testing.

One: In the cool of the evening, You are with us, O God,

All: calling us to thanksgiving, enabling us to reflect on our experiences along the way.

One: In this service, You are with us, O God,

All: calling us to follow Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Rejection is difficult to endure, O God – rejection by our family, by our friends, or by faith community members.

All: We will affirm our chosen goals, our proven abilities, our right to walk the path of faithfulness.

One: “Carrying the cross,” is a challenging process, O God. It calls for Christian commitment beyond our accepted limits.

All: We will face the daily tests, the temptation to practice self-serving ways and to ignore community, the temptation to compromise with the evil ones. We will walk the path of discipleship.

One: Keeping true to gospel values is no easy task, O God – being honest, showing compassion, confronting the powerful, accepting the despised.

All: We will find strength in the spirit and example of Jesus Christ. We will walk His Way with determination.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

One: You build us up, O God. You give us confidence; You sustain us.

All: In our times of uncertainty, You are the secure One. In our times of, You strengthen us. In our lonely times, Your friendship is there for us. You allow us to doubt and to question, and when fear takes hold of us, Your love will not let us go.

One: You, O God, stand ready to give us a fresh start.

All: Pardon and peace are ours. Thanks be to God! Amen

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson Proverbs 1:20-33 (NRSV p.547; RSV p. 559[†])
One: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Lesson Mark 8:27-38 (NRSV p.37; RSV p. 41[†])
One: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “Messiah or Son of Man” Pastor Michael

*HYMN “Lift High the Cross” No. 108, vs. 1,3,4

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER Pastor Michael

PRAYER RESPONSE “Hear Our Prayer O Lord” George Welpton

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

The Invitation

The Offertory “All Things Bright and Beautiful” John Rutter

***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: It is through Your goodness, most graceful God, that we have become a gifted people.

All: **Open us to the joy of sharing our gifts with others so that with money offered, time usefully spent, and our natural talents generously used, Your work may be done and Your name glorified. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Living for Jesus”

No. 610

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Michael

***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

“Psalm XX”

Benedetto Marcello

(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.



The flowers that grace the chancel this morning are given in celebration of Janeen Coleman's birthday, with love from her family and Anne Coleman

Worship Participants

Greeter: Carol Kauffman

Liturgist: Virginia Eddy

Ushers: Judy Nilsen, Lorraine Bergen, Larry Perry and Sue Perry

Are you having trouble seeing the small print in the bulletin?
Please ask an usher for a **LARGE print bulletin and hymn.**



Next Sunday's Lectionary

Proverbs 31:10-31; Song of Sol. 1:16-2:1, 12-22; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; **Mark 9:30-37**

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

**Maureen Grubb
Robbie Coleman
George Sanborn
Bee O'Brien
Maytha Southard**



**Kerry Golding
Arthur Westcott
Joyce Harmon
Missy Gage
Jack Horton (*who is serving in Iraq*)**

*Names will be removed after 30 days if the office does not receive an update. Please let the church office know if we have missed someone, if any information changes or you will like to add someone to the prayer list.
Thank you!*



We **WELCOME** you to worship and invite you to join us after the service in Fellowship Hall for refreshments and friendly fellowship. Are you visiting us today? Please be sure to pick up a “**Welcome Bag**” in Fellowship Hall or in the Narthex and sign our guest book.

Mark your calendars! The series on Hospice, *what it is and what it is not*, begins on Tuesday, September 25 at 3 p.m. in Beinema Hall. Details about the series are in the September Congregator. Let Carol Kauffman know if you wish to attend. She can be reached at bearlover12@maine.rr.com.

Holly Days Fair is our biggest fund raiser and we need YOU! There are lots of opportunities to join the effort and the fun! For more information, please contact:

Kathie Sinnett/Coordinator of Volunteers	kathie.sinnett@gmail.com
Sarah Davis/Coordinator of Logistics	sadavis40@gmail.com
Cathy Bowden/Coordinator of Communication	cathybbowden@gmail.com

You are invited to attend the **Pine Cone Workshop** immediately following church on September 23. Together, attendees will enjoy fellowship while helping put together the pine cone decorations needed for the Holly Days Fair wreaths. No experience is necessary, materials will be provided and refreshments will be served.

The Women’s Spiritual Book Group will be gathering for its first fall meeting on September 26 at 1pm and is hosted by Jane Stegemann at 211 Winn Road in Falmouth. Plan to join this fun and lively group where all are welcome! Bring ideas and book titles of readings you would like to explore. Together, we will put together this year’s reading list.

Pantry September hours of operation: Mondays, September 17 from 9 AM until 11 AM; Tuesdays, September 18 and 25 from 9:30 AM until 11:30 AM; and Thursdays, September 20 and 27 from 4:30 PM until 6:30 PM

Church Office Announcement: Please extend a warm welcome to our new office assistant, Elaine Lovett.

Elaine is a former English teacher (New York and New Hampshire) and recently an office assistant in a financial advising firm. She and her husband have resided in Falmouth for the past 12 years. Elaine is looking forward to her role as office assistant and meeting you all. She will be in the office Tuesday-Thursday, 9 AM - 3PM and can be reached by email at fccdesk@maine.rr.com.



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

Pastor Michael Richards
Minister
pastormichaelfcc@maine.rr.com

Doris Krueger
Minister of Music
dnkrueger@gmail.com

Mark Horton
Moderator
horton04105@yahoo.com

Kristen Coleman
Christian Education Administrator
fccchristianeducation@maine.rr.com

Matthew Strobel
Sexton
mstrobel66@yahoo.com

Marilee Pillsbury
Vice Moderator
bigmarilee@yahoo.com

Jess Dickson
Office Manager
fccofficemanager@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org

Elaine Lovett
Office Assistant
fccdesk@maine.rr.com



This Week's Schedule

Sunday September 16 *Congregator Deadline*

- 9:00 AM** Choir Practice
- 10:00 AM** Worship Service
- 11:15 AM** Coffee Fellowship ~ *featuring "Coffee by Design" coffee*
- 11:15 AM** Family Promise Meeting – Grant Room

Monday September 17

- 6:00 PM** Fiddle-icious (Beinema Hall)

Tuesday, September 18

- 9:00 AM** Aerobics (Beinema Hall)
- 10:00 AM** Bible Study at Ocean View

Wednesday September 19

- 8:30 AM** Aerobics (Beinema Hall)
- 5:30 PM** Pastoral Search Committee (Grant Room)
- 7:30 PM** Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 20

- 7:00 PM** Boy Scout Troop 93 (Beinema Hall)

Friday, September 21

- 8:00 AM** Poly Vagal Workshop (Beinema Hall)

Sunday September 23 *Neighbor's in Need Appeal*

- 9:00 AM** Choir Practice
- 10:00 AM** Worship Service
- 11:15 AM** Coffee Fellowship ~ *featuring "Coffee by Design" coffee*
- 11:30 AM** Ministry of Education (C.E. Office)