



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



THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Do you know where Christ is? We do not need to search for Christ. He says, "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking . . ."

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

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Lewis H Redner/Dorothy Wells

BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: This is the place.

All: The place where God is joyfully worshipped.

One: This is the time.

All: The time we know that God is with us in the coming year.

One: These are the friends.

All: The friends who celebrate with us and stay with us when the testing comes!

One: This is the faith.

All: The faith in Jesus Christ, which challenges us and shapes our future.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"How Great Our Joy"

No 170 Vs. 1,2,4

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER (sung in unison)**

No.307

CHILDREN'S MOMENT**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

One: This is the time for new beginnings.

All: This is the time for reflection.

One: This is the time for taking stock.

All: This is the time for setting faithful New Year goals.

One: This is the time for putting old grudges and resentments to rest.

All: This is the time for seeking new friends and fresh avenues of Christian service.

One: This is the time for renewing our faith in Jesus Christ.

All: This is the time to rejoice in Christ's presence amongst us. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: We celebrate our joys and achievements in the past year, O God.

All: We reflect on the hardship, the unexpected change, the setbacks – all the situations from which we may learn and grow.

One: We celebrate our friendships and family ties, O God.

All: We reflect on the times of uncaring, poor communication and of relationships strained – all the situations from which we may learn and grow.

One: We celebrate the fulfillment we have found within the faith community.

All: We reflect on missed opportunities for worship and service, and on our blindness to the work of the wider church – all the situations from which we may learn and grow.

One: We celebrate the discipleship of Jesus Christ which is ours.

All: We reflect on our struggle to hear the call of Jesus, to follow Jesus carefully, and to take His Word to heart – all the situations from which we may learn and grow, in faith and action.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

One: A new year approaches, a new set of resolutions, O God!

All: Resolved to give thanks regularly, resolved to reflect diligently, resolved to make changes appropriately, resolved to act faithfully.

One: Pardon and peace are yours.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 (NRSV p. 228; RSV p. 240[†])

One: This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

New Testament Lesson Luke 2:41-52 (NRSV p. 51; RSV p. 56[†])

One: This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

SERMON

“Knowledge, Thought and Faith”

Pastor Michael

***HYMN**

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

No. 160

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

ORGAN PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

**The Invitation
The Offertory**

“Special Music”

***Doxology**

All: God's love is come at Christmas time, God's love in Jesus brightly shines, God's Spirit love is on the move, Our gifts are blessed and shared in love.

***Prayer of Dedication**

One: Enable us, O God, to leave behind token support for this church, and for Jesus Christ.

All: We resolve to serve You in the New Year joyfully, generously, and wholeheartedly. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

No. 153 vs. 1,2,4

***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

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

Felix Mendelssohn/Lani Smith

(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 together in unison.

(*) Please rise in body or spirit.

† 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: Jim Parr
Ushers: Larry and Sue Perry and Tyler Henderson



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

**Maureen Grubb
Robbie Coleman
Bee O'Brien
Maytha Southard
Kerry Golding
Missy Gage
Myron Krueger
Priscilla Hobart
Joyce Harmon**



**Arthur Wescott
Florence Wescott
Hazel McLeod
Beth Fogg and Alan Doughty
(Judy Currier's daughter and grandson)
Stuart Eddy (Phoebe Horne's brother
Ruth Ann Doty (Pam Carroll's niece)
Jack Horton (who is serving in Iraq)**

Please let the church office know if we have missed someone. Please update us so that we may better pray for them. Thank you.



Next Sunday's Lectionary

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12



*Our deepest sympathy is with Beth Fogg and Alan Doughty and
all the members of the Currier' family.
Judy Currier passed into her eternal rest on Dec. 22, 2018.*

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



~~~~~  
**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)**

~~~~~  
We **welcome** you to worship and invite you to join us after the service in Fellowship Hall for coffee and fellowship. If you are visiting us today, please be sure to pick up a **Welcome Bag** in Fellowship Hall or in the Narthex and sign the guest book.

~~~~~  
**Holiday Office Hours:** The church office will be closed Tuesday, New Year's Day.

~~~~~  
Ministry of Community Life Jan 8th meeting has been rescheduled to Feb 6 at 1:30 PM in Grant room.

~~~~~  
The **Falmouth Food Pantry** will be open on the following day in December: December 27, 4:30-6:30 PM.

~~~~~  
The **Falmouth Food Pantry** will be open the on the following days in January: Mondays, January 7 and 21, 9:00 – 11:00 AM; Tuesdays, January 8, 15, 22, from 9:30- 11:30 AM; and Thursdays, January 10,17, 24, from 4:30-6:30 PM.

~~~~~  
Would you like to provide **Chancel** Flowers for a Sunday? Please sign up on the poster in Fellowship Hall. The office will order flowers from Skillins unless otherwise specified or you may supply your own. Call or visit the church office to fill out a Chancel Flower form. Cost of flowers from Skillins is \$38.00, delivered to the Church.

~~~~~  
Can you use a hand? Are you moving something heavy in your home, taking down you Christmas tree, installing a smoke detector or lifting something off a high shelf? If you could use help with these projects, please contact Jess or Elaine in the Church office and they will get in touch with Ministry of Missions members, who are eager to help members of our church family.

~~~~~  
The January 11, 2019, the **Side Door Coffee House** will feature **Cumberland Crossing**, a 4-piece acoustic band that plays a mix of traditional and contemporary bluegrass, folk, Americana and some original numbers. With a wonderful blend of vocal tunes and tight instrumentals this quartet performs regularly in the greater Portland area at venues, such as: Blue, Andy's Old Port Pub, Lenny's Pub, Woodhull Public house and Allagash Brewery. Band members are: Erica Kingston on upright bass, Ron Gallant on guitar, Taylor Smith on mandolin and Bill Holden on dobro.

~~~~~  
Beginning January 2019, the **Hospitality Table** will be held on the 1st Sunday of the month and special Sundays only.
~~~~~

*Please note: that donations given to the Church by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018, will be recorded and appear on your end of the year giving statement. These statements will be mailed/mailed according to your preference during January.*



## **This Week's Schedule**

### **Sunday, December 30**

- 10:00 AM**   Worship Service & Kids' Church
- 11:15 AM**   Coffee Fellowship ~ *featuring "Coffee by Design" coffee*
- 11:30 AM**   Ministry of Christian Education

### **Monday, December 31 ~ *New Year's Eve***

**Tuesday, January 1 ~ *New Year's Day***   Church Office closed

**⚡ BLESSED AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!**

### **Wednesday, January 2 ~**

- 7:30 PM**   Choir Rehearsal
- 8:30 AM**   Aerobics (Beinema Hall)

### **Thursday, January 3**

- 4:30 PM**   Falmouth Food Pantry Open
- 6:30 PM**   Ministry of Missions (Grant Room)
- 7:00 PM**   Boy Scouts Troop 93 (Beinema Hall)

### **Friday, January 4**

- 9:00 AM**   Aerobics (Beinema Hall)

### **Sunday, January 6 – *Communion Sunday***

- 9:00 AM**   Choir Practice
- 10:00 AM**   Worship Service & Kids' Church
- 11:15 AM**   Coffee Fellowship ~ *featuring "Coffee by Design" coffee*
- 7:00 PM**   Boy Scout Meeting



**Trouble seeing the small print in the bulletin?**  
Please ask an usher for a **LARGE** print bulletin and hymns.