

North Falmouth Congregational Church, UCC
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The Sandpiper is a monthly publication of the North Falmouth Congregational Church, UCC.
The Reverend Nancy W. Strickland, Interim Pastor (508) 563-2177, www.northfalmouthucc.com





The Sandpiper



North Falmouth Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ

May 2018

Pastoral Page

Dear Friends,

In the last few days the hint of spring in the air has been balm to our winter weary spirits. There is something about buds on the trees and the early morning songs of the birds that are so encouraging! There is a sense of new life and new beginnings everywhere, not only in the natural world around us, but in our own lives as well. But growth requires attention and care. Easter day has come and gone but the season of Easter tide continues because the church marks the 50 days after Easter until Pentecost, which this year is Sunday May 20.

Joan Chittister, the Benedictine nun notes that in this slip-slide from winter into spring, from dark to light is an exercise in saying “yes” to life. Yes to today; yes to tomorrow; yes to life again. She notes that we all come out of the tomb of winter new and bright with promise. It is “yes” to life time now, however old, however jaded we may be. It is the rediscovery of possibility again.

For us now in this Easter tide season, we can take the time to look back and recall the empty tomb. Remember those times in life where all seemed lost and yet we were not overcome and beaten down because amazing faith entered in to fill the dark spots? The truth is that all of us have had times where we have each risen from

the dead in our own ways. Yes, the Easter season is about more than Jesus’ Resurrection. It is also an invitation for our own rising. Remember that everyone around Jesus was changed; Mary Magdalene rose again, this time a disciple. The apostles rose again, this time with courage and purpose. Many people who had been marginalized by society found new acceptance and purpose in following Jesus and modeling their lives after his teachings and rose again.

As we prepare to celebrate Pentecost on May 20, we recognize and remember the gift of the Holy Spirit coming to enliven and empower the early followers of Jesus. As we consider the Pentecost story, perhaps we can write a new chapter, one that is written with our own lives, with ways we can say yes today and tomorrow to where God is leading us!

In faith,

Pastor Nancy

Worship May 6 and 13
Earth Care theme May 6

May 6 8:30 a.m. Contemporary worship, Sermon and Sermon Reflection, Holy Communion
10 a.m. Traditional Worship, Sunday School, and Holy Communion
Psalm 8, Genesis 1-2:3 selected verses, “The Wonder of Creation”

May 13
8:30 a.m. Contemporary worship, Sermon and Sermon Reflection, Holy Communion
10 a.m. Traditional Worship and Sunday School
Psalm 104:1-23, Genesis 9:8-17, “Earth Care Covenant”

May 20 Pentecost 10 a.m. ONE SERVICE ONLY

May 27 Memorial Day Weekend 10 a.m. ONE SERVICE ONLY



Encore Presentation of “Our Warming Planet: What Should We Do?”

May 6, 2018 NFCC after church in the Covenant Room

On Sunday May 6th after the 10AM service, Meg Tivey will give an encore presentation of the panel forum “Our Warming Planet: What Should We Do?” that was held on Sunday afternoon, March 18th, at the First Congregational Church of Falmouth, in collaboration with the North Falmouth Congregational Church and the Waquoit Congregational Church. The March 18 panel forum included Tom Stone, John Farrington, and Meg Tivey presenting scientific information about climate change, followed by Reverend Jim Antal discussing the broad ethical issues raised by the evidence for climate change.

On May 6th Meg will show the slides that were used during the March 18 forum, answer questions, and lead a discussion about this important issue. Please

come and join this discussion. It will provide people here at NFCC with information and background on climate change. Many of us may then want to participate in the remaining two small-group discussion sessions being held at the First Congregational Church on Monday evenings in May. The next session—on theological concerns—will take place on Monday, May 7, from 7:00 to 8:30pm, and the final session—on the action agenda--will then take place on Monday, May 21 at the same time, both at the First Congregational Church of Falmouth, 68 Main Street. Please join us on May 6th!

Meg and Pastor Nancy

YOU ARE INVITED TO
THE ORDINATION OF
SARAMARIA
ALLENBY

**At North Falmouth
Congregational Church**

Sunday, June 3 at 3:00 PM

Please rsvp to Saramaria

Sallenby48@gmail.com or

774-392-3447



May Birthdays



| | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 05/03 | Grace Johnson |
| 05/03 | Marjorie Marshall |
| 05/04 | Samantha Fraser |
| 05/07 | Camilla Nevius |
| 05/07 | Pam Oliveira |
| 05/07 | Pearl Wright |
| 05/10 | Graham Murphy |
| 05/12 | Melanie Young |
| 05/13 | Gladys Allen |
| 05/16 | Megan O'Hara |
| 05/17 | David O'Hara |
| 05/20 | Patricia Oshman |
| 05/27 | John Checklick |
| 05/27 | Alexa Willman |
| 05/29 | Janet King |
| 05/31 | Betty Galbraith |

Happy Birthday!

Christian Education News by Lisa Allen

Sunday School

Thank you to all the teachers, parents and students who helped make Children's Sunday a big success.

This year we have moved the carnival to Rally Day, but we will still plan to celebrate the end of the school year. The last day of Sunday School will be June 3, and we want everyone to be able to attend Saramaria Allenby's ordination that afternoon so we are planning an event for June 10. We will be taking a family trip to Sky Zone to which everyone is

welcome. Plan to bring friends, grandkids, anyone who would like to come.

On Sunday, June 10, we will have pizza at church at noon (order forms will be available – or feel free to bring a bag lunch) and then leave for Kingston about 12:30 and arrive at Sky Zone at 1:30. Our session will start at 2:00 and last for an hour. More details will follow as we get closer but it will be a day filled with lots of fun to celebrate the end of the school year.

Graduate Recognition

Lifting up special occasions and accomplishments is something important that we do as a church family. On Sunday, May 20, we will be recognizing our High School graduates at the 10:00am service. We hope that everyone can be there to celebrate this milestone together. This year's graduates are – Leila Elguessab, Michael Fraser, Amelia Allen, Kalyn Oliveria and Maddy Heino. These wonderful young people have worked hard to earn their high school diplomas. Please attend, congratulate them and wish them well as they move on to the next adventure.

Summer News

Over the last couple of years it has been increasingly difficult to find volunteers to teach Summer Sunday School and there have also been few children in services. This appears to be a sign that we need to embrace change and explore new options. This summer we will be having family friendly, intergenerational services. This will be a great opportunity to try some new things to enrich our worship. We hope that families will attend and bring friends to introduce them to our church.



Children's Sunday



Church Fair Coming Soon

If you hadn't noticed we are having a Spring Plant Sale/Craft Fair with our usual Lobster Roll and Chowder Luncheon Saturday, May 19th 9 a.m. - 2.p.m.

We hope that by now many of you have signed up to help on the papers in the Covenant Room. If not, it isn't too late to help. Don't forget there is a paper besides the one for volunteers that asks people to sign up to donate certain things for the luncheon. Check the times on the volunteer sign-up sheet as we do need people Friday to help set up, get flowers to church and squeeze the lobster.

Even if you can only work a couple of hours, all are welcome. We need lots of baked goods for the bake table as usual. If you are thinning out plants this spring don't forget to donate a few of them to the church plant sale. If you need containers please call Carolee or Rin.

Remember this is the week before Memorial Day weekend. Hope to see you there. Come get your plants for spring, bid on our many Silent auction items, take home some delicious baked goods, check out the crafters, have some lobster rolls and all the fun stuff that comes with attending or volunteering for the NFCC Church Spring fair.

Deacon news by Barbara Rountree:

During our visioning sessions and other church conversations, the Deacons have heard interest in knowing more about the Open and Affirming (ONA) process. Together with Pastor Nancy, we have looked at resources provided by UCC that explain the process of creating an ONA covenant that expresses our church's welcome. The essence of an Open and Affirming covenant is the full welcome into the life and ministry of the church for "people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions". The UCC is available to guide us through this process providing consultation, curriculum materials, and workshops.

One of the first steps is to form a core team, or an ad hoc planning group of people who share a

passion for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Christians and their families in the life of our congregation.

If you are interested in being part of our core team, please speak to Pastor Nancy or one of our deacons. We envision starting work on this process in September.

We especially encourage any youth who would like to participate.

New Member Joining Sunday will be held on a Sunday in June Please speak with Pastor Nancy if you are interested in joining our church and she will make an appointment with you for orientation. Have a voice and vote in all the matters that come before North Falmouth Congregational church. Be part of voting in the new pastor in the future! Covenant with your friends and with our God to be a faithful part of this vibrant fellowship of faith.

STARFISH MINISTRY

Would you like to be a caring visitor to others within our church?



Learn more about the **Starfish Ministry** at North Falmouth Congregational Church Wednesday, May 16 from 4-5pm in Pastor Nancy's office.

The sessions will include scriptural basis for care giving, listening skills, the difference between a social visit and a pastoral one, and how to enter the space of a visit effectively.

Altar Committee: There are several available Sundays during June and July to donate altar flowers. Consult the Flower Calendar outside the office for open dates. During the summer months it is also nice to have arrangements from your gardens. If you have garden flowers but do not feel you can arrange them yourself, members of the altar committee are available to help you. Garden flowers are also welcome to display on the hallway and sanctuary entrance tables. Please contact a member of the Altar Committee if you can provide summer flowers.



Daily Lectionary Scripture References May 2018 (Year B)

Tues., May 1
Psalm 80
Isaiah 32:9-20
James 3:17-18

Wed., May 2
Psalm 80
Isaiah 65:17-25
John 14:18-31

Thurs., May 3
Psalm 98
Isaiah 49:5-6
Acts 10:1-34

Fri., May 4
Psalm 98
Isaiah 42:5-9
Acts 10:34-43

Sat., May 5
Psalm 98
Deuteronomy 32:44-47
Mark 10:42-45

Sun., May 6
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

Mon., May 7
Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 7:1-11
1 Timothy 6:11-12

Tues., May 8
Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 11:1-17
1 Timothy 6:13-16

Wed., May 9
Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 11:18-21
Mark 16:19-20

Thurs., May 10
Ascension of the Lord
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

Fri., May 11
Psalm 47
Exodus 24:15-18
Revelation 1:9-18

Sat., May 12
Psalm 47
Deuteronomy 34:1-7
John 16:4-11

Sun., May 13
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

Mon., May 14
Psalm 115
Exodus 28:29-38
Philippians 1:3-11

Tues., May 15
Psalm 115
Numbers 8:5-22
Titus 1:1-9

Wed., May 16
Psalm 115
Ezra 9:5-15
John 16:16-24

Thurs., May 17
Psalm 33:12-22
Genesis 2:4b-7
1 Corinthians 15:42b-49

Fri., May 18
Psalm 33:12-22
Job 37:1-13
1 Corinthians 15:50-57

Sat., May 19
Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 15:6-11
John 7:37-39

Sun., May 20
Day of Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Mon., May 21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Joel 2:18-29
1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Tues., May 22
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Genesis 11:1-9
1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Wed., May 23
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Ezekiel 37:1-14
John 20:19-23

Thurs., May 24
Psalm 29
Isaiah 1:1-4, 16-20
Romans 8:1-8

Fri., May 25
Psalm 29
Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 8:9-11

Sat., May 26
Psalm 29
Isaiah 5:15-24
John 15:18-20, 26-27

Sun., May 27
Trinity Sunday
Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

Mon., May 28
Psalm 20
Numbers 9:15-23
Revelation 4:1-8

Tues., May 29
Psalm 20
Exodus 25:1-22
1 Corinthians 2:1-10

Wed., May 30
Psalm 20
Numbers 6:22-27
Mark 4:21-25

Thurs., May 31
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Samuel 1:1-18
Acts 25:1-12



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