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*The Sandpiper* is a monthly publication of the North Falmouth Congregational Church, UCC. The Reverend Christina Williams, Pastor (508) 563-2177, www.northfalmouthucc.com



The Sandpiper



North Falmouth Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

August 2023

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"Seeing with the eyes of Christ, I can give to others much more than their outward necessities; I can give them the look of love which they crave." –Pope Benedict XVI, God Is Love: Deus Caritas Est

## Dear Friends,

"Open my eyes that I may see. Open my ears that I may hear. Open my mouth and let me bear. Open my heart and let me prepare," says the old hymn. It is a lovely prayer that asks God to let the false fall away so that we might see and hear the divine truth that prepares our hearts to love all God's children.

Lately I've noticed that every sermon I preach, every book I pick up, every prayer I read—either states outright or alludes to the sacred goodness of every person. Maybe it was being on retreat with John Philip Newell or reading a few books on Celtic Christianity that has gotten me to pay attention. Certainly, when this kind of synchronicity happens, it is usually a sign that God and all the angels in heaven are working hard to get an important message across.

Sacredness is at the heart of every human being and every life-form. The problem is that I keep going back to sleep, I keep living in ways that neglect this deep knowing, I make judgments, I get lost in worry, and I think only of myself. John Philip Newell says we all suffer from soul-forgetfulness most of the time. We've forgotten who we are and fallen out of true relationship with one another.

The reason I find Newell's message so compelling and urgent right now is because it seems to me more and more of us have forgotten the sacredness that dwells within each of us. It is easy to see it in those we love, but it is a lot more challenging to open our eyes and see it in people we don't like. One of the ways we can access this deep wisdom is to pray for the ability to see with the eyes of Christ and to read the gospels to meditate on how Jesus saw God's belovedness in everyone.

What I love about being in community together is that we get to look into each other's eyes and see the divine spark that is in each of us. In doing so, we are strengthened to see that same essence in everyone. If we could all see with Christ's eyes of the sacredness in every person more often than not—then indeed there is hope for this world.

May Christ give you eyes to see God's holiness in all things.

In hope and faith,

Christing Pastor Christina

Pastor Christina

#### **UPCOMING WORSHIP – August/September**

All Sunday worship services are at 10 a.m. The first Sunday of the month will be indoors. Please check the Friday email for whether worship will be indoors or outdoors.

# August 20 | Mission Sunday–Belonging to Each Other

Belonging to Each Other has grown rapidly over the past three years in meeting the housing needs of those experiencing homelessness in Falmouth. They offer transitional housing the cold months and they help each guest find permanent housing. BTEO is planning to purchase a house to better meet the growing needs of their guests.

### August 27 | For the Beauty of the Earth

As summer comes to a close, we will contemplate one of God's great gifts—the abundant beauty of the earth that sustains our daily living. We will celebrate the good things of life as given and received through God and community—which will be symbolized in the giving and receiving of flowers. Please bring a flower from your garden or a blooming weed from the side of the road. After worship we will use those flowers to imprint on fabric. Scripture: Selected readings.

### September 3 | Cultivating Inner Peace

It is difficult to pursue peace in the world without first cultivating peace in ourselves. That in of itself can be a frustrating path to pursue—especially when our minds are constantly on the go and when so much is bombarding our senses. Together we will explore the ways we cultivate a peaceful and tranquil spirit. Scripture: Isaiah 26:3-4, 12; John 16:25-27, Colossians 3:15.







08/01	Betty Cole
08/03	Ray Rowitz
08/06	Danielle Dunphy
08/07	Lynn Young
08/09	<b>Rosemary Modic</b>
08/10	Joyce Bock
08/17	Nicole Barrett
08/28	Adrienne Latimer
08/30	Jennifer Fenstermaker
08/30	Pamela Polloni



## From the Music Director

Greetings! What a fine summer it has been. What a privilege it is to play for you. I appreciate your smiles and applause when playing my postludes. It pleases me so much to think that I am making you happy with music. I am grateful to God for the fingers he has given me, and the talents he has nurtured in my soul.

The choir and I hope you are enjoying our music making. For a small group I believe we sound mighty.

We would love for you to join us, should you have an interest. A growing choir is always a Godsend. We practice on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. in the music room of the church.

I am looking forward to starting a hand bell choir, but we need more members in order to make this wonderful sound happen. To date, there are three interested people. Playing hand bells is quite doable, for any and all people, and not much note reading is needed. It is also lots of fun! Practice would be once a week, or Wednesday evenings from 6 to 7. However, if this conflicts with your schedules, we could rehearse Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. or after church on Sundays. Please call me at 508-813-3124 if you are interested or email me at <u>smilespianoforte@gmail.com</u>.

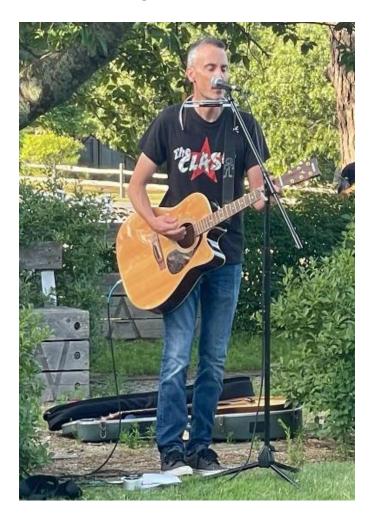
Peace, Stephanie

July 7<sup>th</sup> North Falmouth Village Unplugged





NFCC outreach volunteers cooked around 200 hot dogs for the attendees.



A wonderful community event the night before the Paul White Road Race!

# The Flowers of Summer



On Sunday, August 27, we will be celebrating the last flowers of summer. Bring a bouquet of your favorites (with a few extra to share for those without a garden). Purchased flowers are also fine. We will be blessing them in the service

and then doing a special project afterwards to preserve a little summer beauty for your home. Suitable for all ages.

# Youth Reunion

A great time was had by all! Members of our youth program and their families who have not been together for some time gathered to reconnect at the Clements' home. Thank you so much to Brenda and Greg for hosting.



Peter, Christel & Helen



A great time to celebrate Keira's birthday!



Good food and a lot of catching up to do!





June 25<sup>th</sup> welcome to new members Paul & Samantha Smith, Barbara Ford, Faith Duffy & David Kayajan



From the Altar Committee

A warm thank you to all the individuals who supplied flowers from their gardens throughout the summer. The fall calendar has some available Sundays. Please consult the calendar if you wish to donate flowers. If you have concerns, please contact Marsha Martin <u>willimart41@comcast.net</u> or 508-759-0857.



Lynn & Bob Young's gorgeous gladiolas from Lent.

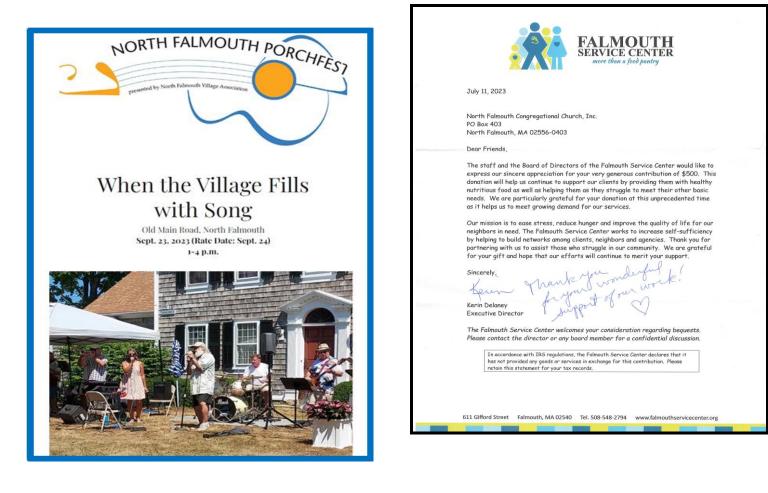




**Outreach** News



This has been a big success! Get your orders in by Wednesday!



# **AUGUST 2023**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
		1 8:30am – 12:30 pm Elder Services	2 9:30 am Th Wednesda	heology ys on Zoom	3 9 am-1: Open	2 p Thrift Shop	4 Thrift 9 9am-1	Shop open 2pm 		t Shop 9am-
6 10 a.m. in person & Online Worship & Communion via Facebook <u>https://www.facebook.com/pg/nfccucc/posts/?ref=page_internal</u> .	7 8:30am – 12:30 pm Elder Services —	8 6 pm Deacons	9		10 6 pm Fi	nance	11 Lobste	r Roll To Go	12	
13 10 a.m. in person & Online Worship, via Facebook https://www.facebook.com/pg/nfccucc/p osts/?ref=page_internal.	14 8:30am – 12:30 pm Elder Servi <u>ces</u>	15	16		17		18	$\rightarrow$	19	
20 10 a.m. in person & Online Worship via Facebook <u>https://www.facebook.com/pg/nfccucc/posts/?ref=page_internal</u> .	21 8:30am – 12:30 pm Elder Services	22	23		24		25 Lobste	Roll To Go	26	,
27 10 a.m. in person & Online Worship via Facebook https://www.facebook.com/pg/nfccucc/p osts/?ref=page_internal.	28 8:30am – 12:30 pm Elder Services	29	30		31					



#### Daily Lectionary Scripture References - August 2023 (Year A)

Tues., Aug. 1 Psalm 65:8-13 Genesis 30:37-43 Ephesians 6:10-18

Wed., Aug. 2 Psalm 65:8-13 Genesis 46:2-47:12 Mark 4:30-34

Thurs., Aug. 3 Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Isaiah 14:1-2 Philippians 4:10-15

Fri., Aug. 4 Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Isaiah 41:8-10 Romans 9:6-13

Sat., Aug. 5 Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Genesis 31:1-21 Matthew 7:7-11

Sun., Aug. 6 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21

Mon., Aug. 7 Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Genesis 31:22-42 Romans 1:8-15

Tues., Aug. 8 Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Genesis 32:3-21 Acts 2:37-47

Wed., Aug. 9 Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Isaiah 43:1-7 Matthew 15:32-39

Thurs., Aug. 10 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b Genesis 35:22b-29 Acts 17:10-15

Fri., Aug. 11 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b Genesis 36:1-8 Acts 18:24-28 Sat., Aug. 12 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b Genesis 37:5-11 Matthew 16:1-4

Sun., Aug. 13 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33

Mon., Aug. 14 Psalm 28 Genesis 37:29-36 2 Peter 2:4-10

Tues., Aug. 15 Psalm 28 Genesis 39:1-23 Romans 9:14-29

Wed., Aug. 16 Psalm 28 Genesis 40:1-23 Matthew 8:23-27

Thurs., Aug. 17 Psalm 133 Genesis 41:14-36 Revelation 15:1-4

Fri., Aug. 18 Psalm 133 Genesis 41:37-57 Acts 14:19-28

Sat., Aug. 19 Psalm 133 Genesis 42:1-28 Matthew 14:34-36

Sun., Aug. 20 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 45:1-15 Psalm 133 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Mon., Aug. 21 Psalm 130 Genesis 43:1-34 Acts 15:1-21 Tues., Aug. 22 Psalm 130 Genesis 44:1-34 Romans 11:13-29

Wed, Aug. 23 Psalm 130 Genesis 45:16-28 Matthew 8:1-13

Thurs., Aug. 24 Psalm 124 Genesis 49:1-33 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Fri, Aug. 25 Psalm 124 Genesis 49:29–50:14 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

Sat., Aug. 26 Psalm 124 Genesis 50:15-26 Matthew 16:5-12

Sun., Aug. 27 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20

Mon., Aug. 28 Psalm 8 Exodus 1:1-7 Romans 2:1-11

Tues., Aug. 29 Psalm 8 Exodus 2:11-15a Romans 11:33-36

Wed., Aug. 30 Psalm 8 Exodus 2:15b-22 Matthew 26:6-13

Thurs., Aug. 31 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Exodus 2:23-24 Ephesians 5:1-6

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