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The Sandpiper is a publication of the North Falmouth Congregational Church, UCC.
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The Sandpiper



North Falmouth Congregational Church

Little church Big heart

October 2026

Dear Friends

Fall is such a beautiful time of year. There's nothing like the refreshing, crisp air of autumn—a welcome change from the hot, humid days of summer. If you've driven around town lately, you've probably noticed the trees beginning to change color, yards decorated with mums and pumpkins, and perhaps a few giant inflatable Halloween creatures!

Fall is also the season of the final harvest before the first frost. Apples, pumpkins, cranberries, root vegetables, and late-season greens fill our farm stands. This is my favorite time of year to visit local farms and enjoy the abundance of the season.

But what about another kind of harvest—the one that takes place in our spiritual lives? Throughout the year, we plant seeds in all sorts of ways. Through acts of kindness, words of encouragement, prayers offered, relationships nurtured, and the many ways we care for one another. Some seeds take root quickly. Others grow slowly, quietly, beneath the surface, where we cannot see what is happening. And sometimes we are so busy tending to life that we forget to notice what has been growing. The Apostle Paul writes, *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)*

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Pastor..... 1
From the Music Director.....2
Church Life..... 3
Thrift Shop News..... 4
Hospitality.....5
Outreach..... 6

What might happen if we slowed down and took a little time this fall to consider the harvest of our own lives?

- What has been growing in you this past year?
- Where have you experienced unexpected joy, a deepening sense of peace, or a new understanding of yourself or someone else?
- What relationships have flourished?
- What acts of love or kindness have borne fruit?
- And where have you witnessed the fruits of our shared ministry as a church community?
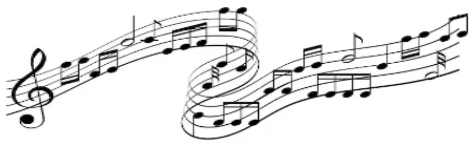
These aren't questions that require immediate answers. They are invitations to pause, reflect, and notice the ways God's Spirit has been moving in and through our lives.

Of course, not everything we plant bears fruit when we expect it to. Some things need another season to grow. Some seeds may never flourish as we had hoped. And sometimes the most meaningful growth

happens in the difficult seasons of our lives. But that, too, is part of the mystery of faith.

As the days grow shorter and the earth prepares for its winter rest, perhaps we can take a little time to give thanks for what has grown, what has been gathered, and what is still becoming. **May this season of harvest open our eyes to the quiet abundance of God's grace in our lives and in the life of our church.**

Grace and peace, Rev. Christina



Greetings from the Music Director

Fall has officially welcomed our choirs back, and we couldn't be more thrilled! Both our bell choir and vocal choir would love to welcome you as a new participant.

Bell Choir
We meet on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. If you don't read music, please don't let that stop you. The group and I are here to help you learn! As our own Jean Swartz says, "Bells make me so happy. I love playing the bells and have so much fun doing so." The bell choir performs during worship about once every four to six weeks.

Church Choir
Our choir is small but mighty! We practice on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., Saturdays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., and on Sundays right before the worship service. If you cannot make every single rehearsal, we completely understand and still want you to join us. Whether you read music or just love to sing, your voice and passion are valuable to us. Our members range from seasoned music readers to those who sing entirely by ear, and we typically prepare two anthems for each Sunday service.

Cherub Choir (Ages 4–9)
Our youngest singers continue to meet every Sunday after church from 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. The Cherub Choir sings during worship about once a month. If you have a child or grandchild in this age group, please consider having them join this wonderful, joyful team.

Junior Choir (Ages 10–18)
We are looking to revitalize our Junior Choir! If you have a child or grandchild between the ages of 10 and 18, I would love to help them prepare upbeat, exciting sacred music for our congregation. The Junior Choir is traditionally featured during our Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter services. If your youth might be interested, please see me after worship.

Looking Ahead: Spring Concert
Following the success of last spring's concert—which featured guest musicians Deborah Bradley on violin and Evelyn Shertzer on flute, alongside our choirs—I am planning another sacred and classical piano performance for early spring. It will take place on a Sunday in the late afternoon. I am so grateful to everyone who made our last concert such a beautiful ministry, and I hope to include guest musicians and our church choirs once again. I will share the exact date and time as soon as it is finalized.
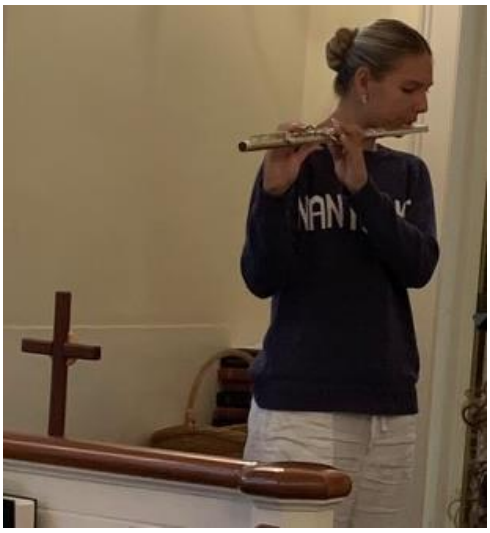
Thank you to everyone in our wonderful community. Our motto, "The Little Church with a Big Heart," is proven true every day by your warmth and dedication.

Peace and gratitude,
Stephanie

Guest Musicians
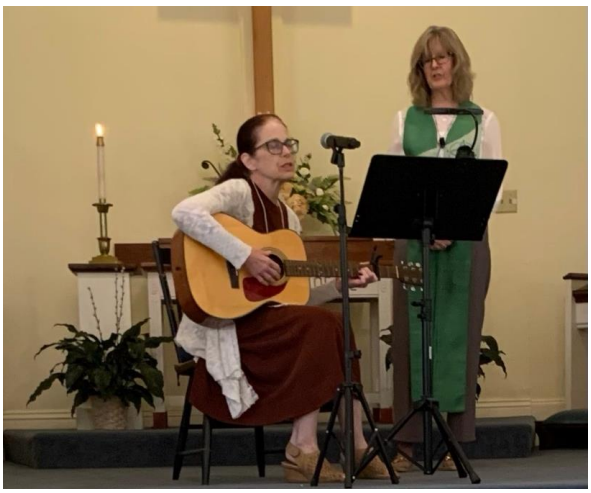


August 2, Teresa Jazzo



September 13, Evelyn Shertzer



August 16, Christopher Kerins



September 20, Lisa & Rev. Christina



August 23, Fletcher Calderbank

Church Life

Take Two:
Please join our Take Two conversation group which meets every other week after the 10:00 AM service. Our next meeting will be November 1, and we are currently discussing essays from the book *Mostly What God Does: Reflections on Seeking and Finding His Love Everywhere* by Savannah Guthrie.

Coming Events:
Our College Care Package collection will take place Sunday, November 1, through Sunday November 29. This is a great opportunity to show our college students we are thinking of them. You can contribute snacks, hot chocolate packets, popcorn, candy, gift cards or whatever you think they would like to fortify them during finals!

Our annual **Giving Tree collection** will begin on November 22. Every year we connect with North Falmouth Elementary School and get wish lists for local families in need. Please take a tag from the tree, purchase the gift, wrap it and set it under the tree. The generosity of our congregation is very inspiring during the holiday season.

From: Rev. Eric Stroshine, our Sabbatical Pastor

Hi Christina!
I wanted to send you a message to tell you how much I enjoyed worshipping with you all for four Sundays this summer. My wife, Colleen, and grandson, Leo, also enjoyed the worship experience. We appreciated the special music, the choir sharing their voices and the welcoming spirit.



One Sunday we brought my grandson and Lisa included him so nicely in the communion experience and special activities with the other children. I appreciated Lisa's children's messages every Sunday that were connected to the scripture for that Sunday. Stephanie's enthusiasm for the music program was evident by her including a father and daughter doing a duet and various people in the community sharing their music gifts.
It was obvious you and your staff have created a positive and spirit filled culture. Thank you for letting my family and I be blessed by the experience.

I also wanted to lift up Deb. She was very helpful in preparing the bulletins. Her correspondences were timely, she sought clarification when needed and she was very flexible when I made changes to the bulletin. It was a pleasure working with her.

My parents who live in Western Massachusetts enjoyed watching the worship services on YouTube over the summer. They just mentioned to me the other day how much they enjoyed it and they wanted me to send the following message to Amelia Allen, the tech deacon. "I just wanted to send a quick note to tell Amelia how much we appreciate the recording on YouTube of the service. Amelia does a wonderful job and it always has a very complete video and always on YouTube on a very timely basis. Thank you. Dean and Berta Stroshine."

Peace,
Eric



Thrift Shop Volunteer Opportunities

The Thrift Shop continues to thrive through a very busy summer. Donations have been overwhelming at times and we constantly greet new customers enjoying their first visit to our shop.

That said, we are always in need of few more people to join the effort. Even a couple of hours of extra help can make a big difference. Here are some ways you could help:

- Assist in posting to our Facebook page. This could even be done from home once the task is understood.

- Bring discarded items to either Dorothy's at the Bourne dump or Pick of the Litter at the Falmouth dump. This requires a dump sticker.

- Clean the carpeting in the shop.

- Help on Free Fridays to put items out on the front lawn. This happens 8:30- 9:00 and then cleanup 11:30-12:00 every other week.

- Ongoing help to clean and organize the cellar.

- Ongoing help on Tuesday mornings to price donations and neaten and straighten the shop. Someone to oversee the children's room on a regular basis would be much appreciated.

- Volunteer to work a shift on Thursday, Friday or Saturday from 9:00-12:00. Many volunteers do just one shift per month so it doesn't have to be a burdensome commitment.

The thrift shop already has a loyal, friendly, welcoming team of volunteers who could just use a little extra help. Please consider joining in the effort to support the mission of the church as well as offering reasonably priced goods to our neighbors.

Please contact: Joyce Kenneally
joycepkenneally@gmail.com

Joyce Bock
joycebock52@gmail.com



Hospitality

We are looking to expand the small group of hospitality helpers to give you the opportunity to serve, i.e. make coffee and donate food.

As the new Hospitality scheduler for Sunday morning refreshments, I will be sending you a signup sheet with directions from a site called "Signup Genius". It is fairly easy to use and when you see it, it should be self-explanatory. If you have questions, need help or prefer I sign you up, contact me, Sue Long at: clboat23@comcast.net or 774-392-3782.

On the site you will see four categories: SERVE, FOOD, CRACKERS & CHEESE and FRUIT. It is OK to offer only one food

item, such as store bought cookies, but people seem to like a variety. Therefore, three food slots are available for people to sign up. Crackers & cheese and fruit are only suggestions.

You will find a link to the Signup Genius site in Thursday's "News and Events" or you can save the link below for yourself.

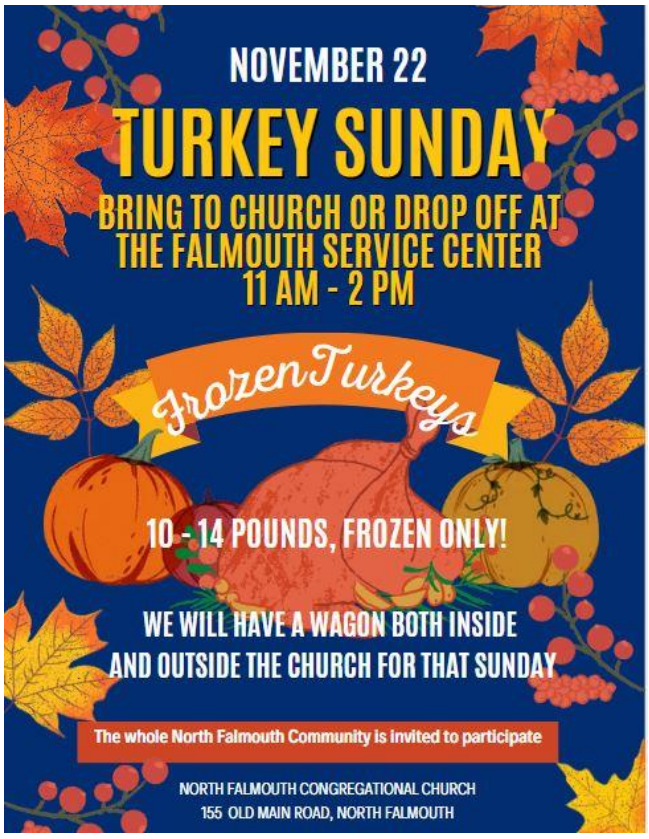
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/.10C0D45ABAC29A6FBCF8-66209269-hospitality#/

You may go to this site at any time to sign up or wait for the signup sheet to be emailed.

Thanks for your participation and for going on this learning journey with me.

Sue Long

Outreach Turkey Drive





Sanctuary Decorating for Advent

We will be decorating the sanctuary for Advent on the day after Thanksgiving, Friday November 27 at 11 am. With help we should be done in less than 2 hours. Any questions or volunteers please reach out to me: capemda@gmail.com
Thank you, Melessa Fox

Hi Christina,

I'm writing to let you know that our yoga class has found a permanent location for both of our weekly classes at the St. Barnabas Church on Main Street. We have been having our Tuesday morning classes there in the Chapel and are now able to hold Thursday morning classes there as well.

I am so very grateful to you and the North Falmouth Congregational Church for making your space available to us for yoga classes. It came at a time when we so needed to locate a new space for our group, and the kindness, welcome and generosity we received at the North Falmouth Congregational Church was wonderful.

Thank you again for everything. 🙏❤️

Rebecca

Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – October 2026 (Year A)

Thurs., Oct. 1
Psalm 19
Exodus 23:1-9
Colossians 2:16-23

Fri., Oct. 2
Psalm 19
Exodus 23:14-19
Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a

Sat., Oct. 3
Psalm 19
Exodus 23:10-13
John 7:40-52

Sun., Oct. 4
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

Mon., Oct. 5
Psalm 119:49-56
Deuteronomy 5:1-21
1 Peter 2:4-10

Tues., Oct. 6
Psalm 119:49-56
Deuteronomy 5:22—6:3
2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Wed., Oct. 7
Psalm 119:49-56
Deuteronomy 6:10-25
John 11:45-57

Thurs., Oct. 8
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Exodus 24:1-8
1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14

Fri., Oct. 9
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Exodus 24:9-11
James 4:4-10

Sat., Oct. 10
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Exodus 24:12-18
Mark 2:18-22

Sun., Oct. 11
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

Mon., Oct. 12
Psalm 97
Exodus 32:15-35
Jude 17-25

Tues., Oct. 13
Psalm 97
Exodus 33:1-6
Philippians 3:13—4:1

Wed., Oct. 14
Psalm 97
2 Kings 17:7-20
John 6:25-35

Thurs., Oct. 15
Psalm 99
Exodus 33:7-11
3 John 9-12

Fri., Oct. 16
Psalm 99
Exodus 31:1-11
1 Peter 5:1-5

Sat., Oct. 17
Psalm 99
Exodus 39:32-43
Matthew 14:1-12

Sun., Oct. 18
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

Mon., Oct. 19
Psalm 63:1-8
Exodus 40:34-38
Revelation 18:1-10, 19-20

Tues., Oct. 20
Psalm 63:1-8
Numbers 12:1-9
Revelation 18:21-24

Wed., Oct. 21
Psalm 63:1-8
Numbers 13:1-2, 17—14:9
Matthew 17:22-27

Thurs., Oct. 22
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
Deuteronomy 31:14-22
Titus 1:5-16

Fri., Oct. 23
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
Deuteronomy 32:1-14, 18
Titus 2:7-8, 11-15

Sat., Oct. 24
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
Deuteronomy 32:44-47
John 5:39-47

Sun., Oct. 25
Twenty-Second Sunday of Pentecost
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

Mon., Oct. 26
Psalm 119:41-48
Numbers 33:38-39
James 2:8-13

Tues., Oct. 27
Psalm 119:41-48
Exodus 34:29-35
James 2:14-26

Wed., Oct. 28
Psalm 119:41-48
Deuteronomy 26:16—27:7
Matthew 19:16-22

Thurs., Oct. 29
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Joshua 1:1-11
Romans 2:17-29

Fri., Oct. 30
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Joshua 2:1-14
2 Peter 2:1-3

Sat., Oct. 31
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Joshua 2:15-24
Matthew 23:13-28

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