

**North Falmouth Congregational Church, UCC
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**Return Service Requested
Dated Material**

March 2021



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



North Falmouth Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ

March 2021

Pastoral Page

“I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.” Isaiah 46:4b

Dear Friends,

It has been exactly a year since we shut our doors and closed everything down. We have sheltered in place, kept our distance from others, wore our masks, and scrubbed and sanitized our hands. We have refrained from hugging our precious loved ones who live outside our household and we have been super vigilant with those not in our bubble. Life continued on as we scrambled to find new ways to connect, go to school, work, grocery shop, gather for worship, help others, and find intimacy on a Zoom screen. We had to get creative while bending our will to an unseen contagion that was putting lives at risk. What have you missed the most this past year?

I am now vaccinated, and it is almost unbelievable what I can do—I can hang out with another vaccinated person without my mask. We can give each other hugs and we can eat together—inside. Even though it is just a little bit; it’s enough to release some of what I have been carrying inside. The door of freedom is opening just a crack to let in hope and promise that we will be able to find the connection we so crave. What is it that you long for at the end of this pandemic?

I bumped into someone from church the other day. She told me she was fully vaccinated. We both removed our masks and took in a deep breath of fresh, crisp air. It felt good. Then she shared with me how wonderful it was to have

her family come for a visit. She got to hug them for the first time in many, many months. As she said this, she touched her heart and wavered a bit as some powerful emotions swept through her. She’d been carrying this loss for too long. Oh, how we miss the tender touch of loved ones. The day will come for all of us. Who it is that you look forward to hugging when this is all over?

As more and more of us get vaccinated, we will start to look back over the past year and start to realize the full impact this pandemic has had on our lives, our communities, and our world. Right now, we are still carrying the pain of separation, loss, fear, and frustration. We probably won’t know the depth and width of its effects until it is all over and we can glance back. What pain have you been carrying around during this time?

Right now, my friends, you may be carrying so much more than you realize. Know and trust that God walks with you in the valley of shadows during this crazy time. God knows and feels the depths of your pain. Be assured God will carry and sustain you through this. Find comfort in God’s promises to you. How has God been helping you get through this past year?

May the light of God’s promises fill you with hope, gratitude, and joy.

With trust in our faithful God,

Pastor Christina

UPCOMING WORSHIP – MARCH/APRIL

Worship services will continue to be live from the sanctuary.

March 14 – 10 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent – Different Pictures: Intellectual Health

Prolonged periods of difficulty can impede our ability to stay creative. The picture of our lives is dulled and hopes for a brighter future can fade. We need a touch of inspiration to awaken us from our slumber. Jesus' power to heal causes us to seek him out to renew and restore our intellect and imagination. **Scripture:** Matthew 9:18-26

March 21 – 10 a.m. Fifth Sunday of Lent – Restoration: Environmental Health

Sometimes Jesus invites us to make extraordinary efforts to move in a new direction. As we consider the health of humanity, we cannot ignore the need to heal the very planet that sustains us. This week, we discover that we are in the boat with the One who shows us our power to turn things around and calm the storm. **Scripture:** Matthew 9:18-27

March 28 – 10 a.m. Sixth Sunday of Lent – Palm/Passion Sunday

We celebrate Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem and then follow Jesus on his journey to the cross to remember his passionate love for us. **Scriptures:** Palms: Luke 19:29-40, Passion: Luke 22:1 – 23:56

April 1 – 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday –

Service of Remembrance – The Seven Actions

This reflective service of prayers, meditations, and Holy Communion contemplates the account of the Last Supper in John 13. Seven candles are lit during in response to seven actions. The lit candles offer a reminder of the presence of light even in the darkness on the eve of Good Friday.

April 4 – 10 a.m. Easter – Dare to Dance Again:

A Feast of all Feasts – Communion Sunday

On a morning when all seemed lost, a stone had rolled away to uncover the feast of all feasts and the joy of all joys. The shroud of death had become a veil for gladness, celebration, and dancing. What if we stopped trying to outrun one another in a race for things that do not matter in the end, and instead ran toward life and hope and all the joy we can accomplish together, daring to dance again?

Scriptures: Isaiah 25:6-9, John 20:1-18

If weather permits, we will celebrate our Risen Christ outdoors.

HELP SHARE EASTER BLESSINGS THIS YEAR

The practice of giving blessings is important for our life together in community. In the act of giving a blessing, we remind each other of God's presence as well as affirming God's divinity within each of us.

We know things have been hard for many of us this past year and there's still a lot of uncertainty. The pandemic has made it challenging for us to be together. With Easter approaching, we are hoping you'll help share some joy by offering an Easter blessing for one another.

How will this work?

You'll submit a video, photo, or a piece artwork with a blessing. With your submissions, Brian Youmans will create an Easter Blessing video, which will be posted on Facebook and our website. We'll take some of photos and blessings and put them in April's Sandpiper as well. In this way, we will spread around Easter blessings and joy to each other. **Please have your submissions in by March 28th, Palm Sunday.**

All ages are welcome to join!

Here's a few ways to do this:

1. You can submit a (spring) photo with your blessing via email,
2. Pastor Christina can come to your home to a take a video of you giving a blessing or you can take a video of your own and submit it,
3. Or you can submit some artwork you've done with a blessing.

Blessing examples:

1. May God be with you.
2. May the Light of Christ go before you.
3. May you know the joy of Easter.

How to submit your blessing with your video/photo/artwork:

1. Please email your photos/artwork with your blessing to Deb Pinkney at officenfcc@gmail.com
2. If you would like Pastor Christina to come and take a video, please email Deb at officenfcc@gmail.com
3. If you want to submit your own video, contact Pastor Christina at pastornfcc@gmail.com

I hope you'll join us in sharing some Easter joy this year—it would bring a smile to so many.

Pastor Christina

Ash Wednesday, February 17th



Pastor Christina & Babette

March Birthdays



- 03/01 Mrytis Chatfield
- 03/02 Rev. Christina Williams
- 03/02 Priscilla Fuller
- 03/05 Melessa Fox
- 03/05 Pam Fernsebner
- 03/10 Laura Murphy
- 03/12 Ellen Gawarkiewicz
- 03/12 Hope Oliveira
- 03/13 Sarah Bach
- 03/15 Nicole Ashworth
- 03/15 Virginia Nielsen
- 03/16 Brenda Clements
- 03/18 Myrna O'Hara
- 03/20 Rosanne Amaru
- 03/20 Alden Thomas
- 03/20 Maurice Tivey
- 03/20 Ed Winslow
- 03/21 William Sanders
- 03/24 Meg Tivey
- 03/25 Sally Rountree
- 03/29 Christopher Polloni
- 03/30 Winthrop Frame
- 03/30 Carolee Packard



Thank you to Chris Polloni, Deacon
for the service.



From Outreach

MEETING: Thursday, February 18, 6:30 p.m.

PURPOSE: To set up a Budget for the coming year, and discuss future multigenerational projects.

PROJECTS DONE THIS YEAR:

December 20, NFCC organized a “Drive by and Drop Off” to collect items for the “Belonging to Each Other” organization in Falmouth.

In February, we collected white socks to support the outreach of the Duffy Health Center, Here and Now Outside Ministries and Belonging to Each Other. All are ministries that support the marginal and homeless here on Cape Cod. (Over 200 pairs were collected). Multigenerational volunteers made valentine tags to place on the BTEO items as well as the food distributed by Meals on Wheels.



A Great Brother and Sister Team!!



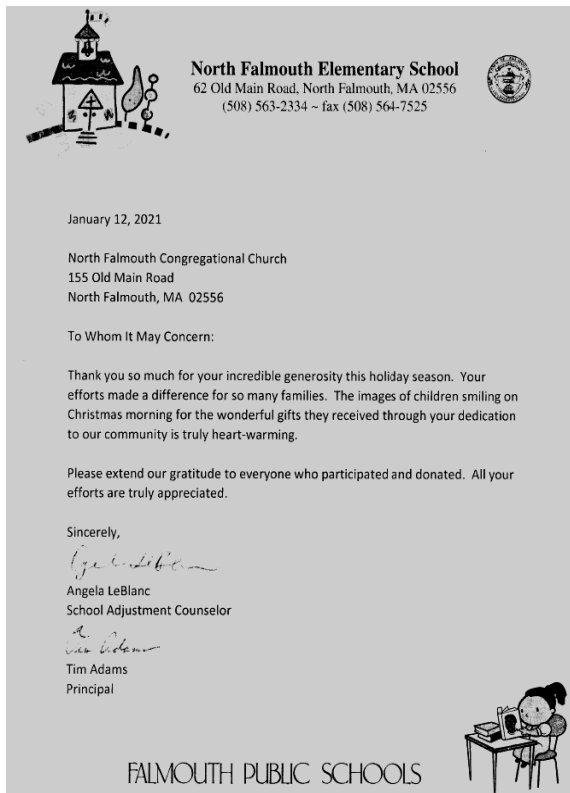
Carolee Surrounded by over 200 Pairs of Socks Collected on February 20th.



Plans for a joint “Bucket Brigade” for Church World Service are in the making. The hope is that other Falmouth Churches will join in with us. Stay tuned in for announcements about this.

In April, the church will be celebrating Earth Day. The Just Peace Players (via Zoom) will join us for Worship Sunday, April 25th. In addition, there will be a seed planting project and a kit will be available for pick up. In order to do this, we will need cardboard egg cartons. (NO Styrofoam or plastic please) The YMCA Early Childhood Education Program here at NFCC will also be participating. Watch for further notices about these events.





As you can see Outreach is alive and well! Thank you to the families, children and community for participating in our drive by collections.



Emerald House / Cape Verdean Museum

NFCC member Patricia Oshman has recently become the Barnstable County Human Rights Advisory Commission’s Vice Chair and is assisting in the creation of the Cape Cod Verdean Museum and Cultural Center.

From an article in the Falmouth Enterprise by Brad Cole, “The Falmouth Select Board approved a lease of the historic Emerald House to the Cape Cod Cape Verdean Museum and Cultural Society at its meeting on Monday, February 22.

‘I think it is a great fit for the house, and I move we approve the lease,’ board member Douglas H. Jones said.

The residential zoning limits of the Emerald House confine its use to philanthropic, as a library or a museum. The request for the proposal issued by the town gave first priority to uses that connect with the

Portuguese immigrant heritage and the heritage of Portuguese-American farming on the property.

Acquired by the town in 1995, the Emerald House at 67 Davisville Road has been vacant since the Falmouth Service Center moved its Hand-in-Hand Thrift Shop to Sandwich Road, East Falmouth in 2018.”

From the Altar Committee

Since mid-March 2020 we have not had our traditional worship service in our sanctuary. During the time that outside worship was offered, we did have some lovely garden bouquets and seasonal arrangements during the fall. The Altar Committee did purchase a very nice silk arrangement that we have been using now that the service is performed for viewing virtually without a congregation in the sanctuary.



If anyone feels that they would like to dedicate a live plant or cut flower arrangement in memory or celebration, that option is still available. Please contact Marsha Martin to make arrangements. willmart41@comcast.net or 508-759-0857

From the Treasurer

In May, 2020 we applied for and received \$20,333.89 under the Paycheck Protection Loan Program of the CARES Act. We used this money primarily to defray some salary expense with the balance used to pay for utilities. We have applied for forgiveness of this loan under the provisions of the CARES Act and it has been 100% granted.

Early this year we applied for a second PPP Loan, authorized by another piece of legislation, for \$25,190.00. This has been approved and we have already received that money. Our plan is to use this money primarily and perhaps exclusively, for salaries.



DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS THIS SUNDAY!



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References –March 2021 (Year B)

Mon. Mar. 1

Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
Genesis 21:1-7
Hebrews 1:8-12

Tues., Mar. 2

Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
Genesis 22:1-19
Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19

Wed., Mar. 3

Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
Jeremiah 30:12-22
John 12:36-43

Thurs., Mar. 4

Psalm 19
Exodus 19:1-9a
1 Peter 2:4-10

Fri., Mar. 5

Psalm 19
Exodus 19:9b-15
Acts 7:30-40

Sat., Mar. 6

Psalm 19
Exodus 19:16-25
Mark 9:2-8

Sun., Mar. 7**Third Sunday in Lent**

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

Mon., Mar. 8

Psalm 84
1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22
1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Tues., Mar. 9

Psalm 84
2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19
Hebrews 9:23-28

Wed., Mar. 10

Psalm 84
Ezra 6:1-16
Mark 11:15-19

Thurs., Mar. 11

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Genesis 9:8-17
Ephesians 1:3-6

Fri., Mar. 12

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Daniel 12:5-13
Ephesians 1:7-14

Sat. Mar. 13

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Numbers 20:22-29
John 3:1-13

Sun., Mar. 14**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

Mon., Mar. 15

Psalm 107:1-16
Exodus 15:22-27
Hebrews 3:1-6

Tues., Mar. 16

Psalm 107:1-16
Numbers 20:1-13
1 Corinthians 10:6-13

Wed., Mar. 17

Psalm 107:1-16
Isaiah 60:15-22
John 8:12-20

Thurs., Mar. 18

Psalm 51:1-12
Isaiah 30:15-18
Hebrews 4:1-13

Fri., Mar. 19

Psalm 51:1-12
Exodus 30:1-10
Hebrews 4:14–5:4

Sat., Mar. 20

Psalm 51:1-12
Habakkuk 3:2-13
John 12:1-11

Sun., Mar. 21**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

Mon., Mar. 22

Psalm 119:9-16
Isaiah 43:8-13
2 Corinthians 3:4-11

Tues., Mar. 23

Psalm 119:9-16
Isaiah 44:1-8
Acts 2:14-24

Wed., Mar. 24

Psalm 119:9-16
Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23
John 12:34-50

Thurs., Mar. 25

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Deuteronomy 16:1-8
Philippians 2:1-11

Fri., Mar. 26

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Jeremiah 33:1-9
Philippians 2:12-18

Sat., Mar. 27

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Jeremiah 33:10-16
Mark 10:32-34, 46-52

Sun., Mar. 28**Passion or Palm Sunday****Palms:**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

Passion:

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11;
Mark 14:1–15:47 or Mark 15:1-39
[40-47]

Mon., Mar. 29 (Holy Week)

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

Tues., Mar. 30 (Holy Week)

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 12:20-36

Wed., Mar. 31 (Holy Week)

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70
Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32