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The Sandpiper



North Falmouth Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ

arch 2024

Dear Friends,

What an adventure we had with Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg a few weeks ago! It was engaging and energized.

On Saturday, Claire gave us a comprehensive presentation that outlined seven options open to churches that are in a similar position as we are. Each option offered a different pathway to a kind of ministry that churches are not accustomed to. As she said, we no longer live in the 1950s when it was part of the culture to go to church. Now it is less about getting people into the pews and more about welcoming people through our doors by offering programming that is of interest to the public—such as speakers, concerts, and other activities. It is also about building and nurturing partnerships with local organizations and deepening the ones we already have with the YMCA and Meals on Wheels. This means being attentive to the organizations we serve. It is also about being proactive in getting the word out through multiple mediums—telling our friends, writing articles for the newspaper, social media, posting flyers, etc.

The good news is that we are already focusing our efforts on public relations and programming.

- Last week a gentleman, who is certified in aging in place, gave an informative talk on the many ways one can make their home safer for aging.
- Elder Services came to detail their broad menu of services.
- Lots more ideas are in the works for spring and summer.



The leadership team who works directly with Claire has been working hard to get more exposure for our church.

- They created bookmarks with the church’s name and address to give away to friends. 200 were printed and they all gone. We will do a second print run soon.
- If you drive by the church, you’ll notice a banner that says, “Little Church. Big Heart.” It’s colorful and bold.
- Two trees were cut down to make the front of the church more visible. The landscaping team will soon choose plantings to replace the tall trees.

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- Postcards have been mailed to church members to remind them of Christmas and Easter services.
- Faith Duffy and Natalie Packard will be offering technology classes soon to help folks navigate their electronic devices.

If you would like to listen to an audio recording of the session with Claire, follow this link:

<https://nfcc.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Audio-Potluck%20with%20Claire.m4a>

Those who attended the potluck were invited to write down three words that described our church. Their responses were entered into an application that created a word cloud. On Sunday, all those words were displayed. The visual word cloud was a powerful way to show who we are. Folk have already been asking for t-shirts and sweatshirts that are imprinted with the word cloud. If you are interested, let us know!



Truly, this a little church with a big heart. God's presence is coming alive through all the ways you are giving and serving. Church size does not matter. What matters is how God's presence is seen and felt through you.

Can you feel it? Have you noticed it? I have! I am proud and so grateful for how the Spirit is moving through this church. You are enriching lives with your presence and have an openness to what is possible—despite not knowing where we are going. You love this church so much—you are willing to put one foot in front of the other in faith. Thank you for the dedication and the hope you offer. May we walk this journey together in faith—trusting that God is already revealing a way forward.

If you would like to know more or help, reach out to Faith, Kay, Peter, or Christina—the leadership team.



Rev. Christina and Rev. Claire displaying the word cloud created by the congregation.

In faith and hope, Christina



Bill, Kay and Mike dedicating our new banner.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY – 5:30pm
Covenant Room
Simple meal of Soup followed by a contemplative service of song & communion.

GOOD FRIDAY – NOON
Waquoit Congregational Church
A Service of Lamentation—a form of ancient prayer.

EASTER DAY
Easter Sunrise Service – 6:15am
At Megansett Beach
Easter Breakfast – 8:30am
Easter Egg Hunt – 9:30am
Easter Worship – 10am
Special Music & Flowering of the Cross
We welcome guest musicians Paul Weller on clarinet and Cynthia Weller on cello.
The chancel choir will sing the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah.

Welcome Bryan Urquhart, Our New Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds



NFCC is delighted to announce the newest and highly qualified addition to our staff! Bryan Urquhart. Please see his introduction below!

Hi! My name is Bryan Urquhart and I am a lifelong Cape Coder having been born in Cape Cod Hospital. I live in Falmouth with my beautiful bride of 29 years. We have a daughter attending UMass Boston and a son who has ambitions to follow in his old man's shoes by joining the Marine Corps. I was active duty for four years prior to attending Massachusetts Maritime Academy where I obtained a bachelors degree in Facilities Engineering. While at school I completed two more years in the reserves.

My wife worked in Boston and I was a builder in order to pay for my education. I am a licensed construction supervisor and have been in many facets within the trades. I spent about 20 years working in various roles within biotech, ranging from plant mechanic up through management positions and have loved every minute of it!

In our free time, we can be found out in our little Whaler by Bassett's Island while enjoying friends and sunsets. While not on the water, we can usually be found cruisin' the beaches with the doors off the Jeep!

I am happy to assist NFCC with the upkeep of the buildings and look forward to making a positive impact while making decisions vital to the health of the property and equipment.

When you see Bryan, please take a moment to introduce yourself and welcome him to our "Little Church With a Big Heart".



From our Music Director

March has proven to be a busy month for music making!

On March 10th the bell and chancel choirs performed the anthem "Christ be our Light". March 17th we welcomed the accomplished guest violinist Deborah Bradley who accompanied Stephanie and the choir. March 24th, Palm Sunday, saw our own soloist Alan King perform the Palms. Bells and the choir performed "Canticle of the Turning".

For Easter Sunday, March 31st, guest musicians Paul and Cynthia Weller, on the clarinet and cello respectively, will play during the 10 a.m. service. In addition, the junior and adult choirs will join together to sing the anthem and a sacred dance will be performed. The service closes with the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah. The congregation is invited to sing along.

Looking ahead, April might be filled with showers; however it will also be filled with plenty of good music!

- April 7th, Cindy Cook, soloist, sings Blessings by Laura Story
- April 14th, the Bell choir performs the refrain: My Redeemer by Nicole C. Mullen and Rosanne Amaru Tatro, soloist, sings My Redeemer by Nicole C. Mullen

Peace, Stephanie



Tuesday Soup With a Purpose was a Big Community Success!



Spearheaded by Carolee, volunteers arrived at 10:30 to help with community outreach projects and a variety of church mailings.



On two separate Tuesdays, speakers Lou Eppers presented a program on Elder Services / Meals on Wheels and Dave Kara, a Certified Aging In Place Specialist spoke on aging in place. Both events were well attended by members of the church and the community at large.

February 10th NFVA & NFCC Sponsor a Joint Cape Verdean Event Starring Candida Rose & her Band



It was a full house in the sanctuary for the afternoon concert complete with Wesley Leite's Cape Verdean food truck for a delicious post concert dinner.



In attendance, State Rep. David Vieira who introduced Candida as "an ambassador for Cape Verdean culture" and Pastor Christina.



Altar Committee News

Prior to the onset of COVID, the Altar Committee had voted to remove the tan and gray-blue drape behind the wooden cross in the sanctuary. Missy Fox as a member of both the Altar Committee and Deacons brought the proposal to the Deacons for approval. It was difficult to find altar flowers that would show up against the drape. Recently the drape was removed exposing a simple off-white wall. **This is a work in progress.** We may like this image. We may wish to begin a search for another color of drape that will better show of flower arrangements or we may come up with another idea. As the Chair of the Altar Committee, I welcome all comments and suggestions.

While involved in this project, the history of the Sanctuary cross and the one in the Covenant room were told to me. The Sanctuary cross was made by Roy Rosewell who was the husband of our dear friend to all and loyal church member Martha Rosewell. The cross in the Covenant room, which is more rustic and probably more like a cross of Jesus' time, was made by David O'Hara. Both men have a talent for creating beautiful things out of scrap materials. Submitted by Marsha Martin



February 25th Honoring the YMCA Staff



Pastor Christina, Carolee & the Congregation pay tribute the dedicated and hard-working members of the YMCA staff.



Tech Workshop

Faith Duffy will be offering a mini-series of in-person workshops aimed at helping folk adjust to the tech heavy world we live in. Work-

shops will take place after Sunday services. Participants are encouraged to bring their own devices to practice—smartphones and tablets.

Some of the topics include: navigating the many features on smartphones and tablets including security, streaming services, Zoom, social media, health apps, calendar app, protecting your data, games, digital literacy, and living more independently using your devices.

Classes starting in April.



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – March 2024 (Year B)

Friday, Mar. 1

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

Sat., Mar. 2

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

Sun., Mar. 3

Third Sunday in Lent
Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

Mon., Mar. 4

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

Tues., Mar. 5

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

Wed., Mar. 6

Psalm 84
Ezra 6:1-16
Acts 15:36-41

Thurs., Mar. 7

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

Fri., Mar. 8

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

Sat., Mar. 9

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

Sun., Mar. 10

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

Mon., Mar. 11

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

Tues., Mar. 12

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

Wed., Mar. 13

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

Thurs., Mar. 14

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

Fri., Mar. 15

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

Sat., Mar. 16

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

Sun., Mar. 17

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. 18

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

Tues., Mar. 19

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

Wed., Mar. 20

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

Thurs., Mar. 21

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

Fri., Mar. 22

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

Sat., Mar. 23

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

Sun., Mar. 24

Sixth Sunday in Lent
Passion Sunday 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. 25

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

Tues., Mar. 26

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

Wed., Mar. 27

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

Thurs., Mar. 28

Mundy Thursday
Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Fri., Mar. 29

Good Friday
Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Psalm
22; Hebrews 10:16-25 or
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1—19:42

Sat., Mar. 30

Holy Saturday
Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations
3:1-9, 19-24; Psalm 31:1-4,
15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8;
Exodus 19:1-9a; Matthew
27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

Sun., Mar. 31

Easter
Acts 10:34-43 or
Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts
10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

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