

**North Falmouth Congregational Church, UCC
155 Old Main Road/PO Box 403
North Falmouth, MA 02556-0403**

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The Reverend Christina Williams, Pastor (508) 563-2177, www.northfalmouthucc.com





The Sandpiper



North Falmouth Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ

April 2026

Dear Friends,

April has a way of arriving like a quiet grace. After the long stretch of winter, something in us begins to soften and awaken alongside the earth. The days lengthen, the air warms, and life—once hidden—begins to emerge again.

In every season, there is beauty to behold: the stillness of fresh snow, the brightness of spring flowers, the shimmer of summer waters, the rich colors of autumn. Yet spring carries a particular kind of promise. It draws us outdoors, reminding us that we belong to this living, breathing world—and that it has the power to restore us.

And this is where our faith meets our daily lives. To care for the Earth is not simply a responsibility—it is a form of worship. It is a way of honoring the Creator by cherishing what God has made. When we protect the waters, tend the soil, and preserve the beauty around us, we are participating in God’s ongoing work of love and renewal.

This coming Wednesday, as we observe Earth Day, take a moment to pause—to notice again the goodness of creation, and

to remember our sacred calling within it. Not as owners, but as caretakers. Not as consumers, but as stewards of something entrusted to us with love.

Let us remember God’s goodness is always breaking through—life continues to rise, even in places where we might expect only barrenness. Spring itself is a living sermon of that truth. The question is not only where we see that goodness—but how we respond to it. One way to respond is through prayer.

On the following page of this newsletter, you will find the prayers you offered for the Earth. You are invited to carry these prayers with you through the rest of the month. Let them shape how you see the world around you. Let them guide your actions, however small they may seem.

The story of our faith is not one of despair, but of restoration—of a God who is always bringing life out of what seems lost, always calling us back into right relationship with creation and with one another. We do this not out of fear, but out of gratitude. Not out of guilt, but out of hope. And we do it together.

So, this spring, as the earth awakens around us, may we also awaken—to the wonder, to the responsibility, and to the quiet, faithful work of care.

In faith and hope,

Rev. Christina

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A Communal Prayer for our Good Earth on Earth Day.

The first part of the prayer was crafted from John O'Donohue's poem—In Praise of the Earth. The second half was crafted from the prayers the congregation submitted last Sunday.

God of Earth, sea and sky, we come before you held by the beauty of this world—a world that has carried us, sustained us, and given us life. We thank you for the Earth—for the ground beneath our feet, steady and sure... For mountains that stand in quiet strength, for oceans that breathe with ancient rhythm, for gardens that trust the slow work of becoming. We thank you for the mystery of life itself—for seeds that break open in darkness, for the quiet miracle of growth, for the way beauty rises again and again. And we remember, O God—we are part of this Earth. Formed from its dust, alive with its elements—the memory of wind and water, fire and sunlight, held within us.

And so, we come with gratitude and honesty to offer the prayers of your people...

Help us to make room in our hearts to love one another, and to become people who can adapt and flourish in this time of climate change and the ongoing evolution of Mother Earth.

We confess that we take our Earth for granted too often. May we learn to value this sacred gift and be mindful of how we can care for our climate, our beaches, and all living creatures. Remind us that all things are connected.

Draw us together in care—for one another and for this Earth we share.

We pray especially for those who live in places of conflict, for those who have lost

their homes, and for all who have become refugees.

We pray for future generations—that they may experience this beautiful Earth as we have known it. Grant them courage and compassion to do what is right in the world, so that love may prevail.

We pray for our leaders, that they may be wise and faithful stewards—seeking peace, restoration, and healing of our wounded world.

Most of all, O God, help us to stand together as your people, that we might learn to see your face in every living thing.

Teach us to tread lightly upon your good Earth, and to live with gratitude for its many gifts.

Lead us toward a deeper peace—among peoples of every culture and nation. And open our eyes to the blessings all around us, so that we may protect this world and rejoice in its beauty and sustenance—now and for generations to come. Amen

Greetings from the Music Director!

Music continues to thrive at our weekly services, and I am so grateful for the "small but mighty" teams that make it happen. We have received wonderful feedback from the congregation, and I invite you to be part of the music-making!

Adult Choir (All levels welcome!)

We sing two anthems weekly, ranging from Natalie Sleeth and Mary McDonald to John Rutter and Joel Raney. Whether you read music or not, 2 or 4-part music, you are needed! Rehearsals are Wednesdays 7:00–8:00 p.m., Saturdays 10:00–11:00 a.m., and Sundays 9:30 a.m. (briefly before service).

Bell Choir

The bell choir plays 1–2 times a month,

offering a wonderful opportunity for mindfulness and music-making. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 6:00–7:00 p.m.



Cherub Choir & Junior Choir

Our cherubs (currently four strong!) meet weekly after the Sunday service at 11:15–11:45 a.m. The Junior Choir practices are Mondays from 5:00–6:00 p.m. and they are doing a fantastic job building confidence and vocal skills. We would love more children to join us!

Instrumentalists

Do you play an instrument? I invite you to share your expertise on a Sunday! I am happy to accompany you.

Get Involved!

Please reach out to me at: smilespianoforte@gmail.com or speak to me after a service.

Peace,
Stephanie Miles
Music Director



March 8, Guest Violinist Deborah Bradley

Celebrate 2 Years of Motion & Community with Chair Yoga!

This April marks two incredible years of our Chair Yoga with Viriam! Due to popular demand, we've expanded our schedule, and have added a second class on Tuesdays.

Through this ministry, we are connecting with our community, sharing the warmth of our church, and embracing our new yoga motto: "**Motion is Lotion for your bodies!**" Join us for gentle movement and Viriam's special self-massage techniques designed to melt away stress. We have room for more, so come check us out—your first class is free, but the benefits are priceless!



All are Energized by Viriam's Classes



March New Member Sundays



March 8, New Members Jean Swartz,
Robert Swartz & Kristen Heisler

March 29 Palm Sunday



Deacon, Melessa Fox Preparing
Communion



March 15 Clifford Moore & Rosemary Carey



The Joy, The Passion, The Hope
Reader's Theater



March 22, Marilyn Gordon



The Bell Choir "Christ Be Our Light"



Soloists Alan King, Malcolm Donald and Clifford Moore



Maundy Thursday



Stephanie and Guest Cellist Chris Kerins



Easter Sunday



Happy Easter Egg Hunters!





Flowering the Cross



Beautiful



The Thrift Shop

The volunteers at the Thrift Shop are anxiously awaiting the arrival of spring. We are looking forward to warmer days and a break from the seasonal challenges of blizzards, heating issues, and power outages.

In November, Amanda Bock kindly offered to help us revive our Facebook page, which has been inactive since 2017. While her progress was temporarily paused for a necessary surgery, we are happy to share that Amanda is recovering well. She is now back to guiding a dedicated group of our volunteers, who will be posting regular updates and photos of our ever-changing shop inventory. We look forward to using this platform to connect with the community and welcome new customers!

On April 12, 2026, we hosted our annual General Meeting, providing a valuable opportunity for our volunteers to socialize, exchange ideas for improvement, and address essential business.

This year's agenda included electing two new committee members to fill vacancies left by Lynn Young (Scheduler) and Sue Long (Chair), who concluded their six-year terms in March in accordance with our bylaws. We are pleased to announce that **Eleanore Scavotto** and **Debbie Shemo** have been elected to the committee. Additionally, **Joyce Bock** and **Joyce Kenneally** will now serve as Co-Chairs. The committee plans to appoint a new Scheduler at a future date.





Happy Easter!

Take Two

Our Take Two conversations will be starting again after the Easter holiday on Sunday, April 19th. So grab a coffee and chat a little after the service and then come to the classroom about 11:15. On the 19th we will be talking about Christ after Easter. No advanced preparation is necessary and all are welcome.



Blessings From the Pastor's Family to Yours



The Lenten Prayer Trees





Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – April 2026 (Year A)

Wed., Apr. 1

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

Thurs., Apr. 2

Maundy 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., Apr. 3

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., Apr. 4

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

Sun., Apr. 5

Easter
Acts 10:34-43 *or* Jeremiah
31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4 *or* Acts
10:34-43
John 20:1-18 *or* Matthew
28:1-10

Mon., Apr. 6

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21
Colossians 3:5-11

Tues., Apr. 7

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Exodus 15:1-18
Colossians 3:12-17

Wed., Apr. 8

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Joshua 3:1-17
Matthew 28:1-10

Thurs., Apr. 9

Psalm 16
Song of Solomon 2:8-15
Colossians 4:2-5

Fri., Apr. 10

Psalm 16
Song of Solomon 5:9—6:3
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Sat., Apr. 11

Psalm 16
Song of Solomon 8:6-7
John 20:11-20

Sun., Apr. 12

Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

Mon., Apr. 13

Psalm 114
Judges 6:36-40
1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Tues., Apr. 14

Psalm 114
Jonah 1:1-17
1 Corinthians 15:19-28

Wed., Apr. 15

Psalm 114
Jonah 2:1-10
Matthew 12:38-42

Thurs., Apr. 16

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Isaiah 25:1-5
1 Peter 1:8b-12

Fri., Apr. 17

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Isaiah 26:1-4
1 Peter 1:13-16

Sat., Apr. 18

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Isaiah 25:6-9
Luke 14:12-14

Sun., Apr. 19

Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

Mon., Apr. 20

Psalm 134
Genesis 18:1-14
1 Peter 1:23-25

Tues., Apr. 21

Psalm 134
Proverbs 8:32—9:6
1 Peter 2:1-3

Wed., Apr. 22

Psalm 134
Exodus 24:1-11
John 21:1-14

Thurs., Apr. 23

Psalm 23
Exodus 2:15b-25
1 Peter 2:9-12

Fri., Apr. 24

Psalm 23
Exodus 3:16-22; 4:18-20
1 Peter 2:13-17

Sat., Apr. 25

Psalm 23
Ezekiel 34:1-16
Luke 15:1-7

Sun., Apr. 26

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

Mon., Apr. 27

Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34:17-23
1 Peter 5:1-5

Tues., Apr. 28

Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34:23-31
Hebrews 13:20-21

Wed., Apr. 29

Psalm 100
Jeremiah 23:1-8
Matthew 20:17-28

Thurs., Apr. 30

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Genesis 12:1-3
Acts 6:8-15