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The Sandpiper



North Falmouth Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ

August 2024

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” – Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dear Friends,

As the earth slowly tilts away from the sun—autumn makes its appearance. If seasons had moods, autumn would be reflective, nostalgic, and maybe even melancholy. Even though autumn may forecast the end to the lushness of summer, it still gifts us with some warmth and radiant colors. Its splendor can be as lovely as spring. It’s easy to understand why autumn is the favorite season of so many.

Autumn is also a time of surrender and decaying—which is a good thing because the composting of leaves is food for the soil. When late autumn gives way to the naked beauty of creation we get a clearer view of the world around us.

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There are some important lessons in autumn—when certain things fall away other things can be seen more clearly. Surrendering gives our hearts room to grow, and we are better able to receive the gifts God has for us—gifts that offer new dreams that can enrich our lives. When we let go of a relationship that is not healthy—new people enter our lives with just the gifts we need. When our health is failing, we might find we are more grateful for what we do have. In surrendering our youth, we might discover the blessing and wisdom of growing older. In cleaning out the clutter of our precious possessions—we can find joy and freedom in letting go.

Autumn is a great metaphor for our lives. In this time of harvest and of falling away—what do you need to gather in to bring you closer holy joy and fulfilment? What do you need to let fall away so that new life can take wing in your life?

May these warm September days reflect God’s beauty and wisdom more clearly in the turning of summer to autumn.

In hope and faith,

Rev. Christina

**This article was inspired by the writings of Joyce Rupp—The Circle of Life.*

From the Music Director

Greetings! We are thrilled to announce that our dedicated choir resumed rehearsal on Tuesday, September 3rd, and we would love for you to join us! Our choir meets every Tuesday from 7 to 8 p.m. and also on Saturdays from 10 to 11 a.m., with an additional gathering on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. to practice our anthem for the service. Don't worry if you can't read music—what truly matters is your love of singing and the joy of camaraderie we share as a community!

Our bell choir will also be starting up on the Tuesdays, meeting from 6 to 7 p.m., and we perform about once a month, bringing beautiful music to life together. This is a wonderful opportunity to enrich your spiritual journey while making lasting friendships through shared musical experiences in a warm, welcoming environment. If you're interested, please don't hesitate to reach out to me! smilesforte@gmail.com 508-813-3124. Peace, Stephanie.



July 5th North Falmouth Village Unplugged



Carolee on the grill cooking hot dogs donated by NFCC for the attendees.



Church Life Take Two

In our next installment of Take Two we will watch a series of 6 videos based upon the book *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks* by Diana Butler-Bass. Ms. Bass is an author, speaker, and independent scholar specializing in American religion and culture.

These films contain conversations inspired by Ms. Bass's book and not only offer us an opportunity for personal transformation, but welcome us into her own personal journey with gratitude.

"My hope and prayer is that these films lead you to a deeper truth in your rowth and inspire you to move outward into the world with the kind of generosity and gratitude that defies systems of scarcity and brings healing to the world."

For this series our Take Two conversations do not require any advanced preparation. If you cannot attend all of our gatherings please don't let that stop you from attending when you can. We will meet on Sundays after the service. We will allow

some time for fellowship according to the schedule below.

We have had many enlightening and enjoyable conversations on other topics and new participants are always welcome.

September 15

September 29

October 13

October 27

November 10

November 24

Coming Attractions

Keep a lookout for November College Care Packages, our annual Giving Tree and the Christmas Pageant.



Sunday, July 27th A Baby Shower for Moira & Gary



Everyone was so generous to the expectant parents.



Gary & Moira were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support.



For the new little guy!



Enrichment Classes at NFCC



Welcome to the North Falmouth Congregational Church's Enrichment Classes, where we warmly invite families and individuals to come together for a delightful

learning experience!

We are thrilled to offer a vibrant array of classes that not only nurture creativity but also foster connections within our community. From Bow Making 101 to the exciting Pumpkin Carving event, each session promises to be an opportunity to engage, learn, and share joyful moments with friends and neighbors.

All classes will start at 3pm sharp! With limited spots available for most classes (just 10 participants), we encourage you to sign up early to secure your place in these enriching experiences – don't miss out! Remember, there is a small material fee of \$6.00 to be paid at class, and **pre-registration by the Tuesday prior ensures we have enough supplies and food for everyone.**

- Sept. 29 - Bow Making 101
- Oct. 6 - How to make a base for a wreath or a swag
- Oct. 20 - Centerpieces for a gift or your table
- Oct. 27 - Pumpkin carving. This is for the whole family, and food will be available.

So, mark your calendars and encourage your family to join us for an afternoon filled with creativity, laughter, and community spirit. Hope to see you all! Bring your wonderful energy and enthusiasm for fellowship, learning, and fun!

August 18th A Housewarming Party for Ketura & Rohalle!



August 25th Sunday, Sundae Social



Keira Murphy & Bea Hatch made cookies for the event. The interfaith fundraiser was held at St. Barnabas to benefit the Falmouth Service Center.



Carolee & friend harvesting the bounty of Kale grown at the Bourne Food Pantry.



News From the Board of Finance

North Falmouth Congregational Church has recently received some wonderful financial gifts. We received a \$50,000.00 anonymous gift which has been added to our Unrestricted Reserve which we use for unbudgeted and unexpected expenses so this gift is greatly appreciated.

We also received a \$250,000 gift from the estate of Sybil Campbell, who lived on Old Main Road but was not a member of our church. The first \$125,000.00 has been received and invested. We will use monies from this investment as part of our operating income going forward. The remaining \$125,000 is expected to be received around year end.



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.

Potted mums and other fall flowers are welcome. If you have concerns, please contact Marsha Martin willmart41@comcast.net or 508-759-0857.



Daily Lectionary Scripture References –September 2024 (Year B)

Sun., Sept. 1

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Mon., Sept. 2

Psalm 144:9-15
Song of Solomon 3:6-11
1 Timothy 4:6-16

Tues., Sept. 3

Psalm 144:9-15
Song of Solomon 5:2-6:3
1 Peter 2:19-25

Wed., Sept. 4

Psalm 144:9-15
Song of Solomon 8:5-7
Mark 7:9-23

Thurs., Sept. 5

Psalm 125
Proverbs 1:1-19
Romans 2:1-11

Fri., Sept. 6

Psalm 125
Proverbs 4:10-27
Romans 2:12-16

Sat., Sept. 7

Psalm 125
Proverbs 8:1-31
Matthew 15:21-31

Sun., Sept. 8

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

Mon., Sept. 9

Psalm 73:1-20
Proverbs 8:32-9:6
Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Tues., Sept. 10

Psalm 73:1-20
Proverbs 11:1-31
Hebrews 12:3-13

Wed., Sept. 11

Psalm 73:1-20
Proverbs 14:1-9
Matthew 17:14-21

Thurs., Sept. 12

Psalm 19
Proverbs 15:1-17
Hebrews 11:17-22

Fri., Sept. 13

Psalm 19
Proverbs 19:24-29
James 2:17-26

Sat., Sept. 14

Psalm 19
Proverbs 21:1-17
Matthew 21:23-32

Sun., Sept. 15

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19 or Wisdom 7:26-8:1
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

Mon., Sept. 16

Psalm 73:21-28
Proverbs 22:1-21
Romans 3:9-20

Tues., Sept. 17

Psalm 73:21-28
Proverbs 25:1-28
Colossians 3:1-11

Wed., Sept. 18

Psalm 73:21-28
Proverbs 29:1-27
John 7:25-36

Thurs., Sept. 19

Psalm 1
Proverbs 30:1-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Fri., Sept. 20

Psalm 1
Proverbs 30:18-33
Romans 11:25-32

Sat., Sept. 21

Psalm 1
Ecclesiastes 1:1-18
Matthew 23:29-39

Sun., Sept. 22

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

Mon., Sept. 23

Psalm 128
Proverbs 27:1-27
James 4:8-17

Tues., Sept. 24

Psalm 128
Ecclesiastes 4:9-16
James 5:1-6

Wed., Sept. 25

Psalm 128
Ecclesiastes 5:1-20
John 8:21-38

Thurs., Sept. 26

Psalm 124
Esther 1:1-21
Acts 4:13-31

Fri., Sept. 27

Psalm 124
Esther 2:1-23
Acts 12:20-25

Sat., Sept. 28

Psalm 124
Esther 3:1-15
Matthew 5:13-20

Sun., Sept. 29

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

Mon., Sept. 30

Psalm 140
Esther 4:1-17
1 Peter 1:3-9