

**North Falmouth Congregational Church, UCC
155 Old Main Road/PO Box 403
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Dated Material**

February 2021



The Sandpiper is a monthly publication of the North Falmouth Congregational Church, UCC.
The Reverend Christina Williams Pastor (508) 563-2177, www.northfalmouthucc.com





The Sandpiper



North Falmouth Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ

February 2021

Pastoral Page

“So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

Dear Friends,

In her book, *The Great Emergence*, author and religion professor Phyllis Tickle describes how the Church cleans house every 500 years by holding a giant rummage sale to decide what to dispose of and what to keep in order to make room for new things.

The first rummage sale happened when “God with us” appeared in Jesus. 500 years later, when the Roman Empire collapsed and Europe plunged into the Dark Ages, the Church withdrew behind the cloistered walls of monasteries and convents. 500 years later, the Great Schism caused the church to split doctrinally between the East and the West. About 500 years ago, Martin Luther kicked off the Great Reformation as people came to understand God in new ways through direct prayer and individual interpretation of the Bible.

Well... here we are 500 years later. Is the Church having another rummage sale? Church experts say “yes”. The Church has changed before our very eyes during our lifetimes. The Church used to be the center of people’s lives, but for many that is no longer true.

Tickle says we are entering a new era of “The Emergent Church,” a religious movement that crosses denominational boundaries, seeks common ground, engages diverse cultures, embraces social causes as ways to live out Christ’s call to serve

others, and takes place largely outside the church building. Is this the church of the future? Research is starting to reveal that churches who focus more of their time and talent outside their walls are more vital and vibrant in their communities.

Change is hard. We love our church—its people, its traditions, and yes, its building. And yet, we know that God’s call to us is bigger than North Falmouth Congregational Church, bigger than the UCC, and bigger even than the church universal. The most basic message of Christianity is one of resurrection and renewal.

So, what do we do now? Dream!

While most everything is on hold during the pandemic, we have the perfect opportunity to dream about who we can be and what we will do as a beloved community when we open up again. On pages 8-10 of this newsletter you will find a survey to help you dream about our future. Rummage sales are always a good time to look at what to keep and what to pass on in order to make room for something new.

So, my friends, let us go boldly and faithfully and dream about where God is leading us during this time that is so full possibilities. God is doing a new thing! Now it is springing up, do you not perceive it?

With trust in our faithful God,

Pastor Christina

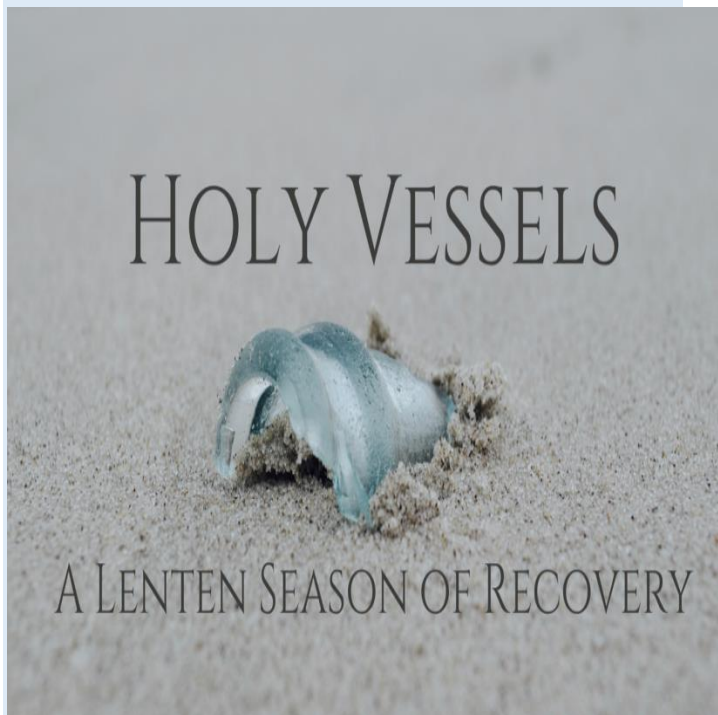
UPCOMING WORSHIP – FEBRUARY

Worship services will continue to be live from the sanctuary this month. Sunday worship – 10 a.m.

Creativity as a big part of our spiritual lives and God invites us to be co-creators in making a better world for all. We'll continue the creative series through February 14.

February 7 – Fifth Sunday of Epiphany –
God's Creative Process: Fifth Step–Re-Integrate
Everything that is created is in relationship with all other things. This is God's will. Nothing exists in isolation. What happens for humanity is closely related to how we respond to each other. **Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-19

February 14 – Sixth Sunday of Epiphany –
God's Creative Process: Sixth Step–Rest
Something overlooked in the creative process is the place of effortlessness and play. In the story of creation, God rested—and this was good and well. Being productive and focused in every moment robs us of the rhythm of life God wants for us. When God rested, it was to pause to reflect, observe, and celebrate. **Scripture:** Exodus 20:8-11



For Lent, we begin a new worship series for this pandemic time, Holy Vessels: A Lenten Season of Recovery. Each of us is a precious and holy vessel of God's embodied love. We have been through a

harrowing time since last Lent. For many of us, it has shattered our sense of wholeness in body, mind, and spirit—much like a glass vessel fractured into pieces. In this Lenten “season of recovery” for our physical, communal, mental, intellectual, and environmental health, we will explore the healing narratives of Jesus that shows us God's solidarity with human suffering and remind us that we can begin a journey toward making something beautiful from that which is seemingly broken. Beach glass offers us a multifaceted symbol of this transformative process.

February 17 – Ash Wednesday –
Shattered 7 p.m.
Ash Wednesday is a time of naming brokenness. As we enter the season of Lent, we also commit to enter into a season of healing and recovery and name first what has been shattered. We take “the yoke” of responsibility as disciples of Jesus to be the Body of Christ—a body of those who need healing and offer healing to others. The promise of Jesus is that he is with us in our weariness and burdens. **Scripture:** Matthew 11:28-30

February 21 – First Sunday of Lent –
Treasure – Physical Health
Beach glass begins as something whole and discarded. As it is tumbled by the sea, it is broken and polished until it becomes a treasured “mineral gem.” We do not embrace that suffering as necessary or God-given, but that suffering is a part of life. When pain and brokenness enter our lives, Jesus reaches out to remind us of the treasure that we all are—worthy of new life in the midst of hopelessness. **Scripture:** Matthew 8:1-4, 14-18

February 28 – Second Sunday of Lent –
Safe Keeping – Community Health
God gathers us as a beachcomber gathers and marvels at every precious surviving piece of beach glass that is found. We are never alone. We are never lost to the One who seeks humanity's wholeness. We affirm our commitment to be the Body of Christ that knows we cannot be personally healed until we see the interconnectedness of community as part of the process of healing. Jesus reimages the family of God in which false boundaries are overcome. **Scripture:** Matthew 8:5-13

February Birthdays



02/03	Kalyn Oliveira
02/05	Dave Allen
02/10	Beverly Blaine
02/12	Gregory Young
02/14	Nolan Clements
02/20	Rodney Rountree
02/21	Bianca Greco
02/25	Marcus Greco
02/27	Amelia Allen
02/27	Hal King



Happy Birthday



Rev. Darrell Goodwin, Executive Conference Minister and the Health & Wellness Team present the first in a monthly series of

discussions: COVID-19 2021 Update: Seeds of HOPE. It is our purpose to promote health and wellness by providing support for all throughout the Southern New England conference UCC.

The challenges faced by clergy, churches and communities continue to change as the pandemic evolves. Uncertainty and anxiety are heightened as virus variants are discovered, COVID-19 testing methods are developed, vaccines are rolled out, and people experience confusion and frustration.

This webinar will provide practical information and resources to inform and support your congregation and community.

Panelists will include:

- Deborah Ringen MSN, RN-BC Minister for Health and Wellness, SNEUCC,
- Peggy Matteson PhD, FCN Minister of Congregational Health, RI,
- Kathleen Zagata RN, MSN Health and Wellness Minister First Congregational Church Winchester, MA,
- Rev. Saramaria Allenby,
- Rev. Lee Ireland.

This webinar will be held Thursday, February 11 at 2:00 p.m.

To register go to:

<https://www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/14967760>

From the Outreach Committee



**SOCK BOX
COLLECTION
TO BENEFIT THE
STREET OUTREACH
PROGRAM**

**OF REV. PAM WANNIE AND THE DUFFY HEALTH CTR
COLLECTION OF MEN'S WHITE SOCKS**

- MUST BE NEW**
- DRIVE BY DROP OFF SOCKS AND PICK UP A GAME, PUZZLE OR BOOK TO TAKE HOME FOR YOUR PLEASURE**

**WHERE: NORTH FALMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
155 OLD MAIN RD, NORTH FALMOUTH**

**WHEN: SUNDAY, FEB 21ST 1-3PM
BAD WEATHER DATE: SATURDAY, FEB 27**



The Murphy Family making Valentine's Day cards for BTEO to put on the kits they distribute.

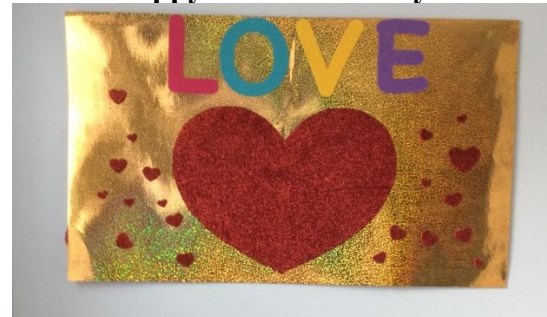
Church Volunteers making Valentine's Day cards for the Meals on Wheels Recipients.



Valentines from our CE children from past years



Happy Valentine's Day!!





From the Altar Committee

Altar Flowers...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.

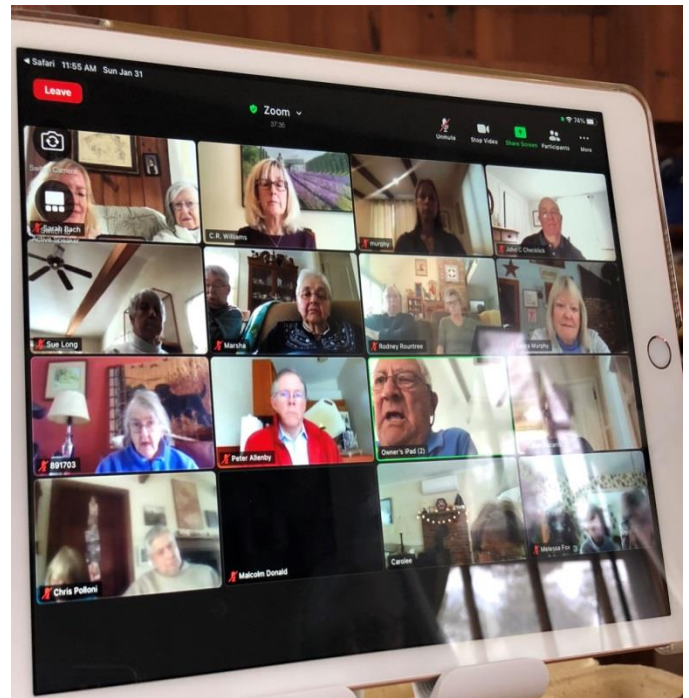
If anyone feels that they would like to dedicate a live plant or cut flower arrangement in memory or celebration, that option is still available. Please contact Marsha Martin to make arrangements:

willmart41@comcast.net or 508-759-0857

Due to the rise in Covid cases, the Thrift Shop is closed until further notice



The Annual Meeting for Year 2020, held January 31st, 2021



The stunning arrangement given by the Bach Family in memory of Hal Bach

The minutes of the 2020 Annual Report may be found on the following two pages.

**NORTH FALMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2021
ZOOM 11:15 a.m.**

- 1/ Call to order Carolee Packard
`Quorum is present 25 zoom boxes- multiple people in many boxes
- 2/ opening prayer Rev. Christina Williams
- 3/ Pastor's report (see book)
- a. Challenging to get to know all
 - b. Creativity
 - c. Grateful
 - d. Survey will be in sandpiper to dream about future
- 4/ Council president's report Carolee Packard
- a. Thank you
- 5/ Board of finance Peter Allenby
- a. Thanks to John Checklick, collector and hank, treasurer for above and beyond efforts
 - b. Amazing generosity
- 6/ Elected board and committee reports- the following committee reports be approved as stated in the annual report. Chairman may comment /speak as needed.
- a. Board of deacons Barbara Rountree
 - b. Building and grounds Bill Martin
 - 1. New position
 - c. Christian education
 - d. Music committee Meg Tivey
 - 1. Difficult year for music
 - 2. Choir misses fellowship and those not on social media
 - e. Stewardship committee John Checklick
 - 1. Minor correction change 2019 to 2020
 - 2. As collector, donor statements have been sent, if want envelopes, email John
 - f. Altar committee Marsha Martin
 - g. Outreach Carolee Packard

DREAMING IN THE TIME OF A PANDEMIC – A SURVEY

The pandemic is the perfect time to reflect about the future of our church and how our beloved community can continue to do God's will in fulfilling God's dream for our church, the community, and our world. In light of that, the survey below is meant to stir your imagination.

Firstly, while filling out this survey, dream big! If negative thoughts pop up such as, "we tried that before and it didn't work" or "we've never done it that way before" or "that idea will never work," let them go. Give the filters and fears over to God. Be creative and think outside the box!

Secondly, pray! Before starting this survey listen to God. Through prayer enter into God's presence and ask, "God, what is your desire for this church's future?" And then listen. God may not whisper anything to you, so trust the Spirit as you answer each question. In this way, we begin listening for God's desire rather than our own.

Lastly, please encourage your entire family to fill out this survey. It's important to get feedback from people of all ages. If you need more copies, please contact Deb Pinkney at officenfcc@gmail.com.

SURVEY

Throughout history, it has been the tradition of the Church to offer worship, provide faith formation, and do outreach work. These are the three marks of the Church. The questions below fall into these three categories.

General Questions

1. What do you believe are our church's greatest gifts? In other words, what does this church do really well?

2. When have you felt most engaged and energized in doing something with or for our church?

Outreach Questions

1. How could our church building be used in ways to further serve our neighbors beyond the daycare and Meals on Wheels? In what ways could our church become a place of community for others?

2. Church experts say that churches focused on outreach and establishing partnerships with local businesses, organizations, or other churches to serve the needs of the community are more vital. Given what you think this church does well (see your answer above), what business, organization, or church could we partner with?

DREAMING IN THE TIME OF A PANDEMIC – A SURVEY

3. As you think about the demographics of the surrounding communities, how might we better serve the needs of those living here?

Worship

1. During the pandemic people are watching online services at their convenience, not necessarily on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Research shows that one-third of workforce works on Sundays.
 - a. Given this information, do you think we should offer another in-person service? If so, what other days or times do you think might work?
 - b. How would that new worship be structured? What kinds of things could it include? (Examples: less formal format, contemporary music, hands on projects that are family oriented, communion, etc.)

Faith Formation: Children, Youth, Adults

1. With fewer young children attending church currently and many older children involved in sports on Sunday mornings, how should we be offering Sunday lessons to the children?
2. Given the busy schedules of high school students and young adults, how can we engage them in the life of the church and in outreach work?
3. In hiring a new director of faith formation, would we expand this role or keep it the same? If we expand it, what do you envision for the position?
 - a. Would that person do some youth group work? If so, what kinds of things would you like to see that person do?
 - b. Should the person offer programming for adults and the elderly? If so, what kind of programming would you be interested in?

DREAMING IN THE TIME OF A PANDEMIC – A SURVEY

- c. Do we approach another church to share this position with?

Digital Ministry: in worship, faith formation, and outreach

During the pandemic, we've discovered the digital world is an additional mission field. We have also discovered offering faith formation for adults online via Zoom really works.

1. How might we best minister to people online via worship services, Zoom, and social media?
 - a. To the elderly and the youth both inside and outside the church?

2. How could we best nurture those who only connect with the church digitally?

3. In what ways can we use the digital format to do outreach work?

Final Question: What energizes you?

Out of all the things you listed above, which one or two really excites you the most? Why?

Thank you for your participation in this survey. We appreciate the time you took in prayer and reflection.

Please mail your finished survey to:

North Falmouth Congregational Church
155 Old Main Road
North Falmouth, MA 02556

Or you can scan your responses and email them to:

officenfcc@gmail.com

If you would like additional copies of this survey for other family members to fill out, please contact Deb Pinkney at officenfcc@gmail.com. She can email it or send it via snail mail.



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References -February 2021 (Year B)

Mon., Feb. 1
Psalm 35:1-10
Numbers 22:1-21
Acts 21:17-26

Tues., Feb. 2
Psalm 35:1-10
Numbers 22:22-28
1 Corinthians 7:32-40

Wed., Feb. 3
Psalm 35:1-10
Jeremiah 29:1-14
Mark 5:1-20

Thurs., Feb. 4
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Proverbs 12:10-21
Galatians 5:2-15

Fri., Feb. 5
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Job 36:1-23
1 Corinthians 9:1-16

Sat., Feb. 6
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Isaiah 46:1-13
Matthew 12:9-14

Sun., Feb. 7
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Mon., Feb. 8
Psalm 102:12-28
2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37
Acts 14:1-7

Tues., Feb. 9
Psalm 102:12-28
2 Kings 8:1-6
Acts 15:36-41

Wed., Feb. 10
Psalm 102:12-28
Job 6:1-13
Mark 3:7-12

Thurs., Feb. 11
Psalm 30
Leviticus 13:1-17
Hebrews 12:7-13

Fri., Feb. 12
Psalm 30
Leviticus 14:1-20
Acts 19:11-20

Sat., Feb. 13
Psalm 30
Leviticus 14:21-32
Matthew 26:6-13

Sun., Feb. 14
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Mark 1:40-45

Mon., Feb. 15
Psalm 6
2 Chronicles 26:1-21
Acts 3:1-10

Tues., Feb. 16
Psalm 6
2 Kings 7:3-10
1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1

Wed., Feb. 17
Psalm 6
Job 30:16-31
John 4:46-54

Thurs., Feb. 18
Psalm 41
2 Chronicles 7:12-22
3 John 2-8

Fri., Feb. 19
Psalm 41
Isaiah 38:1-8
Hebrews 12:7-13

Sat., Feb. 20
Psalm 41
Isaiah 39:1-8
Luke 4:38-41

Sun., Feb. 21
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 43:18-25
Psalm 41
2 Corinthians 1:18-22
Mark 2:1-12

Mon., Feb. 22
Psalm 38
Isaiah 30:18-26
Acts 14:8-18

Tues., Feb. 23
Psalm 38
Micah 4:1-7
2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Wed., Feb. 24
Psalm 38
Lamentations 5:1-22
John 5:19-29

Thurs., Feb. 25
Psalm 103:1-13, 22
Ezekiel 16:1-14
Romans 3:1-8

Fri., Feb. 26
Psalm 103:1-13, 22
Ezekiel 16:44-52
2 Peter 1:1-11

Sat., Feb. 27
Psalm 103:1-13, 22
Ezekiel 16:53-63
John 7:53-8:11

Sun., Feb. 28
Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany
Hosea 2:14-20
Psalm 103:1-13, 22
2 Corinthians 3:1-6
Mark 2:13-22

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