

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

**Return Service Requested  
Dated Material**

**January / February 2024**



*The Sandpiper* is a publication of the North Falmouth Congregational Church, UCC.  
The Reverend Christina Williams Pastor (508) 563-2177, [www.northfalmouthucc.com](http://www.northfalmouthucc.com)







# The Sandpiper



**North Falmouth Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ**

**January / February 2024**

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## Pastor's Message

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"*  
2 Corinthians 5:17

Dear Friends,

Every year, a Jewish friend of mine sends a Happy New Year's card, and in it she writes her hopes for me in the coming year. That's when I take the time to wonder what the new year will bring. We often think of January 1 as a new beginning—a new year with a clean slate upon which to draw our lives—to imagine what can be. It's the perfect time to hit pause and reflect on what was and the possibilities to come. Why not allow our imaginations to run wild with wonder and curiosity—just as they did when we were children?

Actually, new beginnings are happening all the time—if we pause long enough to take notice. Each

year, each month, each day, each moment can be a new beginning if we shift our perspective from taking things for granted to living with curiosity, wonder, and gratitude. However, we don't always welcome new beginnings because it can mean a painful change in our life. It can mean being challenged in ways we'd rather resist. It can mean being called forth from our comfort zone and away from the patterns of living we have gotten used to. Whether we embrace or greet a new beginning kicking and screaming—they come. God has a way of drawing us into new beginnings whether we choose them or not.

When we are drawn forth into a new beginning, how can we prepare our hearts and minds for it? How can we lean into it and find the trust and courage that God knows what God is doing? How do we come 'round right to find joy and delight in stepping into the risk of a new beginning?

Perhaps you know some of the answers from your lived experiences. If so, I offer John O'Donohue's gorgeous poem, "For a New Beginning" (See next page). In it you might recognize how you have encountered a new beginning with trepidation and angst and how you eventually allowed yourself to "unfurl into the grace of beginning."

May your new beginnings—whenever and however they happen—be sacred and holy moments in which you allow yourself to be carried by God's eternal love for you.

In hope and faith,

Pastor Christina

## For a New Beginning

*John O'Donohue*

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,  
Where your thoughts never think to wander,  
This beginning has been quietly forming,  
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,  
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,  
Noticing how you willed yourself on,  
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety  
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,  
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,  
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,  
And out you stepped onto new ground,  
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,  
A path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear  
You can trust the promise of this opening;  
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning  
That is at one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;  
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;  
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,  
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

### *Recent Improvements From the Leadership Team*

- Two trees were removed giving the front of church more visibility.
- Photos with Santa were a fun and rewarding project, and our in-house Santa, Bill Martin, was delivered via the North Falmouth Fire truck. This event will be repeated next year. (Yes, Virginia there is a Santa)
- Three new signs were made giving directions to our church. They have a new UCC logo and actually say North Falmouth Congregational Church. A big improvement!
- Additionally, our web designer is on task working to create a more inviting, informative and interesting NFCC website. There are a lot of other exciting projects and ideas we will be exploring. Stay tuned!

- Remember little church / Big Heart  
If you don't like something change it.  
If you can't change it, change the way you think about it.



### *Santa Arrives Via Firetruck at NFCC!!*



**Santa and Mrs. Claus**



**Bella Giving Santa her Christmas list!**



**Christmas Wishes for all!**

# February Birthdays



- 02/03**
- 02/05**
- 02/10**
- 02/12**
- 02/14**
- 02/21**
- 02/25**
- 02/27**

- Kalyn Oliveira**
- Dave Allen**
- Beverly Blaine**
- Gregory Young**
- Nolan Clements**
- Bianca Greco**
- Marcus Greco**
- Amelia Allen**



**Thank you Ms. Stephanie!**



# Happy Birthday



**The Thrift Shop Celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

This year we have been celebrating sixty years of our very successful Thrift Shop!



At our October general meeting we enjoyed a sit down dinner, provided by the church, to honor our volunteers. The meal was cooked by Carolee Packard and served to us by Carolee and Rosanne Amaru. Joyce Bock talked about the history of the thrift shop and Joyce Kenneally presented a scrapbook she made of past event. These two women spent many hours going through the archives to compile this information.



A photographer from the Falmouth Enterprise took this picture before we had our meal. The following is some of the write-up that was included in the Enterprise article



Left to Right: Jean Sawyer, Joyce Kenneally, Marcia McLaughlin, Carolee Packard, Adrienne Ovian, Lina Thomas, Bob Young, Sue Long, Lynn Young, Ginny Nielsen, Laura Murphy, Joyce Bock, Eleanore Scavotto, Donna Cooper, Toby Ryan, Marsha Martin, Mike Ryan & Bill Martin.

Missing: Geordine Roderick, Myrna O’Hara, Mary Carman, Denise Sullivan, Carolyn Reynolds, Lindsay O’Neil & Leslie Bennett.

“The North Falmouth Congregational Church Thrift Shop turned 60 years old this year and on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, a dinner was held at the church to honor the thrift store’s twenty volunteers. During the event, a history of the shop compiled by Joyce Bock and a scrapbook compiled by Joyce Kenneally were shared with the group.

In 1963 a group of North Falmouth women met and founded the *What-So-Ever Club*, a hybrid of a social club and church committee. The name came from a quote in *Philippians 4:8*, which was interpreted as whatever needs to be done, we will do it. One of the group’s priorities was to start a thrift shop. It began in the church cellar. In 1965 the women purchased the small house at 149 Old Main Road next to the church for \$10,000 and quickly set up shop. Opening it for business in the spring of 1966, the group was able to pay off the mortgage in 5 ½ years. The shop has been a success since the

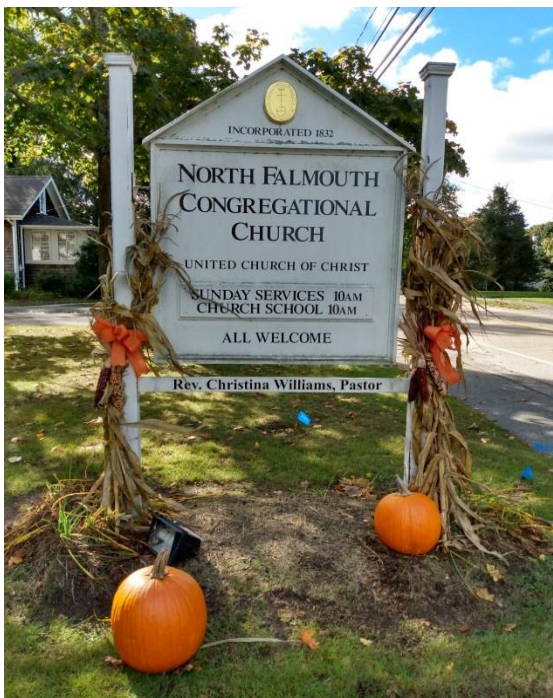
day it opened, considered by many, the group said, as “the best boutique in town”.

But the *What-So-Ever Club* volunteers did much more than just run a thrift shop. Over the years they supported many of the church’s outreach endeavors. Not only did they support local needs like when a family lost everything in a fire, they also supported an orphanage in Vietnam during the war there and sent money to people left homeless after an earthquake in Italy in 1980.”



In November, the Thrift Shop had a successful two day Christmas sale in the Covenant Room. We tried something new by starting the sale for two hours on Friday evening with takeout lobster rolls. The doors were open again on Saturday from nine until noon. Our net profit was \$1700.

### *Autumn at NFCC*



### *Thanksgiving Sunday*



**The beautiful cornucopia created by Beverly Blaine and the lovely flowers in memory of Dick Cudmore who passed away October 26<sup>th</sup>.**



### *From our Music Director*

Greetings and a Happy New Year to you!

The music room has been busy with choir rehearsals, bell chime rehearsals, and junior choir rehearsals.

You are invited to join any group. If you have a child or grandchild we would be delighted to have them join our junior choir group!

Rehearsals are as follows:

Choir: Wednesdays - 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Saturdays - 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Sundays - 9:15 to 9:45 a.m.

The junior choir rehearsals will be on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. (we will be performing an anthem on Feb. 18th)

The bell chime rehearsals have begun, and are scheduled for Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. (we will be performing an anthem during Lent and if able, also during Easter)

We really do need a few more people to join our bell group. Currently, there are 8 members and more are needed to make a really robust bell choir. Please consider joining. The members say it is fun and I believe it is as well.



Crafts, Games and fun too!



I have also been able to contact some very talented guest musicians to perform for us during the Lent and Easter season. More details to come!

Blessings.  
Stephanie



**Church Life Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> Winter Wonderland for the YMCA Children**



Carolee and volunteer crew prepared the much appreciated takeout meals for the parents & staff of the YMCA children.

Thank you so much for the yummy meal. Everyone loved it and it was such a treat not to have to cook! Thank you for all you do to support the school and our kids. Much appreciated!

The O'Connell Family

THANK YOU  
SO MUCH  
FOR THE FOOD  
LOVE CAROLINE



## *The Giving Tree and Pageant*

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual Giving Tree program and our Christmas Pageant. We were able to brighten the holiday for three local families and make Christmas Eve very special for the congregation and community.

### **Take Two Program**

A Take Two gathering took place on Sunday, January 21st after the service. The participants continued with the last of the series of the Books that Didn't Make the Cut with the Gospel of Phillip.



**SOUP WITH A PURPOSE  
ALL ARE WELCOME!  
TUESDAYS**



**FEBRUARY 6 THROUGH MARCH 19  
STARTING AT 10:30 am**

**INCLUDED WILL BE SMALL  
PROJECTS & INFORMATIONAL  
PROGRAMS**

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COME  
CASUALLY DRESSED**

**SOUP LUNCH AROUND 12 NOON**

**AFTER LUNCH - IT IS HOME AND NAP TIME**

**SPONSORED BY THE OUTREACH  
COMMITTEE OF NORTH FALMOUTH  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**



**Candida Rose**

*Presents*  
A Celebration of Cape Verdean Culture and Music  
**KabuMerikana: The Sum of US**

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**Saturday, February 10**  
**3:00 to 5:00 PM**

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

Following the program, Wesley Leite's KTCHN food truck will be onsite with a special menu of Cape Verdean delicacies available for purchase.

This family-friendly event is supported by grants from the Mass Cultural Council and Rockland Trust.  
The performance is free, but seating is limited.  
To pre-register and learn more, go to  
[www.northfalmouthvillageassociation.org](http://www.northfalmouthvillageassociation.org)



## *The Christmas Eve Pageant*



**Stephanie and musician Paul Smith  
open the service**





**Pastor Christina's introduction to the ancient story of the birth of Jesus Christ.**

**Thanks to all who contributed to the beautiful and inspirational service.**



***Christmas Candlelight Service***



**The Pageant begins**




**Many thanks to guest musicians Paul and Cynthia Weller**




**Additional thanks to our young members who participated with scripture readings, liturgical dance, and song.**





**North Falmouth Elementary School**  
 62 Old Main Road, North Falmouth, MA 02556  
 (508) 563-2334 ~ fax (508) 564-7525



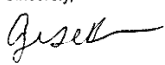
Jan 5, 2024


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

Dear North Falmouth Congregational Church Members,


We sincerely thank you all for having the Christmas Giving Tree once again this year. The gifts were wonderful and brought many smiles to children's faces! The generosity of all was truly appreciated. Thank you so much for always thinking of our school community.

Sincerely,

  
 Angela LeBlanc  
 School Adjustment Counselor

  
 Rebecca Vieira  
 Principal

**'Outreach Thank you's'**



**FALMOUTH SERVICE CENTER**  
*more than a food pantry*

December 27, 2023


North Falmouth Congregational Church, Inc.  
 PO Box 403  
 North Falmouth, MA 02556-0403

Dear Friends,

The staff and the Board of Directors of the Falmouth Service Center would like to express our sincere appreciation for your very generous contribution of canned goods and white socks. We are particularly grateful for your donation at this unprecedented time as it helps us to meet growing demand for our services.

Our mission is to ease stress, reduce hunger and improve the quality of life for our neighbors in need. The Falmouth Service Center (FSC) works to increase self-sufficiency by helping to build networks among clients, neighbors and agencies. Thank you for partnering with us to assist those who struggle in our community. We are grateful for your gift and hope that our efforts will continue to merit your support.

Sincerely,



*Thank you all for your support this holiday season!*


Kerin Delaney  
 Executive Director

*The Falmouth Service Center welcomes your consideration regarding bequests. Please contact the director or any board member for a confidential discussion.*

In accordance with IRS regulations, the Falmouth Service Center declares that it has not provided any goods or services in exchange for this contribution. Please retain this statement for your tax records.

611 Gifford Street Falmouth, MA 02540 Tel. 508-548-2794

[www.falmouthservicecenter.org](http://www.falmouthservicecenter.org)



**Belonging to Each Other**  
*Hope is real. Change is possible.*

**Executive Director**

Gina Torielli

**Board of Directors**

Rev. Christina Williams **Board Chair**  
 Dana Mohler-Faria **Vice Chair**  
 Dan Persechini **Treasurer**  
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David Vieira  
 State Representative  
 Falmouth Town Meeting Mod.

Allan Wilson  
 Wilson Consulting

Jay Zavala

01/10/2024

North Falmouth Congregational Church  
 Rev. Christina Williams  
 155 Old Main Rd  
 North Falmouth MA 02556-0403


Dear Christina,


Thank you for your donation of \$ 1,600.00 to support Honoring our Past, Building our Future Comprehensive Campaign. This gift will help us purchase a year-round, single room occupancy (SRO) house in Falmouth to expand our program. We at Belonging to Each Other continue to be astounded by the generosity and compassion that people in our community show. With your help, we are assisting individuals like our neighbors break the cycle of homelessness and begin a journey of self-determination and growth. We couldn't do it without your support. Please share our gratitude with the members of your congregation.

With the supply of rental housing diminishing and the increasing costs of renting a home or apartment, maintaining affordable housing in Falmouth is imperative. Purchasing a house eases some of that burden and helps us meet our mission to offer loving support and guidance to our Falmouth neighbors as they transition to stable housing.

All of us at Belonging to Each Other, Inc. (BTEO) are overwhelmed with gratitude for North Falmouth Congregational Church's support. Thank you for joining us in making Falmouth a town that provides housing opportunities across the spectrum of needs.

Best regards,

  
 Gina Torielli  
 Executive Director

  
 Elyse DeGroot  
 Director of Development & Community Relations

P.O. Box 343  
 Falmouth, MA 02541  
 508-444-6360  
 info@bteo.org  
 www.bteo.org

*Thanks to the little church with the big heart!*

*Christina - I can't say enough about your generosity during BTEO!*

*Elyse*



## Daily Lectionary Scripture References – February 2024 (Year B)

**Thurs., Feb. 1**

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

**Fri., Feb. 2**

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
Job 36:1-23  
1 Corinthians 9:1-16

**Sat., Feb. 3**

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

**Sun., Feb. 4**

*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. 5**

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

**Tues., Feb. 6**

Psalm 102:12-28  
2 Kings 8:1-6  
Acts 15:36-41

**Wed., Feb. 7**

Psalm 102:12-28  
Job 6:1-13  
Mark 3:7-12

**Thurs., Feb. 8**

Psalm 50:1-6  
1 Kings 11:26-40  
2 Corinthians 2:12-17

**Fri., Feb. 9**

Psalm 50:1-6  
1 Kings 14:1-18  
1 Timothy 1:12-20

**Sat., Feb. 10**

Psalm 50:1-6  
1 Kings 16:1-7  
Luke 19:41-44

**Sun., Feb. 11**

*Transfiguration*  
2 Kings 2:1-12  
Psalm 50:1-6  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9

**Mon., Feb. 12**

Psalm 110:1-4  
Exodus 19:7-25  
Hebrews 2:1-4

**Tues., Feb. 13**

Psalm 110:1-4  
Job 19:23-27  
1 Timothy 3:14-16

**Wed., Feb. 14**

*Ash Wednesday*  
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12  
Psalm 51:1-17  
2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**Thurs., Feb. 15**

Psalm 25:1-10  
Daniel 9:1-14  
1 John 1:3-10

**Fri., Feb. 16**

Psalm 25:1-10  
Daniel 9:15-25a  
2 Timothy 4:1-5

**Sat., Feb. 17**

Psalm 25:1-10  
Psalm 32  
Matthew 9:2-13

**Sun., Feb. 18**

*First Sunday of Lent*  
Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:9-15

**Mon., Feb. 19**

Psalm 77  
Job 4:1-21  
Ephesians 2:1-10

**Tues., Feb. 20**

Psalm 77  
Job 5:8-27  
1 Peter 3:8-18a

**Wed., Feb. 21**

Psalm 77  
Proverbs 30:1-9  
Matthew 4:1-11

**Thurs., Feb. 22**

Psalm 22:23-31  
Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18  
Romans 3:21-31

**Fri., Feb. 23**

Psalm 22:23-31  
Genesis 16:1-6  
Romans 4:1-12

**Sat., Feb. 24**

Psalm 22:23-31  
Genesis 16:7-15  
Mark 8:27-30

**Sun., Feb. 25**

*Second Sunday in Lent*  
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22:23-31  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

**Mon., Feb. 26**

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

**Tues., Feb. 27**

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

**Wed., Feb. 28**

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

**Thurs., Feb. 29**

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