

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

**Return Service Requested
Dated Material**

February 2023



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 2023

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"Listen... to the One who created you... to the one who shaped who you are. Do not fear, for I, your Redeemer, will rescue you. I have called you by name, and you are mine." —Isaiah 43:1

Dear Friends,

Where is God leading our church at this time? What is God's dream for us? What is our uniqueness? How does God want us to give ourselves away now? How can we listen to where God is listening? Is there a place God is calling us where no one else is going? As we look to the future of our church, these are important questions to ask and contemplate together in community. They are also great questions to bring to God in prayer.

We don't need reminding that churches are changing at warp speed—especially during the pandemic. The alarm bells are going off about the slippery slope many of our churches are headed down. Many of you have already wondered what will happen to our amazing, loving, welcoming, and caring little church nestled in the heart of North Falmouth.

If you are wondering, please join us this Sunday.
Immediately after worship, we will enjoy a sit-down

lunch, then we will reconvene in the sanctuary (both in person and via Zoom) for a workshop to begin the process of looking at who we are, listening to the stories of where we have felt God most alive in our church, and discussing some next steps for this expedition.

This is an anxious time for many churches, and it is tempting to want to wring our hands with worry. It is tempting to want to act quickly "before it is too late" and put a band aid on the problem. But the season of Lent reminds us that we are God's people who believe in dying and resurrection, change and transformation. We worship a God who works through our dark times and challenges to shine a light on a new path forward. The season of Lent reminds us to slow down and turn to God when we are in the wilderness and facing uncharted territory.

It is never too late for God to work with us and through us—no matter how far down the slope we have gone. As someone likes to remind me—as long as we are breathing, God is not done with us yet. Indeed, God never gives up on us or God's church.

So, what will happen in the future? God knows! But I do know God is inviting us to be partners in love and service—not with wringing hands but with open arms to embrace the adventure we are about to embark. God is bound to surprise us if we do.

See you Sunday!

Hope always,

Pastor Christina

UPCOMING WORSHIP – LENT & EASTER

February 26 – 10 a.m. – Who Will You Listen To?

Seeking the fruit of the garden, Adam and Eve allow the snake's manipulative voice to become louder than God's voice. In the wilderness, Jesus defies the deception of the tempter by listening intuitively—to God, to his inner moral compass, to the teachings of his faith. Who will you listen to? Whose voices—and what messages—take up too much space in your head? **Scripture:** Matthew 4:1-11 | Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

March 5 – 10 a.m. – How Do We Begin Again?

While Pastor Christina is away, Rev. Heidi Champagne will be leading worship. Nicodemus comes to Jesus under the veil of night to ask him big faith questions. Jesus invites him to begin again, to learn a new way of knowing and living out his faith. In Genesis, God commands Abram and Sarai to leave everything to seek the land of Canaan and begin again. Like Nicodemus, what are the questions we ask in the dark? Like Abram and Sarai, how do we follow God's calling to begin again? **Scripture:** John 3:1-17 | Genesis 12:1-4a

March 12 – 10 a.m. – Will You Give Me a Drink? | Communion Sunday

Jesus seeks out a Samaritan woman drawing water from a well. His command to her is also a question and an invitation into a new way of life: "Will you give me a drink?" Her answers allow Jesus to see the woman fully; she leaves transformed. The Israelites ask: "Will you give us a drink, God? Will you take care of us, even now?" When we are at the well or in the wilderness, are we willing to care for our neighbors, seeking to not just quench thirst, but to find living waters that sustain us all? **Scripture:** John 4:5-42 | Exodus 17:1-7

March 19 – 10 a.m. – Who Sinned?

When Jesus and the disciples encounter a blind man along the way, the disciples immediately ask, "Teacher, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?". They ask a poor question, filled with assumptions and harmful theology. Unfortunately, the crowd continues to interrogate

the man and dissect the miracle of his healing. This week, let us pay attention to the questions we ask. What assumptions do we carry? What is our intent? When seeking clarity or understanding, what are better questions we can ask? **Scripture:** John 9:1-7 | John 9:8-41

March 26 – 10 a.m. – Can These Bones Live?

In Ezekiel's vision, God asks "Can these bones live?" Do we believe new life can come after death? Can we find hope when things are bleak? Can we really trust in God's resurrection? While we look to God to carry us through the valley, God looks to us to embody hope for others. As we prepare to enter Holy Week, we remember how Jesus began his final journey toward resurrection. As we walk through the valley of dry bones that leads us to Calvary Hill, let us seek out the hope that will stir in us and sustain us. **Scripture:** John 11:1-45 | Ezekiel 37:1-14

April 2 – 10 a.m. – Palm/Passion Sunday: Where Are You Headed?

Imagine you are in Jerusalem when Jesus enters on a donkey. Within the chaos and commotion of that scene, where are you and which way will you go? Will you follow Jesus all the way to the cross? Jesus' willing surrender to his arrest should always catch us off-guard. As dismayed as the disciples, we ask, "Jesus, are you really headed this way, straight to your death?" Many of our weekly questions throughout the season so far have helped us prepare spiritually for Holy Week. Now we examine if our beliefs have changed our behaviors. Has your path changed? In the midst of opposing forces, which way will you go? **Scripture:** Matthew 21:1-11

April 6 – 6:30 p.m. – Maundy Thursday: Will You Wash My Feet?

In his final night with his friends and followers, Jesus shows the fullness of his love by removing his robe, kneeling, and washing the disciples' feet. As he makes his way around the room, Jesus comes to Simon Peter who protests, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Like Peter, we may also question if God loves us and will care for us, even at the brink of death. In these final hours of accompanying Jesus to his grave, can we seek a posture of trust? Can we allow ourselves to be embraced and loved—by our neighbor and by God?

April 9 – 10 a.m. – Easter: Who Are You Looking For?

Jesus, mysteriously appearing to Mary as the gardener, asks her: “Why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?” In the haze of grief, Mary can only see what is right before her—or in this case, what is not before her. It is only when Jesus calls her by name that the veil is lifted, and she beholds the resurrected Christ. On this Easter morning, who—or what—are you looking for? Why have you come to the tomb? What kind of Jesus are you looking for? What veils need to be lifted so we can recognize God’s resurrection wherever it occurs?

Scripture: John 20:1-18

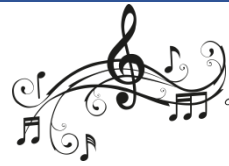
February Birthdays



- 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**



Happy Birthday



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR!

The Search Committee for the NFCC Music Director consisting of Rin Morway, Chris Polloni, Meg Tivey, and Marsha Martin are pleased to announce our new Music Director—Stephanie Miles of North Falmouth.


Stephanie is highly suited to the position in terms of her experience in many relevant areas: keyboard skills, experience with choral groups, as pianist/accompanist at two different congregational churches, as a music educator with the Falmouth Public Schools for 30 years and working with people of all ages including children.

Stephanie has been part of the North Falmouth community for many years, and she has a passion for and history of using her talents for outreach activities in the community. She comes to us highly recommended by her references.

Stephanie will start Tuesday, March 28 and her first Sunday with us will be Palm Sunday on April 2.

THURSDAY'S

Soup for the Soul



WINTER SOUP IS BACK!

THURSDAYS THROUGHOUT LENT AT NOON

STARTS THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23

Winter Soup Community Lunch
Thursdays at Noon from February 23 – March 30.

Join us in community to share soup, conversation, and fellowship at North Falmouth Congregational Church. Come and enjoy hot soup, bread, and a light dessert. Following lunch, you are invited to join Pastor Christina for a short Lenten study. You are welcome to join the study or just enjoy the meal.

WINTER SOUP IS BACK!

Winter Soup Community Lunch is back on Thursdays at 12 noon. You are welcome to join us in community as we share soup, conversation and fellowship with one another. The lunchtime meal will consist of hot soup, bread or crackers, coffee or cold drink, and a light dessert.

Following soup there will be a short Lenten study led by Pastor Christina. You are welcome to join the study or choose to just enjoy the meal.

The return of Winter Soup will start on Thursday, February 23 and continue through Thursday, March 30.

Are you a good “SOUP MAKER” if so, we welcome you to sign up to make a pot. Please notify Carolee at capecodpack@comcast.net to be assigned a date. Thank you and we are all looking forward to seeing you on Thursdays.

WINTER SOUP SIGN UP SHEET

MARCH 2-----

MARCH 9-----

MARCH 16-----

MARCH 23-----

MARCH 30-----

PLEASE EMAIL CAROLEE TO SIGN UP
capecodpack@comcast.net



SPRITUALITY IN THE COMMUNITY OF TALENTS

North Falmouth Congregational Church is pleased to be able to offer “Share Your Talents” on Saturday mornings.

You are invited to join us as we create, join in fellowship and learn new craft skills.

The classes will run from 9:30am until 11:30am. There will be a \$5 fee per class for materials. Coffee, tea, and a snack will be available for your enjoyment.

- ✚ Safe distancing workspace will be observed.
- ✚ Children ages 6-10 must be accompanied by an adult.
- ✚ Pre-registration is required in order to have ample supplies on hand.
- ✚ Dates and craft featured:

March 25 – Seed Starting. Early veggies, herbs and flowers

April 15 – Making a Hypertufa container for plants (a cement container, look it up)

April 29 – Planting pots, baskets etc.

To register please call 508-563-2177 or email officnfcc@gmail.com



LENTEN KITS

Lent is not a time for “giving up something” as a sacrifice but it is a time to grow in love for one another. It is a time to ponder priorities and be grateful for the sacrifices made for us.

This Lenten season, North Falmouth Congregational Church invites our neighbors and friends to join us in putting together health, hygiene kits. We will be collecting items to send to Church World Service for distribution throughout the world and here in the United States.

Collection boxes will be located throughout the church and on Sunday, April 16 the final collection box will be placed out in front of the church.

Thank you in advance for supporting this outreach mission project!

See the following list for needed items.

Our Outreach Committee



Upper Cape Chaplaincy
P O Box 482
East Falmouth, MA 02536

December 1, 2022

Rev. Christina Williams
North Falmouth Congregational Church
155 Old Main Road
North Falmouth, MA 02556

Thank you very much for your generous donation of \$850.00 to the Upper Cape Chaplaincy Christmas Drive of 2022.

For over twenty years the mission of the Upper Cape Chaplaincy has been to provide high quality professional chaplaincy services to healthcare institutions on Upper Cape Cod. The Chaplaincy provides and monitors pastoral care services for the patients, families and staff of these healthcare facilities in an ecumenical and interfaith manner.

We very much appreciate your financial support of the vital work of our chaplains.

Blessings,

Ann Stone, President
For the Board of the Upper Cape Chaplaincy

Note: The Upper Cape Chaplaincy is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

Please see our newly red signed website at www.uppercapechaplaincy.org.

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
 - Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth
 - No pocket combs or picks
 - Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable
- One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package (either one is acceptable)
- One bath-size bar of soap in the original package
- One toothbrush in the original package
- Ten standard size Band-Aids
- [Wide-tooth Comb](#)

All items need to fit inside a one-gallon Ziploc type bag. Remove the excess air from the bag and seal before boxing.

Do NOT add any extra items or toothpaste. A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each hygiene kit just prior to its final journey.

Value: \$15.00

[Support the Shipping and Processing fund:](#) \$2.00 per kit

The Altar Committee

The 2023 Flower Calendar is posted on the door outside of the church office. Please take a look and select any dates that are special to you for dedicating flowers and please sign up. A member of the flower committee will contact you to make the necessary arrangements.
Marsha.



Friends Office:
P.O. Box 144
121 Main Street
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532
Tel: 508-759-3516
Fax: 508-759-7896
www.friendsofbournecoa.org



Friends Food Pantry:
P.O. Box 144
121 Main Street
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532
Tel: 508-759-3351
Fax 774-355-1196

December 8, 2022

North Falmouth Congregational
Church, Inc.
Ms. Carolee Packard
P. O. Box 403
North Falmouth, MA 02556-0403

Dear Ms. Packard:

The Friends of Bourne Council on Aging gratefully acknowledge your generous donation to the Food Pantry of \$250.00.

Your donation will help support the more than 300 families, an average of 700 individuals, who receive food from us each month. For each dollar donated, we can provide an estimated 5 meals to those in need. We are proud that our primary source of food comes from the Greater Boston Food Bank or purchased locally at discounted prices.

Without your help, we would not be able to meet the needs of the most vulnerable which include the seniors and the disabled within our community.

Please accept our sincere thanks for your commitment to the Friends Food Pantry.

Sincerely,

Peter Lindberg
Peter Lindberg
President

HANDS OF HOPE OUTREACH CENTER
Cape Cod Council of Churches
49 RT 28 PO BOX 387 WEST HARWICH, MA 02671
508-432-1312

December 2022

North Falmouth Congregational Church
PO 403
North Falmouth, MA 02556

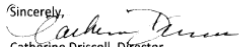
Dear Friends,

Thank you for your donation of \$500.00 and numerous bags of food to Hands of Hope Food Pantry during 2022. We appreciate your generosity.

We acknowledge all your efforts to help those in need of food, financial assistance, and holiday care. We send many thanks for your continued support for Hands of Hope.

Hands of Hope helped over 4200 people in 2021 with emergency food, eviction notices, heating oil, utilities, funds to move into new housing, back to school filled backpacks, and toys and gifts at Christmas. All of that assistance would not be possible without the help of our many friends and donors. Hands of Hope sends love, respect, and a helping hand to our many applicants through you. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Catherine Driscoll, Director
Hands of Hope Outreach
49 RT 28 PO Box 387
West Harwich, MA 02671
508-432-1312
churcheshoh@comcast.net



A BABY CENTER • COVENANT TO CARE FOR FOSTER FAMILIES
FAITH FAMILY KITCHEN • HANDS OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY & OUTREACH CENTER
HOMELESS MINISTRIES • HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY
www.CapeCodCouncilofChurches.org

Thank you Outreach!

Dear The North Falmouth Congregational Church Congregation,

I wanted to specially thank all of you for your contributions to the college care package. It was so special to receive it in the mail as I was studying for finals and getting excited for the holidays. There were so many cute things in there and the snacks were great to enjoy and share with my friends. I appreciated all your kind words in the card as well. Thank you for this generous care package and for thinking of me.  Hope Oliveira

To: Church Congregation.
Thank you so much for my college care package! That was so thoughtful of everyone to contribute, especially around the holidays, and I really appreciate it! I shared with my roommates and we all really enjoyed everything. Thank you all again for your generosity! 😊

-Lindsey Oliveira



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



January 10, 2023

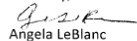
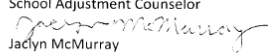
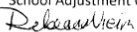
North Falmouth Congregational Church
155 Old Main Road
North Falmouth, MA 02556

Dear Community Neighbors,

Thank you so much for your incredible generosity once again this holiday season. Your efforts truly made a difference for so many children. The images of children smiling on Christmas morning for the wonderful gifts they received through your dedication to our community is truly heart-warming.

Please extend our gratitude to everyone who participated and donated. All your efforts are truly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Angela LeBlanc
School Adjustment Counselor

Jaclyn McMurray
School Adjustment Counselor

Rebecca Viera
Principal

FALMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS





Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – February 2023 (Year A)

Wed., Feb. 1

Psalm 37:1-17
Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22
Luke 6:17-26

Thurs., Feb. 2

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
Deuteronomy 4:1-14
1 John 5:1-5

Fri., Feb. 3

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
Isaiah 29:1-12
James 3:13-18

Sat., Feb. 4

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
Isaiah 29:13-16
Mark 7:1-8

Sun., Feb. 5

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20

Mon., Feb. 6

Psalm 119:105-112
2 Kings 22:3-20
Romans 11:2-10

Tues., Feb. 7

Psalm 119:105-112
2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25
2 Corinthians 4:1-12

Wed., Feb. 8

Psalm 119:105-112
Proverbs 6:6-23
John 8:12-30

Thurs., Feb. 9

Psalm 119:1-8
Genesis 26:1-5
James 1:12-16

Fri., Feb. 10

Psalm 119:1-8
Leviticus 26:34-46
1 John 2:7-17

Sat., Feb. 11

Psalm 119:1-8
Deuteronomy 30:1-9a
Matthew 15:1-9

Sun., Feb. 12

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or
Sirach 15:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

Mon., Feb. 13

Psalm 119:9-16
Exodus 20:1-21
James 1:2-8

Tues., Feb. 14

Psalm 119:9-16
Deuteronomy 23:21–24:4,
10-15
James 2:1-13

Wed., Feb. 15

Psalm 119:9-16
Proverbs 2:1-15
Matthew 19:1-12

Thurs., Feb. 16

Psalm 2
Exodus 6:2-9
Hebrews 8:1-7

Fri., Feb. 17

Psalm 2
Exodus 19:9b-25
Hebrews 11:23-28

Sat., Feb. 18

Psalm 2
1 Kings 21:20-29
Mark 9:9-13

Sun., Feb. 19

Transfiguration Sunday
Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Mon., Feb. 20

Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55
Exodus 33:7-23
Acts 7:30-34

Tues., Feb. 21

Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55
1 Kings 19:9-18
Romans 11:1-6

Wed., Feb. 22

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. 23

Psalm 51
Jonah 3:1-10
Romans 1:1-7

Fri., Feb. 24

Psalm 51
Jonah 4:1-11
Romans 1:8-17

Sat., Feb. 25

Psalm 51
Isaiah 58:1-12
Matthew 18:1-7

Sun., Feb. 26

First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Mon., Feb. 27

Psalm 32
1 Kings 19:1-8
Hebrews 2:10-18

Tues., Feb. 28

Psalm 32
Genesis 4:1-16
Hebrews 4:14–5:10

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