



First Congregational Church
"Old South Church"
United Church of Christ

Telstar, March 2020

Rev. Marraine Kettell

Minister

revmarraine@FarmingtonUCC.org

Jodie Gunther

Director of Children and

Youth Ministries

Jodie@FarmingtonUcc.org

Phyllis Pederson

Church Office

Phyllis@FarmingtonUcc.org

Old South Church

207/778-0424

235 Main Street

Farmington, ME 04938

farmingtonucc@beeline-online.net

Find us on Facebook at:

Old South First

Congregational Church

Find us on the web at:

www.FarmingtonUCC.org

**Lenten Sunday Worship Series
"On Pilgrimage"
Old South Church Farmington**

March 1st: "The Way in the Wilderness"

March 8th: "Faithful Discernment"

March 15th: "More Than Compromise"

March 22nd: "A Path Towards Healing"

March 29th: "Call Me By My Name"

April 5th: "By Another Way"

Sunday, 9:30am

235 Main St. Farmington, Maine

"Prayers of a Pilgrim" by Thomas Morton

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will, does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Would you like to meet with Rev. Marraine?

Marraine will maintain open office hours during the month of March on Wednesdays, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm. She is often in the office at other times as well. Please feel free to contact Rev. Marraine at RevMarraine@FarmingtonUCC.org or 778-0424 if you would like to schedule a meeting with her.

Rev. Marraine's regular days off are Friday and Saturday.

The church office is open Tuesday through Thursday. Please watch weekly email and our Facebook page for changes to this schedule.

Executive Council

Minister: Rev. Marraine Kettell	Clerk: Arin Hilton
Moderator: Chris Magri	Treasurer: Donna Wheeler
Chair, Christian Ed: Arin Hilton	Chair, Diaconate: Shelley Griffith
Chair, Financial Trustees: Marilyn Hylan	Chair, Property Trustees: Daniel Bachelder
Chair, Outreach, Justice & Witness: Randy Oakley	
Member at Large: Robin Beck (also Moderator Elect)	
Member at Large: Wendy Huish	
Financial Secretary & Fundraising: Brenda Scribner	
Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Jodie Gunther	



From the Moderator

Now and again I've used this space to highlight the activities of some committee or ministry. We have many wonderful groups at Old South, but for each of us there's one group whose mission particularly grabs us. So I promised myself that near the end of my time as moderator I'd write about the one that particularly grabs me: Outreach, Justice, and Witness. Turns out there's good reason to write about OJW these days: at our recent annual budget meeting we approved a sharp cut to the Christian Outreach budget, and as fate would have it this former OJW co-chair had to cast the deciding vote. (As a fan of black humor I'm intrigued to see that God is also a fan....) Why, then, do I identify so strongly with the efforts of OJW, and what do I think about a 60% budget cut?

Let's start with Justice and Witness, which was separate from Outreach when it first formed. This is all about applying our faith to small-p politics, about pointing out that while charity is important for short-term relief we also should reform our political and economic systems so as to reduce the need for charity. We coordinate with Bread for the World in writing letters to our members of Congress, asking them to address hunger at home and abroad and thus fulfilling Jesus's mandate to care for the least of these. We show movies that describe the legacy of Northern slavery, or the opioid crisis and what's being done to address it, or the fact that many popular chocolate bars come from cacao harvested by enslaved African children. We've highlighted

efforts to reduce poverty and maternal death and provide universal education and clean water in the developing world; and we've highlighted the dangerous conditions under which garment workers toil so that our clothes will cost a few cents less. And so on. In short, we try to remind the congregation that "Justice is what love looks like in public."

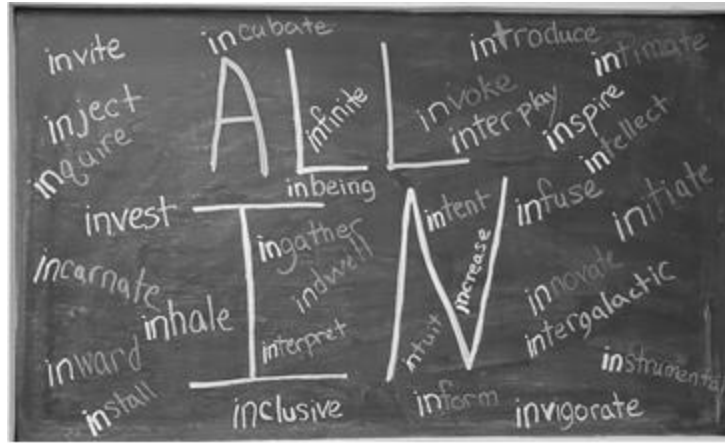
Then there's Outreach. One ministry along these lines is Annie's Beanpole, our medical equipment free-loan program, which clearly addresses a real community need given the gratitude expressed by our customers. But our more traditional outreach approach involves writing substantial checks, particularly to local agencies such as the food pantry, the heating oil fund, and the homeless shelter. This will be sharply curtailed by our 2020 budget.

How do I feel about that? My thoughts turn to a Living Water Association meeting from two years ago, a meeting held at Old South in which each of our fellow UCC churches took a few minutes to describe what they're up to. The presentation that especially struck me was by Moose River Congregational Church in Jackman, and it involved their "card ministry": when church members hear through the grapevine that anyone in town is ill or has met with hardship, they send a card to that person. What a lovely idea, I thought: it makes a real spiritual difference without costing much money.

Now, I'm not naïve: some things, such as agency staff salaries, require cash rather than kindness. But unfortunately cash is just what we're short on at the moment. We can hope that creativity (and increased membership and a building tenant) will change that. But in the meantime I'm thinking of Annie's, and of prayer shawls, and of free brunches and lunches, and of free winter coats, and of affordable concerts and Christmas toys, and of the grieving space we offered the town after the L.E.A.P. explosion – and it seems to me that while I sure wish we had more cash to offer as well, we do what we can to provide quite a lot that matters.

Does the present situation mark a permanent shift in how we reach out to the community? Sorry, my crystal ball won't connect to the Internet so I can't answer that. But I'm confident that through the efforts of OJW and other ministries, Old South will continue to work towards a world, both close to home and far abroad, that represents Christian love in action.

Chris Magri



From the Treasurer

On February 9, 2020, we had our annual financial meeting. The conversation was difficult as we faced the reality of having to cut expenses of some of our outreach budgets. Last year, we projected a deficit of -\$34,330 for our church budget. For years, we have never realized a deficit despite projecting one. In 2019, we did. Our deficit was -\$4,605.

Facing another projected deficit for 2020, and even greater than 2019's projected deficit, we decided it was time to make some cuts. Also, at the meeting, Lisa Laflin said she would try to help us raise an additional \$5,000 through various fundraisers. I'm sure there will be more information to follow.

With these things in place, our projected deficit for 2020 is -\$32,376. We are also way under on our pledges this year. If you have not turned in your pledge card, we invite you to do that.

If our meeting taught us anything, it is that we are facing some harsh realities. We need you. We need everyone to help. We need donations and volunteers to carry out our missions.

Please honestly consider how YOU can help. This is my final article as Treasurer. Donna Wheeler will be taking over this month. I am excited about having someone new with new perspective and new ideas. Change is often good. I know this will be, too.

If you would like to see a copy of the accepted budget, please contact the church office.

Amanda Adams
Treasurer

From the Financial Trustees

On Sunday, February 9, 2020, the Old South Church members approved the 2020 budget. This budget projects a deficit for the end of the year (\$32,376.00). Drastic cuts were made in our program budgets to keep the deficit as low as possible. Individual pledges and our endowment are the main sources of income for our budget. Pledges are down from last year. We currently have 63 pledging units for a total of \$117,914. Thank you to all who have turned in their pledge cards. Please, if you have not already done so, return your pledge cards with the amount you can contribute for the 2020 budget. To help with the deficit, Lisa and Brent Laflin volunteered to help the Fund-Raising Committee double the projected amount to be raised from \$5000 to \$10,000.

At the annual Financial Meeting, the members voted to hold a short-term Capital Campaign ending on December 31, 2020. The money raised in this campaign will be used to reimburse the endowment fund for money being borrowed

from it in March to repair and apply new shingles on the church and Newman Wing roof. Old South members voted on January 5, 2020 to award the contract for this job to Konopka and Son for **\$116,888.50**. The company is willing to do the work in stages as we acquire the funds. Thank you to those of have already donated or loaned funds. Some of the work has been completed.

The Financial Trustees will be mailing the Capital Campaign letter very soon. When you receive it, please prayerfully consider giving as generously as you can. Your donation will enable us to remain a vibrant church in this community. Thank you.

Please direct ideas for fund raising to any member of the Fund-Raising Committee and/or the Financial Trustees. Volunteers are always needed for these events. Thank you.

The Property Trustees are waiting for an up-dated bid for the north face brickwork repair. We have \$62,761 in the capital campaign account which ended on December 31, 2019. This money is earmarked for this repair work.

Donna Wheeler is our new Treasurer. Welcome, Donna. Thank you to Amanda Adams for all of the amazing work she has done as our Treasurer for the past three years.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Hylan, Chair

Financial Trustees: Shirley Waddell, Ed David, Donna Wheeler, Chris Magri, Daniel Bachelder, Brenda Scribner, and Rev. Marraine Kettell



From the Property Trustees

Well, winter has arrived despite my requests to the contrary. I'm sure many disagree with my request for snow at Christmas, then it can go away until next year, though a few may agree. It's good to disagree sometimes and agree other times. It shows diversity and individual thinking.

With our snow comes snowplows, sledding, skiing, ice skating, snowboarding, snow-fights, snow caves and icing (not the cake kind, unfortunately) with slick roads, driveways and walkways. We ask you all be careful, but have fun at the same time.

As most of you know our church is getting to be a bit elderly, and as we age we occasionally need expensive repairs. For us it may be a new knee or two or a new hip, in our church's case, we have reached the point we are in dire need a new roof. In February, Konopka & Son Home Improvements began the job by tearing off the shingles off the Newman Wing, laying Grace ice and water shield on all roofing (except for the towers as they are fine and, at this time, not in need of repairs) and replacing the shingles with 50 year Landmark Pro architectural shingles, starters and caps, which will last

much longer. They will work their way toward the church, remodeling the area over the kitchen and where the Newman Wing connects to the church so snow and ice no longer pool in that area, then later on the main roof of the church. To get the roofing correctly aligned they must start with the Newman Wing first. Please note, the chimney for the Fireplace Room is severely damaged, and it was decided to remove it below the roof line and to cover and smooth out the roof in that area. This will not impact our listing with the National Registry. To pay for the new roof, it was voted at the Financial Annual Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 9th, 2020, to begin immediately, a new Capital Campaign. Please help as you can.

The boilers needed a new air compressor, which was purchased and seems to be working quite well. Our thanks to Boiler Meister, John McKim and his team for their work in cleaning the boilers, removing the ashes and keeping the boilers running for us.

Pax,
Daniel

We ran out of pellets in February, and an emergency delivery of two tons of pellets in bags was delivered to the Church on February 20 to tide us over until a delivery could be made to us from our supplier. Special thanks to all who joined us in unloading the bags of pellets on Feb. 20. Many hands make light work, and we think we set a record (for Old South Church) in the time it took us to carry the pellets inside, down the stairs, and down the hall to the area with the boilers.

News and Upcoming Events



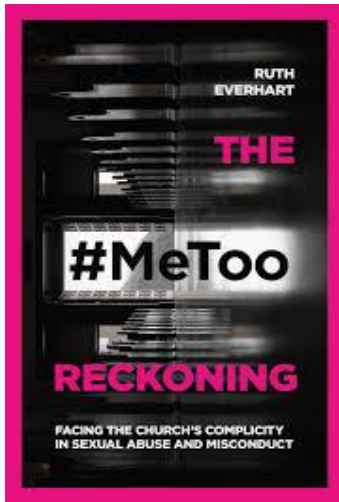
Committee and Group Meetings

Christian Education	To be determined
Deacons' Meeting	Sunday, April 5, Matthew Room at 11:00 am (no March meeting)
Executive Council	Thursday, March 5, Church Office at 6:00 pm
Financial Trustees	Tuesday, March 10, Church Office at 5:30 pm
Property Trustees	Tuesday, March 17, Church Office at 6:00 pm
Outreach, Justice, Witness	Tuesday, March 24, Matthew Room at 6:30 pm
April Telstar Deadline	Tuesday, March 10, Church Office at Noon

Retirees Lunch: March 2 at Noon in the Vestry!

The March Retirees Lunch will be held at Noon in the Vestry on Monday, March 2. Lasagna will be served. Please bring a dish to share and join Dick and Linda Giard for this monthly gathering. If you are a retiree and would like to know more about this meal, please contact Dick at dickgiard@msn.com





Book Group Discussion March 2 or March 3

Please join Rev. Marraine for a discussion based on the book, *The #MeToo Reckoning: Facing the Church's Complicity in Sexual Abuse and Misconduct*. There are two different opportunities to participate. One gathering will take place after the Retirees Lunch on Monday, March 2, in the Matthew Room (approximately 1:00 pm). The second group will meet at 6:00 pm on March 3 in the Matthew Room. There are a couple of copies of the book available for purchase at Devaney, Doak, and Garrett; and they are also available online through the publisher, InterVarsity Press and Amazon.

Worship and Conversation with the Maine Conference Minister

On Sunday, March 8th, Maine Conference Minister, the Rev. Deborah Blood, will be leading worship with Rev. Marraine. Rev. Blood has helped the Response Team (Chris Magri, Shelley Griffith, and Rev. Marraine Kettell) develop the appropriate response and guidelines when navigating situations of known and/or alleged sexual abuse. She has facilitated a connection with the General Council at the national office of the United Church of Christ, met with the response team and a number of our members, and most of our staff. Rev. Blood will join the congregation to discuss our next steps in the process.



“Our Turn” March 15 following worship

Please join members of the Response Team (Rev. Marraine, Moderator Chris Magri, and Chair of the Deacons Shelley Griffith) for an “Our Turn” about our required actions moving forward with boundary setting and the steps in the process of navigating situations of known and/or alleged sexual abuse. This will be a safe space for all to express our feelings and ask questions in a respectful setting. This “Our Turn” conversation will be held at 11:00 am (following coffee hour) in the Vestry on March 15.



High Times



Réalta

Old South Concert Series

Join us at Old South Church for the upcoming concerts! On Sunday, March 1, High Times from Connemara, Ireland will perform, and the Irish band, Réalta, will perform on Monday, March 9th. Concerts begin at 7pm. Doors open at 6pm. Jam session kicks off at 6:15. Refreshments will be available by donation. Ticket price: Adults \$15. Students \$5/\$10. Ticket reservations are recommended by calling 207/358-0279.

Old South's share of the concert proceeds will benefit capital expense projects.

Volunteers and refreshments donations are needed. Contact Debbie Davis-Robinson at 207/491-5919 or sign up at the Fundraising table during coffee hour.

OLD SOUTH CHURCH
AT HOLMAN MISSION
HOUSE

**Beer* and
HMHymns**

Maine Bicentennial Edition

SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH AT 3:00PM
BRING YOUR OWN BEER* AND COME
PREPARED TO SING

*OR BEVERAGE OF YOUR CHOICE



CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, March 28th 9:00AM-12:00PM

come to help sort stuff, clean corners, spiff up
the sanctuary, and much more.....

Bring a dish to share for lunch afterward

Please join Rev. Marraine and the Property Trustees for a church cleanup day on Saturday, March 28, from 9:00 am to Noon. Please bring cleaning supplies if you can and wear gloves if you need! Following this event, the March Cooking with God and Friends Potluck will take place for lunch.



Cooking with God and Friends Potluck Meal

Planning on joining us for the Spring Cleanup Event? Stay after the cleanup and join in the fellowship of a meal together to celebrate our accomplishments.

Busy in the morning but available for lunch? Bring a dish to share (true potluck – maybe we will have ten desserts!) and join us for meal together at Noon in the Vestry.

OLD SOUTH EQUALITY DAY

MARCH 29, 2020

LEARN ABOUT HOW TO BE MORE INCLUSIVE OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

Guests from Maine TransNet will be joining us for the morning service and a training after church on Sunday, March 29. The training is specifically to help us as allies for transgender people. Everyone is invited to attend and learn more about inclusive terminology and creating inclusive space.



Meet our
Guest Speaker:
Quinn Gormley

Quinn Gormley, Executive Director
she/her/hers, they/them/theirs

Quinn Gormley currently serves as the Executive Director of the Maine Transgender Network (MTN). Her work with MTN ranges from community building initiatives, expanding health equity and access across the state, suicide prevention, policy advocacy, and violence prevention. Before MTN, Quinn worked in a variety of community organizing settings, including at the Health Equity Alliance managing a rural HIV testing program and building rural LGBTQ+ communities, and with the Maine People's Alliance working on economic and health justice issues. Throughout her work, Quinn believes in centering the wellness of marginalized communities, and that the root of power and liberation can be found in communities that embrace their diversity and interdependence. She lives with her husband Ezra and a small menagerie of pets in Mid Coast Maine.



Women's Retreat

We are looking forward to the Women's Retreat which will be August 29th to 31st (Saturday afternoon through Monday morning) at the Marie Joseph Spiritual Center in Biddeford, Maine. It's not too early to "save the date" and start making payments (six-month plans March through August are available). The retreat costs \$245 for 2 nights and 6 meals, a private room, and lots of fun and spiritual re-kindling. Save your space today, with a \$40 deposit or begin your payment plan today! Confidential scholarships are available. Please see Phyllis in the church office to learn more about payment plans and scholarship and please join us!



Mission and Outreach

Outreach, Justice and Witness will be meeting in the Matthew Room at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, March 24. This is an open ministry with no fixed membership, and we encourage you to stop in, see what plans are in action and help us to serve God's people both locally and globally.

We hope to bring attention and action to the Climate Change in 2020. We feel it is the most important issue facing our world today and time is rapidly running out for action. It affects everyone but studies show that the poor and those with the least will be affected the most.

We continue to offer basic medical equipment to those in our community who need it. The equipment is loaned free of charge with only the request that it is returned when no longer needed. The sincere gratitude we receive are reward enough for this valuable community need.

The Care and Share Food Closet is another outreach program we support both financially and through food donations from the congregation. We encourage your support for this needed community organization.



Care and Share Item of the Month

Outreach, Justice, and Witness invite you to support the local nonprofit, Care & Share Food Pantry. The Care & Share item of the month for March is toothpaste and soap. You are invited to bring this and other non-perishable goods to the church, and we will deliver them. Donations may be dropped off in the bin just outside the Sanctuary doors and your donations will be delivered to the food closet. Thank you for your ongoing support of this charity.



In spite of two days of snowy, sleety, icy, freezing rain weather on Thursday and Friday, Saturday turned out to be a sunny day and we served about 150 meals, including 60 meals delivered.

The menu for the March Community Lunch will be: Meatloaf with mashed potatoes and gravy, glazed carrots, and biscuits. As usual, we will serve cake for dessert.

A special thank you to all those who came out to help with the preparation, serving and cleaning up. There were a couple of new faces that came to help, and they were greatly appreciated. As I said to one man who came to help for the first time, there is no long-term commitment for working with the Community Lunch. You can come one time, or you can come for a few months, or you can become one of the long-standing regulars. We just appreciate having you there whenever you can be there.

Stan Wheeler

Rocell Marcellino, Co-chairs

Worship and Music



Revised Common Lectionary for the month of March

The Revised Common Lectionary is a list of Bible passages followed by the majority of mainline Christian churches, including the United Church of Christ. Rev. Marraine will be following the Revised Common Lectionary most weeks.

First Sunday in Lent March 1, 2020	<u>Genesis 2:15-17;</u> <u>3:1-7</u>	<u>Psalms 32</u>	<u>Romans 5:12-19</u>	<u>Matthew 4:1-11</u>
Second Sunday in Lent March 8, 2020	<u>Genesis 12:1-4a</u>	<u>Psalms 121</u>	<u>Romans 4:1-5, 13-17</u>	<u>John 3:1-17</u> or <u>Matthew 17:1-9</u>
Third Sunday in Lent March 15, 2020	<u>Exodus 17:1-7</u>	<u>Psalms 95</u>	<u>Romans 5:1-11</u>	<u>John 4:5-42</u>
Fourth Sunday in Lent March 22, 2020	<u>1 Samuel 16:1-13</u>	<u>Psalms 23</u>	<u>Ephesians 5:8-14</u>	<u>John 9:1-41</u>
Annunciation of the Lord March 25, 2020	<u>Isaiah 7:10-14</u>	<u>Psalms 45</u> or <u>Psalms 40:5-10</u>	<u>Hebrews 10:4-10</u>	<u>Luke 1:26-38</u>
Fifth Sunday in Lent March 29, 2020	<u>Ezekiel 37:1-14</u>	<u>Psalms 130</u>	<u>Romans 8:6-11</u>	<u>John 11:1-45</u>

Deacons' Corner: Epiphany

Dear Old South Family,

By the time you read this it will be March and the season of Lent. Today, February 11th, we are still in the wintery middle of Epiphany, "a season not...clearly understood by many Western Protestant Christians" according to a short online document entitled "The Church Year" by East Congregational Church, UCC in Milton, MA. Since I fall into this category, I decided to do a little research.

The season of Epiphany begins on January 6th with the visit of the Magi and ends on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. The ancient Feast of Epiphany on January 6th, or the Twelfth Day of Christmas, celebrated the revelation of the divine nature of Jesus to the Gentiles (represented by the Magi).



Today, during the season of Epiphany, the United Church of Christ "(celebrates) and (commemorates) the manifestation of Christ to the wide world, inclusive of all people." (East Congregational Church, UCC)

Green, the color for Epiphany, symbolizes growth. What a remarkable statement it is to we Northerners that our altar wears green in February! Underneath the cold grey sky and the blanket of snow, at the roots of the bare branched trees, the earth is preparing for new life. Therein lies a hefty dose of the hope we've been craving!

One of the central stories of Epiphany is that of Jesus's baptism. The United Church of Christ suggests that, during this time, "we not only reflect upon Christ's Baptism but upon what we are called to do because of our baptisms." Just as Jesus's baptism marked the beginning of his ministry, ours marks the beginning of our discipleship. It is "our human response to the gift of God's grace." (UCC.org) Thus, the season of Epiphany has become a time to "understand our work and mission in the world" (East Congregational Church, UCC) or to put it in Jesus's words, to understand how we might be "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)

On the UCC website I found this acknowledgment: "Epiphany this year comes at a time of anxiety and hope. Many of us are struggling and afraid. It's not easy to hope when times are bad." These days it often feel like our everyday lives are weighted down by problems that confound us and circumstances that feel beyond our control. Perhaps the people of Jesus's time felt the same way. They, too, had no shortage of capricious rulers, corruption and violence.

In the midst of all these challenges, it's hard to imagine how we might summon the strength and courage to grow into Jesus's vision of us as the "light of the world." Maybe each of us must discover this for her or himself. For me, the Sermon on the Mount offers some suggestions: go back to the beginning and consider what is essential, take a good look at how you treat your neighbor, learn how to listen and become reconciled with one another. On the other hand, perhaps we might go back a bit further to Epiphany's whispered promise of growth and renewal. What is it in each of us that lies beneath our worries and fears? Can we open up to ourselves enough so that we can find it? And, if we can find it in ourselves, can we find it in others? It seems like a good place to start.

May God bless us each and every one!

Shelley

Your Deacons: Roger Condit, John Demers Lindner, Shelley Griffith (chair), Brent Laflin, Christine Merchant, Karen Jordan Paul, Michelle Scribner, Mary Sinclair, Carole Trickett, Margaret Gould Wescott



Guest Worship Service Leaders: March 8 and March 29, 2020

Please join us to welcome our special worship service speakers this month. On Sunday, March 8, Maine Conference Minister Rev. Deborah Blood will be leading worship with Rev. Marraine. On March 29, Maine Transgender Network Executive Director Quinn Gormley will be speaking. You can read about both special services in the "News and Events" section of this Telstar.



Lenten Vesper Services—Wednesdays During Lent

We will hold Vesper Services in the Newman Wing Chapel on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Join us for Lenten Vespers on March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1 for readings and a time for prayer and music with members of Shepherd's Pie. Gathering music with Shepherd's Pie will take place prior to the start of each service. The vesper services will begin at 5:15 pm. All are welcome.



Children and Youth

Sunday School

Get ready for "The Game of Lent"! Each Sunday, beginning March 1, kids will receive an envelope during Sunday School; tucked inside are game pieces that the kids can use to help solve an age-appropriate crossword puzzle. Bring in the completed crossword on Palm Sunday, April 5, and receive a prize!

This month, our lessons take us through some exciting Gospel accounts, including eye-popping miracles, unexpected interactions with fishermen, and inspiring parables. On March 22, we take a break from regular lessons to create another *Old South Movie Studio* episode.



High School

We continue our spring lesson series, “Applied Christianity,” in which we examine recent news clippings, videos and radio segments where faith intersects with real-life challenges. As usual, our discussions are fortified with bagels and other breakfast fare. On March 15, we join the adults in the Sanctuary for the worship hour

Youth Group

We have just two final sessions in our “Psalm Slam” series. On March 1, we will explore the practice of confession, using Psalm 51 as a springboard. Then, during our final session on March 8, we’ll wrap up our time together, including preparing an anthology as well as video clips of our writings.

On March 22, we meet up for a “Faith & Cinema” evening, then March 29 will be a “prep-for-Easter-party” evening.



The Pancakery Cafe

The Middler Youth Group serves up a little bit o’ love twice this month—March 8 and 22. Our “pop-up” brunch cafe in the Vestry now offers “The Juicery” —offering a fabulous selection of juice and coffee drinks created by our high school Youth Group. Stop by for a “Tahiti Tyler” (orange juice, pineapple sherbet garnished with whipped cream), a “Noah’s Ark” (lemonade, sparkling water, with animal-shaped frozen juice cubes), or the sophisticated “Naturally Nat” (cranberry juice, sparkling water, and frozen fruit). We now offer both hot and iced coffee drinks as well.

Once again, we’ll highlight St. Patrick’s Day with “shamrock” pancakes, plus, live music, vegan and vegetarian menu options, and more! As always, everything is free, and everyone is welcome!



Pancakery Playgroup

Join Jess and friends for an hour of silly play in the church basement when The Pancakery Cafe is open. We conclude our fun upstairs with brunch! *(Parents: We ask that you please contribute toward the cost of Jess's childcare time with the children.)*

Mini MidWinter Middler Retreat: March 28

Students in grades 5 - 8 are warmly invited to join us for an afternoon and evening of mission work, games, make-your-own-pizzas, and more. Details on the way!

How Do I Find Out More? Don't miss a single youth activity! Sign up for our email newsletter, "Old South Kids This Week," to receive updates, news, photos, and more. Just send a note to Jodie@FarmingtonUCC.org.

March Youth Calendar

Sunday, Mar. 1: Sunday School; Middlers; High School: Coat & Cupboard closes today
Youth Group 6:30 - 8 pm

Sunday, Mar. 8: Sunday School; Middlers; High School & Beyond; Pancakery Cafe at 11 am; Pancakery Playgroup 11 am; Youth Group 6:30 - 8 pm

Sunday, Mar. 15: Sunday School; Middlers; High School in Sanctuary today; NO evening Youth Group

Sunday, Mar. 22: Sunday School--Movie Studio Day!; Middlers; High School & Beyond; Pancakery Cafe at 11 am; Pancakery Playgroup 11 am; Youth Group 6:30 - 8 pm

Saturday, March 28: Mini Middler Midwinter Retreat

Sunday, Mar. 29: Sunday School; Middlers; High School & Beyond; Youth Group 6:30 - 8 pm

Fundraising Goal for 2020 Doubles!!!!

At the recent Financial Annual Meeting, our church voted to increase our funding available to the General Budget through Fundraising to \$10,000. To achieve this goal, we need your help!

Ed David provided a moving testimony to our Hannaford Card Program. We invite you to help us raise funds without spending any additional money out of your regular budget if you shop at Hannafords (or Walmart or Amazon or if you ever pick up a cup of coffee at Dunkin Donuts!). Simply purchase a gift card at our table or in the church office, and you will be contributing to our ability to raise funds for the church.



Hannaford and Merchant Gift Cards

Hannaford cards and merchant gift cards may be purchased on Sundays before Church and during coffee hour and at the church office during office hours. Check out the selection of ready to use gift cards of local, regional and on-line merchants at the Fundraising Committee Table or in the church office! On Sundays, you now have the option of using a credit card to make your purchases at the Fundraising Committee Table. Fees apply. Check with Brenda Scribner for more information.

Old South receives a percentage of the cost of the card. A wide selection of gift cards are available for immediate purchase at the Fundraising Table but did you know that you can order from an even greater assortment? Check out the full list of available cards in the church office or at the Fundraising Committee Table on Sundays or at:

<https://www.scripzone.com/certificatelist.aspx>

The Living Water Association, Maine Conference and the United Church of Christ



Would you like to know more about the Living Water Association and Honduras Partnership? Please contact the church office (Phyllis@FarmingtonUCC.org), to learn about our connections with other UCC churches in Maine.



To the Churches, Clergy and People of the Maine Conference,

On this wintry day, I write with difficult news from the Conference. Yesterday, I received and regretfully accepted the resignation of Rev. Darren Morgan as Associate Conference Minister. Rev. Morgan has provided dedicated and skilled service to the churches, clergy and people of the Maine Conference for 12 years. I am so profoundly grateful for the ways that his work has shaped and guided the ministries of our Conference. We will not be the same without him.

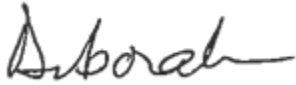
Darren's love for the Church has been steady and deep. So very many people have benefited from his wisdom and care. With his emphasis on Small Church Ministry, he has helped many churches find vitality in the midst of challenge. We cannot count the number of churches he has guided during transitions and times of trouble. For all of this and more, we give God praise and thanksgiving. We are better because of his time among us.

Yet, as Darren says in the attached letter, "for everything there is a season". In these changing and challenging times, we often find that our sense of Call shifts or that we need time to discern the next phase that God has in store. Our prayers are with Darren as he does this Holy work of seeking God's leading and guidance. May he find the next right ministry that will bring him joy and access his passions in ministry.

We will of course plan a great celebration of Darren's ministry and will announce that location, date and time as soon as possible. I know that people around the Conference will be in touch with him directly to express their appreciation and good wishes. In the coming days, we will create a plan for Bridge/Interim coverage so that our churches continue to receive the support and guidance that they need. We expect to have staff in place before Darren leaves so that there is a smooth transition. More on this as plans evolve.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at djblood@maineucc.org. I covet your prayers for our Conference and our Conference staff as we face another moment of transition. We place our trust in God to lead us and guide us. As in any transition, there is opportunity as well. May God help us see the path that God has set before us.

In Christ's Peace,



Rev. Deborah J. Blood
Conference Minister

February 5, 2020

Dear colleagues in ministry,

In Ecclesiastes we read, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." In this season of Epiphany, each of us is on a journey of faith and the following of God's call.

I write to share news of my decision to resign as Associate Conference Minister, effective May 9, 2020. After twelve-years in this ministry, I am sensing that it is time to pursue other ministry opportunities. This decision has been extremely difficult to make, but it has been a long time coming.

The past few years have taken its toll on my continued ability to serve effectively in this position, so it is time to pass the baton to another. I depart feeling proud of the work we have accomplished together over the years. I have learned much from you, and I pray that the work I have done has advanced the ministry of Jesus Christ in your settings.

I hold the Maine Conference near and dear to my heart, and although it is disappointing that my ministry is ending, I leave wishing you all the best.

You have my prayers, my affection, my love – may our parting be pleasing to the God we serve.

Darren



Would you like to learn more about the United Church of Christ? Please check the United Church of Christ website for more information about our denomination: <http://www.ucc.org> On this site, you may sign up for "Weekly Seeds" a reflection based on the Revised Common Lectionary readings for each Sunday of the year. There is also a link to an electronic daily devotional called, "The StillSpeaking Daily Devotional."

Get Connected and Stay Connected!

OLD SOUTH CHURCH

First Congregational Church of Farmington

235 MAIN STREET

FARMINGTON, ME 04938

TEL: (207) 778-0424

WORSHIP: 9:30 AM SUNDAYS

OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Tuesday through Thursday



<http://www.farmingtonucc.org/>
www.facebook.com/OldSouthFarmington

Old South Statement of Identity

"In Christ there is no longer Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for all are one..."

(Galatians 3:28)

Walking toward God, we, the members of (Old South) First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Farmington, Maine, seek through God's Grace to be a congregation that includes all persons who desire to live God's Love, as shown to us through the teachings and example of Jesus Christ. We respect and embrace differences of gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identification, mental and physical ability, as well as racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic background. We welcome all to share fully in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, and blessings of participation in our congregation. We are an open and affirming church: open to all, and affirming of all God's beloved children. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Coat & Cupboard (HMH Carriage House) 9:30am Farmington Friends* (HMH Gathering Room) 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 6:30pm Youth Group (Chapel) 7:00pm High Time (Old South Church)	2 12:00pm Retirees Lunch (Vestry) 1:00pm Book Discussion: #MeToo Reckoning: Facing the Church's Complicity in Sexual Abuse and Misconduct (Matthew Room) 6:00pm Buddhist Group* (Newman Wing)	3 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel) 6:00pm Book Discussion: #MeToo Reckoning: Facing the Church's Complicity in Sexual Abuse and Misconduct (Matthew Room)	4 5:15pm Vespers (Chapel) 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	5 6:00pm Executive Council (Church Office)	6 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group* (Chapel) 2:30pm Boiler cleaning at HMH (Holman Mission House)	7
8 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends* (HMH Gathering Room) 11:00am Pancakery Playgroup (Old South Church) 11:00am Pancakery Playgroup (Old South Church) 11:30am Pancakery (Vestry) 6:30pm Youth Group (Matthew Room)	9 6:00pm Buddhist Group* (Newman Wing) 7:00pm Realta Concert (Old South Church)	10 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel) 5:30pm Financial Trustees (Church Office)	11 5:15pm Vespers (Chapel) 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	12	13 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group* (Chapel)	14 12:00pm Community Lunch (Vestry)
15 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends* (HMH Gathering Room) 11:00am "Our Turn" Discussion following worship (Vestry)	16 6:00pm Buddhist Group* (Newman Wing)	17 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel) 6:00pm Property Trustees (Church Office)	18 5:15pm Vespers (Chapel) 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	19 2:00pm Just Friends (Chapel) 6:30pm Franklin County Climate Crisis Coalition (Matthew Room)	20 1:00pm Living Water Exec Meeting (Matthew Room) 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group* (Chapel)	21
22 9:30am Farmington Friends* (HMH Gathering Room) 9:30am Worship (One Great Hour of Sharing) (Sanctuary) 11:00am Pancakery Playgroup (Old South Church) 11:30am Pancakery (Vestry) 6:30pm Youth Group (Matthew Room)	23 6:00pm Buddhist Group* (Newman Wing)	24 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel) 6:30pm Outreach, Justice, Witness (Matthew Room)	25 5:15pm Vespers (Chapel) 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	26 1:00pm Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry (Offsite) 7:00pm The Open Circle, LGBTQ+ Support Group* (Matthew Room)	27 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group* (Chapel)	28 9:00am Church Volunteer Spring Clean Up Event (Old South Church) 12:00pm Cooking with God and Friends: Potluck Edition! (Vestry) 4:00pm Middler Retreat (Old South Church)
29 9:30am Farmington Friends* (HMH Gathering Room) 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:30am Transnet Speaker--information coming (Old South Church)	30 6:00pm Buddhist Group* (Newman Wing)	31 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel)				