

First Congregational Church

"Old South"

United Church of Christ

April 2019 Telstar

No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome

Rev. MARRAINE'S MUSINGS

We've all heard the adage, "it is the journey, not the destination." It may be easy to assume during the season of Lent that our goal is Easter. Of course it is, right? Isn't this path that we are on focused towards the resurrection? Or is it? In the time space continuum that is church life, we are pondering and planning ahead of the liturgical season that we are in. We contemplate the remainder of Lent and its finale through Holy Week. We contemplate the festivities of Easter Sunday. And yet... as of the writing of compellation of this newsletter in mid-March we have five more Sundays until we celebrate the empty tomb.

The spiritual journey through the season of Lent is a small reminder of the lifelong spiritual journey that each of us travels. We each have our moments in the wilderness. We each likely have our seasons when we question the place of the divine in our lives or are even challenged by forces a little less divine. We each encounter the inevitability of our own mortality. Our lives are influenced by forces out of our control that steer our lives in directions we might never have guessed. We gather with friends around tables for meals that turn out to be sacred. We each spend time alone and scared of what the next moment will hold. We spend time in celebration of rituals and milestones. Lent is time to be aware of all of that in our own lives as we walk through the Lenten journey Jesus takes towards the cross and then from the tomb and beyond. As this community of faith embracing the journey and stories of Jesus through the Lenten seasons, we hope that you too will be inspired to share part of your journey with us. As we continue to travel together through the Lenten season, may you feel the strength and courage to share part of your story with a fellow traveler.

Blessings,
Rev. Marraïne

Rev. MARRAINE KETTEL

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Deacon of the Month

Wendy Huish

Old South Church

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Old South First
Congregational Church

Find us on the web at:

www.FarmingtonUCC.org

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Would you like to meet with Rev. Mairaine? During the month of April, Rev. Mairaine will have office hours on Wednesdays from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. While she may be in meetings during this time, it is also a time to just drop by if you would like! If you would like to schedule a different time to meet with her, please call her (207-778-0424) or email RevMairaine@FarmingtonUCC.org

A Note on Rev. Mairaine's Schedule: Rev. Mairaine is off on Fridays. Please join us in respecting this day of rest for her. She will take one other day off during the week which will be on Saturday when programming allows. Rev. Mairaine is in the office regularly Tuesday through Thursday and on many evenings for meetings. She usually works from home on Mondays. If you would like to meet with Rev. Mairaine, please email or call (RevMairaine@FarmingtonUCC.org 778-0424) to schedule a time.

Executive Council

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

The deadline for submissions for the May Telstar is April 10. Please submit all articles to the church office (Phyllis@FarmingtonUCC.org) no later than April 10. Thank you!



The Church Office is usually open Tuesday through Thursday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. This month, during first week in April, Phyllis will be in the office Wednesday through Friday (April 3-5) 8:00 am-4:30 pm.

From The Moderator

I'm no theologian, but for some time I've had a notion that a good summary of Christianity might be, "There's no them, there's only us." That, unfortunately, has made it hard for me to endure what now passes for political discourse in our nation. Never mind what actual politicians say, I'm talking about what regular folks say or pass along via social media. We all know the drill, just fill in the blanks à la Mad Libs: Those who don't share my views on < *immigration / gun control / power line corridors* > are clearly < *idiots / criminals / monsters* > who hate < *America / Truth / puppies* > and have no business < *being heard / eating in my restaurant / breathing our oxygen* >.

And that's just people whose political goals I *share*.

So what can be done about it? Over the past 24 hours I wolfed down a new book by Arthur C. Brooks, *Love Your Enemies*, which I highly recommend and would gladly lend out. Brooks decries the current "culture of contempt" in which both red and blue partisans are immersed. Contempt is anger mixed with disgust: the toxic attitude that your intellectual opponent is utterly worthless. We who believe that every person is a beloved child of God should certainly strive to avoid contempt, and in fact Jesus makes a few appearances in the book. Contempt isn't just unethical and factually incorrect (most people who disagree with us are *not* in fact morally twisted orcs); it's also an unhealthy addiction – yes, biochemistry is involved – that harms us, to say nothing of its effect on the nation.

Just as Jesus didn't dispense mushy advice about being nice and inoffensive, Brooks doesn't advocate avoiding difficult topics, adopting bland viewpoints, or merely "tolerating" those who disagree with us. No, it's crucial that we disagree vigorously, but we should *love* our opponents, showing empathy, leading off with the values we share rather than with the policy particulars that divide us. We should tell them our stories and listen to their stories, so that we see each other's humanity and value that humanity more than proving the other person wrong and benighted. That's the only way to defeat the "outrage industrial complex," the manipulative leaders, media figures, and political consultants on both sides who keep themselves wealthy and powerful by keeping us contemptuous. It won't be easy, but then the book's title comes from Jesus, and Jesus never told his disciples that following him would be easy. Challenging, yes, but not impossible – and in making the attempt, we can make ourselves better, happier people.

Chris Magri

From the Treasurer

Thank you for your continued support and faith in Old South's ministry. We do a tremendous amount of outreach in our community and that is not possible with your support and volunteerism. I am happy to say that as of the writing of this article, our pledge total has increased to \$120,000. That is amazing and that is thanks to you.

I want to take a second just to encourage you to seek out way to get involved in our work here. There are many committees looking for volunteers at this time and I'm certain there is a place for you.

As of Telstar printing, our total income was \$56,844.34 and our expenses were \$63,799.73.

In Peace,
Amanda Adams
Treasurer

News and Upcoming Events

Committee and Group Meetings

Christian Ed Wednesday, April 24, Matthew Room, 10 am
Deacons Sunday, April 14, Matthew Room, 11:00 am
Exec Council Wednesday, April 3, Church Office, 6:00 pm
Financial Trustees Tuesday, April 9, Church Office, 5:30 pm
O, J, W Tuesday, April 9, Matthew Room, 6:30 pm
Property Trustees Tuesday, April 16, Church Office, 6:00 pm



Retirees' Lunch

Mark your calendars and join us for lunch on April 1 for the next Retirees' Lunch. Ham and scalloped potatoes are on the menu. Bring a dish to share if you would like and join us if you are able! For more information, contact Dick Giard at 897-6228.

A few people have indicated a desire to join Old South. If you are interested in learning more about membership or if you have already made the decision that you would like to join, please contact Rev. Marraine (RevMarraine@FarmingtonUCC.org or 778-0424) to schedule a time to meet with her. We hope to have a new member Sunday in April.

All new members meet with the minister prior to joining. This provides a time to for you to ask questions, learn more about what is involved in membership, and also allows us to communicate important information to you too.

Welcome New Members



Bread for Benefit April Dates

Love to smell the fresh scent of bread baking in the kitchen while we are in morning worship? The youth will be selling fresh bread after services this month on April 7 and 28. Plain loaves are \$3 and other varieties (herb, cheese, cranberry-sunflower seed) are available for \$4 per loaf.



Old South Concert Series

The Old South Church Concert Series welcomes Andrea Beaton and Troy MacGillivray from East Coast, Canada, on Thursday, April 11, 7:00 pm. Doors open at 6 pm, with a jam session at 6:15 followed by the concert. Adults \$15, Students \$10/\$5 (including college students with ID). Refreshments available by donation. Ticket reservations call 207-491-5919.

Andrea comes from a long line of Beaton and MacMaster musicians, which explains why her music is her own and deeply rooted in the Cape Breton tradition. Like her father and grandfather, she is a composer. She tours internationally and is in great demand as a teacher at music camps. Her passion for Cape Breton fiddle, piano, step dancing, and comical stories are sure to delight any crowd. Troy is from Lanark, Nova Scotia. From as young as six years old, Troy was impressing audiences with step dancing and soon after, fiddle and piano skills. His roots-centered approach has the power to inspire audiences and comes from a family of proud Scottish heritage where fiddle playing and Gaelic traditions runs in the bloodline. Troy is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal for contributions to culture in Canada.

FMI on these two outstanding fiddlers visit www.troymacgillivray.com and www.andreabeaton.com. Like Old South Church Concert series Facebook page. Upcoming concerts are listed on the Church's website www.farmingtonucc.org.

Upcoming Concert Dates:

April 11: Andrea Beaton and Troy MacGillivray
May 10: David Mallett
June 6: High Times
August 13: Rum Ragged

With the exception of the December concert which benefits EcuHeat, concert proceeds benefit Old South Capital Campaign projects. Thank you for your ongoing support.

the conversation project

**HAVE YOU HAD THE
CONVERSATION?**

TheConversationProject.org

Join Rev Marraine to dig deeper into the conversation about death and dying that we began back in February. The conversation continues April 16, at 2:00 p.m. in the Matthew Room.



Earth Day Every Day! E-Waste Collection

Hannaford Parking Lot ~ April 27 ~ 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Contact Debbie Davis-Robinson 491-5919 debbiedavis@goodtimesrvsales.com

The 11th Annual "Earth Day Every Day!" electronics recycling day will provide an opportunity to responsibly dispose of household electronic devices (e-waste). Old South First Congregational Church has partnered with EPA approved "e-Waste Solutions of Maine" to provide an opportunity for responsible recycling of TVs, computers, scanners, photocopiers, monitors, printers, microwaves, DVD and VCR players, stereos, phones, gaming and other electronic devices. For a complete list of other electronics that will be accepted go to www.ewastemaine.com. According to Earth Day Network, America produces at least 50 million tons of e-waste a year and only 25 percent or less is recycled safely. The rest is buried or incinerated, causing toxins such as lead, mercury, and cadmium to leach into the soil or enter the atmosphere.

There is no fee for this service, however, free-will monetary donations are greatly appreciated to support Old South Church's community service, outreach and youth programs. Volunteers will be directing traffic and available to help unload electronics from vehicles. We are unable to accept early drop off of items.



The yard sale and plant sale dates are not set, but donations are being accepted now! Items may be dropped off at the during office hours or you may contact Brenda Scribner 299-3686 (please leave a message) to arrange a different drop off time. If you are going to drop off during office hours, please call (778-0424) in order to arrange access to the Holman Mission House garage. We cannot accept broken items, clothing, stuffed animals, pillows, bedding, mattresses, or electronics.

Plant sale donations will be accepted later in May.

If you would like to help with this event, please contact Brenda Scribner at 299-3686 or tatabug47@hotmail.com



Serving on Boards, Committee, and Groups at Old South Church

Have you ever wondered about joining a committee or what the various committees of Old South do? Committees at Old South include Christian Education, Diaconate, Financial Trustees, Fundraising, and the Property Trustees. There is also a Nominating Committee (a group that works to fill all the other committees!) and the Outreach, Justice, and Witness Group (an open group). The Executive Council includes a member from each of these committees/groups except the Nominating Committee whose work generally centers around the Annual Program and Nominating Meeting in May each year and the Moderator, Treasurer, Clerk, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, and Minister. These committees are essential to the daily operations of our favorite charity: Old South Church. There are also groups who work to meet the needs of the Community Lunch, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Warming Centers, and more!

In an effort to help all understand the work of the committees, we are going to select a couple to feature in upcoming Telstar issues. This month, we are going to highlight the work of the Property Trustees and Christian Education.

Property Trustees

Our Property Trustees help us to take care of the Old South campus. They act upon a diverse range of regular maintenance concerns (maintenance of the copiers to maintenance of the organs, grounds concerns to attic concerns) and bring major ones to the congregation such as with the recent infestation of pigeons. They watch over our heating concerns and strive to make recommendations to the congregation that will help to insure Old South's future.

Christian Ed

This group is concerned with the Sunday School and nursery oversight, Adult Christian Ed opportunities, and certain programming and family oriented activities and aspects of worship. The group includes the Minister, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, the Sunday School Superintendents and lay members.

Nominating Committee

This groups work begins about this time each year. Their primary focus is to help the various committees of the church maintain full participation. During April and early May, members of this group will be calling upon members and friends of Old South to see if you are interested in working with a particular group or committee. Please be open to the call and know that behind all of the many wonderful programs, worship services, and activities at Old South, there is a host of dedicated volunteers who are working to make it happen! Many hands make not only light work but also joyful work. Please prayerfully consider offering your hands to one or more of the many ministries, committees, activities, or leadership roles at Old South. Thank you!

Save the Date: Our Annual Program and Nominating Meeting will be on May 19 immediately after worship. If you have a report you would like to submit, please make sure Phyllis receives it by April 28.

Worship & Music



Revised Common Lectionary

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 each week. You will find the lectionary readings below for April.

Fifth Sunday in Lent April 7, 2019	<u>Isaiah 43:16-21</u>	<u>Psalms 126</u>	<u>Philippians 3:4b-14</u>	<u>John 12:1-8</u>
Liturgy of the Palms April 14, 2019 <i>Sixth Sunday in Lent</i>		<u>Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29</u>		<u>Luke 19:28-40</u>
Liturgy of the Passion April 14, 2019 <i>Sixth Sunday in Lent</i>	<u>Isaiah 50:4-9a</u>	<u>Psalms 31:9-16</u>	<u>Philippians 2:5-11</u>	<u>Luke 22:14-23:56</u> or <u>Luke 23:1-</u>
Resurrection of the Lord April 21, 2019 <i>Easter Day</i>	*<u>Acts 10:34-43</u> or <u>Isaiah 65:17-25</u>	<u>Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 15:19-26</u> or <u>Acts 10:34-43</u>	<u>John 20:1-18</u> or <u>Luke 24:1-12</u>
Second Sunday of Easter April 28, 2019	*<u>Acts 5:27-32</u>	<u>Psalms 118:14-29 or Psalm 150</u>	<u>Revelation 1:4-8</u>	<u>John 20:19-3</u>



Leading Worship at Old South

If you were with us during the month of November or during other times when our minister has been away, you know that we are very fortunate to have strong lay leaders at Old South who have stepped into the role leading worship and sharing their personal faith journeys or reflections on the lectionary readings. If you are interested in serving in this way, please let us know by contacting Phyllis in the church office (Phyllis@FarmingtonUCC.org). We are able to provide support by either putting the full order of worship together for you and allowing you to focus solely on your reflection or you can do as much of the order as you want! During these times, the Revised Common Lectionary may be followed or not. Perhaps you have a Bible reading that particularly speaks to you and you want to share your insight and thoughts on it. Our own faith journeys have been enriched by this sharing and we are grateful to each person who has been called to nourish our spirits in this way.



Liturgical Colors and Lent

Self-examination, study, fasting, prayer and works of love are disciplines historically associated with Lent. Conversion— literally, the "turning around" or reorientation of our lives towards God—is the theme of Lent. Both as individuals and as a community, we look inward and reflect on our readiness to follow Jesus in his journey towards the cross. The forty days of Lent correspond to the forty-day temptation of Jesus in the wilderness and the forty-year journey of Israel from slavery to a new community. Most of this time of preparation is symbolized by the color Violet, though the season is bracketed by the mourning Black of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Lenten Expressions Project

Sunday, April 7, 4 pm - 7 pm

Holman Mission House

Please join us Sunday, April 7 for our second annual Lenten Expressions Project, an evening of art, poetry, and thought-provoking, interactive installations. With contributions by our church family and also our community friends in faith, we invite you to "journey" with us -- come, listen, ponder, and respond.



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 April 3rd and 10th 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.

Maundy Thursday (Adapted from *A Maundy Thursday Reflection* written by Rhina M. Ramos from the United Church of Christ Website)

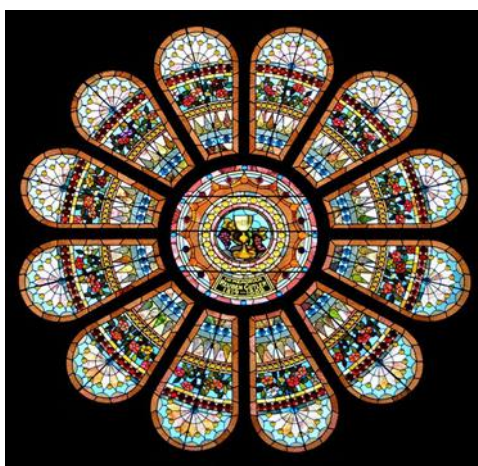
1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NIV): "For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

The sacrament of Holy Communion is an act of love and delivery. Jesus certainly wanted that we remember him in the tangible elements, everyday things like as bread and wine. These symbols have been a beautiful ritual for Christians of all time; teach us to share what we have. In his vast wisdom, Jesus knew, and wanted to teach yet another lesson during his last supper with those who had left everything to follow him. Perhaps the dinner was a solemn ceremony and all eyes were fixed on Jesus while he broke

the bread and blessed wine, also it could be that there were sweet words of farewell, tears and smiles, as they shared a final farewell.

God's love is more immense, more extensive than what the human mind can comprehend or imagine. The communion table was instituted by Jesus to show his love, to fully receive in communion his beloved community. Jesus opens his table to all who desire the gift of faith, his message of love, his call to justice. Derived from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning "commandment," Maundy refers to the commands Jesus gave his disciples at the Last Supper: to love with humility by serving one another. Maundy Thursday is observed during Holy Week on the Thursday before Easter and commemorates the Last Supper when Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples on the night before he was crucified.

In the United Church of Christ, we have the gift of sharing communion from a table that is open to all. It is beautiful to see anyone regardless of their beliefs or sexual orientation to receive the elements of bread and wine. Please join your siblings of faith around the world to celebrate this sacred meal on Maundy Thursday, April 18.



Maundy Thursday Worship at Old South Church

We will observe Maundy Thursday at Old South on April 18. There will be a simple potluck supper in the Vestry beginning at 5:15 pm followed by worship with communion at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome.



Palm Sunday: April 14, 9:30 am, Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday: April 18, time to be determined, Sanctuary

FAEM Good Friday Service: April 19), Noon, location to be determined

FAEM Easter Sunrise Service: April 21, sunrise, Voter Hill

Old South Easter Sunday Worship: April 21, 9:30 am, Sanctuary



Pilgrim Lodge Sunday ~ April 28th

The focus of our worship on Sunday, April 28th will be to highlight the ministry of Pilgrim Lodge within the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ. The interim director, Rev. Melinda Trotti, will be preaching, and we will use worship resources from Pilgrim Lodge including songs and liturgy. It is a time to celebrate the ministry of Pilgrim Lodge and how it has influenced the lives of many in our pews and beyond. If you haven't been to Pilgrim Lodge before consider it an opportunity to learn more about it. If Pilgrim Lodge is a place near and dear to your heart, consider it a time to share the love of the sacred ministry.

Camp registration is now open. Please check the variety of camps available online at www.pilgrimlodge.org or come to the church office for more information. Camps are not just for youth! Offerings include Women at the Well, a week for folks who enjoy fishing (Fix'n to Fish) and might be willing to lend a hand to maintenance projects, Grandparent's Weekend, Young Adult Leadership, Sports Camp, and many more! Partial scholarships are available through Old South for youth from Old South who attend Pilgrim Lodge (one scholarship per student) and financial assistance is also available online through the PL website.

You can also learn more about PL and camp offerings in their online newsletter:

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/News-from-Pilgrim-Lodge---March-2019.html?soid=1109342362154&aid=QyNTzQykgAU>



First Congregational Church of Farmington

"Old South Church"

United Church of Christ

Save the Date!

A special worship celebrating the installation of Rev. Marraine Kettell as the Minister of the First Congregational Church of Farmington will be held in the afternoon (approximately 3:30 pm) on Sunday, May 5. The service will be followed by a reception. To learn more about what a Service of Installation is and what it means, please check the message from UCC John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ in the Living Water Association, Maine Conference, and the United Church of Christ section of this issue of *Telstar*!



The Deacon's Corner

HOW IS GOD CALLING ME TO SERVE?

The word "vocation" comes from the Latin root "vocatio" which means "a call" or "a summons". Today the word is often used synonymously with "occupation" which refers to a person's role in society. "Vocation", however, originated in the Christian Church and is still understood by Christians to mean the following of a specific "call" from God.

Being called to a vocation can take many forms, but aside from the particulars, it seems to me that it must be an experience that is part soul searching and part opening oneself to new possibilities. At Old South, serving on a committee could be seen as a vocation. Every spring we have a chance to practice the skills required to listen for God's call. That's because, every year at about this time, we start preparing for the Annual All-Church Program Meeting in May, the time when we fill committee vacancies. It's a good time for each of us to ask the questions: What is my vocation? How is God calling me to serve?

Of all the committees at Old South, the Diaconate is unique in one way: it was one of the earliest "vocations" in the Christian Church. In fact the word "diaconate" comes from the Greek word which means "service". Today Deacons look back to the founding of the first Diaconate to get a sense of their roots and the essence of their calling.

The story goes like this: According to Paul, in the Book of Acts, the early Church practiced a communal life style "where all believers were together and had everything in common." (Acts 2:44) As the number of believers grew, conflicts began to emerge. The Apostles, who were busy spreading the Word, called their followers together and asked them to choose seven people who were "wise and full of the Holy Spirit" to accept the vocation of ministering to the growing Church community. Their job description would include distributing food, helping to solve problems and caring for those in need. The group of people who were chosen became leaders in the early Church and their vocation of service became a prototype for the work of Deacons to the present day.

What is the nature of vocation for a Deacon at Old South Church? Simply put, the Deacons are charged with assisting the Minister in serving the spiritual needs of the Church. Their responsibilities fall roughly into two categories: assisting with worship services and working with the Minister to care for the members of the Church. This may seem fairly straight forward and yet, being a Deacon can be a powerful experience.

A while back, the Old South Deacons had a discussion about how they experienced being of service. The answers were surprising: washing the communion cups, turning out the sanctuary lights after worship, serving Communion, greeting and talking to people.

Looking back on it, I think our conversation captured some of the best experiences of being a Deacon: the meditative simplicity of the tasks we do to make worship possible, the shared moments of deep connection while serving Holy Communion, the feeling of God's powerful presence in the sanctuary at the moment when the lights are turned off, the joy of being lifted out of oneself to engage with others.

The vocation of being a Deacon at Old South is always changing and evolving as the needs of our Church family call us in diverse directions. Right now is an exciting time! We will be examining ways that we can serve a community that is much more fluid than it has been in the past. We will look with new eyes at where the

Deacons fit into the spectrum of pastoral care at Old South. There are and will be new projects and ideas. And yet, underneath the newness, the core of our vocation will remain: the example of Jesus who "came not to be served but to serve."

If you feel called to join us in this ancient and yet new and ever-changing vocation, please speak to a Deacon or a member of the nominating committee. Spring is coming and God is Good, All the Time!

Blessings to all,

Shelley, Chair

(Your deacons: Roger Condit, Mary Sinclair, John Demers Lindner, Michelle Scribner, Wendy Huish, Margaret Gould Wescott, Carole Trickett, Shelley Griffith)

Mission & Outreach



Outreach, Justice & Witness

Outreach, Justice and Witness will be hosting another E-Waste Event on Saturday, April 27th, from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm at the Hannaford parking lot in Farmington. Electronic devices have become a major part of our lives in the 21st century and unfortunately have presented a huge problem to local landfills and transfer stations along with the negative impact on the environment. By recycling as much of the materials in these devices we can reduce the impacts on the environment. Please join us by helping in the collection of these electronic devices and their proper disposal. We need volunteers to unload the devices from vehicles on site, directing traffic at the site and collecting Free Will Donations. Look for a sign-up sheet at the Fundraising table. Of course we also encourage you to bring in your electronic devices that are beyond repair.

We would also like to remind you of our ongoing ministries of donations to the Care and Share Food Closet (April – Diced Tomatoes and Saltines), as well as the Underwear Project - collecting new underwear and socks for children in need. You can find the collection containers for these ministries in the Narthex and Vestry.

Another of our ministries is the medical equipment loan program known as Annie's Beanpole located in the Holman Parish House. This has become a very important ministry in the community. People come from far and wide to borrow equipment that they can't afford to obtain on their own. It is a very humbling and satisfying experience to our volunteers to make this equipment available while receiving the gratitude and appreciation from the people we serve. We are always looking for volunteers to help us with this much needed ministry. Please contact Randy Oakley (roakley@roadrunner.com or 293-2368) if you would like to help.

Outreach, Justice & Witness meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the Matthew Room and all are invited.



Outreach, Justice, and Witness will be showing the movie "Paris to Pittsburgh" on Tuesday April 9th at 6:30 PM. Please join us for some hopeful news about our climate crisis.

"As scientists' warnings about the impacts of climate change become more and more dire—and the level of inaction from the federal government becomes more and more alarming—a growing number of leaders are fighting global warming with local solutions.

Paris to Pittsburgh—a new film produced by Bloomberg Philanthropies and RadicalMedia, and distributed by National Geographic Documentary Films—features the voices of some of these forward-thinking leaders, including NRDC president Rhea Suh, along with the stories of everyday Americans who have been on the front lines of the climate crisis. From the former coal town of Pittsburgh to America's breadbasket of Iowa to the island of Puerto Rico, the film takes you through climate change-fueled disasters in numerous communities, as well as their recovery, resiliency, and tireless efforts to inspire homegrown change.

Mayors, governors, community groups, businesses, and others are stepping up, embracing solutions like renewable energy and reaping benefits like cleaner air, job growth, and cost-cutting—all close to home, where it matters most. And this movement of our innovative citizens, cities, states, and businesses could change the course of our future and ensure that the United States remains a global leader in reducing greenhouse gas emissions—and protecting our planet, health, and future generations."



Care and Share Food Closet Item of the Month: diced tomatoes and saltines

You may drop all donations off at the church in the bin just outside the Sanctuary doors and your donations will be delivered to the food closet. While Care and Share has asked us to focus on diced tomatoes and saltines this month, canned goods and other items are also accepted. Thank you for your ongoing support of this ministry.



More than we can imagine!

One Great Hour of Sharing is a special offering that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities. This offering is received by many different Christian denominations as we work compassionately together to make the world a better place. We received this special offering at Old South on March 31. At the time of Telstar printing, we were unable to provide a count of the amount received but we are able to thank you for your generous support of this outreach special offering! Thank you!



We are three fourths of the way through our 17th year of doing our Community Luncheon ministry. During the colder winter months, we especially try to serve “comfort food” to our guests. March was no exception as we served roast pork loin, mashed potatoes, green beans, and biscuits. This is always a popular meal with our guests. We served 160 meals, including about 65 or so that were delivered.

Our April menu will feature baked ham (using Dick Giard’s delicious recipe), scalloped potatoes, peas and biscuits. Please plan on joining us for a delicious meal on April 13th.

Stan Wheeler
Rocell Marcellino, Co-chairs

Children and Youth

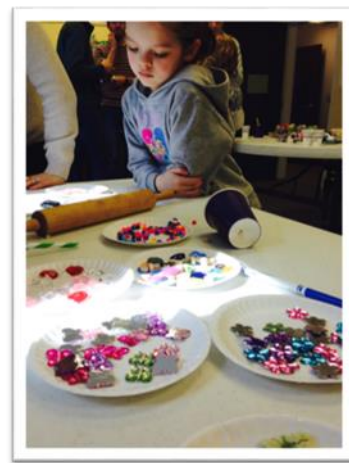
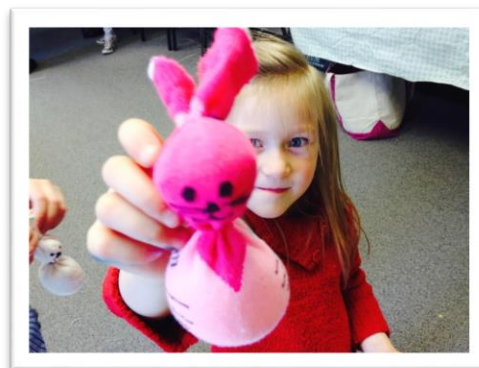


Sunday School

We conclude our journey through Lent this month, pausing to reflect on the events of Holy Week, the celebration of Palm Sunday, the despair of Good Friday, and the joy of Easter morning. Through the first half of the month, we will continue to “break” the daily paper links of our 40-link Lenten “Prayer Chain”—with prayers, activities, and challenges for each Lenten day. There will be no Sunday school lessons Easter morning; we will celebrate the resurrection with our families in the Sanctuary. We’ll conclude the month with a special all-ages “Pilgrim Lodge” worship service on April 28.

Family Easter Party

Kids of all ages are warmly invited to join us for a simple Family Easter Party on Sunday, April 7, following the worship service (10:45 am), in the Matthew Room. We’ll offer an array of simple, age-appropriate crafts, healthy snacks, and a few little surprises, too!



Nursery Schedule

Our hardworking Nursery Supervisor, Teresa Hays, will be taking a well-deserved break this month. On April 14 and 21, the nursery room will be open for families to use as they wish; as there will be no paid supervisor on those dates, we will not be offering child “drop off” times. Parents of infants and toddlers are invited to use the cushioned rocking chairs in the sanctuary, as well as our canvas activity bags, filled with children's books, coloring pages, and quiet toys.



The Pancakery Cafe

Brunch is “hot” at The Pancakery Cafe! Our team of Middler students (with a few adults, too) has been serving up pancakes, soups, sandwiches and quiches to as many as 75 guests! We’ll celebrate Easter with confetti pancakes on April 14, then carrot-cake ‘cakes on April 28. Our live music schedule features piano tunes from Thad Gunther and ukulele melodies from local band “Ukin’ Along”. As always, everything is free, and everyone is welcome!

God’s Kitchen Crew

We’re “under construction” this spring—making plans to improve our cake-and-games program for kids in grades 2- 5. Stay tuned—we’ll be back soon, better than ever!

Acolytes

Our acolytes now serve as “official” bell ringers on Sunday mornings, before they bring the Light of Christ into the Sanctuary. For that reason, acolytes need to arrive by 9:10 am, (latest!), to begin ringing our historic bell at 9:20, then donning robes by 9:25. Many thanks to Dr. Roger Condit for helping us learn "the ropes" about bell ringing. (Ok, that pun *was* intended!).

Our acolyte schedule for April is:

April 7: Martha and Madison

April 21: Ben and a volunteer

April 14: Natalie and James

April 28: Tyler and Cooper



High School

It’s a short month for us, due to the school spring break. On April 7, we’ll reflect on the events of Holy Week. We will not have classes on Palm Sunday, April 14, or Easter Sunday. And, we’ll join the congregation in the Sanctuary on April 28 for *Pilgrim Lodge Sunday*.



Bread for Benefit

Our Youth Group sells loaves of freshly baked bread after the worship service on April 7 and 28. Plain loaves are \$3; herb, cheese, or cranberry/sunflower seed loaves are \$4. Proceeds will help us pay for the sleeping bags and mats that we donated to people living on the streets in Boston, as part of our mission work with the CityReach program last month.

Pilgrim Lodge: "Jump Start Weekend"

Lend a hand as Pilgrim Lodge preps for another full summer of programs and events. Join Arin Hilton and a small crew from Old South Saturday, May 11 (likely *not* spending a night--more details will be available soon).



New to Pilgrim Lodge? This classic summer camp, on the shore of beautiful Cobbosseecontee Lake, is operated by the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ. There are fun programs for kids, adults, and families throughout the summer, with themes of arts, sports, faith foundations—and the ever-popular Destination Hogwarts. Registration is now open for these programs. Once again, PL offers financial assistance (due May 15). Old South also offers partial "camperships" to help offset the costs of attending. You can check out all of the PL summer options at www.pilgrimlodge.org.

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.

From the Property Trustees

Spring peeks around the corner, but it seems the snow is unwilling to go as quietly as many of us would like. We hope the next few weeks clear away any lingering flu or colds that have pestered many this winter.

We offer congratulations to the youth group for the success of their efforts with the Coat Closet. Many thanks to our Middlers for their Pancakery and extended thanks for the delicious foods they and their team have served. Thanks also to the Community Luncheon Team for their gratifying meals.

The boilers continue to have issues dealing with the repeated changes in pellet quality and the Boiler Brigade (John McKim, Barb Fortier, Alton McCleery, Amanda Adams, Tim Hinkley, Ed David, Anna Cushing and Daniel Bachelder) have worked tirelessly to keep them running with help from Phil's team, as needed. We offer our thanks for all their efforts.

The new microphones seem to be working flawlessly, improving worship services by removing the sudden squelching, static and unexpected over-bleeds of ham radio voices.

Lighting for the Sanctuary will be improved as replacement bulbs have been ordered and donated by a parishioner and will be installed when the 32' ladder is available. We offer thanks for the donation and to Troy Grams, who volunteered to install them.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Bachelder, John McKim, Barb Fortier, Donna Wheeler, Cassidy Munro and Wendy Morrill

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

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

The Living Water Spring Association meeting will be held at Old South on Sunday, May 5, at 2:00 pm. The meeting will be followed by the Installation Service for Rev. Marraine Kettell. Stay tuned for more details!



If you would like to receive monthly communication from the Maine Conference office, please subscribe to the A.C.E. (Maine Conference UCC All Conference Email) here:

<https://visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001WY46HL75sRR8ugU-gynzwIRrhzosImGndFmB2smmp0bq75gY9p8awUyU2Y3ZgqXJLfYmHJA9E429CcYLI986ORfoelx6i-2BOx3JDub2BqZMuvjRCxq4Z4ri-irjIOwKX400xuKkQu0gFsk1T-oW-zU5wSkbOg5oEAdD5nqrLiQzxdAH5D0h34ysAPJlhPs>

Pilgrim Lodge News

Pilgrim Lodge Registration is now open. Please check the PL website at www.pilgrimlodge.org for more information or read through this month's Telstar to learn more!



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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.”



A reflection by John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ

Installation

There is a sacred rite we perform in our denomination called a Service of Installation.

I attended one recently. It was a liturgy in which a newly called leader was installed into the position of Conference Minister.

These services are among my most favorite things to do in ministry. For one thing, everyone is happy. A new leader has been found. This leader always begins her ministry with a sense of hope and possibility. Those who called her to serve in the position chose her from among all others, and believe about her that her unique gifts, skills, vision, passion, talent set her apart from all others – and they, too, see hope and possibility.

The service of Installation is a way of saying “You belong here!” It grants a sense of permanence and belonging to what we all know is a temporary and transitional ministry. After all, someone is going to fill that position again at a later date and time no matter what the circumstances are that create the next transition. No one is thinking about that on the day of Installation.

But something else is going on in this liturgy that, along with and I think more importantly than the hope and promise of a new leader emerging, makes this such a powerful experience for me. And whatever that is has to do with what we refer to as ‘The Call.’

In our faith tradition, we don’t refer to positions that ministers fill as jobs, but as calls. Those of us who engage in ministry talk about receiving a call. There is something deeply and profoundly sacred about this. We do believe that the Holy Spirit is an engaged partner in the unfolding life, health, and vitality of the Church. She remains ever invested in decisions we make. When I worked in Conference Ministry and would meet with Search Committees looking for their next pastor, I would tell them “Your greatest ally in this process is the Holy Spirit.”

In all my ministry settings, I have had a clear and unmistakable moment of call to that ministry. Call stories by ministers remain among my favorite things to hear and listen to.

And the service of Installation is more than just saying to someone “This is your new job – do it well.” It is a way of affirming the movement of a Holy Spirit who participated with us in the process, and who called THIS leader to THIS place for THIS time.

Because we are a church that eschews hierarchical authority, and trusts that the Holy Spirit engages with us all – every call is tested by multiple audiences. The individual who will be installed has heard and affirmed the call from the Holy Spirit – but that is not enough. The calling body must affirm it, and they do so both by a team built to seek out the next leader they are looking for and then by presenting the candidate to the entire body for a vote. After that, an authorizing body that holds the standing of the minister, not one person but a team of leaders elected to serve for just such a moment as this, must also affirm the call. In fact, it is the authorizing body, not the calling body, that performs the act of Installation.

I celebrate this whole thing: the movement and engagement of the Holy Spirit, the art of discernment that requires prayerful contemplation, decisions made by individuals and then affirmed by multiple covenant partners. By the time of Installation, the call is owned as a community and celebrated by all. It is beautiful.

I offer thanks to God for the engagement of Her Holy Spirit in this process. May that same spirit abide with you, and in the abiding guide and direct your own steps through prayerful discernment. May your times of quiet of quiet contemplation find you hearing the voice of one calling out to you on this, your journey into the Mystic.



Rev. Marraine will be installed as the Minister of the First Congregational Church of Farmington on Sunday, May 5, in an afternoon worship service (approximately 3:30 pm, following the Living Water Association Meeting). The service will be followed by a special reception in the Vestry. Please save the date and plan to join us!

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/>



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[INSTAGRAM.COM/OLDSOUTHLOVE](https://www.instagram.com/OLDSOUTHLOVE)



[PINTEREST.COM/OLDSOUTHCHURCH](https://www.pinterest.com/OLDSOUTHCHURCH)

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.

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12:00pm Retirees Lunch (Vestry) 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	2 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel)	3 10:15am Staff Meeting (Church Office) 5:15pm Lenten Vesper Service (Chapel) 6:00pm Executive Council (Church Office) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Matthew Room)	4 6:30pm Shepherd's Pie (Chapel)	5 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group (Matthew Room) 5:00pm Franklin County Climate Crisis Coalition (Vestry)	6 11:00am Scribner Family (Matthew Room)
7 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room) 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:45am Family Easter Party (Newman Wing) 10:45am Bread for Benefit (Vestry) 4:00pm Lenten Expressions Project (Holman Mission House)	8 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	9 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel) 5:30pm Financial Trustess (Church Office) 6:30pm Outreach, Justice, Witness Movie Night (Chapel)	10 5:15pm Lenten Vesper Service (Chapel) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Matthew Room)	11 2:00pm Just Friends (Chapel) 6:30pm Shepherd's Pie (Chapel) 7:00pm Andra Beaton and Troy MacGillivray Concert (Sanctuary)	12	13 12:00pm Community Lunch (Kitchen, Vestry) 4:00pm Arts Institute (Vestry)
14 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room) 11:00am Deacons (Matthew Room) 11:30am Pancakery (Vestry)	15 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	16 2:00pm Continuing the Conversation (Matthew Room) 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel) 6:00pm Property Trustees (Church Office)	17 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Matthew Room)	18 5:15pm Maundy Thursday Potluck (Vestry) 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service (Sanctuary)	19 12:00pm FAEM Good Friday Worship (Offsite) 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group (Matthew Room)	20
21 5:47am FAEM Easter Sunrise Service on Voter Hill (Offsite) 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room) 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary)	22 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	23 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel)	24 10:00am Christian Ed (Matthew Room) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Matthew Room)	25 1:00pm Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry (Trinity United Methodist Church)	26	27 9:00am Earth Day Every Day Recycling (Offsite)
28 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room) 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:45am Bread for Benefit (Vestry)	29 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	30 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel)				