Rev. Marraine’s Musings

One of the most holy parts of being a pastor is being present with people in the midst of all that life holds. That ministry of presence includes actually sitting with people and sharing safe touch. It is downright sacred to put a hand on someone’s shoulder to ask how their week went, to shake someone’s hand while passing the peace, to wrap your arms around someone in a hug, to hold an infant in your arms the day that they are born, and to hold the hands of someone in the last days of their lives. All of it is sacred. It is one of life’s most precious gifts as a clergy person to be present in those moments and share the sacred gift of touch.

It is heart wrenching and soul crushing not to be able to be in close proximity with loved ones, friends, and our beloved church family right now. That is the kind of stuff that goes into the great laments of the Old Testament. To ponder any of the moments above without touch is a huge loss. I would even go as far as to say that there are moments of anticipatory grief at the idea of not being physically present in those moments mentioned in the hymn, “I Was There to Hear Your Bounding Cry.”

Deep breath dear ones. Even though we seem to be in an extended Lent this year, we are a resurrection people. Even if we don’t meet in person to celebrate Easter on April 12th, we will celebrate Easter when we meet in person to worship again. But the Body of Christ is more than in person worship. Touching happens beyond just the physical. Somehow the sinews and the ligaments of the Body of Christ keep us connected even when we can’t see those connections.

One of the surprising gifts of our physical isolation is that we have found ways to continue to be church and hold the community intact in ways that I never would have imagined. In a matter of weeks many of you have figured out technology that you might not have worked with before. Our presence through Zoom, Facebook, phone calls, e-mails, and even waves from across the street are a testimony to our connection. It is not perfect, but it is community. Hold fast to the connection. Keep the Body of Christ as physically healthy as possible by maintaining your distance. But know above all else that you are loved, and we will rise again. Thanks be to God.

Blessings,
Rev. Marraine

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.
Rev. Marraine will be working as much as possible from home during this time. If you would like to be in touch with her, please call the office and leave a message on her voice mail (207/778-0424) or email her at RevMarraine@FarmingtonUCC.org. Rev. Marraine’s regular days off are Friday and Saturday.

Phyllis will be working both from home and from the church office during this time. Please email her (Phyllis@FarmingtonUCC.org) if you need to see her in person as the doors to the church building will remain locked when she is there while we are operating under the current recommended restrictions.

**Executive Council**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minister</td>
<td>Rev. Marraine Kettell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderator</td>
<td>Chris Magri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair, Christian Ed</td>
<td>Arin Hilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair, Financial Trustees</td>
<td>Marilyn Hylan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair, Outreach, Justice &amp; Witness</td>
<td>Randy Oakley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member at Large, Moderator Elect</td>
<td>Robin Beck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member at Large</td>
<td>Wendy Huish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Secretary &amp; Fundraising</td>
<td>Brenda Scribner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Children and Youth Ministries</td>
<td>Jodie Gunther</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>Arin Hilton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Donna Wheeler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair, Diaconate</td>
<td>Shelley Griffith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair, Property Trustees</td>
<td>Daniel Bachelder</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. --Psalm 46: 1-3, 7

*God be with you until we meet again. Sending love and light to each of you today and always.*
Community is a lovely word, but it can be a challenging concept to implement. As of mid-March Old South is facing not one but two such challenges.

The first relates to the COVID-19 virus, which is a challenge we’re facing along with every other organization on the planet. But it may be particularly difficult for a church to face, as “We love you, now stay away” is hardly a sentence that rolls off the tongue. But we are indeed asking our beloved church family to stay away, suspending live worship services and holding online committee meetings. The good news is that Rev. Marraine is receiving all manner of creative suggestions on how to maintain community in new ways. Even after the pandemic has run its course, we’ll have incorporated some of these innovations into our spiritual DNA. Churches typically resist change, but face it, Old South has been changing since 1814, and there’s no reason our generation should be exempted. It might even be fun. Eventually.

Our other challenge is universal in one sense but quite particular in another. During the past few years our nation’s institutions, and especially its churches, have been dealing with sexual abuse allegations and the all-too-common past practice of sweeping such allegations under the rug. We are now six months into just such a discussion, not in the abstract but centered on a particular individual who spent a dozen years with us and whom many in the congregation came to value and love. What should we do? Does it matter at all that the alleged behavior occurred somewhere else during years past? Can we reconcile the feelings of those who long for his prompt return with the feelings of those who fear his return? Can we address the sincere concerns of those who feel sure that few conditions should be placed on that return, and also address the sincere concerns of abuse survivors who feel sure that our children can never truly be safe in this person’s presence? What does the phrase “You are welcome here” imply in this situation, and what does it not imply? What, in the end, does it really mean to be a faith community?

It’s been a trying and bittersweet six months. Why bitter? I mourn having to tell people that their dear friend isn’t entirely who they thought he was. I mourn seeing the fear of parents and the pain of survivors. I mourn the fact that in all likelihood some wonderful people will be unable to accept our eventual policy and will leave. But why sweet? Because despite the shock and the emotion and the pain, our congregation has beautifully handled this situation, constructively and honestly sharing our thoughts, listening to and learning from each other, and holding each other in love. Community is a challenging concept to implement, but Old South is doing an awfully good job of rising to that challenge.

Chris Magri
Thoughts on our Finances

Dear Old South Family,

We are feeling the loss of our gathering and worshiping together on Sunday mornings in our Sanctuary. We miss your smiling faces at Coffee Hour, Pancakeries, and more. Though COVID-19 has required that we not meet in person for the time being, we hope you are finding ways to connect with each other through phone calls, electronically through Facebook and other methods, and maybe even walks outside. Rev. Marraine has continued to lead worship livestream on Facebook on Sunday mornings and although being present together on Facebook isn't the same, it was wonderful to recognize each other and be present together in this digital way. Friends joined us from near and far, and we were together in worship and prayer.

Some of you are asking how you can continue to pay your pledges and support Old South during this time. Our bills are continuing even though we are not able to gather together in person. Donations and pledge payments during this time are appreciated and helpful. Methods to continue to contribute financially, follow this letter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Fund Daily Operating Budget Information</th>
<th>Roof Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income to date:</td>
<td>Income to date: $33,631.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily operating expenses to date:</td>
<td>Expenses to date: $58,444.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Difference:</td>
<td>Difference: (24,812.54)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Remaining Work: $58,445.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total needed to fund project in its entirety (assuming no problems found): $83,257.54</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

May peace be with you, dear Old South family and friends, until we meet again,
Donna Wheeler, Treasurer, and the Financial Trustees
Ways to Continue Your Financial Support

1. Mail your contributions and pledge payments (checks only please) to:
   Old South Church
   235 Main Street
   Farmington, ME  04938

2. The Church Office staff is continuing to work at the church on a very limited basis behind locked doors. If you prefer to drop off your payments in person, please contact Rina Bardo, Brenda Scribner, or Phyllis Pederson to make arrangements for safe transfer for you and for them. They can let you know the best method and time to drop off your contributions.

3. Donations may be automatically deducted from personal accounts on a monthly basis for a small fee. The first step is filling out the form included below and returning it to the church. Contact Rina Bardo (dnrbardo@gwi.net or 778-9978) or Brenda Scribner (btatabug47@gmail.com or 207/299-3686) if you have questions about how the process works and about fees and timing of withdrawals.

4. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and our website as we are working to set up donations to the church through these avenues.

5. The Maine Conference United Church of Christ has responded to this time by immediately opening up avenues of continuing to give to your local church. Until we have a platform in place for electronic giving, the Maine Conference will absorb the processing fees so that all funds donated are able to reach the local church. Please check out their letter at the end of this issue of Telstar. If you choose to give through the Maine Conference, please be sure to follow all the steps necessary to designate your offering for our church: The First Congregational Church of Farmington (There is more than one Old South Church in the Maine Conference!). It would be helpful to notify us to let us know that you have done this so we can follow up with the Conference Office.

6. Though we know your Hannaford shopping has likely been significantly impacted, most of us are continuing to venture out for supplies as needed. Hannaford card reloads and new card purchases are still being processed. Payments should be mailed to the church at the address above. All payments received by Friday, will be processed by Monday either through a reload of your card value or by mailing you a new card depending on your personal preferences.
From the Financial Trustees

We currently have 63 pledging units for our daily operating expenses budget totaling $119,734. Our budget is in good shape right now because some pledging units pre-pay the entire amount of their annual pledge. Winter bills tend to run high because of fuel purchases, plowing, sanding, and shoveling. If you are able to continue paying your pledge during this unprecedented time, it will be very helpful for our church. Look for the ways you can continue to contribute financially to Old South Church in the section above.

The Financial Trustees mailed the capital campaign letters for the roofing project the week of March 8. We hope to have all pledge cards returned by March 31 with the money pledged received by December 31, 2020. Because of donations received for this project and our emergency fund, some of the roofing project has been completed. Kitchen leaks have stopped. The Christian Education Committee had $400 in the off-budget Sunday School account. They are donating this to the roof fund with a challenge to members in our congregation to match or surpass it. Money will be taken from our endowment funds to complete the project. We plan to replenish the endowment with the pledged money for the roof project.

Karyl Condit and Donna Wheeler are working on two grant applications: one from the Maine Steeple Fund for the bell tower brick and wall repair; one from The National Fund for Sacred Spaces which is a program of Partners for Sacred Spaces in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We are already in the approval process for the steeple fund.

The money from our three-year capital campaign with final payments ending this year for those of you who chose to extend to the final year will be used to repair brickwork on the north face of the church. This work should be done during the spring and summer.

Brenda Scribner reported that we made over $1,000 from our Hannaford Card sales in January and February. Please keep buying those cards if you are able. Look at the Fundraising article to see how you can continue to reload and purchase Hannaford cards for your ongoing expenses. We also have other script cards which help us earn money for the church. The strawberry shortcake event on the 4th of July is always a moneymaker as well as the yard and plant sale in early June. We will not be holding Pie on the Porch this summer. The concert series managed by Debbie Davis Robinson and Brenda are still successful and this money goes to capital campaign funds for our various projects.

The Financial Trustees want to extend a huge thank you to all of our congregation for their contributions of time, talent, and money. These gifts allow us to remain a thriving church for our church family and our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Hylan, Donna Wheeler, Rev. Marraine Kettell, Chris Magri, Brenda Scribner, Daniel Bachelder, Shirley Waddell, and Ed Davis.
Greetings All!

Either Spring has 'sprung' a bit early or 'False Spring' has stayed late. Either way the days have been quite glorious of late, haven't they? Do I sound overly cheery? I am. I love the sunshine and the thought we can stash worries of slipping on the ice away for another few months at least, brings a smile to my face.

I noticed the area with the new roof is no longer leaking heat (you can tell by the snow staying on the roof longer, because there is less or no heat escaping, to help it melt). The new roofing looks very nice and I think Konopka & Son did a good job matching the new shingles to the tower roofing, which, as some are aware is slate. The new roof should last 40 - 50 years or more. As most of you know some of us had hoped to re-do the entire roof in metal, but, as Dan Konopka said, "I'd love to do a metal roof for you, but, it wouldn't be safe." He went on to explain because of the pitch of the main church roof itself, and the weight of snow and ice that could build up, even with multiple snow-guards (metal bars running parallel to the edging and spaced evenly upward) once a snow-guard failed and let go there was a good chance the others below would not hold the weight and anyone or anything below could be severely hurt or even killed and vehicles damaged. So, for safety sake, the church membership voted to go with the 50 year shingles and sleep better knowing we would not have pieces of metal being broken off and possibly coming down suddenly.

Our church cleanup day in March was postponed due to COVID-19. We will reschedule the event when we are able.

Daniel Bachelder, Chair

News and Upcoming Events

Outreach, Justice, and Witness will be meeting on Wednesday April 22nd (Earth Day) at 5:30 outside. Bring your own lawn chair and dress accordingly.

Most of our other committee meetings will be held either through conference calling or video chat until further notice. We rely on Committee Chairs to communicate with committee members and with Rev. Marraine and the church office as needed. Thank you.

May Telstar Deadline Sunday, April 12, Church Office at Noon
Memorial and Celebration Flowers for when we can worship together again......

With the uncertainty of the times, we may not know when we will be able to be together in worship again. What we do know, is that we will be able to be together again one day. In lieu of Easter lilies, we invite you to remember and celebrate your loved ones by providing flowers for the altar for the Sunday when we are able to resume church services in the Sanctuary.

Please mail this form and payment to Phyllis in the church office (235 Main Street, Farmington). Flowers (lilies or otherwise) are $16.50. We won’t set a deadline for orders, rather when we schedule worship to be held at the church next, we will take the orders we have received to date and purchase altar flowers and list the memorials and celebrations in the worship bulletin. Thank you!

Checks may be made out to Old South. Please write “Flowers” on the form in the memo line.

Number of plants ___________

Ordered by _____________________

Given in memory/celebration of ____________________

Order forms and payment may be mailed to:

Old South Church
235 Main Street
Farmington, ME 04938
Please note, the April Retirees Lunch is cancelled. Stay tuned to the weekly email and Telstar for future updates.

Looking for an indoor project to work on while we are all trying to isolate ourselves? Why not start sorting through your house to find donations for the yard sale? While we are not set up to accept donations at this time, this is one way to be ready when we are able to do so! Clothing, electronics or broken appliances cannot be accepted for the yard sale. Thank you!

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 (five-month plans April 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 contact Phyllis (Phyllis@FarmingtonUCC.org) in the church office to learn more about payment plans and scholarship and please join us!
Outreach, Justice, and Witness is an open ministry with no fixed membership. Their focus is to serve God’s people both locally and globally. In April, O,J,W plans to meet on Earth Day (April 22) at 5:30 pm outside in the rear parking area of the church by the Newman Wing entrance. We will maintain recommended distances from each other. Bring your lawn chairs and dress appropriately.

From Outreach, Justice and Witness: Living Water Honduras Partnership News
The following is a recent letter received from Bob and Craigen Healy, who regularly take mission trips to Honduras. We support this ministry and the scholarship program regularly with our CLYNK bottle returns. Thank you for continuing to support this work by returning your bottles in the green CLYNK bags available from Old South Church. Call Brenda Scribner (299-3686) and leave a message for bags if you need them!

Dear Friends,

Today I want to tell you about some of the becados, the students who receive the scholarships that our friends and family make possible.

Fany and Dania are the stars. Their fathers are brothers who brought their families back to the mountains after several years making more money in the coastal city of Puerto Cortes. Their oldest daughters had finished 6th grade in the city schools, but going back to their roots seemed a better choice. These two girls, along with Gerson, a boy from their grandmother’s side of the family, were the first high school grads from scholarships.

All three have good minds, and the girls are studious. Gerson went off to a city and got a job in a factory, but when his mother died of diabetes last year, and his dad's health declined, Gerson gave up the good job to help his father. Dania also gave up her goal of a good job because of her family's needs. Her dad couldn’t stand his $6 per day job cutting weeds with a machete, so when a cousin came home for a week from his work for a Catholic immigration shelter in Mexico, Angel went back with him. Dania devoted herself to helping her mother with the four younger siblings for those two years. Dania is gifted with organizational skills and a drive to learn English. She has been keeping the books of receipts for the scholarship expenses while she and Fany attend
weekend English classes. Both hope to use English in work eventually. With Dad back home Dania hopes to study English in university. Fany has a plum beginner’s job in Quimistan City Hall and lives with her kind and smart boyfriend in Pinalejo, where they went to school. Fany is so grateful for the boost she got with her schooling that she came to see us after work one evening bearing a smoothie for Bob and one for me.

Fany's sister Brenda graduated high school last November along with her aunt of the same age, Hernalinda, also known as Meli (Melissa on Facebook). These two studied Business and hope to set up their own beauty parlor. So this year they persuaded us to send them to a weekend class to prepare for that goal. Honduran women are very beauty conscious, unlike this old hippy!

One of the older becados who is learning auto mechanics, Neptaly, married Andry, a very practical young woman who is not shy about making things happen. We adore her. She joined Meli and Brenda at Belleza classes, leaving nine-month-old Cristian Jahir home with Grammy on Saturdays. She’s not 18 yet, but she and Neptaly, like Dania and Fany, seem like responsible adults now. They explained that his $6 a day work as a farm hand makes tuition and transportation out of reach for them.

Bob and I didn’t understand the world of beauticians. It takes a lot of hair care products, nail polish and make up to learn the trade. Every couple of weeks I get a Facebook message saying, "We need another 360 Lempiras ($14.50) each for the necesidades for our class." Live and learn! Andry thought she was going to be able to "pay half" of those costs, but it’s beyond her reach. Meli said she could help, but her father's shoulder is hurt and so her younger sister, Elena, went to the city to do domestic work. So we send the money.

I'll tell you another time about Henrry and Elder and Danely. Each one has a story, and each one has endeared him/herself to Bob and me.

Love from two crazy Americans in love with Hondurans, Craigen and Bob

Care and Share in the time of COVID-19

Care And Share Food Closet, Inc. serves the greater Farmington area. We are located at 508 Fairbanks Rd., Farmington, ME. We will remain open for regular service hours: Monday through Friday noon to 2 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. And Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. each week, we will hand out extra food to clients and non-clients. Usually fresh produce and extra breads and/or pastries.
As of Monday 3/16/20 we set up emergency protocols and are happy to report all went well. We will no longer allow clients to enter the food closet and have set up signs and barriers to let them know. We are asking all clients in need of service to stay in their cars and our volunteers will bring the food out to them. Also, we are asking clients to please remember for the protection of our volunteers that they understand why no close contact can be permitted. The volunteers will either load food into the client’s car/truck or leave it on the pavement for the client to load. The safety of our volunteers and our clients is our top priority. We know that during the coming times of illness, loss of jobs, and shortages, community services like our food closet become even more important to our citizens. We plan to stay open as long as we have the volunteer power to do so.

Anyone wishing to donate or volunteer to help us can email to careandsharefoodcloset@gmail.com or contact us at 778-0508

Sincerely,
Leiza Hiltz Scerbo, Executive Director

Care and Share Item of the Month
Kid Friendly Cereal

Outreach, Justice, and Witness invite you to support the local nonprofit, Care & Share Food Pantry. The Care & Share items of the month for April is kid friendly cereal. There is currently a high demand at the Food Closet for this item. Thank you for your ongoing support of this charity.

Care and Share Needs YOU! During this time with schools being closed and many people out of work due to the Covid-19 crisis, Care and Share is committed to staying open to help. We need your help to do this! We accept food donations of all types. Do you have an extra jar of sauce or box of kid friendly cereal? Every little donation helps! Your time can be valuable, too! We need more help, but we do have to limit how many people are in the food closet at one time. Please call our Volunteer Coordinator, Therese Hersey at 592-3368 or 778 0586 if you are able to help out during our open hours. If you would like to help with donation pickups, help with deliveries, or prepping food and boxes before we open you can reach out to Dana Bullen at 860-0352. You can also leave a message on our office phone at the Food Closet 778-0508 and let us know you wish to help, and someone will get back to you asap if they don't pick up immediately.
The gift of hand-knitted or crocheted “prayer” or “comfort” shawls, throws and lap robes can be a source of comfort to people for a variety of reasons, such as for those struggling with health issues or coping with a loss, or celebrating a major life event. Old South Church began its prayer shawl ministry in 2004. Over 562 shawls, throws and lap robes have been given as of December 2019. The shawls, throws and lap robes are given for free. The individuals who make them donate the yarn and their time. Donations to help pay for yarn are greatly appreciated.

If you know of anyone who could use a prayer shawl, please speak to Rev. Marraine Kettell, Phyllis Pederson, or Myrna Vallette. We can make arrangements for you to receive a shawl to distribute to your loved ones, just give us a call.

Please follow these general guidelines to make a shawl, throw or lap robe:

➢ **Shapes:** Rectangle, triangle, or square—your choice.
➢ **Sizes:**
  ▪ Rectangular shawls should be 58 to 60 inches long and at least 23 to 24 inches wide.
  ▪ Triangular shawls should be about 58 inches wide at the longest edge.
  ▪ Throws can be smaller, and lap robes should be about 40 by 55 inches.
➢ **Yarn and colors:**
  ▪ Use yarn that is machine washable and dryable.
  ▪ Choose colors that would be appropriate for women, men or children, so we can have a variety available. Shawls intended for hospital patients should be made in pastels or earth tones, and with soft yarns that won’t irritate sensitive skin.
➢ **To fringe or not to fringe?** That depends on personal preference, the yarn, or how the finished item will look. Lap robes usually don’t have fringe.

When you have completed a shawl (throw or lap robe), please save it until it is safe to bring to Myrna. She will hold onto it until there are enough to have a blessing during a church service. A card will be attached to each one that includes a short blessing, the date it was blessed, and the maker’s name. If you have enough yarn left over, you may give it—with the label—to Myrna for our “stash.”

REFERENCES:

➢ The Old South Church Prayer Shawl Ministry has a binder with copies of a variety of patterns available. If you need one, please email Phyllis in the church office, and she can scan them and email to you.
➢ Go online to www.shawlministry.com for the Prayer Shawl Ministry, co-founded by Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo in 1998. Contains lots of information, including patterns, tips, and stories.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?
Old South Prayer Shawl coordinator: Myrna Vallette
Phone number: 207-778-4387
Email address: myrna.vallette@gmail.com

This “whole new way of being” was just beginning when we served the March Lunch. At the last minute we decided that, in the interests of safety and good health, we would only serve take-out meals and not have any seating in the Assembly Room. We were expecting a smaller than normal turnout, although we still served over 110 meals. Most people, when they came in expecting to be seated, were of good cheer and accepted a meal gladly and left.

We are still in discussions about the April meal, whether to have it at all, or in what form it will take. If we do have it, it will almost certainly be a “take out only” format. Stay tuned to your weekly email and the Old South Facebook page for further developments.

In the meantime, please take the warnings about the necessity for washing hands and keeping a safe distance seriously. Your health is very important to us.

Stan Wheeler
Rocell Marcellino, Co-chairs
**Revised Common Lectionary for the month of April**

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Psalms and Scripture References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liturgy of the Palms</strong>&lt;br&gt;April 5, 2020&lt;br&gt;<em>Sixth Sunday in Lent</em></td>
<td>Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29&lt;br&gt;Matthew 21:1-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liturgy of the Passion</strong>&lt;br&gt;April 5, 2020&lt;br&gt;<em>Sixth Sunday in Lent</em></td>
<td>Isaiah 50:4-9a&lt;br&gt;Psalm 31:9-16&lt;br&gt;Philippians 2:5-11&lt;br&gt;Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday of Holy Week</strong>&lt;br&gt;April 7, 2020</td>
<td>Isaiah 49:1-7&lt;br&gt;Psalm 71:1-14&lt;br&gt;1 Corinthians 1:18-31&lt;br&gt;John 12:20-36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday of Holy Week</strong>&lt;br&gt;April 8, 2020</td>
<td>Isaiah 50:4-9a&lt;br&gt;Psalm 70&lt;br&gt;Hebrews 12:1-3&lt;br&gt;John 13:21-32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Old Testament Readings and Psalms

- Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 and Psalm 46
- Genesis 22:1-18 and Psalm 16
- Isaiah 55:1-11 and Isaiah 12:2-6
- Ezekiel 36:24-28 and Psalm 42, 43
- Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Psalm 143
- Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Psalm 98

## New Testament Reading and Psalm

- Romans 6:3-11 and Psalm 114

### Gospel

- Matthew 28:1-10

## Resurrection of the Lord

**Easter Day**


## Second Sunday of Easter

**April 19, 2020**

| *Acts 2:14a, 22-32 | Psalm 16 | 1 Peter 1:3-9 | John 20:19-31 |
Join us for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am.....on our Facebook page!

We miss you at Old South Church on Sundays! Although in person Sunday morning worship services and all church gatherings including Maundy Thursday worship are currently cancelled, Rev. Marraine has continued to lead us in worship with Patricia Hayden on the organ from the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings on Facebook live! Here is the link to our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/OldSouthFarmington/

Rev. Marraine plans to continue to lead worship this way as long as possible, though adjustments will likely need to continue to be made. Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am and let us know you are with us!

Farmington Area Ecumenical News

Ecumenical Worship Services Cancelled Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry has cancelled the Good Friday worship service and the Easter Sunrise Service.
Deacons’ Corner: A Tale of Two Maine Churches

Shortly after Maine became a state and, in the decades leading up to the Civil War, a new church was born in Portland, Maine. Maine was admitted to the Union in 1820 as a free state, but in reality many African Americans were not welcomed here with open arms. In the March 1, 2020 edition of the Maine Sunday Telegram, Kelley Bouchard tells the story of the birth of this new church.

In 1828, a group of free black men in Portland published a letter expressing their feelings about being banished to the back pews of Portland’s "white" churches: "Pardon our misapprehensions, if they be such, (but) we have sometimes thought our attendance was not desired." In the face of discrimination, the men set out to build their own church, the Abyssinian Meeting House, which became an important religious and social gathering place for Portland’s African American population. From the beginning the new church’s ministry was focused on the great issues of their times: they established a school for their children, became an important northern hub for the Underground Railroad and invited well known abolitionists to speak in their sanctuary.

The Abyssinian Meeting House cared for the poor and fought for the powerless. Perhaps members of the congregation found that they, themselves, were changed, empowered and affirmed, by the message they proclaimed. Perhaps they allowed themselves to imagine that their children would learn the value of truth-telling and love. Perhaps, although they could not see the long arc of God’s time, they dared to hope that their efforts would help to make the world a better place.

Almost 200 years later, another church, this one in Farmington, Maine, is having a long conversation with God. Although they have always considered themselves to be a welcoming church, it is the 21st century and things just keep coming up! First their progressive denomination invites them to explore what it really means to be welcoming: Are they truly able to not only accept but celebrate the diversity among people? And, what’s more, can they live the celebration? Can they accept as their pastor this young woman who has applied for the job and her wife? And, are they ready to advertise to the community their willingness to welcome people who have been turned away from other churches? It will take a few years but, finally, many conversations later, the congregation feels ready to answer "yes" to these questions.

Now, it is the year 2020, and we, who are this church, are challenged once again. It becomes known to us that a person in our faith community has an alleged prior history of sexual assault to a minor. It is a time when many past cases of sexual abuse by prominent people are being exposed, yet this is the first time we have felt its impact on our church community. There are so many emotions: anger, fear, hurt, confusion, sorrow, grief. Beneath all of these runs the steady current of God’s Love, perhaps as humanly expressed by Sister Helen Prejean, an advocate for death row inmates: "People are more than the worst thing they have ever done in their lives." We reach for this love, but it may never be entirely within our grasp. None-the-less, we begin to discover that, somehow, our way forward must embrace it along with all the fear, anger and hurt being felt by our congregation. As we talk, we feel that we are gradually moving toward a common ground. We may act to protect those among us who feel hurt and fear and, as each of us is able, we may begin to find compassion for the person who is part of us and who is more than the worst thing he ever did. The important things we need now are safety, time and space.

Two churches in times nearly 200 years apart, each taking on the difficult issues of their era and the hard questions of their faith, each hoping that their children will learn the importance of truth and love, each daring to imagine that their actions might change the world in some small way, each allowing themselves to be challenged and changed by God, knowing that the challenges will never end, but, then again, neither will the love.

Shelley Griffith, Chair
Easter Sunday is almost here! On April 5--Palm Sunday--we remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem, surrounded by joyful crowds. While we might not be able to celebrate Palm Sunday and Easter together in our Sanctuary, we can still celebrate in our homes. We will be sending families ideas of ways to observing Holy Week with our families, and together, electronically.

**Sunday School**
Is your crossword puzzle finished? Each week during Lent, kids have received in Sunday School new clues to help them complete “The Game of Lent”—crossword puzzles based on each week’s lesson. But, hey, you ask, how do we do this if we don't have lessons together? Here's the answer: we're turning our puzzle into a scavenger hunt: You can look up the answers in your Bibles at home! (Extra puzzle sheets, and each week’s clues, are also provided in the weekly family email.) On April 5, send us a photo of your completed puzzles. When we are all able to return to church safely, we'll have your prizes waiting for you!

**High School**
We will continue to develop ways to stay in touch electronically until we can reconvene for our regular lessons. Watch your email for video links and other materials. Let’s keep our conversations going!

**Youth Group**
While our original plans had been to throw an over-the-top, amazing Easter Party on April 4—and to invite the whole community—we have cancelled the event while there are concerns about the spread of the COVID 19 virus. We look forward to rescheduling our events when it is possible to do so.
The Pancakery Cafe
Many, many thanks to all who have volunteered their time at our pop-up cafe. We look forward to re-opening the cafe as soon as it is safe to do so.

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.
Fundraising: Hannaford and local merchant cards

We need your help! 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). Simply purchase a gift card or renew value on an existing Hannaford card by mailing your payments to the church office. We will mail you the cards in the mail or add the requested value to an existing card, and you will be contributing to our ability to raise funds for the church during this very difficult time.

You have the option of using a credit card to make your purchases. Fees apply. Please contact Megan Scribner at 401/258-193 for more information.

Are you shopping online at Amazon? If you are purchasing supplies, books, and other materials at Amazon, please shop through the Amazon Smile program (use the Amazon Smile login page) and select our church as your charity! Thank you!
Dear Maine Conference,

The realities of social distancing are really hitting all of us. Our congregations and Pastors are pivoting from one way of being the Church, to a whole new way. I am so impressed with the adaptability of our churches and the caring connections that we are all maintaining. We are finding that worshiping on Zoom is different from worshiping on Facebook or Instagram Live, but also allows us to connect in new ways. We are getting outdoors more often, and seeing nature with a new lens, now that we have some more time.

We are also living in profound uncertainty and deep trepidation. In my Bible reading this morning – I'm reading through the Gospels of Luke and John as part of my Lenten discipline – I came across this: “Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.” Luke 18:1. The story is one of a desperate and persistent widow who wouldn’t let a judge alone until he granted her justice. Her prayers were persistent and her heart was strong.

There are many limits on our lives right now, but no limit on our capacity for prayer. We are forced physically apart, but we still have big, strong and kind hearts to help us reach out to one another. We are afraid of our future, and we are still Being the Church, helping others and making a difference.

Beloved friends, let us hold together and pray with out ceasing, and never lose heart.

In the meantime, the following is some information and some resources from our Conference.

We are in this together!!

Conference Office and Communication

Our physical office for the Maine Conference UCC is closed. Staff will be working from home, during regular business hours. You may reach us by our regular emails or by leaving a voicemail at the Conference Office, 207-622-3100. We will call/email back.

Rev. Deborah Blood can be reached by cell at 207-530-0429.
Rev. Darren Morgan can be reached at 207-944-9469.
We will still pick up mail and stop in once in a while for specific work – so our bills are paid and contributions are processed. You can find direct contact information for our staff by visiting www.maineucc.org/contact/directory

The main ways that we will communicate with the churches and people of the Conference will be the weekly ACE (All Conference Email), as well as our Facebook Page and other social media platforms such as Instagram and Twitter.

We will also send emails to specific groups, such as clergy, on an as-needed basis. Anyone can look at the Maine Conference UCC Facebook Page, even if they are not on Facebook themselves. We will consistently update the Conference website (www.maineucc.org) with resources and announcements.

**Pilgrim Lodge**

As of right now, Pilgrim Lodge is still planning to hold all of its summer camp sessions. We are waiting until the last possible minute to make a decision about this summer.

Preparations for our summer season are well underway! We have, however, already had some cancellations from Spring retreat groups.

Read the latest update from Jennifer Paty, Director of Pilgrim Lodge

**How do we continue to receive offerings for the Church??**

We are happy to offer all of our churches the ability to receive offerings safely and securely through the Maine Conference through a variety of methods!

Read this info sheet for all of the ways you can give...

Ways to Donate to Your Local Church Through the Maine Conference

We have made arrangements so that Local Churches may receive offerings through the Maine Conference. You can do so by visiting the Giving section of the Maine Conference Website (www.maineucc.org/giving).

Therefore, if your church does not have the capacity to accept gifts online, you may use the Conference’s giving platform to do so. The Maine Conference will absorb the processing fees so that all funds donated are able to reach the local church. Instructions and more details can be found on the giving page as well.

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](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 on Facebook
OFFICE HOURS: Working from home or in the church, no posted hours

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.

The Old South Church calendar will be shared electronically once activities at the church resume. We pray for your health and safety during this uncertain and stress filled time. Be well, dear church family. Sending love and strength to each and every one of you.