



First Congregational Church  
“Old South Church”  
United Church of Christ

Telstar, December 2018 and January 2019

Rev. Marraine’s Musings

Since the moment that the search committee and I began discussing a possible start date, I thought how appropriate it is to begin our journey together on the first Sunday of the new church year. We begin together from the starting gate of the Advent texts anxious and excited about what this new church year might offer us. It has been roughly two months since we met for our first encounters, handshakes, and hugs. We worshipped together in joy celebrating the possibilities that our new call might offer Old South and the surrounding community.

As we begin our journey together we step into the waiting of Advent. How appropriate that after each of us has been waiting separately during the search process that we now have the gift of waiting together for the birth of the Christ child. We know all too well that this season is filled with busy-ness. We each have lists of tasks and events that need to be attended to. We are in the midst of planning for family gatherings and travels. Throw in a new pastor arriving which might just add to the chaos a bit.

My hope for us as we begin this season and our relationship together is that we are able to take time to appreciate this part of our journey. I hope that each one of us in the midst of our frenetic schedules will find moments to ponder the waiting and to soak up the hope, joy, peace, and love which lead us to the birth of Jesus.

Blessings,  
Rev. Marraine

**Executive Council**

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

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**Find us on Facebook at:**

Old South First

Congregational Church

**Find us on the web at:**

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

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



## From the Moderator

One of the perks of being moderator, beyond the chauffeured limo and the half-price deal on indulgences, is that late Telstar submissions are gently tolerated. So here we are, beyond November's midpoint – but the silver lining is that I can report some of what happened at last night's board meeting for Western Maine Homeless Outreach, a.k.a. the homeless shelter.

The first thing I did was summarize for the board what I've learned in the past few days from Bill Hamilton, the Auburn architect who's been working on our project. The state fire marshal has now approved the plans to renovate the Holman Mission House for the shelter's use. Even better, the fire marshal has ruled that we can use the two existing staircases as fire exits, so that we don't need to build a new staircase in the rear of the building (and then do outdoor concrete work to provide a level exit surface). Between that major cost reduction and various smaller ones, the total cost Bill now estimates is something like \$140,000, which is a bit more than originally anticipated but not vastly more.

Two interesting things happened at the meeting. I knew there were voices on the board urging the shelter to buy some building rather than rent HMH from us, so when I was asked in advance if I'd be willing to *join* the board, I agreed but frankly questioned whether that would go over well with people pushing for other outcomes. Yet when the question of my membership was raised at the meeting, it was the person most interested in finding a different site who immediately said that of course it was O.K. for me to join: we could disagree yet still be focused on doing what's best for the homeless. In these hyper-polarized times, this was a happy reminder of what we say in our church setting, that those who disagree with us aren't The Other to be demonized but are fellow beloved children of God. Someone even suggested that I could be the next board chair. (It was a joke. I think.)

The other interesting thing centered on raising the money for this project. For a while I thought the meeting would end with no discussion of the big issue – buy or rent? – but finally someone said we needed to decide something. There were financial concerns (sound familiar?) expressed, and I really didn't think the odds of going with HMH were very good. But after a while the board chair briefly brought *God* into the discussion, even though the shelter is a secular organization – and suddenly everything changed. As someone put it afterwards, it changed the conversation from thinking like a business (owning assets!) to thinking like non-profits who trust each other and want to make the right thing happen for the community. Consensus was reached. As for the specific proposals/requests to Old South on raising money, I'll pass them by our relevant committees and then report to all of you; but suffice it to say that I'm encouraged. Whatever the final outcome, though, I find it remarkable that when we focus on God, a way in the wilderness can appear, and we can come closer to making a new thing happen.

Chris Magri



# The Deacon's Corner

## Some Thoughts on Service

Recently I ordered a little book of devotions from the UCC\* and found a reflection entitled, "Sorry, That's Not My Gift".

"Sorry, That's Not My Gift" is written by Reverend Anthony B. Robinson. He begins by saying that it has always been an important part of his mission to help people discern their unique gifts and offer them to God and the Church. However, Robinson has had second thoughts. Although many wonderful things flow from people's passionate contributions to church life, it seems that there may be another side of the story. Members of Robinson's congregation are enthusiastic about offering their own special gifts but, when it comes to showing up to help out in other ways, they are not so eager. In essence, what they seem to be saying is, "Sorry, that's not my gift." Robinson ponders that it might also be good for us to serve the Church in ways that "(have) no glory in (them)". He speculates that we could serve because there was something that needed to be done, whether or not it was "exactly our thing". "Maybe," he continues, "we (could) even forget about ourselves while we're doing it.... which (could) be the point of service in the first place."

At Old South we have many wonderful people who are willing to pitch in and help and yet, during the Interim Conversations, people spoke about a tendency that we have to separate into groups according to which ministries we are drawn. It's understandable that people with like passions and gifts would gravitate to each other, but in doing so, might we be missing the big picture of God's plan for Old South? From our Interim work we know this is one of the challenges we face. We've already thought about having a series of "mission moments" during worship so that the various ministries might have a chance to describe the work they do. What if we also supported ministries other than our own with our feet on the ground? For example, a Deacon might volunteer at the Pancakery. A person who is active in Justice and Witness projects might also lend a hand to help the Financial Trustees with their Stewardship campaign. A member of the Property Trustees might volunteer to help the Deacons with the Hanging of the Greens.

By consciously stepping outside the boundaries we have imposed upon ourselves, we might discover ways of being of service to our Church that teach us humility and acceptance, ways that lead us closer to understanding the common core that unites us and God's plan for us at Old South Church.

On a lighter note: (from "Ten Commandments for Welcoming a New Pastor" by Brian McLaren)

"Commandment VII: Thou shalt not come to the new pastor with your demands, pressure, complaints, bad reports, manipulations, threats, agendas, unsolicited advice or snide comments. But thou shalt say, "Welcome! How can we help you? We love you! We would like to increase our giving significantly. We're praying for you and your family. Welcome to our community! We baked you some cookies!" And each week, thou shalt do so again and again until the new pastor begs you to stop."

Wishing a blessed Christmas to all and Peace on the Earth!

Your Deacons (Roger Condit, Mary Sinclair, Michelle Scribner, John Demers Lindner, Wendy Huish, Margaret Gould Wescott, Carole Trickett, Fred O. Smith and Shelley Griffith, chair)

\*This is How We Begin, Devotionals and Prayers to Start Meetings, United Church of Christ, 2013,2016.



## From the Property Trustees

Well, the weather has been less accommodating than last year, hasn't it? Though our skiers might not agree, nor would our sledding and snowboarding enthusiasts.

We hope this find everyone unmarred by ice slips or skidding, and safe from the flu.

We know you are all as anxious regarding the 'Critter' situation, as we have been. The contract has been signed with All American Wildlife Control and they will begin on Monday, Dec. 3rd, weather permitting. Please note, as the clean-up begins, later in the month, some parking spaces will be blocked off temporary to make room for the dumpster. We apologize, but, it's necessary and shouldn't last overly long. Thank you for your patience while the work is going on.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Bachelder, Chairperson

John McKim, Barb Fortier, Fred O. Smith, Cassidy Munro, Donna Wheeler and Wendy Morrill

## From the Financial Trustees

The Financial Trustees are working with our treasurer, Amanda Adams, on the 2019 church budget. Our Stewardship campaign for 2019 is off to a good start. We have received 40 pledges for a current total of \$82,881.00. Our goal for income from pledges is at least \$120,000.00. Stewardship pledge cards may be mailed, deposited in the Sunday collection, or turned in at the church office during business hours. Thank you to all who have pledged and to those who will be doing so before December 31<sup>st</sup>.

We are nearing the end of the second year of our three-year capital campaign. Reminder letters have been mailed to our church congregants who have not pledged. Thank you letters have gone to those who have completed or partially completed their pledges. Our first project-handicap accessibility-has been completed. In November we voted to change our priority list, moving the insulation project ahead of the brickwork on the north face of the church. This change was due to the removal of pigeons, squirrels, and bats from above the vestry and sanctuary. Current insulation in this area needs to be removed and replaced.

The Financial Trustees want to wish all of our church family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Respectfully,

Marilyn Hylan, Ed David, Shirley Waddell, Amanda Adams, Brenda Scribner, Daniel Bachelder, Chris Magri,



## From the Treasurer

When I led the Stewardship Sunday service on November 4<sup>th</sup>, I talked about stewardship being a way of life. I also led a prayer of confession that talked about our humanness being the thing that ties us all together. Successes, failures, strengths, weaknesses – they all make up our “humanness”. Our complete lack of perfection binds us together. Then, and I don’t find this ironic, I was reminded of my own humanness just 3 days later. It’s amazing how quickly our failures and imperfections can just smack us right in the face.

Stewardship, being the church, they take so much work each and every day. And, spoiler alert, we will all fail at some point. I am thankful to be Treasurer here, most of the time. I mean, sometimes this “job” can feel stressful. Sometimes I take things too personally. I also feel an overwhelming amount of responsibility and pressure to do things perfectly. How quickly God reminds me that’s impossible - that my flaws will often rear their ugly heads.

I want to encourage you to join me in just trying. That sounds weird, but, yes, try. Try your best to love unconditionally. Try to forgive. Try to be patient. Try to bite your tongue. Try to give. Our church is amazing. I believe that. However, as amazing as I feel we are, I know we have our flaws. But we can try to be better each day.

This wasn’t the article I expected to write. However, it is what I felt I needed to write.

Lastly, I ask if you haven’t already done so, to consider pledging for 2019. This body needs everyone’s help, everyone’s support. We need each other.

Love and peace to you all,

Amanda Adams

Treasurer

\*At the printing of the Telstar, our year to date income from all sources including investments is 201,857.88 and expenses are \$184,233.04



# News and Upcoming Events

## **Important Information from the Financial Secretaries**

Beginning in 2019, we will no longer be providing offering envelopes as we have been doing. Many people have stopped using them, especially if paying by check, and have asked why we continue to provide them. You may have noticed boxes of unclaimed envelopes in the vestry for months after they have become available; in years past they have ended up in the recycling bin! In an effort to reduce expenses and to live into our vision to become more environmentally responsible, the Financial Trustees have agreed to stop providing these to Old South members and friends, saving between \$300 and \$400 annually.

For those preferring to give by cash rather than with a check, we suggest that you use a plain envelope and write your name on the outside so we can identify your gift. If you wish, we have sets of unused offering envelopes from previous years which we can provide. For those giving with a check, you may simply place them in the offering baskets without an envelope. Please speak to either Brenda Scribner (299-3686) or Rina Bardo (778-9978) if you have any questions.



### **Committee and Group Meetings**

<b>Christian Education</b>	Wednesdays, Dec. 12 and Jan. 16, Matthew Room at 10:00 am
<b>Deacons' Meeting</b>	Sundays, Dec. 9, and Jan. 13, Matthew Room at 11:00 am
<b>Executive Council</b>	Wednesdays, Dec. 5, and Jan. 2, Church Office at 6:00 pm
<b>Financial Trustees</b>	Tuesday, Dec. 11, and Jan. 8, Church Office at 5:30 pm
<b>Property Trustees</b>	Tuesday, Dec. 18 and Jan. 15, Church Office at 6:00 pm
<b>Outreach, Justice, Witness</b>	Tuesday, Dec. 11, and Jan. 8, Matthew Room at 6:30 pm
<b>Staff Meeting</b>	Wednesday, Dec. 5, Church Office at 9:30 am
<b>February Telstar Deadline</b>	January 10



### **Financial Annual Meeting Date**

Please save the date for our Annual Financial and Budget Meeting: February 10 immediately after morning worship. There will not be a regular coffee hour on this Sunday. Instead we ask that all who are able bring appetizers or snacks to share with others who will be attending the meeting. All are welcome at the meeting.

The December Retirees Lunch will be held at Noon in the Vestry on Monday, Dec. 3. The January meal will be on Monday, Jan. 7. Please bring a dish to share and join the Dick and Linda Giard for this monthly gathering. If you are a retiree and would like to know more about this meal, please contact Dick at [dickgiard@msn.com](mailto:dickgiard@msn.com)



### Fair Trade and Heifer International Alternative Gift Giving

Join Outreach, Justice, and Witness for the annual Heifer International Gift and fair trade coffee and chocolate sale day on Sundays, December 9 and 16, immediately following worship. We will be selling Palestinian made Olive Oil, Hot Cocoa Mix, coffee and chocolate bars as well as Heifer gifts to people in parts of the world where hunger and poverty are the norm. You will be able to make contributions to Heifer International in honor of loved ones for alternative gift giving.



### The Not Quite Ready for Prime Time Singers

Do you enjoy singing or simply making noise with your voice? Please join the "Not Quite Ready for Prime Time Singers" for their annual Christmas Eve performance. We will have a couple of rehearsals and then we will raise our voices together in music at the Old South Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24 at 5:30 pm. This is not a long term commitment but will hopefully be a joyful one. Stay tuned to our weekly emails for rehearsal information or if you would like to know more now, please contact Amanda Hilton ([amandaLhilton@gmail.com](mailto:amandaLhilton@gmail.com)). Thank you!

The Church Office is usually open Tuesday through Thursday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. This month, the office will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 25. Phyllis will be in the office on Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 26-27.





### **Poinsettia Memorials and Celebrations**

*Given in loving memory of Jim and Peggy Adams by their family*  
*Given in celebration of Carolyn Parr by David Conant and Joyce Jordan*  
*Given in loving memory of Lela Barker by Alton and Cheryl McCleery*  
*Given in loving memory of Mary Barker Ladd by Alton and Cheryl McCleery*  
*Given in loving memory of Adam Clark by Amanda Adams*  
*Given in loving memory of Emma David by Ed David*  
*Given in celebration of our family and friends by Sue Farris and Ann Woodward*  
*Given in loving memory of Ken Marks by Ken, Sharon, Kristen, and Joshua*  
*Giving in loving memory of Liz Marks by Ken, Sharon, Kristen and Joshua*  
*Given in loving memory of Stephen and Jerry Parr by Carolyn Parr and Sarah*  
*Given in celebration of the many stewards of Old South, past and present, by Phyllis and Bob Pederson*  
*Given in loving memory and celebration of family, present and remembered, by Stan and Donna Wheeler*  
*Given in loving memory of Stanley and Hazel Ginther and Richard, Margaret, and William Waddell by Shirley and Dick Waddell*



### **Wreath Memorials**

*Given in loving memory of Gayle Davis by Ed Davis*  
*Given in loving memory of Jack Durham by Pat Durham*  
*Given in loving memory of Donald and Grace Wertz by Wendy Wertz Huish and Family*  
*Given in celebration of our friends and family by Sue Farris and Ann Woodward*



# Mission and Outreach



## Coat & Cupboard

We are now accepting your donations of gentle used, clean coats, blankets, and boots for distribution at Coat & Cupboard. Donation boxes are located by most entrances to the church building or may be brought to the church office during office hours (Tues-Thur, 8:00 am-4:30 pm). Thank you for your donations to this youth ministry.

### **Mission Giving**

Outreach, Justice and Witness ask members and friends of Old South Church to remember food banks and other worthy charities as we approach Christmas and the end of the year. Our less fortunate brothers and sisters need our help and contributions to these worthy causes in the names of our loved ones make for meaningful Christmas gifts.



### Medical Equipment Ministry

This ministry is a very well utilized program in our wider community. It is very gratifying to help people with their needs and allow them to avoid the cost of expensive medical equipment. If you would like to take a turn overseeing the medical equipment ministry, shifts are approximately 2 ½ weeks long (beginning of the month to mid-month and mid-month to the end), please contact Randy Oakley at:

[roakley@roadrunner.com](mailto:roakley@roadrunner.com)

Thank you!

### **Additional December Outreach and Volunteer Opportunities**

- Fair trade coffee order for December: Orders due to Myrna Vallette by 6:00 pm, Dec. 2
- EcuHeat Benefit concert with Coig at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary, Dec. 4
- Volunteer at the Community Lunch: Saturday, Dec. 8
- Don't miss the Fair Trade and Heifer Living Gift Market on Sundays, Dec. 9 and 16.
- Pancakery: Dec. 9 at 11:30 am (check with Jodie Gunther to see how you can help this Youth Project)



We don't keep real close records with the Community Luncheon, but we either set a record for November meals served or came very close. We served approximately 180 meals of hot turkey sandwiches, stuffing, mashed potatoes/gravy and peas. I know we've served 180 at least once in our history, but I think it was a December meal. At any rate, at the end of the day we were exhausted, but very pleased. Thank you to all who came out to help and make it a success.

Our December meal will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup>. We are very sad to learn that, because of changes in the SAD 9 Music Program, we will not have the Mt. Blue Chamber Singers with us for this meal. Our menu will be: Baked ham, macaroni and cheese, green beans and biscuits. God's Kitchen Crew will, once again, provide us with cakes to serve for dessert.

Though the menu is unknown at this point in time, the January meal date will be January 12. Please check the signup sheets that are posted on the door between the church kitchen and vestry to see how you can help. The signup sheet is usually up about two weeks before each meal. Thank you!

Holiday blessings to you all!

Stan Wheeler

Rocell Marcellino, Co-chairs



## A Còig Christmas: ECU heat Benefit Concert



The audience on Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, is in for an incredibly special evening with one of Nova Scotia's award winning bands, Coig. With the release of their new album, Rove, Còig has cemented its status as one of today's most exciting North American Celtic groups. Rove has recently been recognized with a 2018 East Coast Music Award for Traditional/Roots Recording of the Year, a 2018 JUNO Award nomination, and 2017 Canadian Folk Music Award and Music Nova Scotia Award nominations. Donations will be accepted to benefit the local fuel assistance fund, ECU Heat Share during the concert.

Doors open at 6 pm with a jam session kicking off at 6:15 and concert to follow at 7 pm  
Admission: Adults \$20, Students \$10/\$5. Ticket reservations are highly recommended by calling Debbie at 207-491-5919.

We would like to offer more refreshments than usual at this concert as it is a benefit for EcuHeat, the ecumenical fund used to provide heating assistance to area residents. If you can bring cookies or bars, please drop them off by the church on Tuesday anytime between 8:00 am and the concert start time. Thank you!

If you are unable to attend the concert but would like to make a donation, you may send your contributions directly to the Fund by mailing a donation to:

ECU Heat  
PO Box 147  
Farmington, ME 04938



The January concert will feature guitarist singer Gordon Belsher and fiddler Richard Wood on Thursday, Jan. 17. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Old South Church Capital Campaign. If you would like to help with the concert or are able to provide refreshments, please contact Debbie (491-5919).

# Worship and Music



## **Old South Vesper Services**

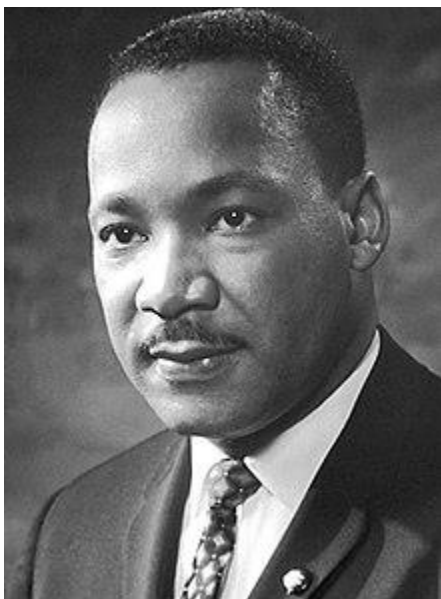
Please join us in the Matthew Room on Wednesdays, Dec. 5, 12, and 19, for midweek evening services led by Rev. Marraine Kettell. The services will begin at 5:15 pm with gathering music beginning earlier. Acoustic music with Shepherd's Pie, readings, and prayer will be a part of each service. All are welcome.

## **Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry Service of Compassion and Hope**

A Service of Compassion and Hope will be held on December 20th at the Fairbanks Union Church, 583 Fairbanks Road, Farmington, at 6:30 pm. This is an ecumenical service; all are welcome.

## **Old South Christmas Eve Worship December 24, 5:30 pm**

Please join us as we gather together for this special time of worship when we hear the story of the birth of Christ and we pray for peace in our world. Regular Sunday morning services will be held on December 24 as well.



*"Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it."*

— the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

## **FAEM Martin Luther King, Jr. Service**

There will be a Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry Martin Luther King Jr Day Service at Noon on January 21 at Old South Church. All are welcome.





## Revised Common Lectionary for the month of November

The Revised Common Lectionary is a list of Bible passages followed by the majority of mainline Christian churches, including the United Church of Christ. Pastor Linda will be following the Revised Common Lectionary each week. You will find the lectionary readings below for December and January.

<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> December 2, 2018	<u>Jeremiah 33:14-16</u>	<u>Psalms 25:1-10</u>	<u>1 Thessalonians 3:9-13</u>	<u>Luke 21:25-36</u>
<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> December 9, 2018	<u>Baruch 5:1-9</u> or <u>Malachi 3:1-4</u>	<u>Luke 1:68-79</u>	<u>Philippians 1:3-11</u>	<u>Luke 3:1-6</u>
<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> December 16, 2018	<u>Zephaniah 3:14-20</u>	<u>Isaiah 12:2-6</u>	<u>Philippians 4:4-7</u>	<u>Luke 3:7-18</u>
<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> December 23, 2018	<u>Micah 5:2-5a</u>	<u>Luke 1:46b-55</u> or <u>Psalms 80:1-7</u>	<u>Hebrews 10:5-10</u>	<u>Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)</u>
<b>Nativity of the Lord</b> - December 24 & 25, 2018 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	<u>Isaiah 9:2-7</u>	<u>Psalms 96</u>	<u>Titus 2:11-14</u>	<u>Luke 2:1-14, (15)</u>
<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b> January 6, 2019	<u>Isaiah 60:1-6</u>	<u>Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14</u>	<u>Ephesians 3:1-12</u>	<u>Matthew 2:1-12</u>
<b>Baptism of the Lord</b> January 13, 2019 <i>First Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	<u>Isaiah 43:1-7</u>	<u>Psalms 29</u>	<u>Acts 8:14-17</u>	<u>Luke 3:15-17, 21-22</u>
<b>Second Sunday after the Epiphany</b> January 20, 2019	<u>Isaiah 62:1-5</u>	<u>Psalms 36:5-10</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 12:1-11</u>	<u>John 2:1-11</u>
<b>Third Sunday after the Epiphany</b> January 27, 2019	<u>Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10</u>	<u>Psalms 19</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 12:12-31a</u>	<u>Luke 4:14-2</u>



### **Church Service and Office Cancellation Information**

We make every effort to hold worship and other scheduled events in inclement weather, but we may cancel in the event of dangerous road conditions. Should this happen, we will update the church Facebook page and announce it on WKTJ-FM 99.3 and seek to have a notification listed in the Daily Bulldog cancellations section.

The church office will close if RSU 9 cancels school due to weather.

## **Children and Youth**



### **Sunday School**

Once again, we welcome the Christ baby, with crowds of angels, shepherds, and sundry barnyard animals on the Sanctuary steps. The annual Christmas Pageant, a beloved tradition, is performed by our very own Sunday School children (with a wee bit of help from adults). We'll begin our preparations during the Sunday School hour, beginning December 2. As in years past, we'll have a Very Important Dress Rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 22 at 9:00 am. Please make every effort to attend!

### **Pageant Sunday-- December 23**

### **BBC (high school)**

We'll be opening Coat & Cupboard on Dec. 1 (Chester Greenwood Day), the again on Dec. 2 (the first Sunday of the month). Then, we will be joining the worship service on Dec. 9 and 16 to immerse ourselves in the quiet expectation of Advent. On Dec. 23, we'll be lending a helping hand or two with the Christmas Pageant--and there's a good rumor that Hot Pockets will be making an appearance. We'll re-open Coat & Cupboard on Jan. 6.



### Youth Group, Part 1: Thrifty Santa Toy Sale

The Vestry becomes Santa's Best-Kept Secret on Friday, Nov. 30 as we prepare for our second-annual Thrifty Santa Toy Sale. Our mission work is twofold: to offer good, clean toys at very affordable prices, and to raise funds for Coat & Cupboard, the Pancakery Cafe, and other youth programs. We work from 4:00 pm til we're finished---with dinner when we need a break. Then, the doors open Saturday morning---please arrive by 7:30 am latest so we can be ready to greet our shoppers at 8 am. Ho, ho, ho!

### Youth Group, Part 2: Coat & Cupboard is open twice in December

The Youth Group will be hosting the fourth annual "Open House" from noon to 2:00 pm on Chester Greenwood Day, Saturday, Dec. 1---then again the next morning, December 2, from 9 am to 11 am (our usual hours). Members of the community are warmly invited to stop by and select a clean, gently used coat from our large selection of donated items. We also have blankets, hats, mittens, and some snow pants and boots, too!



### God's Kitchen Crew: Reindeer games

The Vestry becomes the North Pole as we play a few Reindeer Games (Rudolph style!). And, (of course!) we'll be making cakes once again in the kitchen, to be served at the Community Luncheon. Join us Wednesday, Dec. 5, from 3:00 pm to 4:45 pm. Bring along a friend! Please RSVP to [Jodie@FarmingtonUCC.org](mailto:Jodie@FarmingtonUCC.org) so we have sufficient supplies on hand.

**For kids grades 2-5**

**Wednesday Dec. 5, 3:00 pm to 4:45 pm**

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### **The Pancakery Cafe**

Our free brunch cafe opens just once this month, Dec. 16---but it's gonna be great---great food (gingerbread pancakes) and great live music (the one-and-only Steve Muise and some fiddling friends). The menu also includes homemade clam chowder, our famous quiches, and hot panini sandwiches.

**Pancakery Staff: students in grades 5 - 9**

**Sunday, Dec. 9. 11:00 - 1:00 pm**

### **January Youth Programming Events**

After the excitement of Christmas, we settle back into our "regular" programming like sinking into a comfy armchair, welcoming the return of simple routines. Sunday School lessons begin January 6. High School BBC lessons return January 13 (after serving at Coat & Cupboard on the first Sunday of the month).

In addition, we invite teens (grade 9 and above) and adults to join us for our next Faith & Cinema series, January 20 and 27.

Stay tuned, too, for more information regarding a "middler midwinter mini retreat"--an evening of fun, games, and more!

### **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](mailto:Jodie@FarmingtonUCC.org).



# Fundraising Group News and Updates

Have you heard the news? Credit Cards are now being accepted at the Fundraising Committee Table on Sundays before and after the church service to pay for Hannaford cards and merchant gift cards. If you forgot your checkbook but need a card for a gift, come on over!



## **Hannaford and Merchant Gift Cards**

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

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

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



## **Holiday Shopping That Benefits Old South Church**

Be sure to do your shopping through Amazon Smile and Amazon will donate .5% of your total to Old South. There's no cost to you and once you choose Old South as your charity, there's nothing else you need to do. You can go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and click select on First Congregational of Farmington. Thank you to those of you who have been utilizing this giving method already!

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



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



The Maine Conference office has moved. Their new location in Augusta is 337 State Street, Suite 3, Augusta, ME 04330. Please make a note of this if you correspond with the Maine Conference office or plan to visit them.

To learn more about the Maine Conference UCC, visit [www.maineucc.org](http://www.maineucc.org)



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

# Get Connected and Stay Connected!

## OLD SOUTH CHURCH

First Congregational Church of Farmington  
235 MAIN ST. (Church) ~ 227 MAIN ST. (Office)  
FARMINGTON, ME 04938  
TEL: (207) 778-0424

WORSHIP: 9:30 AM SUNDAYS

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



<http://www.farmingtonucc.org/>



[www.facebook.com/OldSouthFarmington](http://www.facebook.com/OldSouthFarmington)



[TWITTER.COM/FARMINGTONUCC](https://twitter.com/FARMINGTONUCC)



[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.

## December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 8:00am Thrifty Santa (Vestry) 12:00pm Coat Closet (HMH Carriage House)
<b>2</b> 8:30am Coat & Cupboard (HMH Carriage House) 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room)	<b>3</b> 12:00pm Retirees Lunch (Vestry) 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	<b>4</b> 8:00am Chapel Set Up for Vesper Services (Chapel) 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel) 7:00pm EcuHeat Benefit Concert (Sanctuary)	<b>5</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting (Church Office) 3:00pm God's Kitchen Crew (Vestry) 5:15pm Vespers (Chapel) 6:00pm Executive Council (Church Office) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Matthew Room)	<b>6</b> 9:00am Sweatt Winter Kids deliver coats (Matthew Room)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 12:00pm Community Lunch (Kitchen, Vestry) 12:00pm Piano Tuning (Matthew Room, Sanctuary) 2:00pm Community Chorus Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
<b>9</b> 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room) 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Deacons (Matthew Room) 11:00am Fair Trade and Heifer Living Gift Market (Vestry) 11:30am Pancakery (Vestry) 3:00pm UMF Community Chorus (Sanctuary)	<b>10</b> 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	<b>11</b> 5:30pm Financial Trustess (Church Office) 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel) 6:30pm Outreach, Justice, Witness (Matthew Room)	<b>12</b> 10:00am Christian Ed (Matthew Room) 5:15pm Vespers (Chapel) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Matthew Room)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group (Matthew Room)	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room) 11:00am Family Advent (Chapel) 11:00am Fair Trade and Heifer Living Gift Market (Vestry)	<b>17</b> 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	<b>18</b> 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel) 6:00pm Property Trustees (Matthew Room)	<b>19</b> 5:15pm Vespers (Chapel) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Matthew Room)	<b>20</b> 6:30pm Service of Compassion and Hope (Offsite)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00am Pageant Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
<b>23</b> 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room) 9:30am Worship, Pageant Sunday (Sanctuary) 11:30am Pancakery (Kitchen, Vestry)	<b>24</b> 5:30pm Christmas Eve Worship (Sanctuary) 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	<b>25</b> 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel)	<b>26</b> 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Matthew Room)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group (Matthew Room)	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room) 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary)	<b>31</b> 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)					



## January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:00pm Executive Council (Church Office) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Matthew Room)	3	4	5
6 8:30am Coat & Cupboard (HMH Carriage House) 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room) 11:30am Pancakery (Kitchen, Vestry)	7 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	8 5:30pm Financial Trustess (Church Office) 6:30pm Outreach, Justice, Witness (Matthew Room)	9 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Matthew Room)	10	11 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group (Matthew Room)	12 12:00pm Community Lunch (Kitchen, Vestry)
13 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room) 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Deacons (Matthew Room)	14 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	15 6:00pm Property Trustees (Matthew Room)	16 10:00am Christian Ed (Matthew Room) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Matthew Room)	17 7:00pm Concert (Sanctuary)	18	19
20 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room)	21 12:00pm Martin Luther King Jr Service (Old South Church) 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	22	23 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Matthew Room)	24	25 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group (Matthew Room)	26
27 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room) 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary)	28 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	29	30 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Matthew Room)	31		

Please note, January activities and dates will be updated as additional dates are determined.