Rev. Marraine’s Musings

It’s official. We have the rubber stamp. We have the blessing of the Living Water Association and the Maine Conference. I am now duly installed as the settled pastor of Old South in Farmington. Thanks be to God! What a great journey we have been on to get to this place. The phrase I used during Sunday morning worship on Installation Sunday was fitting, “I have been waiting for you.”

During the installation my dear friend, Rev. Eliza Tweedy, the pastor of the First Congregational Church of Rochester, spoke of the challenges of the modern church in comparison to the church in Rome that Paul spoke of in Romans 12 which was the scripture for that service. She spoke of the installation and successful leadership of a pastor as mutual engagement and not a one-sided activity as simple as installing an appliance. We are installed together congregation and pastor as active participants in the ministry of this church. We are called into this covenanted relationship to serve God and one another in love – even when we struggle with each other and the world. So off we go on this journey – mutually installed, plugged in, charged up, and truly blessed.

Rev. Marraine

p.s. Thank you so very much to all of you who made the installation service and reception such a success. It was a lovely afternoon that highlighted the gifts of this church. And what a beautiful stole! My friends who ate with me during the reception remarked after you presented the stole to me, “They really have got you pegged.” Indeed you do.
Would you like to meet with Rev. Marraine? Rev. Marraine will have office hours on Tuesdays from 10 am to 1:00 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 RevMarraine@FarmingtonUCC.org

A Note on Rev. Marraine’s Schedule: Rev. Marraine 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 as programming allows.

Rev. Marraine will be at the UCC General SYNOD in Milwaukee, WI, from June 20-26. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact Deacon Shelley Griffith at 639-2013. Stan Wheeler will be leading worship on June 23.

Executive Council
Minister: Rev. Marraine 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 next Telstar will be emailed at the end of August. Please submit all articles for the September issue to the church office (Phyllis@FarmingtonUCC.org) no later than August 10. Thank you!

Special Office Hours
In June, the church office will be closed on Wednesday, June 5. In general, during the summer church office will be open Tuesday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Special hours and office closings will be shared through the weekly emails and the Sunday bulletin.
It’s springtime in Maine, which thus far has not meant persistently warm, sunny, pleasant weather. But as an astronomer I can assure you that we’re beyond the vernal equinox and haven’t yet reached the summer solstice: it’s springtime. We take what we can get.

Telstar is so confident that we’re well into springtime that it’s about to head off for a summer vacation. What, then, will I ask you to ponder during the coming months of rest and renewal? Death, of course.

Those of you who attended our May 19 Program/Nominating Annual Meeting were in on our introductory discussion of perhaps creating a columbarium at Old South. This is a set of small niches in which members’ cremated remains would be kept. (The word comes from the Latin for “dove-cote”; an alternative translation is “pigeon house” but I think we can all agree that we’re done with pigeons.) Cremations are increasingly common, especially in northern states like Maine, and columbaria are quickly growing in popularity. They can be built outdoors (e.g., Arlington National Cemetery) or indoors (e.g., Boston’s Old South Church), and in either case they can be tastefully done, quiet places for meditation and contemplation. Columbaria have particularly cropped up on college campuses and in churches, as people in our increasingly mobile society look for final resting places that had been meaningful to them during their lives.

Our introductory discussion elicited a fair amount of interest and also some concerns, but we agreed that the idea deserves further inquiry with details fleshed out. For example, although the initial concept had been to build an indoor columbarium on the (largely unused) side of the sanctuary near the angel window, some people asked us to consider an outdoor columbarium. As another example, although we talked about the ways in which this could be healthy for us in the long term, what would it cost to build in the short term, and could we afford that given our other needed renovations? Stay tuned.

All of the input at the meeting was helpful, but the comment that I’m most pondering noted that a columbarium could represent this church generation’s mark on our sanctuary. We have windows and plaques honoring our forebears, and yes, we ourselves have installed rocking chairs (how would our 1814 forebears feel about rocking in church?!); but much of what we’ve done is to repair what already exists. That’s important to be sure, but I’m attracted to the idea that we could do something that says we were here: not just individually, via a niche with a plaque with my name on it, to be viewed and contemplated now and then by the people I once loved and worshiped with; but also collectively, as a contribution to future generations from the early 21st-century Old South congregation.

We shall see. In the meantime, have a glorious summer.

Chris Magri
News and Upcoming Events

Committee and Group Meetings

**Christian Ed:** Date to be determined
**Deacons:** Sunday, June 16, Matthew Room, 11:00 am
**Exec Council:** Thursday, June 6, Church Office, 6:00 pm
**Financial Trustees:** Tuesday, June 11, Church Office, 5:30 pm
**O, J, W:** Tuesday, June 11, Matthew Room, 6:30 pm
**Pastoral Relations:** Thursday, June 6, Rev. Marraine’s office, 4:00 pm
**Property Trustees:** Tuesday, June 18, Church Office, 6:00 pm

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Missing Faces on our Church Family Photo Wall!!

Please help us fill in the many missing wonderful faces on the “Faces of Old South” wall in the Vestry. In an effort to gather more photos, the Deacons are offering a “photo booth” opportunity with photographer and church family member, Roy Scribner, on Sunday, June 2 in the Matthew Room during Coffee Hour following our morning worship service.

If you are unable to join us for this event, we hope you will still find time to take a photo of yourself to share with the church family. Please drop your photo off in the marked box on the Fundraising Table or drop it off in the church office. You may also send a digital photo to us by email: Phyllis@FarmingtonUCC.org.

Thanks for your help!
Retirees’ Lunch

Mark your calendars and join us for lunch on June 3 at Noon in the Vestry for the next Retirees’ Lunch. 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.

Old South Concert Series: High Time, a traditional Irish trio

HighTime, featuring a line-up of flute, whistles, harp, bodhran, guitar and vocals (with some Irish dancing steps thrown in), comes to Old South Church on Thursday, June 6. This trio combines Irish music and an intriguing blend of modern folk influences. Doors open at 6 pm. Jam session 6:15 pm. Concert 7 pm. Adults $15, Students $10/$5. Refreshments will be available during the jam session and intermission by donation. Please call Debbie at 207-491-5919 to make ticket reservations. For more information about this Irish band visit them at www.hightime.ie.

With the exception of the December concert which benefits EcuHeat, concert proceeds benefit Old South Capital Campaign projects.

The Conversation Project is dedicated to helping people talk about their wishes for end-of-life care. The fourth gathering in our “Continuing the Conversation” series will be on June 18th at 2:00 pm in the Matthew Room. Please join Rev. Marraine and others in a discussion about having every person’s wishes for end of life care expressed and respected. The Conversation Project is an initiative of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, a not-for-profit organization that is a leader in health and health care improvement worldwide.
Upcoming Fundraising Events!

Strawberry Shortcake –A Berry Good Tradition

Since 2005, it has been the tradition for Old South First Congregational Church to serve up strawberry shortcake on the Pierce House lawn on July 4th. Most years, volunteers from Old South pick the berries fresh from David and Verna Pike’s farm. Boxes of berries are then transported to the Old South kitchen where another group of volunteers wash, hull and mash the strawberries adding just the right amount of sugar. Each year the Pikes have supported the annual strawberry shortcake event by donating a generous portion of the cost of the berries.

Early on the morning of the 4th, approximately 300 biscuits are baked in the church’s kitchen. Once the biscuits are baked, all the ingredients and supplies are taken to the Pierce House and the serving area is set up under a tent on the Pierce House front lawn. Volunteers staff the assembly line, making each shortcake as perfect as possible with a fresh baked biscuit, a generous scoop of Pikes’ locally grown fresh strawberries and a generous squirt of whipped cream. Serving begins at 10:30 am and goes until 12:30 pm, or until the berries, or biscuits, run out before then. The cost for a serving will remain the same as last year at $4.00 each. Proceeds from the sale of the strawberries will benefit community service, outreach, youth programs of the General Fund programs. FMI-207-778-0424

Book Discussion – June 27th at 6:30pm

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond

Join Rev. Marraine on Thursday, June 27th for a discussion about the book Evicted. The author, Matthew Desmond, will be one of the keynote speakers at UCC’s General Synod in Milwaukee. The book is the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction. The book lays bare the issues of poverty in Milwaukee specifically, but opens our eyes to related issues across our country. Come participate in the discussion on the stories Desmond presents. Come reflect on the parallels of stories in our own area. Feel free to join us if you have read the book or not and participate in a conversation on the challenges of poverty and shelter.
Pie On the Porch  
July 27, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Enjoy a piece of fresh-home baked pie or strawberry shortcake with a cold beverage at the family friendly Pie On the Porch during the downtown Farmington’s Summer Fest on Saturday, July 28, from 1 pm to 4 pm at the Holman Mission House located at 227 Main Street, Farmington next door to the Old South Church. The cost is $4.00 per person with vanilla ice cream added for an additional 50 cents. A terrific lineup of local musical talent will begin at 1:00 pm. Proceeds will benefit the ongoing mission and ministries of Old South Church.

Women’s Retreat: Openings Limited!
Women of Old South Church are invited to the Annual Women’s Retreat, August 24 - August 26, at Marie Joseph Spiritual Center in Biddeford. We have two openings remaining. If you have any questions about the retreat, how to pay, how to get there, what to expect, please see Donna Wheeler, Karyl Condit, Rina Bardo or anyone of the 17 women who attended last year. We are looking forward to another wonderful time of reflection, togetherness, and enjoying a different view! We hope you will come too! The cost of the retreat ($240) includes meals (Saturday dinner through Monday lunch), programming materials, and a private room (shared bath and shower). Time at the retreat will be a balance of workshops and activities, worship and prayer, and free time for walking on the beach or sitting outside on the beautiful grounds of the Center. Confidential partial scholarships and payment plans are available. Please speak with Phyllis in the church office to learn more.
Who is your favorite charity?

We hope Old South Church ranks high on your list! Many of you are aware that we are projecting a deficit budget this year. In order to help minimize this possibility and to get creative in the ways in which you can support the church, a few of the Women of Old South have created a wish list of items that would be welcome anytime and help our financial situation. If you would like to donate any of these items, please feel free to bring them to church on Sunday or to the church office during the week. Thank you for your stewardship of Old South Church!

toilet paper  
white vinegar  
bleach  
kitchen dish soap  
Gloves for serving food  

Paper towels  
New kitchen broom  
Small table for unisex bathroom  
3-4 nice occasional chairs for Matthew Room  
$$ for hospitality (coffee, tea, etc.)

Ongoing Fundraising Activities!

Do you shop at Amazon?

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 and click select on First Congregational of Farmington. Thank you to those of you who have been utilizing this giving method already!

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.
**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 June.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Bible References</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Seventh Sunday of Easter</strong></td>
<td><em>Acts 16:16-34</em>, Psalm 97, Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21, John 17:20-26</td>
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<td>June 2, 2019</td>
<td><strong>Day of Pentecost</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Trinity Sunday</strong></td>
<td>Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31, Psalm 8, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15</td>
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<td>June 16, 2019</td>
<td><strong>First Sunday after Pentecost</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Second Sunday after Pentecost</strong></td>
<td><strong>Third Sunday after Pentecost</strong></td>
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<td>June 30, 2019</td>
<td>1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21, Psalm 16</td>
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**Special Music for the Summer**

Our wonderful choir will take a well-deserved break for the summer after June 16. If you are interested in providing special music on a Sunday between June 23 and September 2, please sign up on the sheet posted in the Vestry or call Phyllis in the church office (778-0424) to find out about open Sundays!
June is a time of endings and beginnings. At Old South, it is the end of a program year and the beginning of.....SUMMER VACATION!

We say "good-bye" to families who move away and to kids who leave for college and other adventures. We say "hello" to our summer families and anticipate the new families who will join us over the summer and in the fall. All of these people, those who move away but remain in our hearts, those who depart in the fall and return in the spring and those who come through our doors for the very first time, are gathered into our ever-growing Old South Church family!

Old South committees also have their endings and beginnings. In the diaconate we say "good-bye" and "THANK YOU!" to Wendy Huish, who offered to serve with us for a year and is now stepping down. We say "hello" and "WELCOME!" to three new members who will join us this month, Karen Paul, Christine Merchant and Brent Laflin.

Recently, Old South celebrated, with joy, another beginning: the Installation of our new Pastor and Teacher, Reverend Marraine Kettell. Since her path has joined with ours, the energy at Old South has been bursting at the seams! On the diaconate we are excited by all these new voices and look forward to discerning new ways that God may be calling us to serve our church. In the meantime, however, the work of our committee goes on: assisting with worship, welcoming newcomers and being open to the needs, questions and concerns of our church family.

We wish one and all a glorious summer filled with joy, laughter and love,

Your Old South Deacons: Mary Sinclair, Roger Condit, Michelle Scribner, Carole Trickett, John Demers Lindner, Margaret Gould Wescott, Karen Paul, Christine Merchant, Brent Laflin and Shelley Griffith (chair).
Mission & Outreach

Outreach, Justice and Witness will be meeting in the Matthew Room at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, June 11. This is an open ministry with no fixed membership, and we encourage you to stop in, see what plans are in action and help us to serve God’s people both locally and globally.

Strengthen The Church Offering

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. We will receive this special offering of the United Church of Christ on Pentecost Sunday, June 9th, 2019. Thank you for your support.

E Waste Recycling

The Outreach, Justice, and Witness group are working to reschedule the E Waste Recycling Event for a Saturday in September. We will be sure to share the date widely throughout our church family and community in beginning in August.
Volunteer Opportunity!
The medical equipment lending ministry (Annie's Beanpole) is an active one at Old South. Calls are received through the church phone, and volunteers arrange to meet people at HMH to distribute goods. We arrange two volunteer shifts per month (1st half of the month and the 2nd half) and rotate among the volunteers as personal schedules allow. We find that it is very rewarding to know that you have been able to respond to great need in our community and beyond. If you are interested in helping with this ministry (no medical training required), please contact Randy Oakley(roakley@roadrunner.com).

Care and Share Food Closet Item of the Month: saltines and hand soap
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 saltines and hand soap this month, canned goods and other nonperishable items and toiletries are also accepted. Thank you for your ongoing support of this ministry.

Care & Share Food Pantry is looking for volunteers. If you can help, please contact Therese Hershey at Care and Share (778-0508)
Our May Community Lunch was another success. Because of the conflict with graduation ceremonies at UMF, we moved the date to the FIRST Saturday of the month. I’m sure that we missed a few people who didn’t get the word about the change, but it was necessary. On graduation day, parking in the area of the church is almost impossible and would have created a burden for many of our regulars.

As it was, we served 155 meals of Shepherd’s Pie with biscuits. I tried a new recipe for the Shepherd’s Pie, and it was delicious. And, more importantly, was well received by those who came to eat.

Our next meal will be served on June 8th, and will be the last Community Lunch of the program year. As usual, we will be serving hamburgers, hot dogs, and Italian sausages with peppers and onions. Accompanying that will be potato chips, coleslaw, with ice cream cups for dessert.

Stan Wheeler
Rocell Marcellino, Co-chairs

Hannaford Helps Reusable Bag Program

Old South Community Lunch was selected by Hannaford store leadership as the benefiting non-profit in the Hannaford Helps Reusable Bag Program for June! Old South Community Lunch will receive a $1 donation every time a $2.50 Fight Hunger Bag (pictured) is sold during the month of June at the at our local Hannaford. Thank you for your support of this fundraising effort!
Children and Youth

Please join the children of Sunday School for a special Coffee Hour on Sunday, June 2. On this day, the children will be preparing healthy (and delicious!) snacks for everyone to enjoy following the worship service.

Summer Activities for Children and Teens

We're planning some great fun for this summer! Our Christian Ed team is preparing another fun and engaging "Vacation Bible School" mid-summer event, with games, crafts, and Bible stories. Plus, we're working to prepare two "mini" retreats (one-day events) for Middlers and High School students at Clearwater Lake.

In a few weeks, we'll post all the details on Facebook and also by email. Our regular programs for children and teens--including The Pancakery Cafe, Coat & Cupboard, and our "redesigned" God's Kitchen Crew-- will resume on September 8 with "Welcome Home Sunday." And, of course, we'll welcome back our fabulous Sunday School Superintendents and Teacher Assistants at that time.

In the meantime, we warmly invite children at worship services to enjoy the canvas Activity bags, which are filled with books, coloring pages, and quiet toys. The bags are available in the Narthex (the entrance to the Sanctuary)--or ask an usher for assistance.

Do you have questions or comments about programs for children and teens at Old South? Want to learn more about what we do? Or, do you want to volunteer and get in on all the fun? Please contact Jodie Gunther at Jodie@FarmingtonUCC.org.
From the Financial Trustees

We currently have 66 pledges for $120,840. Total received to May 22 is $54,944.68. The Financial Trustees are concerned that pledge money coming in is lagging behind last year’s total at this time (this time last year total received was $62,351.68). Capital Campaign pledges for year three are welcome as soon as possible. The Property Trustees are getting new bids for the brickwork which needs to be done. This is necessary because the original bids were submitted three years ago.

Members of the Western Maine Homeless Outreach Board and members of our church attended the Farmington Planning Board Meeting on Monday, May 13. The application for location of the homeless shelter to our Homan Mission House was reviewed. Many questions were asked. The application will be revised to better answer these questions. A site review will be conducted on May 30th. Members of the Planning Board, WMHO, and our church will be at this site review. Jennifer Bjorn and John Moore have hired a Portland law firm to contest the moving of the shelter to HMH.

Total money raised from our January – May concerts is $2116.31. This money goes to the capital campaign. Please support the yard/plant sale on May 31 and June 1, the strawberry shortcake fund raiser on July 4, and Pie on the Porch at the end of July during Farmington’s Summer Festival. The money raised at these events goes into our annual budget. The E-Waste fund raiser was cancelled because the company we use went out of business the week before our event. We did not receive notice in time to find another vendor and re-schedule. A vendor has been found in Bangor, and we are currently working to schedule a time for this event in September.

Have a great summer!

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Hylan, Chair
Pastor Marraine Kottell, Ed David, Shirley Waddell, Chris Magri, Amanda Adams, Daniel Bachelder, Brenda Scribner

To Date Income: $102,326.00
To Date Expenses: $109,131.66
(6,805.66)
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.

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-gynzwIRrhzosIImGndFmB2smmp0bg75gY9p8awUyU2Y3ZgqXJlfyMhJAI9E429CcYLJ9860Rfoelx6-i-2B0x3JDub2BqZMuvjRCxq4Z4ri-irjlowKX40OxuKkQu0gFsk1T-oW-zU5wSkb0g5oEAdD5nqrLiQzxdAHz5DOh34ysAPjIhPs

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

OLD SOUTH CHURCH
First Congregational Church of Farmington
235 MAIN STREET
FARMINGTON, ME 04938
TEL: (207) 778-0424

WORSHIP: 9:30 AM SUNDAYS
OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Tuesday through Thursday

http://www.farmingtonucc.org/

www.facebook.com/OldSouthFarmington

TWITTER.COM/FARMINGTONUCC

INSTAGRAM.COM/OLDSOUTHLOVE

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.
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<td>9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room)</td>
<td>12:00pm Retirees Lunch (Vestry)</td>
<td>5:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)</td>
<td>7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)</td>
<td>4:00pm Pastoral Relations (Rev. Marrame’s office)</td>
<td>6:00pm Executive Council (Church Office)</td>
<td>6:30pm Shepherd’s Pie (Chapel)</td>
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<td>9:30am Worship (Sanctuary)</td>
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<td>9:30am Worship, Strengthen the Church Special Mission offering (Sanctuary)</td>
<td>5:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)</td>
<td>1:30pm Financial Trustees (Church Office)</td>
<td>2:00pm Continuing the Conversation (Matthew Room)</td>
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<td>9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room)</td>
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<td>7:00pm The Open Circle, LBETQ+ Support Group (Matthew Room)</td>
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