

# Old South Church

United Church of Christ

**May 2018 Telstar**

## ***A Message from Pastor Linda Hatch***

Just as spring comes a bit slowly yet surely, this congregation now steps farther across the bridge of transitional time, coming closer to new territory at the end of that bridge with the person waiting there called to be your settled pastor. It is rich territory always with some risk and bright promise.

Your Transitional Team has passed on their thoughtful and careful work of the last year to your newly formed Search Committee. This Search Committee has a new, creative focus as it works to see deeply a field of candidates for the called position of settled pastor. This committee is a communal discernment group. They work in and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, which means being led in openness and receptivity toward the one called and waiting.

May this congregation hold their Search Committee, as well as the person called to be their settled pastor in prayer. And, may you have patience through understanding that call is ever held in God's time.

John O' Donohue in a blessing for "callings" writes,  
"May we have the courage to take the step  
Into the unknown that beckons us;  
Trust that a richer life awaits us there,  
That we lose nothing  
But what has already died;  
Feel the deeper knowing in us sure  
Of all that is about to be born beyond."

Ministry is built ever in layers. Interim- time ministry is time needed and held in God's time for healing and growing into needed new openness and movement ever forward.

Blessings in this growing time with its of new focus and search.

*Linda, Interim Pastor*

**Would you like to meet with Rev. Linda?** Linda will be in the office when she doesn't have appointments or meetings. Please feel free to contact Pastor Linda at 356-7573 or email her at [Linda@FarmingtonUCC.org](mailto:Linda@FarmingtonUCC.org)

### **Rev. Linda Hatch**

Interim Minister  
[Linda@FarmingtonUCC.org](mailto:Linda@FarmingtonUCC.org)

### **Jodie Gunther**

Director of Children and  
Youth Ministries  
[Jodie@FarmingtonUcc.org](mailto:Jodie@FarmingtonUcc.org)

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[Phyllis@FarmingtonUcc.org](mailto:Phyllis@FarmingtonUcc.org)

### **Kate Clark**

Communications  
[Kate@FarmingtonUcc.org](mailto:Kate@FarmingtonUcc.org)

### **Old South Church**

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207/778-0424

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Farmington, ME 04938

### **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.***



### **Search Committee**

Jen Civiello  
Ed David  
Amanda Hilton  
Marilyn Hylan  
Sherry Jenckes  
Wendy Oakley  
Jane Parker  
Roy Scribner  
Mary Sinclair  
Stan Wheeler

Interim Minister:	Rev. Linda Hatch
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:	Barb Fortier
Member at Large:	Robin Beck
Member at Large:	Wendy Huish

### **Executive Council**



### **With Gratitude to our Transition Team – Thank You!**

*We extend our sincere gratitude to the Transition Team for the time, energy, and work they have done on our behalf. The group has completed the church profile after extensive conversations with members and friends of Old South and meeting for several months as a group. Members of the Transition Team included: Rina Bardo, Jen and Gabe Civiello, Karyl Condit, Shelley Griffith, Mary Sinclair, Roy Scribner, and Donna Wheeler. Job well done! Thank you!*

**The deadline for submissions for the June Telstar is May 10. The June Telstar will be the final issue until the start of the programming year in September. Church communications will continue in the weekly email throughout the summer. Please submit your articles on time. Thank you!**



## From The Moderator

The second week of April has been an extremely important week for Old South, as we've passed critical milestones for two big transitions we've been dealing with.

One of these transitions involves how we use the Holman Mission House. On April 8, four months after I first showed the building to board members from Western Maine Homeless Outreach, and seventeen months after we decided to keep HMH and increase its use for mission, we voted by a 43-11 margin to rent the building to the homeless shelter for the coming decade. There's still work to do: we need to commission a detailed code compliance plan and present it to code enforcement authorities, and then we'll need to carry out the necessary modifications. All the same, giving our formal "yes" to the project was a big step forward. We and the shelter will be reaching out to the public in the weeks ahead, and I look forward to discussing the project with townspeople, explaining how the shelter operates, and dispelling any fears that might exist. This is an opportunity to tell our community that homelessness already exists here, that homeless people are just ordinary folks in need of support, and that the shelter has a fine track record of getting these people back on their feet leading safe, productive lives.

The other transition is our pastoral transition, and at last our Transition Team is finalizing the church profile. This profile is the detailed description of Old South that interested candidates will read to learn all about us. It's over forty pages – and that doesn't include the appendices. The Transition Team has worked at this daunting task for nearly a year, and we all owe them our gratitude as they pass the baton to the Pastoral Search Committee.

These two transitions aren't, I think, unrelated to each other. The final profile revision was an update reflecting the outcome of our April 8 vote, and I happen to believe this could make a difference in drawing the attention of potential settled pastors. Some of you have described our decision as "a leap of faith," and it's at least plausible that candidates will be attracted to a congregation that has made a financial leap of faith to serve "the least of these" in our area.

Some of you, I know, would have chosen a different way to serve. That's fine: we prize diversity, we understand that *everyone* in our faith family is sincerely seeking the best way to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. But however each of us voted, this is the time to come together and hope for success. We prize diversity, but unity can be a fine thing as well. As Pastor Linda reminded us in her sermon just before the vote, *E pluribus unum* means "out of many, one." It's a good idea for our nation, and a good idea for Old South.

Chris Magri



## From the Treasurer

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On Sunday, April 8, we voted to enter into a rental agreement with Wester Maine Homeless Outreach and have the homeless shelter as tenants in the Holman Mission House. In many ways, this embodies the idea many of us had for the Holman House – a place of mission and outreach. I realize some may not be as enthusiastic because, as of right now, there are still many uncertainties. My hope is that by the time you read those, many of those “uncertainties” have answers.

I am always amazed by our congregation. I thank you all for coming to the meeting and expressing either your concern or enthusiasm. This is one of those issues where there are reasons to be for it and reasons to be hesitant...not against, just hesitant. I love the Bible verses that reminds us to be sure we are taking care of the “least of these”. I also have to remind myself of the verses that tell us to be good stewards of what we have been given. My hope for Old South is that we continue to find the happy medium of these two things.

For the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, our investments saw a little dip in market value with approximately a 2.75% loss in market value. As of the printing of the Telstar, our income for the year is \$89,825.80 and our expenses are \$75,845.66.

As always, if you have yet to pledge for 2018, it is never too late.

Amanda Adams  
Treasurer



## Financial & Property Trustees

The Financial Trustees' report this month continues to focus on two important financial issues. We are just shy of our stewardship goal for 2018. To date we have pledges in the amount of \$118,984. Our goal was \$120,000. If you have not submitted your pledge for this year, we will be very happy to receive it as soon as possible. Pledge cards can be found on a table in the Narthex. Please help yourself and thank you.

Our second financial issue is the capital campaign. We are now in the second year of the campaign and will be working on our next project which is the brickwork on the north face of the church. This work cannot be done until we have the funds to proceed. The Property Trustees are in the process of finalizing the cost for this project. Currently, \$128,100 has been pledged and \$72,750 given. The handicap access project cost as of this date is \$52,783.05. There are a few small jobs to be finished, most of which will be done by the Property Trustees as little added cost. We currently have \$43,336.32 in the capital campaign account. Please submit your second-year campaign pledge amount as soon as possible so that we are able to begin this second project. Thank you for helping in this endeavor to "Uplift Faith and Preserve the Future".

On April 8, our congregation voted to rent the Holman Mission House to Western Maine Homeless Outreach. The first priority is to have an assessment of the HMH done for code compliance. Bill Hamilton of Joy & Hamilton Architects in Auburn will do this. The cost for this is being covered by WMHO. A committee will be formed to plan a capital campaign for meeting the code compliance costs. Interested members of our congregation may speak to Chris Magri if they would like to serve on this committee. These are first steps in the process for moving the homeless shelter to HMH.

Respectively submitted,  
Marilyn Hylan, Ed David, Shirley Waddell, Chris Magri, Amanda Adams, Brenda Scribner,  
Barb Fortier



## Deacons' Corner

Dear Old South Family,

Finally! Spring is on its way. As I write this, the snow is still piled high under my eaves but the birds are calling to each other and the trees are bearing buds. Easter is behind us, sending us forward with its message of hope and new life.

Soon it will be time for the spring Annual Meeting at Old South. This is the "Program" Annual Meeting in which we hear the reports of each committee and fill committee vacancies. In its own way this process brings new life to our church. Each time a new person joins a committee, that committee receives the gift of another unique perspective and a new voice.

This is especially true for the Deacons, because the heart and soul of the Diaconate are the people of Old South Church. Each new person who comes to serve on the Diaconate brings us new insights and helps us to serve our church family better.

The By-laws of our church state that the job of the Diaconate is to work with the Minister to serve the spiritual needs of the church. Traditionally, Deacons are involved in the worship service and, at Old South, this is an important part of what we do. We work closely with the Minister to help provide worship that is both enriching and sustaining to all who come through our doors. This is an ever-evolving process as the needs of our community grow and change.

At Old South, however, we, as Deacons, also seek to expand our understanding of what it means to provide spiritual nourishment to a congregation. We feel that each person's spiritual life is dependent upon that person feeling welcomed and valued by our community. We see our role as extending beyond worship to reach out to all the individuals who make up our congregation, helping to assure that each person feels seen and heard.

This is a tremendous job and perhaps our most important one. Indeed, it is more a journey than part of our job description. Currently, we are in the process of clarifying the ways in which our deacon groups (formerly "flocks") can be helpful connections with you, our sisters and brothers in faith. However, there may be many other ways to help build bridges in our congregation that we haven't even thought of yet!

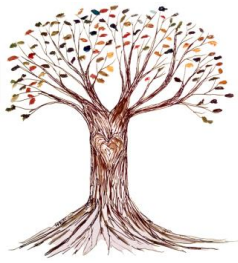
There are several openings on the Diaconate Committee at this time. If you feel called to serve our church community by helping to deepen our closeness to one another and to God, perhaps the Diaconate is the place for you. We would love to have you join us!

If you are interested, please contact Shelley Griffith (chair of the Diaconate) or a member of the Nominating Committee (Karri McCarthy or Donna Wheeler.)

Blessings and peace to all,

Shelley





## Transition Team and Moving Forward

The church profile is complete, and the Search Committee is accepting profiles of ministerial candidates! To view our “Prospectus,” which is a mini version of the profile aimed at garnering the attention of candidates, feel free to go on the Maine UCC website of Churches in Transition, located here: <http://maineucc.org/maine-ucc-churches-transition/>.

Over a year ago the Transition Team started meeting to begin the work of writing the Local Church Profile as directed by the UCC. At the beginning, Rev. Linda walked us through the template and explained the three big questions we would need to answer: who are we, who is our neighbor, and who is God calling us to become? We invited the church to share in five covenantal, circle conversations to help us answer these questions, to share with each other, and to learn from each other. We did not solve any problems, but we hoped to allow space for people to express their own thoughts and feelings. From these conversations we gathered notes, shared them within our team, synthesized as much information as we could see, and then went on to writing the Profile. Even though our church went through a ministerial transition not so long ago, the entire profile has changed, and our church is in a much different place than we were at that time. The result of our work was an Old South Church Profile which is 74 pages of information about our beloved church. We included pictures; descriptions of who our people are and what they are passionate about; what we think the most wonderful things about Farmington are; some honest truth that does not necessarily “hide our warts”; and documents of our finances, history, and structure. It all centers on those three questions: who are we, who is our neighbor, and who is God calling us to become?

One thing Rev. Linda kept reminding us to see is that the transition time is a time to heal and make changes. Because of the great dialogue in the transition conversations, we were able to observe how many people in the church are feeling. Our goal was to be as empathetic to differing views and be as representative of the congregation as we could be in the profile. We heard concerns from many people. We heard folks are concerned with the church finances and properties. We heard people feel like we need to move quickly to get to our next pastor. We heard people share about their hope for and love of this church. We also listened as Rev. Linda shared her observations of the spiritual health of our church. We understood her to be our sounding board for the expectations we put on our Pastor. Our church is vibrant and we are passionate, and we expect much. We are wholly rural Maine, and we are a place with a progressive faith.



## Transition Team and Moving Forward

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What now? Well, the Search Committee has begun their work. As of the first week, we had 9 candidates express interest in us. We will move as quickly as the process allows, but we will do our best to be thorough and Spirit-led. And, we will not be rushed. This is too important to not get right.

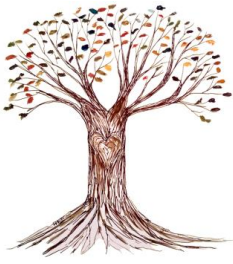
If you want to view the completed Old South Church Profile, we are leaving the distribution of that in the hands of Executive Council. It is not a public document, and the Search Committee chooses which ministers to send it to, but it is not to be withheld from the congregation either. Likely, there will be a copy in the church office for anyone to come see and read. The Executive Council will decide this at their May meeting.

As far as the Transition Team, we want to find a way to share our lessons with you. Perhaps most important, though, we want you to know how much we think we all need each other. We need to trust each other and work together, and we need to show up for each other. Everyone has busy lives, so please share yours with us when you can.

Finally, I must say this: the work of the Transition Team was could not have been completed with the amount of retrospect, inspiration, and honesty without the help of Rev. Linda. She kept us thinking and focused on a regular basis and supported us immensely. We are blessed to have an interim minister who is so dedicated to the work that she was called here to do. I know not everyone gets the chance to work closely with her, but I wanted to share the joy she has brought this one group! Thank you, Linda, for your help and guidance.

On behalf of the Transition Team,  
Mary Sinclair





## News and Upcoming Events



**DON'T  
FORGET...**

### Committee and Group Meetings

<b>Deacons' Meeting</b>	To be determined
<b>Executive Council</b>	Wednesday, May 2, 6:00 pm
<b>Financial Trustees</b>	Tuesday, May 8, HMH at 5:30 pm
<b>Outreach, Justice, Witness</b>	Tuesday, May 15, Matthew Room at 6:30 pm
<b>Property Trustees</b>	Tuesday, May 15, HMH at 6:00 pm
<b>Staff Meeting</b>	Wednesday, May 9, HMH at 10:15 am



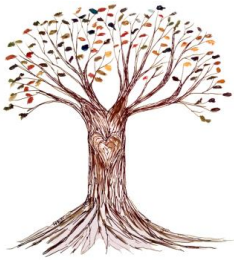
Donations are being accepted for the church yard sale through May 27. Items may be dropped off at the Holman Mission House during office hours or you may contact Brenda Scribner 299-3686 (please leave a message). We cannot accept broken items, clothing, stuffed animals, pillows, bedding, mattresses, or electronics.

Plant sale donations will be accepted later in May.

The yard sale and plant sale are scheduled for June 1-2. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Brenda Scribner at 299-3686 or [tatabug47@hotmail.com](mailto:tatabug47@hotmail.com)

### **Old South Women's Retreat: Registration Deadline, June 1**

We have reserved the Marie Joseph Spiritual Retreat Center in Biddeford Pool for the 2018 Women's Retreat Saturday, August 25 – Monday, August 27 (Saturday afternoon through Monday mid-day). The retreaters in 2017 loved this beautiful, seaside facility, and we look forward to being there again. You can check it out at [www.mariejosephspiritual.org](http://www.mariejosephspiritual.org). The cost for the retreat is \$240. Reserve your space today with a deposit of \$35. Confidential scholarship assistance and payment plans are available now through the church office. Payments may be made on a weekly, biweekly, or monthly basis in varying amounts. Please contact Phyllis ([Phyllis@FarmingtonUCC.org](mailto:Phyllis@FarmingtonUCC.org) or 778-0424) as soon as possible to make arrangements.



## News & Upcoming Events



### **Community Lunch: Date Change for May**

You will find information about the May Community Lunch later in this issue, but we want to emphasize the date change. This month's meal will be served on May 5. Please join us!

### **Retirees Lunch: May 7**

Please join Dick and Lynda Giard for the Retirees Lunch at Noon in the Vestry on May 7. Meatloaf will be served. Bring a dish to share if you would like. For more information, contact Dick Giard at 897-6228.

### **Children's Sunday: May 13**

Please join us as we mark the end of the Church School year on Sunday, May 13. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Sunday School staff, Christian Ed Committee chaired by Arin Hilton, and the Director of Children and Youth Ministry Jodie Gunther for their work on behalf of the children and adults of Old South Church. God is great! All the time!

### **Pentecost Sunday: May 20**

Please join us on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, as Old South is filled with the spirit during worship. Inner Rhythm will be playing, high school youth will be confirmed and the Strengthen the Church, special United Church of Christ mission offering will be received. Details about each of these things can be found in this issue of Telstar. Keep reading!



### **Save the Date: May 20**

The Program and Nominating Annual Meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, May 20. Please join us as we celebrate and learn about the work of our committees and the many programs at Old South. The Nominating Report will also be presented.



## News & Upcoming Events



### **Drumming by InnerRhythm at Old South Church**

InnerRhythm welcomes new drummers any time. We practice on Tuesdays at 5:30 in the Extension Chapel. If you would like more information about InnerRhythm, please see reasons why they drum (below) and contact Karyl Condit at [krcondit2@gmail.com](mailto:krcondit2@gmail.com). Inner Rhythm will be drumming during worship on Sunday, May 20.

#### **TEN REASONS WHY WE DRUM by members of INNERRHYTHM**

It's meditative – the concentration of connecting mind and body excludes thought – it takes me to that “thin place” between mind and spirit

It is spiritually uplifting and cleansing -- it clears my mind

It's creative – it allows me to express myself in a new way. The more I play, the more my brain moves to new rhythms, and the more I am aware of the feeling evoked by different rhythms and time cycles

It stimulates my brain when I attempt to coordinate by feet, my hands, and the rhythm(s) all at once, all from memory

Stepping in time with everyone else brings us together as one

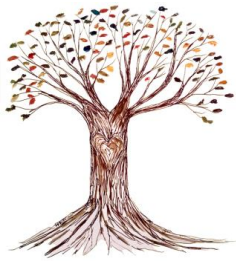
There is such strength generated when playing with a group, connecting in this way with others. I love this fellowship and bond with my drumming sisters.

I love connecting through drumming with women drummers of ancient times

It is spiritually uplifting. It makes me feel better always. It's fun!

I feel in “sync” with the universe.

Drumming centers me, gets rid of the chatter in my head, and calms me physically, mentally, spiritually.



## News & Upcoming Events



### **Fara Begins Debut U.S. Tour at Old South: Tuesday, May 1**

The Old South Church Concert series will feature all female super fiddle group from the Orkneys on Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> as the first stop on their debut U.S. Tour. The all woman band, Fara, brings together four leading musicians at the forefront of today's Scottish folk scene – Jennifer Austin, Kristan Harvey, Jeana Leslie and Catriona Price. The four contrasting personalities and individual musical voices in Fara, make for a colorful melting pot – each member brings a different musical pallet to the table. But the strong Orkney fiddle tradition that the four women grew up on together, is the glue that binds them, and is at the heart of each of their musical characters.

Fara's members hold degrees from The Royal Academy of Music, The Royal Northern College of Music, The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and Strathclyde University. Their diverse activity with their other projects such as Blazin' Fiddles, Jeana Leslie & Siobhan Miller, Rachel Sermanni, and Twelfth Day, as well as accolades including BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award, BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year, Deutsche Bank Award in Performance and Composition, and the Danny Kyle Award, hold them up as leading members of today's Scottish music scene.

**Doors will open at 6:00 pm ~ Jam Session 6:15 pm ~ Concert 7:00 pm**

**Adult admission \$15 ~ Student Rates available**

**Ticket reservations may be made by calling 207-491-5919**

Volunteers are needed for the night of the concert and donations of refreshments. Please contact Debbie Davis-Robinson 491-5919, Hallie Yorks 778-0111 or Brenda Scribner 299-3686.





## Mission & Outreach

**Outreach, Justice and Witness** will be meeting in the Matthew Room at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, May 15. 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.



### **Food Closet Item of the Month: Shampoo, Toothpaste, Laundry Detergent**

Your donations of these items and other nonperishable food and toiletry items are welcome. You may bring items to the church, and donations will be delivered to Care and Share. Thank you for your continuing support of this ecumenical ministry.

### **Coat Closet Donations**

Packing away your winter coats will be a reality soon! If you are planning on purchasing new ski pants for your growing children or you are getting a new coat or jacket for next year, please consider donating your gently used items to the Coat Closet. We are accepting donations of coats, snow pants, ski jackets and blankets. Please do not drop off shoes or other clothing items such as t-shirts, pants, socks, shirts, etc. When you drop these things off at the church or HMH, we have to pack them up and take them to other donation sites. Please help us by donating only the requested items – no t-shirts or other clothing items. Thank you for your help and for your ongoing support.

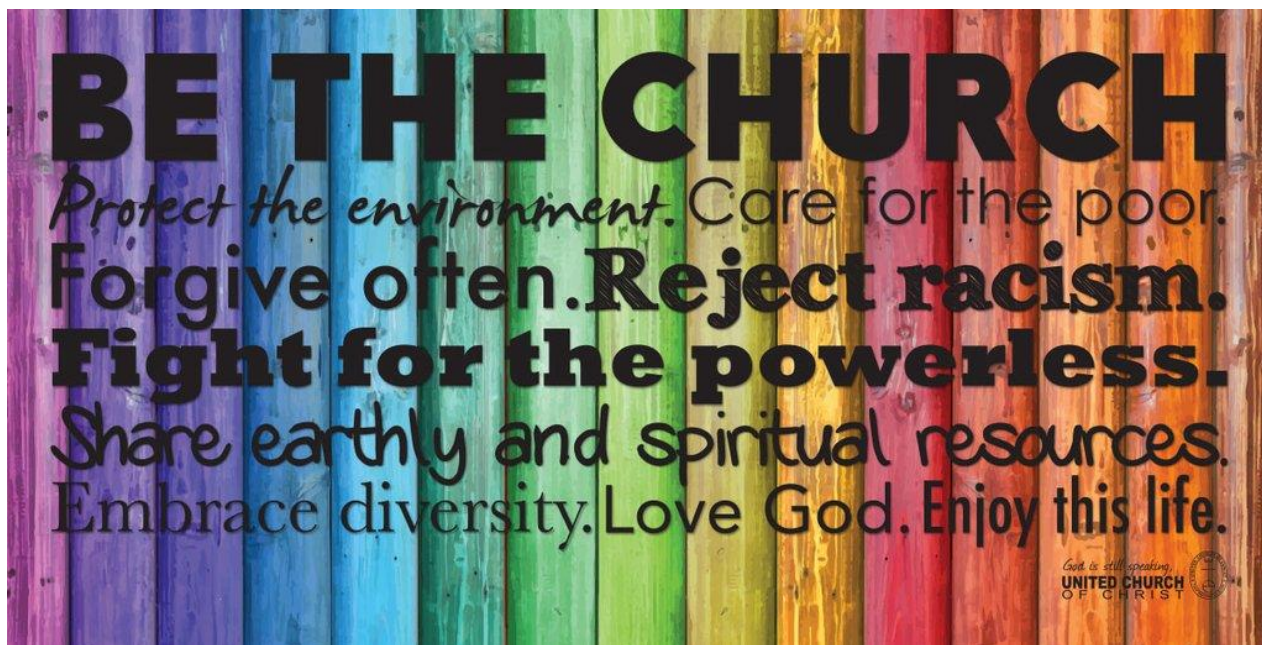
### **Wheelchairs and Volunteers for Annie's Beanpole**

Wheelchairs are one of the most requested items from Annie's Beanpole. If you know of one that may be available for donation to this medical equipment lending ministry, please contact Wendy Huish (May 1-15, or Mardy Bogar (May 16-31).

This ministry 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 try to arrange two volunteer shifts per month (1<sup>st</sup> half of the month and the 2<sup>nd</sup> half) and rotate among the group as personal schedules allow. We find that it is very rewarding to know that you have been able to respond to sincere and great need in our community and beyond. If you are interested in helping with this ministry (no medical training required!), please contact Randy Oakley at [roakley@roadrunner.com](mailto:roakley@roadrunner.com)



## Mission & Outreach



**Strengthen the Church Special United Church of Christ Mission Offering**  
**Pentecost Sunday**  
**May 20, 2018**

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of United Church of Christ 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. Old South Church will receive the Strengthen the Church offering for the United Church of Christ on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018.





## Mission & Outreach



### **May Community Lunch: May 5**

Our April Community Luncheon served about 140 meals, including more than 60 meals delivered to members of our community. The lunch was Roast Pork Loin, rice pilaf, green beans, biscuits, and cake. We roasted the pork using a slightly different method than we had in the past, and from the comments people made, everyone enjoyed their meal.

We made a decision during the morning that we would move our May Community Lunch to the FIRST Saturday in May, which would be May 5th. The reason for the move is that May 12th is not only Mother's Day weekend, but more importantly, UMF Graduation. Our past experience has been that the parking lot gets filled with folks coming to the graduation, then our folks don't have a place to park, and we end up having fewer people than we would otherwise. So this year, we thought we would move to the first Saturday and see what happens.

The menu for May will be Pulled Pork Sandwiches, served with cole slaw and green beans. For the last time in the school year, God's Kitchen Crew will be providing cakes for dessert.

We are always happy to have new folks come to help us out, with NO LONG TERM COMMITMENT! Just stop in, tell us you're here to help, and we'll put you to work.

Stan Wheeler,  
Rocell Marcellino, Co-chairs



# Fundraising

## Ongoing Fundraising Programs



### 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!



### 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](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!



# Christian Ed

## Lenten Expressions Project

Thank you to everyone who supported the Lenten Expressions Project at Old South on Sunday, March 25. The many different offerings shared at this event were fantastic. You will find photos of a few of the event's offerings below; the evening also included readings, poetry, music and interactive displays. In case you missed it, you can find photos of many of the projects on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/OldSouthFarmington/>), and the Holy Week slideshows are posted on YouTube! These slideshows were created for the high school Breakfast Bible class in 2017. Check them out here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhjtJA6cs9Y&list=PLbGKo\\_4uFJSnc6C6womn9jVelWHTzEDGk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhjtJA6cs9Y&list=PLbGKo_4uFJSnc6C6womn9jVelWHTzEDGk)



Lenten Expressions 2018  
Photos by Arin Hilton





# Christian Ed



## **Activities and Fun for Children and Youth**

Great news! Our Christian Ed team will be offering Children's Activities during the worship service through the end of the school year--June 17 (with the exception of Memorial Day weekend). In addition, we invite children entering grades K through 5 to a fun-filled Vacation Bible School program, August 20 - 23, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am.

Plus, we're gearing up for TWO great "mini" retreats at Clearwater Lake this summer--one for students in grades 6 - 8, and another for students in grades 9 - 12. Both events will be a mix of mission work, good conversation, silly games, and (of course!) time to swim in the pristine lake. Watch your email and Facebook--we'll be scheduling these soon!



## **Toiletries Drive: Help us help our school nurses to help others**

Last fall, Coat & Cupboard reached out to nurses, teachers, and counselors in our local schools to help provide coats and boots to children in need. Through this connection, we learned that school nurses often struggle to provide basic toiletries to some children and youth who do not have access to them at home. Now, our Sunday School classes are launching a toiletries drive---we'll collect the items through May 13, enabling the nurses to discreetly hand them to children before they leave for summer break.

We are collecting:

new socks (in both child and adult sizes)  
hairbrushes and combs

shampoo  
deodorant

bars of soap  
boxes of tissues

You'll see collection boxes in the Vestry and Chapel. On May 13, Children's Sunday, we'll bring these items to the altar as part of the morning offering. Thank you for helping us with this mission work!



## Children & Youth

It's hard to believe we're already coming to the final days of our Sunday School year. For grade-school kids, there will be Children's Activities during the worship hour on June 3, 10, and 17. Plus, we're planning a Summer Sunday School event, with games, crafts, snacks, music and more. For now, please save the dates: August 20-23. Details coming soon! And, of course, the high school youth group will have its annual "mini retreat" at Clearwater Lake. Watch your emails for dates and times.



### **Sunday School**

We have one regular Sunday School lesson together on May 6<sup>th</sup> (We'll have Children's Activities – a mix of crafts, stories and games – through June 17). Then, we'll be celebrating the end of the school year with Children's Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. On this special day, children assist with many aspects of the worship service, including readings, music, and more. Plus, our third graders are presented with Bibles, and our high school graduates are given a special blessing.

### **BBC (grades 7 and older)**

We wrap up the year with one last lesson on May 6<sup>th</sup>. We'll be assisting the kids with Children's Sunday, then observing a very special Confirmation Sunday on May 20. No lessons on Memorial Day weekend (May 27).

### **Confirmation Discussion Group**

It's our last time together as a Confirmation Discussion Group. We'll share in a potluck supper and reflect on our journey together. We'll close evening with a slideshow and a simple but meaningful ceremony.



## Children & Youth

### **The Pancakery**

The Pancakery will be open just once this month--- May 13. But we'll wrap things up with a spectacular last menu, great live music, and more! As always, kids in grades 5 - 9 are warmly encouraged to join us as we don some kitchen aprons, set the tables, and flip those pancakes. We get to work at 10:30 am, and are ready to start dishing up our first meals before 11:30 am.



### **God's Kitchen Crew**

Let's celebrate the warm weather with a bit of outside fun! Bring your sneakers--we'll be playing with giant bubbles, beach balls, and more on the Holman Mission House lawn! For children in grades 2 - 5

Wednesday, May 9, 3:00 - 4:45 pm







## Children & Youth



### 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).

### Old South Youth Programs: May 2018

Sunday, May 6: Sunday School, BBC class

Wednesday, May 2: God's Kitchen Crew 3:00 pm

Sunday, May 13: Youth Sunday special worship service; Pancakery at 11:30;  
Confirmation Discussion Group 5:30 pm

Sunday, May 20: Pentecost, Confirmation Sunday (no Sunday School this day); Annual Meeting following the worship service

Sunday, May 27: no children's programming this day (Memorial Day weekend)





# Worship & Music



## Revised Common Lectionary

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

<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> May 6, 2018	<u>*Acts 10:44-48</u>	<u>Psalm 98</u>	<u>1 John 5:1-6</u>	<u>John 15:9-17</u>
<b>Ascension of the Lord</b> May 10, 2018	<u>*Acts 1:1-11</u>	<u>Psalm 47</u> or <u>Psalm 93</u>	<u>Ephesians 1:15-23</u>	<u>Luke 24:44-53</u>
<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b> May 13, 2018	<u>*Acts 1:15-17, 21-26</u>	<u>Psalm 1</u>	<u>1 John 5:9-13</u>	<u>John 17:6-19</u>
<b>Day of Pentecost</b> May 20, 2018	<u>*Acts 2:1-21</u> or <u>Ezekiel 37:1-14</u>	<u>Psalm 104:24-34, 35b</u>	<u>Romans 8:22-27</u> or <u>Acts 2:1-21</u>	<u>John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15</u>
<b>Trinity Sunday</b> May 27, 2018 <i>First Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<u>Isaiah 6:1-8</u>  <u>Psalm 29</u>		<u>Romans 8:12-17</u>	<u>John 3:1-17</u>
<b>Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth</b> May 31, 2018	<u>1 Samuel 2:1-10</u> <u>Psalm 113</u>		<u>Romans 12:9-16b</u>	<u>Luke 1:39-57</u>

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Used by permission.



## Music and Worship

### **Youth Sunday: Sunday, May 13**

Please join us on Sunday, May 13, to celebrate the end of the church school year. Our youth will lead us in worship and song during this joy filled service. We acknowledge the work of the Sunday School Staff, Church School Superintendents, Arin Hilton and Karri McCarthy, Director of Children and Youth

### **Pentecost Sunday**

On May 20, InnerRhythm with vocalists Patty Schoen and Wendy Oakley, and Patricia Hayden on the piano, are joining together to play a new version of the favorite hymn, "Breathe on Me Breath of God." The congregation is invited to sing along on the refrain of this rhythm-filled hymn. InnerRhythm drummers include Mardy Bogar, Karyl Condit, Sherry Jenckes, Sheri Leahan, Donna Wheeler.

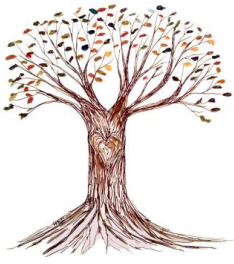
### **May 20: Confirmation Sunday**

During the morning worship service, Rev. Linda will lead our high school Confirmants into a new relationship with the church, with friends and Sponsors by their side. Together, we joyfully celebrate this important milestone of their faith journeys.



### **Special Music for the Summer**

Our wonderful choir will take a well-deserved break for the summer beginning June 17. If you are interested in providing special music on a Sunday between June 17 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!



## Living Water Association, Maine Conference, and the UCC

The Living Water Association Executive Committee led by Moderator Karyl Condit met at Old South Church on Sunday, April 22.

Craig and Bob Healy recently returned from an extended mission trip to Honduras. Craig shared the following observations about the CEVER Vocational School during her trip with us for the ***Living Water Honduras Partnership***.

Christian leadership can be tricky. We all seem to have our own tastes in music, in preaching style, Bible interpretation styles, even what kinds of people we choose to associate with as fellow Christians. I see New Englanders as rather bashful about even using the word Christian. We would rather talk about our church or our ministry. I know a fine Christian in Maine who spells our deity's name as G\_d. What does that say about New Englanders?

Hondurans are much more overtly followers of Christ. They put lettering on their trucks, cars, busses, in their shops proclaiming their faith. They may not go to church services more than we do, but they'll tell you they believe and that they are Christians. One of the pastors that we're close to here talks about the common tendency to present a Christian front but not pour one's whole energy into prayer and discipleship.

One of my favorite Christians here in Honduras is Alba Luz Navarro. Albita, as we call her, is la *Directora*, (Principal) of CEVER, the church-sponsored vocational school where Bob and I volunteer for a few weeks each winter/spring. She has worked there as Administrative Assistant, then director, for twenty-eight years. She's the only female principal of all the nationally sponsored vocational schools in Honduras. I say she really deserves the position. She serves her faculty, staff, students and parents well. With her intelligence, even temper and her lively sense of humor she's got a running start for leadership. She knows everyone well, from the inside out, and forgives a lot of mistakes. She keeps track of many students' progress.





Albita depends upon God to guide her. She starts every meeting with a sensitive little pep talk about the community that CEVER is for everyone who participates in the school, and calling on one of the staff to lead a prayer. She strongly holds faith that God will always provide for the financial needs and new personnel required to keep on serving.

Recently I wrote about the CEVER student who was severely injured crossing the highway. All of us felt as though we had been struck in the gut. Albita called parents to petition for the government to place a speed bump on the highway to slow down traffic. She had little hope that the corrupt government would respond to our plea, thinking that grass roots democracy makes little headway in Honduras. but she continued making phone calls and praying. Two speed bumps now do their good work to protect pedestrians!

Today the entire school population celebrated a Day of Summer together at the local Water Park. You may not think of March as summer, but here March can be hotter than July. One hundred and forty CEVER students and staff played in the five attractive pools and waterslides for hours. no classes, just fun together. The money raised will go towards paying off the expense of building a large covered outdoor area for classes and relaxation. I was glad to have a chance for my students who don't keep up with their English assignments as well as they should to see me swimming and diving and to go down the water slides together. We are a Christian community praising God in a great variety of ways. I appreciate the leadership of the woman who, long ago, dared to supervise an all-male teaching team.

--Craig Healy, Shorey Chapel, Industry



Maine Conference News: Pilgrim Lodge registration is OPEN. You can find out more about the various camp offerings and register online at: <https://www.pilgrimlodge.org/> The scholarship deadline with the Maine UCC is May 15. The application may be found at: <https://www.pilgrimlodge.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/PL-Scholarship-Application.pdf> Partial scholarships from the Women of Old South Fund will be given to youth from Old South that attend Pilgrim Lodge.



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Would you like to learn more about the United Church of Christ? Please check the United Church of Christ website for more information about our denomination:

<http://www.ucc.org> On this site, you may sign up for "Weekly Seeds" a reflection based on the Revised Common Lectionary readings for each Sunday of the year. There is also a link to an electronic daily devotional called, "The StillSpeaking Daily Devotional."



## Get 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.



## May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel) 6:15pm FARA Concert Jam Session (Vestry) 7:00pm FARA Fundraising Concert (Sanctuary)	<b>2</b> 3:00pm God's Kitchen Crew (Kitchen, Vestry) 6:00pm Executive Council (Holman Mission House) 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	<b>3</b> 2:30pm Just Friends (Chapel) 5:30pm Search Committee (Matthew Room)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 12:00pm Community Lunch (Kitchen, Vestry)
<b>6</b> 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room)	<b>7</b> 12:00pm Retirees Lunch (Vestry) 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	<b>8</b> 5:30pm Financial Trustees (HMH Meeting Room) 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel)	<b>9</b> 10:15am Staff Meeting (HMH Meeting Room) 5:30pm Search Committee (Chapel) 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group (Matthew Room)	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:30am Worship - Christian Ed Sunday (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room) 11:00am Pancakery (Vestry) 5:30pm Confirmation (Matthew Room)	<b>14</b> 5:30pm Search Committee (Matthew Room) 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	<b>15</b> 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel) 6:00pm Property Trustees (HMH Meeting Room) 6:30pm Outreach, Justice, Witness (Chapel)	<b>16</b> 7:00pm LinQ/LGBTQ Support Group (Chapel) 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room) 9:30am Worship - Pentecost Sunday, Confirmation, Strengthen the Church Special Offering (Sanctuary) 11:00am Program and Nominating Annual Meeting (Vestry)	<b>21</b> 5:30pm Search Committee (Matthew Room) 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	<b>22</b> 9:30am Christian Ed (Matthew Room) 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel)	<b>23</b> 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 1:00pm Bereavement Group (Matthew Room)	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room)	<b>28</b> 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	<b>29</b> 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel)	<b>30</b> 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	<b>31</b> 5:30pm Search Committee (Matthew Room)		