



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

Telstar, February 2020

Rev. MARRAINE’S MUSINGS

For the Christmas Eve service I had picked the scriptures. Phyllis had recruited five people to read the scriptures from Isaiah and Luke. To assign readers to particular scriptures, she handed me printed copies of each of the readings with post it notes with names of the people willing to read. When I assign readings on Christmas Eve I like to balance out readers so that genders and generations aren’t grouped together. Beyond that I try to pick scripture that might fit a particular person’s temperament or experience. Many years I have wrestled with it a little longer than I would like to admit. This year it might have taken me at most 5-10 minutes.

Christmas Eve prior to the readings I sat back for a moment, closed my eyes, and prayed that the readers would give their voices to the ancient story. The readings were even better than I expected. The Holy Spirit showed up in full force.

- Frank Giampetro, one of our resident poets, caressed the poetry of the prophet Isaiah making the message come alive in ways that are relevant for the prophecy we need to continue to hear today in the chaos of our own world.
- Amanda Adams gave us the story of the Annunciation. In the voice of our treasurer, I heard her practical voice report, “Listen, folks, this is what happened to Mary. Be aware and be prepared to respond.”
- Carl Backman, the father and grandfather, retold the story of the Magnificat as if it was his own daughter.
- Dick Waddell sang out the story of the nativity as he has been doing professionally for more than six decades, but read in a different translation so that we might hear the story anew.
- Then Amanda Hilton brought her Bible with her and being the great story teller and book reader that she is, wrapped up the readings with the visit of the shepherds.

For me the relay of readers Christmas Eve was downright magical. The readings played to their strengths and highlighted sacred gifts of our congregation. It also reminded me and I hope others of the depth of resources we have in our midst. We have the capacity to continue to do great things together.

As a congregation we face challenging times. We are facing a significant budget deficit this year. We just voted to repair our roof. We continue to wrestle with what to do with the Holman Mission House. As citizens of the world we are concerned about the world around us. If there ever was a time for prophecy, witness, discipleship, and community this is it. Beloved Old South Family, you are more capable of all of those things. I encourage us all to take a deep breath, close our eyes, and pray for all of the things that are possible.

Blessings,
Rev. MARRAINE

Rev. MARRAINE KETTEL
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Find us on Facebook at:
Old South First
Congregational Church

Find us on the web at:
www.FarmingtonUCC.org

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

Would you like to meet with Rev. MARRAINE? MARRAINE will be in the office when she doesn't have appointments or meetings and will keep open office hours on Thursdays in February for drop ins during the Warming Center. Please feel free to contact Rev. MARRAINE at RevMARRAINE@FarmingtonUCC.org or 778-0424.

Psalm 121

(New Revised Standard Version)

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Executive Council

Minister: Rev. MARRAINE KETTLE

Clerk: Shannon Munro

Moderator: Chris Magri

Treasurer: Amanda Adams

Treasurer Elect: Donna Wheeler

Chair, Christian Ed: Arin Hilton

Chair, Outreach, Justice & Witness: Randy Oakley

Chair, Diaconate: Shelley Griffith

Chair, Property Trustees: Daniel Bachelder

Chair, Financial Trustees: Marilyn Hylan

Member at Large: Robin Beck (also Moderator Elect)

Member at Large: Wendy Huish

Financial Secretary & Fundraising: Brenda Scribner

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Jodie Gunther

NOTICE

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, OF FARMINGTON, MAINE:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Church, the FINANCIAL/BUDGETING ANNUAL MEETING thereof will be held on Sunday, February 9, 2020 in the sanctuary immediately following the worship service.

The purpose of the meeting is:

1. To approve the minutes of the May 19, 2019 Program/Nominating Annual Meeting and the September 29, 2019 special business meeting.
2. To receive and review Financial Reports from 2019.
3. To consider and vote on a proposal to cover the budget deficit from the 2019 fiscal year by withdrawing this sum from the endowment.
4. To receive a Pledge Report for 2020.
5. To approve the 2020 operating budget.
6. To vote on a proposal to pay for the church / Newman Wing roof replacement by running a capital campaign that will begin immediately and end on December 31, 2020. The endowment would be used as necessary to front the cost for roofing expenses. The capital campaign funds received for this purpose would be used to pay for the expenses of the project and then to replenish the endowment.
7. To transact such other or further business that may properly come before said meeting.

Dated at Farmington, Maine, January 30, 2020

Shannon Munro, Clerk

Please note, due to the scheduling of a Pancakery in the Vestry on the same date as the Annual Meeting, our meeting will begin immediately after worship in the Sanctuary. There will not be a regular coffee hour on Feb. 9 as we will not want to bring food items and beverages into the Sanctuary during the gathering. Thank you!



From the Moderator

Heading into our February annual budget meeting, I concede that there are potential reasons for concern. We ended 2019 with (at this writing) a \$4,604 deficit, and it would have been substantially larger except that at least two end-of-year donations, totaling at least \$12,000, came in. We recently voted to replace the badly damaged roof above the church and Newman Wing, and although donations towards that project have already been pledged, there's still a long way to go and it's still \$117,000 that we'd have preferred not to spend. And most of us recall other pricey maintenance projects that have been forced upon us during our time at Old South, such as repairing the bell steeple and redoing the largest stained glass windows and exorcising the bats and pigeons. Our church generation can't seem to catch a break.

And yet.

Let's not fall prey to glass-half-emptyism. We have a wonderful financial endowment, and whatever its future, it's allowing us to do so much more than we could otherwise. We have a side building that we and our tenants have used for providing valuable community services, and that we can hope will be used for still more service in the future; and we have the gift of a trust fund that helps with the upkeep. We also have the gift of a full-time pastor who's happy to be with us *despite* the budgets and the bats and the brickwork. We have a lovely sanctuary that serves as a "thin place" for many of us, allowing us to feel closer to God during worship. We have the Newman Wing, which was built in large part to further the goal of a thriving Christian Education program, and as if by magic – or by hard work and creativity – we now have that thriving program. We have a great many other marvelous ministries as well. Oh, and we have each other.

In short, I recognize the temptation to fret, but my left brain tells me that a great many other congregations would consider our situation enviable. Allow me a pedantic observation: there's nothing so logically pointless and spiritually deadening as worrying about things ahead of time. Yes, by all means let's seriously consider our financial situation at the budget meeting and beyond. Yet I am an immensely stubborn individual, and thus I stubbornly intend to make my primary attitude in the months ahead one of *gratitude* for God's abundance as evidenced in the life of this church. Feel free to join me.

Chris Magri



The Deacon's Corner

MYSTERY STARS

Dear Old South Family,

At the end of a recent worship service, Rev. Mairaine invited each of us to choose a blue paper star from a basket as we were leaving the Sanctuary. On each star there was a word and a verse from the Bible. I imagine that most people did what I did: took the star home, read the verse and puzzled over what it might mean for us as individuals.

A few days later, I came back to the church and noticed that some of the stars had been tacked up on the "Faces of Old South" bulletin board by an unknown person. Being given to flights of fancy, I wondered about the significance of this occurrence. Were the stars put up randomly or did the person who put them up choose specific words that either described or spoke to our church community? What might the Bible verses behind the words have to say to us as a family of faith?

These are the words I found: Surround, Laughter, Dream, Joy, Rooted and Glory. I was inspired and added the word "Seek". They seemed like words that could be easily associated with Old South Church. We are, indeed, blessed to be surrounded by a caring church community and to be rooted in the richness of our faith. Here at Old South, we are invited to share laughter and joy, to seek for and dream of an Earth that is filled with the glory of God.

What, then, of the Bible verses? This is where my flight of fancy came in for a landing. Each verse is rich and deep and open to as many interpretations as there are people in our church and way beyond. I will include three of them in full here and leave them with you to read and ponder. How do they speak to you? What might they mean to us and a church family?

SURROUND: Hebrews 12:1-2

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him, endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (New International Version)

ROOTED: Ephesians 3:16-19

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (N.I.V.)

JOY: John 15:11

"I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature." (The Message)

LAUGHTER and DREAM: Psalm 126:1-3

GLORY: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

SEEK: Matthew 6:25-34

May God bless us all, each and every one!

Shelley

(Your Deacons: Roger Condit, John Demers Lindner, Shelley Griffith (chair), Brent Laflin, Christine Merchant, Karen Jordan Paul, Michelle Scribner, Mary Sinclair, Carole Trickett, Margaret Gould Wescott)

From the Financial Trustees

The Financial Trustees voted to recommend the budget they prepared with our Treasurer, Amanda Adams, to the Executive Council at their January meeting. This budget provides a 1.6% cost of living raise for our minister. Our custodian's pay was raised to reflect the minimum wage increase by State law; this increase was just under the cost of living increase. Patricia Hayden will be our organist and choir director. The budget reflects this new position and pay increase. Jodie and Phyllis declined a raise this year due to budget concerns.

Currently we have received 56 pledging units for a total of \$104,434. Our 2020 budget for pledges aims for \$121,000. Please turn your pledges in as soon as possible so that we can meet this and maybe exceed this recommendation.

Our 2019 budget had 66 pledging units. Some of the pledged amount had not been received as of December 31, 2019. We withheld \$2,000 from our OCWM offering to the Maine Conference due to our deficit. We were able to pay \$1,400 of our \$2000 pledge to the Pilgrim Lodge Campaign through money from the Women of Old South account, part of the Christmas Eve Offering, and a donation. We will work on the completing the remaining \$600 in the coming year through a variety of means.

The pledged contributions of the 2017 Capital Campaign for the last group of projects is ending. The amount pledged was \$132,000 and the pledged amount collected was \$131,305. Some are continuing to pay their pledge through this year. In addition, we received \$1,701 in non-pledged contributions to the Campaign.

We will be discussing our financial outlook, proposed budget, and funding of the roof work at the Financial Annual Meeting on February 9. Please join us.

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Hylan, Chairman

From the Treasurer

If you were at the meeting on January 5th, you heard us discuss the deficit we were facing for 2019 totaling around \$4,500. This should come as no surprise. We presented a budget with a deficit last year and while, in the past, we have been fortunate enough to avoid a deficit, 2019 was not the case.

I can tell you now that, spoiler alert, we will present another budget in 2020 with a projected deficit. Is that what we want to present? NO. However, with our current pledge total (as of January 2, 2020), we would need to cut our entire program budget to \$0 and cut most of our staff. So, the question is, what do we do? And my answer is, I don't know. I think our church family is facing some very difficult conversations in the near future. Two things we must remember as we approach those conversations are:

1. Everyone's feelings are valid whether we agree or not
2. We must speak to one another with love, mercy, and grace

We are still actively searching for a renter for the Holman Mission House. We keep hoping something will come to fruition in the near future so pray hard.

I wish you all peace as we face these things together.

Amanda Adams
Treasurer

“Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.”

-2 Corinthians 13:11

A reminder from the Financial Secretaries

As in 2019, we will no longer be providing offering envelopes. Many people had stopped using them, especially if paying by check, and asked why we continued to provide them. We no longer have boxes of unclaimed envelopes in the vestry for months after they became available; in years past they ended up in the recycling bin! In an effort to reduce expenses, the Financial Trustees 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. We would really like to provide you with a record of your giving at the end of the year, so we encourage you to be sure your cash gifts to Old South can be attributed to you. **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 or Rina Bardo if you have any questions.

News and Upcoming Events

Committee and Group Meetings

Christian Education	Monday, February 3, Matthew Room at 10:30 am
Deacons' Meeting	Sunday, February 23, Matthew Room at 11:00 am
Executive Council	Thursday, February 6, Church Office at 6:00 pm
Financial Trustees	Tuesday, February 11, Church Office at 5:30 pm
Property Trustees	Tuesday, February 18, Church Office at 6:00 pm
Outreach, Justice, Witness	Tuesday, February 11, Matthew Room at 6:30 pm
Staff Meeting	Wednesday, February 5, Church Office at 9:30 am
March Telstar Deadline	Monday, February 10, Church Office at Noon

February 3 at Noon in the Vestry!

The February Retirees Lunch will be held at Noon in the Vestry on Monday, Feb. 3. Please bring a dish to share and join 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





Cooking with God and Friends: Shrove Tuesday

Please join Rev. MARRAINE on Tuesday, February 25, at 5:00 pm in the church kitchen for her tradition of "breakfast for dinner" on Shrove Tuesday. Participants will provide the items for the menu, and we will cook our meal together as we learn about the traditions of Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, and Lent. Please RSVP to

Phyllis in the church office (Phyllis@FarmingtonUCC.org or 778-0424) no later than February 17 if you wish to participate. All are welcome.



INNERRHYTHM welcomes newcomers to drumming! If you enjoy rhythm and would like to learn how to play the tambourine or a "tar", please stop in at one of our practices on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m., downstairs in the chapel. Feel free to call us: Donna Wheeler, Sherry Jenckes, Mardy Bogar, Sheri Leahan, or Karyl Condit. Hope to see you soon!

AN INVITATION TO YOU PHOTOGRAPHERS

Our photo wall in the Matthew Room is changing its exhibit. This season's theme will be "Armchair Travel." Have you taken some interesting photos somewhere away from home? This is not a photo competition. It is an opportunity to share some of your special photos and travels with your friends at church. Please contact Gil Riley at 645-2884 or Karyl Condit 778-3722 if you have any questions. Prints need to be 8" x 12" to fit into the frames we are using.



Choir News

Join the choir! Patricia Hayden, our organist, is now officially our choir director as well. If you like what we are singing, and you like to sing, too, please join us for rehearsal on Wednesdays from 7-8 in the Matthew Room. We also meet at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays before worship.



High Times



Réalta

Old South Concert Series

Join us on Sunday, March 1 for a concert featuring High Times from Connemara, Ireland. High Time has breathtaking energy and passion for music, song and dance and their performances have been enjoyed at Old South before. For more information about the band visit www.hightime.ie

The Irish band, Réalta, will appear on Monday, March 9th at 7pm. Réalta make full use of the intricate melodies and driving rhythms that make Irish music so loved throughout the world. Performing on dueling uilleann pipes, whistles, bodhrán, guitar, bouzouki, double bass and vocals, this award winning, Belfast based band will lead the listener on a journey of music and song through the full range of the Irish tradition.

Doors open at 6pm. Jam session kicks off at 6:15. Refreshments will be available by donation. Ticket price: Adults \$15. Students \$5/\$10. Ticket reservations are recommended by calling 207 491 5919. Old South's share of the concert proceeds will benefit capital expense projects.

Volunteers and refreshments donations are needed. Contact Debbie Davis-Robinson at 207 491 5919 or sign up at the Fundraising table during coffee hour.

Future Concerts

May 9: David Mallett

May 18 or 19: David Myles



Marie Joseph Spiritual Center in Biddeford, Maine

We are looking forward to the retreat in 2020 which will be August 29th to 31st, a Saturday afternoon through Monday morning. It's not too early to "save the date" and start making payments (eight month plans February through August are available). The retreat costs \$245 for 2 nights and 6 meals, a private room, and lots of fun and spiritual re-kindling. Save your space today, with a \$40 deposit or begin your payment plan today! Confidential scholarships are available. Please see Phyllis in the church office to learn more about payment plans and scholarship and please join us!

Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministries 2020 Warming Centers

10:00am-2:00pm

Tuesdays at Henderson Memorial Baptist, 110 Academy St.

Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28 & Feb 4 & 11

Thursdays at Old South Church, 235 Main St.

Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 & Feb. 6, 13, 20 & 27

Tuesdays at St. Joseph's, 133 Middle St.

Feb. 18, 25 & Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24

Serves: people of all ages who live in the Farmington, Maine area.

Provides: a warm place to socialize and share a meal during the winter months.

Plus: hot coffee, tea, homemade soups, baked goods and fruit. Free of charge.

Donations accepted.



For More Information: <https://faemchurches.org/farmington-warming-center>



Opportunities Abound!

Are you finding that you want to be more involved in some way at Old South but also feeling like you don't have time to commit to serving on a committee? We have several programs and ministries that you could devote four hours to once a year or that you could volunteer at for one hour ten times a year! Want to know more, check with Phyllis to learn more about volunteering at Old South. Helping hands are welcome at Annie's Beanpole, Warming Centers, Community Lunches, Boiler Cleaning, and with many other ministries that don't involve serving on a committee. Please be in touch! (Phyllis@FarmingtonUCC.org and 778-0424).



Mission and Outreach

Outreach, Justice and Witness will be meeting in the Matthew Room at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, February 12. 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.

We hope to bring attention and action to the Climate Change in 2020. We feel it is the most important issue facing our world today and time is rapidly running out for action. It affects everyone but studies show that the poor and those with the least will be affected the most.

We continue to offer basic medical equipment to those in our community who need it. The equipment is loaned free of charge with only the request that it is returned when no longer needed. The sincere gratitude we receive are reward enough for this valuable community need.

The Care and Share Food Closet is another outreach program we support both financially and through food donations from the congregation. We encourage your support for this needed community organization.



Care and Share Item of the Month

Outreach, Justice, and Witness invite you to support the local nonprofit, Care & Share Food Pantry. The Care & Share item of the month for February is toilet paper. You are invited to bring this and other non-perishable goods to the church, and we will deliver them. Donations may be dropped off in the bin just outside the Sanctuary doors and your donations will be delivered to the food closet. Thank you for your ongoing support of this charity.

★ THE CHRISTMAS FUND for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

For over a century, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a tangible expression of God's love and light in the world. Year after year, United Church of Christ members and congregations have reached out in kindness, compassion, and gratitude to those who have faithfully shepherded our Church in the past and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs. On behalf of the hundreds of clergy, lay employees, and their families whose lives were touched by your support of the Christmas Fund Offering, we offer our sincere thanks for your generosity! Thank you for your gifts to the Christmas Fund. We received \$293 for this special offering of the United Church of Christ. Thank you for your support.



Usually at this time of year, we expect the possibility that our attendance might be down due to stormy or icy weather. But for January, we think our attendance was down due to the unusually WARM weather. It was 50+ degrees on Saturday, and the number of people who came in to eat with us was down. All in all we served about 125 meals, but a normal January would see us feeding around 140-150 meals. But, those who came enjoyed a hearty meal of American Chop Suey with garlic bread.

The February meal will be held on February 8th, and the menu will be macaroni and cheese with ham, peas, and biscuits. As usual, we will serve cake for dessert. Special thanks to Anne Wehrman for baking all the cakes needed for our meals each month.

We were very happy to welcome a new person in to help out with the setting up/serving/clean-up. It's always nice to have new faces. If you've never come to a Community Lunch, please come and just enjoy a meal with us. There is always good fellowship around the table...and the food ain't bad either.

Stan Wheeler
Rocell Marcellino, Co-chairs

Worship and Music



Revised Common Lectionary for the month of February

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. Mairaine will be following the Revised Common Lectionary most weeks.

Presentation of the Lord February 2, 2020	<u>Malachi 3:1-4</u>	<u>Psalm 84</u> or <u>Psalm 24:7-10</u>	<u>Hebrews 2:14-18</u>	<u>Luke 2:22-40</u>
5th Sunday after Epiphany February 9, 2020	<u>Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)</u>	<u>Psalm 112:1-9 (10)</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)</u>	<u>Matthew 5:13-20</u>
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany February 16, 2020	<u>Deuteronomy 30:15-20</u> or <u>Sirach 15:15-20</u>	<u>Psalm 119:1-8</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 3:1-9</u>	<u>Matthew 5:21-37</u>
Transfiguration Sunday February 23, 2020 (Last Sunday before Lent)	<u>Exodus 24:12-18</u>	<u>Psalm 2</u> or <u>Psalm 99</u>	<u>2 Peter 1:16-21</u>	<u>Matthew 17:1-9</u>
Ash Wednesday February 26, 2020	<u>Joel 2:1-2, 12-17</u> or <u>Isaiah 58:1-12</u>	<u>Psalm 51:1-17</u>	<u>2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10</u>	<u>Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</u>



Ash Wednesday, February 26

Please join us to mark the beginning of the season of Lent with on Ash Wednesday, February 26, at 5:15 p.m. in the Newman Wing Chapel (lower level, rear extension, next to the Church office). The service will include readings, imposition of ashes, music with Patricia Hayden, and prayer. All are welcome.

Lenten Vesper Services—Wednesdays During Lent

We will hold Vesper Services in the Newman Wing Chapel on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Join us for Lenten Vespers on March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1 for readings and a time for prayer and music with members of Shepherd's Pie. Gathering music with Shepherd's Pie will take place prior to the start of each service. The vesper services will begin at 5:15 pm. All are welcome.



Church Service and Office Cancellation Information

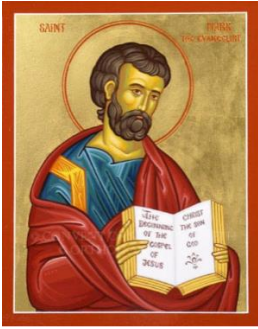
We make every effort to hold worship and other scheduled events in inclement weather, but we may cancel in the event of dangerous road conditions. Should this happen, we will update the church Facebook page and announce it on WKTJ-FM 99.3 and seek to have a notification listed in the Daily Bulldog cancellations section. The church office will close if RSU 9 cancels school due to weather.



Children and Youth

Sunday School

Our lessons this month focus on the beginning of Jesus' ministry. We meet John the Baptist on February 2, then accompany Jesus in the wilderness on February 9. Due to the school vacation week, we will not have children's programs on February 16; on February 23, we'll offer a simple activity for children during the worship service.



Middlers

We continue our journey through the Gospel of Mark, creating Sharpie marker illustrations as we go. Due to the school vacation week, we do not have lessons on February 16.

High School

We return to Coat & Cupboard on February 2. The following week, we resume our “Applied Christianity” discussions—short documentary films, news clips, and other media that offer discussion and reflection about timely issues involving faith and Christian perspectives. (No lessons on Feb. 16.)

The Pancakery Café

The Pancakery Cafe, a mission project of the Middler Youth Group, offers free brunch to our community on February 9 and 23. This month, we welcome Shepherd’s Pie, who will serve up acoustic rock favorites. Everyone in grades 4 - 9 is warmly invited to don an apron and help serve up a little bit o’ love!



Youth Group

We continue our spoken-word project this month, which we hope to share with the congregation during Lent. We meet all Sunday evenings, from 6 to 8 pm, except February 16. Dinner included!

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.

Old South Youth Programs: February 2020

February 2: Sunday School; Coat & Cupboard open today; Youth Group 6 - 8 pm

February 9: Sunday School and High School; Pancakery Cafe; Youth Group 6 - 8 pm

February 16: *School vacation week--no Sunday School or youth programs*

February 23: Special Activities with Children; Pancakery Cafe; Youth Group 6 - 8 pm

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>

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.



Welcome to the new Director of Pilgrim Lodge: Jennifer Paty

(adapted from the Maine Conference Email dated 12/22/2019)

After a long search process, deep discernment and a unanimous decision, it is with great joy, and a certain amount of relief, that we announce the arrival of our next settled Director of Pilgrim Lodge! Jennifer Paty ("Jen") is a member of the Metropolitan Community Church, has Pastored churches in the U.S. and Canada, and served 20 years in the Navy ending with the rank of Command Master Chief. Currently, she and her spouse run a successful couples counseling business. Her sense of Call to this ministry is authentic and intense. Her experience of Camp as a child was life-changing and continues to impact her life. Her spirit is joyful and contagious! We are feeling very blessed that a person of such deep and broad experience has fallen in love with Pilgrim Lodge in this season, and stands ready to lead and collaborate with us for the next phase of our Camp's journey.

Below you will find an opening letter from Jennifer, where she shares a little about herself and the work she has done:

I am honored to be serving as your next Camp Director for Pilgrim Lodge. I am excited to bring to you my experience, skills and passion for spiritual growth, relational connection, social justice, building leaders, ethical business practices, using technology to promote the greater good, outdoor adventure and especially, having fun. I look forward to my role in promoting the positive influence that camp has on so many lives.

This calling took me by surprise in how my life's journey has prepared me to address the needs of Pilgrim Lodge.

- In my US Navy service, as a Command Master Chief, I basically directed a very large camp with a very big mission. I was responsible for the safety, security, welfare, morale, leadership development and recreation for thousands of service members and their families.
- In my social justice ministry, I am dedicated to addressing spiritual violence, human rights and poverty. It is this work that gives life to my Christian education and Seminary experience, always deepening my understanding of the Gospel and other sacred texts.

- I am a relationship guide and student of relational healing and growth. I help individuals, couples, business and church communities learn to honor the sacred space of their relationships as they develop the skills to work from conflict to connection.
- In my quest to bring a positive shift to the world, I have been studying and successfully implementing best practice for business development and social media presence and marketing.

My goal is to strengthen the foundation for the sustainability of Pilgrim Lodge through combining ethical business practices with spiritual growth and development. I plan to continue all the best in the programs that our youth have been enjoying as well as address the emerging needs. I am passionate about helping youth grow to meet their full potential in a naturally stunning, spiritual and welcoming environment. The world needs more people who are spiritually grounded, growing in relational maturity, well balanced and intentional about living life alive and awake and I am dedicated to making Pilgrim Lodge a stronger component of that greater mission, while having fun.

I have been blessed that so much of my work has been the expression of my deepest passions and I live very much in the work/life merger space. I do however enjoy time for travel, reading, personal spiritual development, culinary explorations, and being active outdoors in Maine's sun and snow.

I look forward to meeting you as we work together to bring the Pilgrim Lodge experience to all who will benefit. I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jennifer Paty, M.Div.

There will be more background information to come, and several opportunities to meet and greet Jennifer in the coming months. The Pilgrim Lodge Leadership Team is already planning for her introduction to the Conference. Jen's first day will be January 2, 2020. Melinda Trotti will overlap with her for a few weeks to ease the transition.

Deborah

Rev. Deborah Blood
Conference Minister

Stephenie

Stephenie Michaud
Chair, Pilgrim Lodge Search Team

Ben

Ben Haskell
Chair, PL Leadership Team



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 and Stay Connected!

OLD SOUTH CHURCH

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

WORSHIP: 9:30 AM SUNDAYS

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



<http://www.farmingtonucc.org/>
www.facebook.com/OldSouthFarmington

Old South Statement of Identity

“In Christ there is no longer Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for all are one...”

(Galatians 3:28)

Walking toward God, we, the members of (Old South) First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Farmington, Maine, seek through God’s Grace to be a congregation that includes all persons who desire to live God’s Love, as shown to us through the teachings and example of Jesus Christ. We respect and embrace differences of gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identification, mental and physical ability, as well as racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic background. We welcome all to share fully in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, and blessings of participation in our congregation. We are an open and affirming church: open to all, and affirming of all God’s beloved children. No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00am Called to Care (Matthew Room)
2 9:00am Coat & Cupboard (HMH Carriage House) 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends* (HMH Gathering Room) 6:00pm Youth Group (Matthew Room)	3 10:30am Christian Ed (Matthew Room) 12:00pm Retirees Lunch (Vestry) 6:00pm Buddhist Group* (Newman Wing)	4 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel)	5 9:30am Staff Meeting (Church Office) 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	6 10:00am Warming Center (Newman Wing) 6:00pm Executive Council (Church Office)	7 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group* (Matthew Room)	8 12:00pm Community Lunch (Vestry)
9 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends* (HMH Gathering Room) 11:00am Pancakery Playgroup (Old South Church) 11:00am Financial Annual Meeting (Sanctuary) 11:30am Pancakery (Vestry) 6:00pm Youth Group (Matthew Room)	10 6:00pm Buddhist Group* (Newman Wing)	11 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel) 5:30pm Financial Trustees (Church Office) 6:30pm Outreach, Justice, Witness (Matthew Room)	12 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	13 10:00am Warming Center (Newman Wing)	14 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group* (Matthew Room)	15 9:00am Called to Care (Matthew Room)
16 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends* (HMH Gathering Room)	17 6:00pm Buddhist Group* (Newman Wing)	18 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel) 6:00pm Property Trustees (Church Office)	19 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	20 10:00am Warming Center (Newman Wing) 2:00pm Just Friends (Chapel)	21 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group* (Matthew Room)	22 9:00am Called to Care Training (Matthew Room)
23 9:30am Farmington Friends* (HMH Gathering Room) 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Deacons (Matthew Room) 11:00am Pancakery Playgroup (Old South Church) 11:30am Pancakery (Vestry) 6:00pm Youth Group (Matthew Room)	24 6:00pm Buddhist Group* (Newman Wing)	25 5:00pm Cooking with God and Friends: Shrove Tuesday (Kitchen, Vestry) 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel)	26 5:15pm Ash Wednesday (Chapel) 7:00pm Shepherd's Pie (Chapel) 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	27 10:00am Warming Center (Newman Wing) 1:00pm Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry (Offsite) 7:00pm The Open Circle, LGBTQ+ Support Group* (Matthew Room)	28 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group* (Matthew Room)	29