

Old South Church

United Church of Christ

February 2018 Telstar

Rooted in faith, Growing in love, reaching for justice

How quickly we move into a new year and church season of Epiphany, bringing its own beauty in scripture and song that lift up light and inspiration. It is a special and needed emphasis that lifts our spirits during the darker, colder time of winter. And, memories of faces reflected in the candlelit beauty of Christmas Eve worship are peace bringing and hopeful for the time ahead.

There is much coming together at Old South that moves the church forward in its interim time process. Lent comes in February with its movement toward the light and life of Easter. The Transition Team will complete its work having compiled a new Church Profile and a Prospectus. Work will shift to your Search Committee with good timing and promise for timely transition.

It will be a year since I began as your Interim Minister on February 7, 2017. Much has been accomplished with the Transition Team's diligent work and the well-attended congregational conversations that provided needed input for the Church Profile. I feel blessed to minister with you during this time as we continue the walk with much difficult work now completed.

You have much at Old South to offer an incoming settled pastor. You have important and needed outreach and mission that is ongoing. You have strong and committed leadership. You have a diverse congregation with much to offer including children and young people engaged in exciting outreach and activities. I enjoy working with this congregation and its dedicated and excellent staff that together make so many things possible.

We continue to work at being closer spiritually and functioning better, prepared well for the coming settled pastorate. The prophet Jeremiah tells us, "Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, they shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes. And its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit."

May we remember the power of our prayers and the needed unity and inspiration of our worship as we are held ever in God's love.

In the peace Christ gives,
Linda

Rev. Linda Hatch

Interim Minister
Linda@FarmingtonUCC.org

Jodie Gunther

Director of Children and
Youth Ministries
Jodie@FarmingtonUcc.org

Phyllis Pederson

Church Office
Phyllis@FarmingtonUcc.org

Kate Clark

Communications
Kate@FarmingtonUcc.org

Old South Church

227 Main Street (office)
207/778-0424

235 Main Street (church)
207/778-4438
Farmington, ME 04938

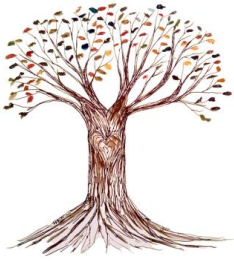
Find us on Facebook at:

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. Linda? Linda will be in the office when she doesn't have appointments or meetings. In general, Linda is in town Tuesday through Thursday and Sunday. Please feel free to contact Pastor Linda at 356-7573 or email her at Linda@FarmingtonUCC.org

Please note, Linda will be on vacation February 19 through February 26. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact the church office at 778-0424 or Deacon Shelley Griffith at: 207-578-1801(cell), 639-2013(home), or by email (sgriffith875@gmail.com).

Executive Council

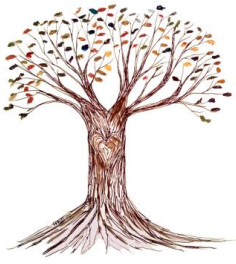
Interim Minister:	Rev. Linda Hatch
Moderator:	Chris Magri
Treasurer:	Amanda Adams
Clerk:	Shannon Munro
Financial Secretary & Fundraising:	Brenda Scribner
Director of Children and Youth Ministries:	Jodie Gunther
Chair, Christian Ed:	Arin Hilton
Chair, Diaconate:	Shelley Griffith
Chair, Financial Trustees: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

Church Service 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 voicemail (778-0424) and Facebook page, and announce it on WKTJ-FM 99.3. If Sunday school is cancelled, but worship is not, we will update our answering machine and Facebook.

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

The deadline for submissions for the March Telstar is February 10. Please submit all articles to the church office (Phyllis@FarmingtonUCC.org) no later than Feb. 10.



From The Moderator

Here we are in a new calendar year, and which big issue should I address to kick off 2018? The issue that's been occupying my mind for the past month or so is the Holman Mission House -- specifically, the possibility that we might house Farmington's homeless shelter there. Back in September we received the surprise news that SAPARS was moving out of HMH, but now we can seriously hope that this unwanted surprise was simply the prelude to a positive future.

Of course finding a tenant to provide us with rent is important in a practical sense, but actually that's not primarily what I mean by "positive." As the person who led the shelter's board members on a tour of HMH, I got to witness first-hand their enthusiasm as they realized how this location could help the shelter's operation: numerous well-lit bedrooms, multiple rooms for watching TV or movies, lots of storage space, a downtown site within walking distance of services and library and playgrounds, and so on. That is, by providing this opportunity at a reasonable price, Old South would be making a significant positive difference for the homeless clients who need the shelter's help in getting back on their feet. Moreover, we could hope to help out at the volunteer level as well, forging a meaningful, ongoing relationship with the shelter.

What further pleases me about this prospect is that our hard work in discussing the Holman House's future is what's made it a viable possibility. We spent the bulk of 2016 on this discussion -- and let's be honest, it wasn't anyone's idea of a good time. But we stuck it out, we were constructive, and we compromised: we chose to keep a building that one shelter board member has described as a "godsend" for them; and we agreed to move our own offices out of that building, as will be necessary if the shelter moves in. Then last year we followed up with the financial contributions that made our church building handicapped-accessible, clearing the way for an office move in the next few months. In short, the latest developments suggest that our efforts are paying off! Thus it will be poetic justice if the shelter plan indeed pans out. Yet even if some unforeseen snag gets in the way of that particular plan, I'll still be proud of what we've accomplished and confident that we're on the right path.

Chris Magri



From the Treasurer

The Annual Financial meeting is approaching and I hope you will make plans to join us on February 11 after our morning worship service.

We have gotten a preliminary budget together for 2018. There are many uncertainties ahead of us for 2018, but I'm really hoping and praying that the faithfulness of our parishioners will not be one of those. At this time our pledging is down approximately \$14,000 from last year. If you have not turned in your pledge for 2018, I would like to encourage you to do so. If there is a reason you have reservations about pledging for 2018, please contact me. If there's one thing the transition conversations showed us, it is that we are better together when we are honest and open about how we feel about things.

Again, I encourage you to make plans to attend the Financial Meeting and I look forward to talking about our future together.

Love you all,
Amanda

Annual Financial Meeting NOTICE

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

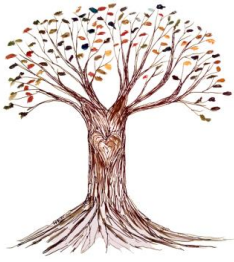
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Church, the FINANCIAL/BUDGETING ANNUAL MEETING thereof will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2018 immediately following the worship service.

The purpose of the meeting is:

1. To receive and review Financial Reports from 2017;
2. To receive a Pledge Report for 2018;
3. To approve the 2018 operating budget;
4. To receive an update on the Pastoral Search Committee and to vote on the composition of this committee;
5. To transact such other or further business that may properly come before said meeting.

Dated at Farmington, Maine, January 7, 2017
Shannon Munro, Clerk

In lieu of a regular coffee hour on Annual Meeting Sunday, we are all encouraged to bring something to share. Foods that can easily be consumed with our fingers are the easiest for us at this meeting: crackers and cheese, mini-quiche, muffins, deviled eggs, fruit, cut up veggies, mini sandwiches, etc. Thank you for your help!



Financial Trustees

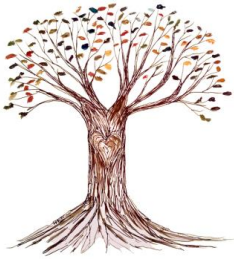
The Financial Trustees have completed the proposed budget for 2018. This will be presented to the congregation at our annual budget meeting in February

The Stewardship Campaign kick-off was held on Sunday, November 12. Letters for this campaign were mailed Friday, November 10. If you have not sent in or turned in your pledge card, please do so. Cards may be mailed, left with Phyllis in the office, or placed in the offering baskets on Sunday. Reminder letters have been mailed. If you have misplaced your pledge card, there are letters, cards and addressed envelopes in the church narthex. We appreciate all that our church community does to support our church, its programs, and its wider mission.

We are now in the second year of our capital campaign. The installation of the handicap lift in the Newman Wing has been completed and will be ready for use as soon as we receive the official state safety certificate. We will have a dedication and demonstration of use when all is ready. Automatic door openers have been installed. Be sure to check with Phyllis or a member of the Property Trustees on safe operation of these. If you have not received your capital campaign packet, a member of the Financial Trustees' Committee will be calling you very soon.

Our investment funds have been transferred to HeadInvest. This is a Maine investment company affiliated with the Maine UCC Conference. It manages the Maine Conference investments.

Respectfully submitted
Marilyn Hylan, Chairperson



Deacons' Corner

Greetings to you from all the Deacons as we begin our journey through the year 2018!

According to Chinese Astrology (after all, what have we got to lose?), 2018 will be an Earth Year, associated with the qualities of patience, thoughtfulness and practicality. The Earth element seeks to bring people together in harmony, rootedness and stability. May it be so, with the help of God, at Old South Church (and beyond!) during the year of 2018!

This Christmas season the Deacons hosted Old South's Hanging of the Greens for a second year. We are continuing to learn about the many aspects involved in making this event a success. This year the deacons and hospitality hosts John and Mardy Bogar offered a pot luck lunch and, thanks to Amanda Adams, we were serenaded by Christmas music over the loud speakers. Thanks to the many people who stayed to help out (as well as to the people who helped with the "UNhanging" on January 7th) If you have any suggestions for this joyous celebration of Hope for next year, please let us know!

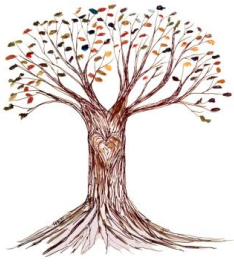
At the top of the Diaconate's list at the moment is the selection of prospective members for Old South's search committee for a new settled pastor. By the time you read this Telstar Article we hope to be nearing the time when we can present this group to you, the congregation, for a vote. We have many, many people at Old South who have remarkable gifts and who would be great members of a search committee. If we took all of these folks the search committee might fill the whole Sanctuary and that might be a bit daunting for an interested candidate. The tricky part, as we are discovering, is to choose 12 people (the maximum allowed by our bylaws) whose gifts will mesh with one another and who, together, will reflect the diversity of interests and lives of faith within our church community.

If you expressed an interest in being on the search committee and are not selected, we hope that you will know that it was not because you were unworthy in any way, but because of the difficult process of narrowing our choices down to a small group which, in itself, can represent a microcosm of our church family.

May God's blessings be with you all throughout the year to come!

Shelley

(your deacons: Rina Bardo, Roger Condit, Linda Fournier, Shelley Griffith, Grace McIntosh, Wendy Oakley, Michelle Scribner, Mary Sinclair, Fred O. Smith, Carole Trickett, Ryan Westbrook-Vigue)



Transition Team

Your Transition Team is continuing to work on our church profile which is a document that is used in the search process. The topics of our round-table discussions, "Who are we now?" "Who is our neighbor?" "Who is God calling us to become?" and "Who is God calling to minister with us?" are also the topics of four sections in the new Profile. Thanks to all who participated in these very rich conversations and explorations. They have provided the Transition Team with the up-to-date congregational feelings and ideas with which to write the narrative response to these essential questions.

Other sections are current congregational demographics, staffing needs, and church finances.

Please contact any of our Transition Team if you have any questions.

Rina Bardo (phone: 778-9978, dnrbardo@gwi.net)

Jen and Gabe Civiello (phone: 645-2180, civielloja@gmail.com)

Karyl Condit (phone: 778-3722, krcondit2@gmail.com)

Shelley Griffith (phone: 639-2013, sgriffith875@gmail.com)

Roy Scribner (phone: 602-0561, rbike02@gmail.com)

Mary Sinclair (phone: 712-2930, mary.sinclair@maine.edu)

Donna Wheeler (phone: 778-3642, donna.wheeler71@gmail.com)



News and Upcoming Events



**DON'T
FORGET...**

Committee and Group Meetings

Christian Education	Tuesday, February 6, Matthew Room at 9:30 am
Deacons' Meeting	To be determined
Executive Council	Wednesday, February 7, HMH Meeting Room at 6:00 pm
Financial Trustees	Tuesday, February 13, HMH Meeting Room at 5:30 pm
Outreach, Justice, Witness	Tuesday, February 20, Matthew Room at 6:30 pm
Property Trustees	Tuesday, February 20, HMH at 6:00 pm
Staff Meeting	To be determined
Transition Team	Wednesday, Feb. 7, HMH Gathering Room at 5:15 pm



**SAVE THE DATE!! Friday, February 9, 2018, Old South Vestry
Pot Luck Dinner and Game Night for all ages, 5:30 to 8 p.m.**

**Bring your favorite dish and a game and to help with clean up,
please bring your own plates and utensils (paper plates will be available).**

Add some fun to February with an evening with Old South friends. Everyone is welcome! Beverages provided. If you'd like more information or have some feedback for the hosts, feel free to contact the Rileys or Sinclair/Adams. Hosted by Dinner Group, Gil and Betsy Riley (645-2884), Amanda Adams and Mary Sinclair (712-2930), Abby McCarthy and Rowan, Karyl and Roger Condit

Retirees Lunch

Mark your calendars and join us for lunch on February 5 for the next Retirees Lunch. Lynda and Dick will be serving chicken stew. Bring a dish to share if you would like and join us. For more information, contact Dick Giard at 897-6228.



News & Upcoming Events

2018 Concert Series

The 2018 Old South Concert Series kicks off on Thursday, March 22. The series will be operating with Phill McIntyre (founder of New England Celtic Arts) as consultant. Maine and New England based and International artists will continue to come to the Old South venue. McIntyre has secured sound and light funding for an 8 event calendar with Saddleback Wind Ridge and Senior Planning. Some artists have expressed they would be interested in spending the concert evening in private homes. If you are interested in hosting a band for one-night contact Debbie Davis-Robinson or Halcyon Yorks for more details. Additional program sponsors will be solicited in order to offer a housing stipend for traveling artists when private housing is not available or feasible and for wages for professional sound and lights rental/operations. OSC proceeds will benefit Capital Campaign projects.

Volunteers will be needed for each concert to help with poster distribution; to help setup/prepare/serve and clean up for a meal before the concert; to set up and manage intermission refreshments; donations of food and beverages for intermission; vestry and kitchen clean up after intermission; replace furniture moved prior to performance. If you are able to help with volunteering or program sponsorship, please contact Debbie Davis-Robinson 207-491-5919, Halcyon Yorks 207-779-0111, or Brenda Scribner 207-299-3686.

Kicking off the 2018 Concert Series on Thursday, March 22nd is Indie-Soul-Folk band GoldenOak, formed by Mt Blue High School brother-sister duo, Lena and Zak Kendall. The Kendalls have been making music together since they were kids. They began writing and performing in 2014 with their first official album release, "Pleasant St", co-written with cellist, Seth Wegner in 2016. With the release of their original



album, GoldenOak, highlighted by beautiful instrumentation and voice, the band became ambassadors of the Maine Folk scene. A series of live video was produced to help aid in promoting "Pleasant St." as the band began to tour widely in the Northeast. Following the tour GoldenOak was nominated as one of Portland's most important upcoming bands according to Dispatch Magazine. The brother-sister duo often include fellow musicians and band mates, Seth Wegner (cell), Max Eddington (piano), and Jackson Cromwell (percussion), and shared the stage with notable artists Lady Lamb, The Ghost of Paul Revere, The Mallett Brother's Band, and Parsonsfield. Tickets will be \$15 adults, students \$10/\$5. More info can be found at GoldenOakband.com.



News & Upcoming Events



Thursday, April 12th will feature Seattle-based sisters, The Gothard Sisters. The sisters started to play together in 2006, first busking for tips at farmers' market, eventually finding themselves on stages at fairs and festivals. Time has brought sisters, Greta, Willow and Solana international recognition by providing "high energy musical entertainment steeped in Celtic roots, featuring

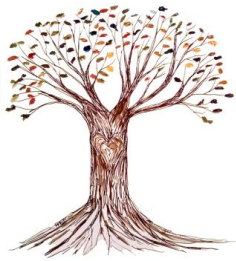
Irish step-dancing, truly a fresh and inspired family friendly evening, seasoned with a dash of sibling-banter. The beautifully talented sisters self-produced and released a collection of music videos that complement their albums, "Story Girl", "Compass", "Mountain Rose" and Christmas album, "Falling Snow". Tickets will be \$15 adults, students \$10/\$5. More information about The Gothard Sisters can be found at Gothardsisters.com

On Thursday, May 1st, childhood friends, Jennifer Austin, Kristan Harvey, Jeana Leslie and Catriona Price, known as "Fara" will take the stage piano creating a fiery sound steeped in the music of Orkney with three fiddles and piano. These four musicians have taken their place at the forefront of today's Scottish folk scene. Fara has performed across the UK and Europe with an exciting show full of energetic fiddles, masterfully played piano and rich harmonies. The ladies of Fara incorporate a mix of original compositions and traditional Orkney tunes creating a diverse, but individual sound. Tickets will be \$15 adults, students \$10/\$5. For more information go to Faramusic.co.uk

OS Concert Series will help the Tannahill Weavers, one of Scotland's premiere traditional bands, celebrate their 50th anniversary on Thursday, June 7th as they promote the release of their newest album, "Orach". The Tannahills first visited the U.S. in 1981 and since have filled the role of cultural ambassadors called "the finest purveyors of Scottish music in the kingdom" enthusiastically entertaining the audience with blend of tunes from "reflective ballads to footstomping reels and jigs".

The "Tannies" have received decades of worldwide recognition for their "exuberant and humorous performances" demonstrating the musical heritage of the Celtic people. Vocals, guitar, flute, whistles, bodran, fiddle, highland bagpipes and Scottish small pipes round out their repertoire. Tickets \$20 adults, students \$10/\$5. For more information about the Tannahill Weavers go to tannahillweavers.com

If you would like to be added to the Old South Concert Series mailing list and receive regular OS Concert Series newsletters send email to debbiedavisrobinson@gmail.com.



News & Upcoming Events



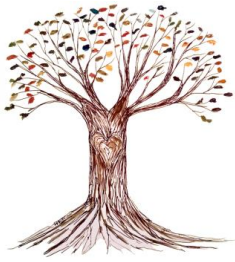
Opportunities Abound

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, and with many other ministries that don't involve serving on a committee. Please be in touch! (Phyllis@FarmingtonUCC.org and 778-0424).



Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry

Do you feel called to build relationship with other faith communities in our area? There is space available to serve as an Old South representative at Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry. Member churches include Fairbanks Union Church, Henderson Memorial Baptist Church, Old South Church, The First Congregational Church of Wilton, St. Joseph's Parish, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Shorey Chapel, the Farmington Society of Friends, and Trinity United Methodist Church. The group meets ten times a year on the third Thursday of every month except July and August at 1:00 pm to discuss and support ecumenical faith activities including the Warming Centers and worship services such as the Martin Luther King, Jr. service which was held at Old South last month. Please let us know if you are interested in serving in this way!



Mission & Outreach

Outreach, Justice and Witness will be meeting in the Matthew Room at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, February 20. 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.



Care and Share Food Closet Item of the Month Canned Soup and Canned Tomatoes

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. Thank you for your ongoing support of this ministry.

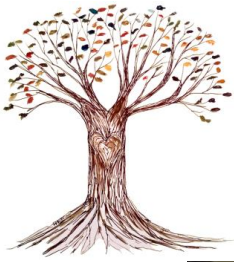
Special United Church of Christ Offering The Christmas Fund

Thank you for your gifts to the Christmas Fund. We received \$194 for this special offering of the United Church of Christ.



Coat Closet Donations

We are accepting donation of coats, snow pants, ski jackets and blankets for the coat closet ministry. Please do not drop off shoes and other clothing items. We are not accepting 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! Thank you for your help and for your ongoing support!



Mission & Outreach



COMMUNITY LUNCH

Unfortunately, due to a forecast of freezing rain, we had to cancel the January Community Luncheon. In the long history of our Community Luncheons, I believe this is only the second time we've had to cancel the Lunch. So, instead of giving you some numbers of meals served, I thought I'd share an insight into the process of preparing our meals and what's involved in the decision to cancel.

I usually begin to think in earnest about the "process" of preparing the meal on Monday morning. I review the menu in my mind, and the many steps necessary to prepare the menu and the order in which we do those steps. I then send an email to the Kitchen Crew outlining our plan for the day. Then, I review the food items that people have signed up to bring and prepare a food order. We order many of our food items from Naples Packing, and I like to get the order to them by Tuesday, especially if we have things like biscuits. Also, I check with Rocell about the meat for the meal and make sure that it's been ordered as well. (In the case of this month's meal, I would be ordering the ground meat from Naples and having them charge it to Calzolaio Pasta Co.)

So, this week, on Monday, I heard a forecast for Saturday that said high possibility of freezing rain for Saturday. I began to consider the possibility that we might need to cancel the meal. On Tuesday, the forecast remained the same. I was concerned that travel conditions would be bad, and that we don't want to have people putting themselves at risk to get to the meal, nor did we want to have our own drivers trying to make deliveries in freezing rain conditions. So, after briefly consulting with other members of the Kitchen Crew, we made the decision to cancel.

Then began the process of getting the word out. We contacted the church office to have the "This Week at Old South" updated, contacted the press with updated information, changed the message on the phone at the church office, contacted Jodie for God's Kitchen Crew, and attempted to contact as many people as possible that were providing food or helping with set up, etc.

The meal for February will be served on Saturday, February 10, at Noon in the Vestry. We hope you will join us. If you would like to help with the meal, please check the sign up posters that will be posted on the kitchen doors by February 3.

Stan Wheeler



Fundraising

Credit Cards Now Accepted at Fundraising Table



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.

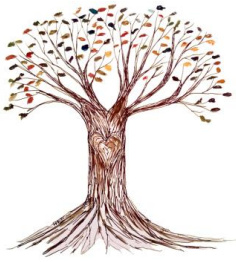


Shopping That Benefits Old South Church

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

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>



Children & Youth



Sunday School

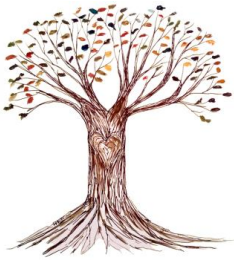
This month, we hear the stories Jesus shared with his disciples to help them understand God's Kingdom. First, we'll learn about a farmer whose plantings had mixed results---some plants thrived, while others did not. Then, we'll take a look at an unlikely hero--a man from Samaria who came to the aid of an injured traveler. How do these stories help us to know God better? Due to the school vacation week, we will not have children's programs on February 18; on February 25, we'll offer a simple activity for children during the worship service.

BBC (grades 7 and older)

Coat & Cupboard starts off our month---as of this writing, we've distributed more than 181 coats, 54 blankets, and 75 pairs of boots! Wow! Then, we may spend a morning with the Farmington Friends, experiencing their worship in silence. (No BBC 2/18 or 2/25, due to school vacation week.)

Lenten Events

We will be observing Lent this year with a special take-home project for families, as well as our annual Lenten Labyrinth. This year, we will be collecting toiletries only--toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, and so on. After Easter, we'll pack up these items to make them available for school nurses and counselors to discreetly hand to students in challenging home environments.



Children & Youth

Confirmation Discussion: Faith & Doubt

What, exactly, is faith? What is belief? How do we profess to follow Christ when we have doubts and questions? Our Confirmation Discussion group will meet at 5:30 pm on February 11 for a simple soup dinner, then move into the Matthew Room for discussion.

Pancakery

We're on a roll--a sweet roll, that is! The Pancakery offers free brunch to our community on February 11 and 25. (We realize the Annual Meeting will be in the Vestry, so we'll do a little creative work to find a temporary home for the Pancakery that day.) Everyone in grades 5 - 9 is warmly invited to don an apron and help serve up a little bit o' love!



God's Kitchen Crew

Cupid's arrow will once again be flying (no, wait! that's a toilet plunger!) as God's Kitchen Crew plays another silly Valentine's Day game. Plus, we'll be making "triple chocolate" cakes-yum!

For children in grades 2 - 5
Wednesday, Feb. 7, 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.



Old South Youth Programs: February 2018

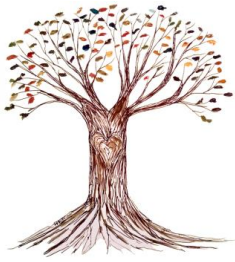
February 4: Sunday School; BBC: Coat & Cupboard open today!

Wednesday, February 7: God's Kitchen Crew 3:00 pm

February 11: Sunday School; BBC field trip?; Pancakery

February 18: School vacation week--no Sunday School or children's programs

February 25: Special activities with children (instead of Sunday School); Pancakery



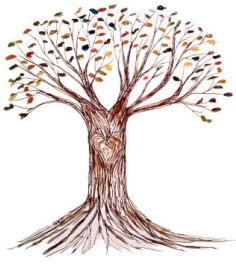
Worship & Music



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 February.

		Psalm		Gospel
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany February 4, 2018	<u>Isaiah 40:21-31</u>	<u>Psalm 147:1-11, 20c</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 9:16-23</u>	<u>Mark 1:29-39</u>
Transfiguration Sunday February 11, 2018 (Last Sunday before Lent)	<u>2 Kings 2:1-12</u>	<u>Psalm 50:1-6</u>	<u>2 Corinthians 4:3-6</u>	<u>Mark 9:2-</u>
Ash Wednesday February 14, 2018	<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>
First Sunday in Lent February 18, 2018	<u>Genesis 9:8-17</u>	<u>Psalm 25:1-10</u>	<u>1 Peter 3:18-22</u>	<u>Mark 1:9-15</u>
Second Sunday in Lent February 25, 2018	<u>Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16</u>	<u>Psalm 22:23-31</u>	<u>Romans 4:13-25</u>	<u>Mark 8:31-38</u> or <u>Mark 9:2-9</u>



Music and Worship



Ash Wednesday Service

Please join us to mark the beginning of the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service in the Matthew Room at 5:15 pm on February 14. All are welcome.

Liturgical Colors and Lent

The traditions of Lent are derived from the season's origin as a time when the church prepared candidates, or "catechumens," for their baptism into the Body of Christ. It eventually became a season of preparation not only for catechumens but also for the whole congregation. Self-examination, study, fasting, prayer and works of love are disciplines historically associated with Lent. Conversion—literally, the "turning around" or reorientation of our lives towards God—is the theme of Lent. Both as individuals and as a community, we look inward and reflect on our readiness to follow Jesus in his journey towards the cross. The forty days of Lent correspond to the forty-day temptation of Jesus in the wilderness and the forty-year journey of Israel from slavery to a new community.

On Ash Wednesday, ashes are placed on the foreheads of the congregation as a symbol that we have come from dust and one day will return to dust. It is one of many Lenten and Easter customs that remind us of our historical connection with Jewish tradition. With this sobering reminder of life's fragility, we begin a spiritual quest that continues until the Easter Vigil, when new members of the church are often baptised and the entire congregation joins in a reaffirmation of baptismal vows. Most of this time of preparation is symbolized by the color Violet, though the season is bracketed by the mourning Black of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. As an alternative to Violet, some churches have begun to use brown, beige or gray (the colors of rough unbleached cloth like burlap) to reflect the season's mood of penitence and simplicity. The somber colors are a reminder of the unbleached "sackcloth" worn by mourners and penitents in the Jewish tradition.



Have you ever wondered how Old South relates to other UCC churches in our state and in the United States? We are a United Church of Christ Church. Old South Church and seventeen other UCC churches in Kennebec and Franklin County belong to the Living Water Association of the Maine Conference, UCC. According to Article III of our Association bylaws, we covenant with each other to:

- 1. Build community, encourage cooperation, and provide opportunities for service among our ministers and laity, as well as among Christians and among all peoples.*
- 2. Determine, confer, and certify the standing of member churches and affiliated clergy.*
- 3. Advise candidates for authorized ministry (e.g., ordination, commission, or licensure).*
- 4. Stimulate and encourage the spiritual, educational, community, and justice and peace ministries of our member churches and ministers.*
- 5. Serve as partners in common ministry with the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ and with the wider ministry of the United Church of Christ.*

The Maine Conference is comprised of 154 congregations, including Old South Church, in Maine which are represented in seven Associations including our Living Water Association. The churches in the Conference are served by a Conference Minister (Deborah J. Blood) and an Associate Conference Minister (Darren L. Morgan), an administrative, program, and support staff. The Conference Office is located in Augusta. Pilgrim Lodge is an outdoor ministry of the Maine Conference.

At the national level, we belong to the United Church of Christ. The United Church of Christ is led by a General Minister and President, Rev. John Dorhauer. Assisting in this work are additional Officers, administrative, program, and support staff and a Board of Directors. "The United Church of Christ (UCC) is a distinct and diverse community of Christians that come together as one church to join faith and action. With over 5,000 churches and nearly one million members across the U.S., the UCC serves God in the co-creation of a just and sustainable world. The UCC is a church of firsts, a church of extravagant welcome, and a church where "...they may all be one" (John 17:21)." <http://www.ucc.org/about>

We support the work of the Living Water Association, the Maine Conference, and the United Church of Christ in many ways. We provide volunteers, lay leadership, and financial support through membership dues, OCWM, donations, and through contributions to Capital Campaigns such as the one for Pilgrim Lodge.

There are many ways to learn more about our church leaders and officers and the United Church of Christ and to stay involved with your wider faith community. Rev. Dorhauer has a weekly podcast available on UCC.org and on iTunes (http://www.ucc.org/into_the_mystic). He creates these weekly messages so that "the art and practice of spiritual reflection is modeled as a priority and not just a part time avocation." You may also subscribe to a Daily Devotional (http://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional).

To learn more about the Living Water Association, please talk to Karyl Condit, the current Moderator of the Association. To learn more about the Maine Conference and the UCC, please contact the church office or check out the websites (www.maineucc.org and www.ucc.org) and Facebook pages.



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/>



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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 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00pm Shepherd's Pie (Chapel)	2	3
4 9:00am Coat & Cupboard Open (HMH Carriage House) 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room) 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 12:00pm UMF Maine Partnership for Environmental Stewardship Event (Vestry)	5 12:00pm Retirees Lunch (Vestry) 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	6 9:30am Christian Ed (Matthew Room) 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel)	7 3:00pm God's Kitchen Crew (Kitchen, Vestry) 5:15pm Transition Team (HMH Gathering Room) 6:00pm Executive Council (Holman Mission House) 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	8 7:00pm Shepherd's Pie (Chapel)	9 9:00am Peeling Party (Kitchen) 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group (Matthew Room) 5:30pm Old South Potluck Dinner and Game Night (Kitchen, Vestry)	10 12:00pm Community Lunch (Kitchen, Vestry) 5:00pm Telstar Article Deadline (Church Office)
11 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room) 11:00am Pancakey (Matthew Room) 11:00am Financial Annual Meeting (Vestry) 5:30pm Confirmation Discussion (Matthew Room)	12 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	13 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel) 5:30pm Financial Trustees (HMH Meeting Room)	14 5:15pm Ash Wednesday Service (Matthew Room) 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	15 6:00pm Third Thursday Group (Newman Wing) 7:00pm Shepherd's Pie (Chapel)	16	17
18 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room) 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary)	19 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	20 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel) 6:00pm Property Trustees (HMH Meeting Room) 6:30pm Outreach, Justice, Witness (Chapel)	21 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room) 7:00pm LinQ/LGBTQ Support Group (Chapel)	22	23 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group (Matthew Room)	24
25 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends (HMH Gathering Room) 11:00am Pancakey (Old South Church)	26 6:00pm Buddhist Group (Newman Wing)	27 5:30pm InnerRhythm (Chapel)	28 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)			