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SANDSCRIPT

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth Newsletter
840 Sandwich Road, East Falmouth, MA 02536 * 508-457-0449 * www.UUFalmouth.org

RELIGIOUS SERVICES IN MAY

The Theme for May is *Pluralism—celebrating the beauty of the diversity in our backgrounds, the differences in our perspectives, and the variations in our beliefs.*

May 5th at 10 AM—*Aaart*, led by John Jackson; service associate Judy Andrade. What is art? Why is art? John doesn't know the answer, but he's got some opinions that may work for you. We will be celebrating art from our own friends and members, and discussing art, Art, and Aaart!

May 12th at 10 AM—*Mother's Day Sunday*, led by Julie DeSorgher; service associate Izzie Williams. Carla Koehl, the *Cape Cod Foster Closet* Outreach Coordinator, will be introducing the organization and the work it does. In addition, the Caring Committee will recognize this year's "Volunteer of the Year" award winner.

We are also collecting disposable diapers of all sizes, so please bring them to the Meeting House on or before May 12. (More information on diaper collection can be found on page 6.)

Share the Plate - As part of the recognition for all families, the STP on May 12 will be collected for *Cape Cod Foster Closet*. *Cape Cod Foster Closet* is a program of Nurturing Foster Families, Inc., a registered 501(c)(3) organization, supporting foster and relative caregiver families by providing material goods for children in care. The *Cape Cod Foster Closet* assists foster, pre-adoptive, and kinship families by providing necessary items such as clothing, shoes, toys, books, baby equipment (including formula and car seats) and furniture for all ages. Please give generously.

May 19th at 10 AM—*You, Me, Us and Them*, worship associates are Kathi Sommers and Rosa Whiting. This service is about You, Me, Us and Them—some personal journeys into the realm of difference and pluralism. Kathi and Rosa will share how they learned to negotiate and operate in a world where not everyone looks, thinks or acts similarly. Interpreting our 7th Principle: *The interconnectedness of all existence* highlights the impact our actions have on others. Recognizing our place within the web fosters compassion and empathy for all beings.

May 26th at 10 AM—*won't you celebrate with me*, led by Marney Rathbun; service associate Julie DeSorgher. The poem *won't you celebrate with me* by Lucille Clifton invites a reader to celebrate the speaker's life and survival. Marney will share her insights about this testimony to plurality and its possibilities.

Marney is a poet and chaplain. Her writing has appeared in *Kenyon Review*, *West Branch*, *Iterant*, *Salt Hill Journal*, *The Fourth River*, and elsewhere. She is a graduate student at Harvard Divinity School and serves as the chaplain to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Marney and her wife live in Woods Hole, MA on land first loved and cared for by the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

President's Corner



UU FALMOUTH BOARD 2023-2024 Officers

Charlotte Harris, President
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Flurkey
Communications—Joanie
Thompson & Nannette
Oldenbourg
Denominational Affairs—Larry Ladd
Development—TBD
Fellowship Activities—Steve &
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Finance—Gayle Simundza
Lay Ministry Team—Tom Kirkman
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Membership—Carolyn Powers
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Music—Susan Brooks
Nominating—Julie DeSorgher
Religious Services—Judy Andrade
& Julie DeSorgher
Safe Congregation—Contact: Tom
Kirkman
Social & Environmental Action—
Robin Melavalin & Rosa Whiting
Welcoming Congregation—Contact:
Judy LeBeau

Hello Members and Friends,

The sun shines, daffodils and forsythia blaze in the yard, spring chores yell, “Come out, get to work,” but I’m inside more concerned about having enough Kleenex and cough drops than getting ahead in the yard. What a wimp. Although my cold kept me from the Governing Board meeting this past Thursday, its doings cheered me considerably.

The big news was about the pledge drive. Though incomplete, it’s a resounding success already. As of April 18, 90 households had pledged and we are still waiting to hear from about 20. It’s clear from the total so far that we can afford a healthy budget for next year. David Mark Welch, Board member and Stewardship co-chair, will report the final amount to the congregation at the service Sunday May 5. Come to cheer.

The April Board approved four new policies:

- A Safe Congregation policy laying out definitions and procedures for dealing in an orderly way with abuse, disruptive behaviors, and harassment. Maggie Jones, Board member, spoke for the whole Board when she said, “It is sad that we need such policies and procedures and I hope that they may never have to be implemented.”
- Two financial management policies making it clear that the Operating Reserve Fund and the General Fund are both savings accounts that are to be tapped only for defined, documented purposes. This is in line with the Board’s goal to rebuild our savings.
- An Alcohol Policy that spells out how to provide safety around the consumption of alcohol at events held at the Meeting House. Committees take note and check the policy in the office if you’re planning an event.

Also at the meeting, the Board received some illuminating reports: **Joanne Treistman for Fellowship** reported 10 activities in February and March, some met multiple times and most are on-going. Attendance varied from 6 to 190. Always check the calendar; there’s a lot going on. **Treasurer Gail Donkin** reported the budget is on track to finish the year well within the budget and that, at last, our Quickbooks accounting records reformatting job is complete. **Rex Withers, who manages our investments**, reported an 11.5% increase in our assets for March. **Carolyn Powers for Membership** reported 154 members, 80 friends, 6 visitors and average attendance at services at about 80. **Bob Sabin for Buildings and Grounds** reported over-budget expenditures for necessary maintenance actions and purchases. Some of these were actions recommended by our insurance company and others were not planned for, but had to be dealt with for the proper upkeep of the premises. Thanks to all involved—many are benefitting from your work.

From all this, I conclude our committees are working and people are engaged. May it be so.

Respectfully,
Charlotte Harris

Charris20@me.com and 508-563-5165 – *do not hesitate to get in touch.*

Pledge Drive and Minister Search Updates

Pledge Drive Update From Your Pledge Drive Team:

We are delighted to report that this year's pledge drive has been the most successful drive yet for UU Falmouth. We are enormously grateful for the enthusiasm, the trust, and the confidence in our future together that this generosity represents. Thank you to the canvassers and the pledgers for all the canvass conversations you had with one another. If you have not yet sent in your pledge, it is not too late! You can send in a pledge form any time, but this is your last chance to have your pledge included in the total for next year's planning. Every pledge is important! We have begun the search for a part-time minister and the success of this year's drive will give us the resources we can commit to this effort.

Gratefully, David and Jessica Mark Welch, pledge drive co-chairs

Half-time Minister Update From Your Mini-Search Committee:

The mini-search committee, chaired by Larry Ladd, is hard at work searching for a part-time contract minister. On April 12 and 13 we conducted listening sessions to hear the congregation's thoughts about what qualities are most important in a minister. Here are the results: the ideal candidate will be an inspiring preacher who calls us to live out more fully our UU values as individuals and a congregation; a warm, welcoming, and positive presence who demonstrates empathy and caring for our members and for our success as a spiritual community; and a leader who can stretch our imagination about what is possible for our congregation.

We prepared [a one-page profile](#) of the congregation that is available on the UU Falmouth website; we placed advertisements in online forums read by prospective ministers; and we have directly contacted 82 nearby UU ministers seeking leads. We are hopeful about the prospects for finding a good match, with the goal that they would start this summer.

Larry Ladd, Tom Kirkman, and Jessica Mark Welch



Upcoming UU Falmouth Events

Calling for Members' and Friends' Original Artwork!



Starting in May, we will be displaying our own art at the Meeting House. Please bring your ready-to-hang art **by Thursday, May 2**. If you have 3D art to display, please contact John Jackson at john@jackson-todd.com.

This is in connection with the May 5 Sunday Service about "Aaart!" Watch the Sandwich Road Menu for more information.

Sandwich Road Cleanup

Meet on Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 9:30 AM at the Meeting House



Come join your friends at the Meeting House to clean up UU Falmouth's section of Sandwich Road. Please wear long sleeves and long pants to protect against scrapes and ticks. Bring your own refillable water bottle, sturdy garden gloves and a reflector vest if you have one. UU Falmouth will also provide some vests.

Upcoming UU Falmouth Events (continued)

L.I.N.K. (Linking Indigenous & Non-Indigenous Knowledge) Program

The 5th in the 2024 Education Series: *Mashpee Nine*

Saturday, May 18 from 1-3 PM at the Meeting House

Mashpee Nine is a story of law enforcement abuse of power and cultural justice in the Wampanoag Community in 1976. The speakers for this session will be Paula Peters, the executive producer of the 2016 film *Mashpee Nine* and the author of the companion book. Paula is a politically, socially and culturally active citizen of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. She is a former journalist for the *Cape Cod Times* and is now co-owner of SmokeSygnals, a Native-owned and operated production agency. She works part time for the Native Land Conservancy.

Earl Mills Jr. is one of the nine men brutally arrested in a raid on their encampment on Mashpee Pond in the summer of 1976. A lifelong Cape Coder, "Chiefie" recently retired after 32 years with the US Postal Service and now works part-time for the Native Land Conservancy. He studied agriculture at UMass Amherst, earning a degree in plant and soil sciences. He was recently asked to serve as Chief of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.



L.I.N.K. is a local non-profit Cape Cod organization seeking pathways to understanding and reciprocity between the non-Native community and the Wampanoag Nation. L.I.N.K. seeks active collaboration with community groups and organizations like UU Falmouth to change the current environment of societal injustice and to heal relations.

UU Falmouth is collaborating with L.I.N.K. to offer these monthly events with educators from the Wampanoag Tribe to teach the local, non-Native community about the true history and culture of the Wampanoag people. All programs are open to the public. More information can be found at their website: linkcapecod.org.

Date With Death Club: Capstone Event at UU Falmouth

In-Person "Double Feature" Discussion and Experiential Lesson: "Walking Through Fire"

Wednesday, May 22 from 6:30-9:00 PM In-Person at the Meeting House

The 9th and last session in the Date with Death Club 2023-2024 Series actually will not contain Date with Death Club curriculum. Rather it will be a special 2-hour **in-person only** capstone event at the Meeting House. Everyone may attend, even if you have not attended the online sessions. (Note: the date is the second to last, rather than the last Wednesday.)

People may attend the first, second, or both hours of this "double feature."

* 6:30 to 7:30 will be a one-hour "Death Café" open discussion in small groups, with some treats.

* 7:30 to 8:30 will be devoted to death education, featuring an interactive exercise called "Walking Through the Fire," on all the losses that accompany dying. This is an excellent resource to "get it" in your mind and body. The exercise will be led by Steven Shapiro, a long-time hospice volunteer from Martha's Vineyard. Nannette Oldenbourg recalls a previous "Walking Through the Fire" session as the most memorable and impactful experience of all the past 10 years of death education programs put on in Falmouth. "It was scary and sad, but ultimately comforting, especially when experienced in community. It's not about actual fire, but about intense love for life and loved ones."

Upcoming UU Falmouth Events continued

Get Out The Vote Project and 5th Principle Potlucks

Thursday, May 30 at 5:30 PM (location TBD)

Thursday, June 6 at 11:30 AM (location TBD)

From now through mid-October, we will be writing non-partisan postcards and letters with organizations that target environmentalists, young voters, and voters who have been historically marginalized—urging them to get to the polls in November. Working together as a

**GET OUT
THE VOTE!**

congregation, our goal is 5,000 letters/cards in 5 months. You can get materials after Sunday services and/or attend one or more “5th Principle Potlucks” to socialize with other members/friends while supporting democracy.



The first potluck will be a dinner on Thursday, May 30 at 5:30 PM; the second will be a brunch on Thursday, June 6 at 11:30 AM. Both will be held in a SEAC member’s home. Contact Betsy Wilder at betsymail2012@gmail.com for more information.

Rethinking Coffee Hour— If You Bring a Snack, Please Stay to Cleanup.

As you may know, while we all love to participate in Coffee Hour, we are having trouble finding people who are willing to stay afterward to help cleanup. So we are trying something new.

We are asking those people who are bringing refreshments based on their last names, to help clean up as well. There will be kitchen experts to guide you and a short training session.

Kitchen Training Sessions

Every Sunday in May, there will be very **brief kitchen training sessions from 9:30-9:45 AM with weekly door prizes for participants.** Come to the Meeting House a little earlier on the Sunday that you are assigned snacks. The schedule for people whose names begin with these letters is the same as your snack assignment date.

**May 5th: A-E
May 12th: F-K
May 19th: L-Q
May 26th: R-Z**

TRAINING

snack

**CLEAN
UP!**

For the month of May, we ask people with last names beginning with certain letters to:

- 1. Come at 9:30 AM for a very brief kitchen training session;**
- 2. Bring a snack to share;**
- 3. Stay and help cleanup.**

We hope you will all help share the work!

Committee Updates

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY: Our goal is progressing to get all committees compliant with our covenant. Remember we are here to listen to any problems you may have—just give us a call.

Our members are Carol McKeon, Jim Liljestrand, Cathy Kligler and Marion Flurkey.

LAY MINISTRY: Our team meets monthly to review our service to those who wish to have emotional and spiritual support. While the rules regarding hospital visits have been relaxed with the lifting of COVID driven restrictions, we are dependent on the hospital chaplains to inform us of any members or friends who may be patients. Visits to someone in a long- or short-term care facility remain a challenge. We have tried to address such challenges by relating through phone calls. Nevertheless, we realize there is no substitute for a gentle presence.

Please seek us out if:

- You need to talk confidentially with a compassionate listener, even if you are not sure what is bothering you.
- You are facing a major life decision.
- You are grieving or hurting and need emotional and spiritual support.

In short, we are here when you need us and look forward to the day when we can once again fully support our shared faith in the connection we have to each other.

Our members include Jewel Blake, Jim Liljestrand, Maureen McIver, Mary Sellers, and Reed Walsh.

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION:

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP: Cut down on fossil fuel commute consumption! Breathe deeply—such a beautiful New England month on the Cape. Consider walking or biking to work, the store, or to the beach to help cut down on fossil fuels and help yourself get outside! Carpool with friends or neighbors to UU Falmouth, to do errands, or to go on other outings.

Food card sales: We continue to provide revenue for our donations to local organizations. January sales = \$5,760; February sales = \$4,040.

Our Share the Plate May recipient will be the [Cape Cod Foster Closet](#). STP for June will go to Cape Cod Pride. A donation of \$324 in March went to [WeCan](#)—our largest STP ever. The April donation to [Falmouth Farming](#) is TBD.

Cape Cod Foster Closet and Mother's Day Diaper Sunday: Carla Koehl, the Cape Cod Foster Closet Outreach Coordinator, will be introducing her organization to members and friends on Sunday May 12, as they will be our Share the Plate recipient. **Disposable diapers of all sizes are welcome!** All donated items are provided free of charge to families who care for other people's children on Cape Cod and the Islands. CC Foster Closet also supports families who have guardianship or custody of children but are not involved with an agency.

NOTE: SEAC is now meeting on the **first Monday of the month at 7 PM via Zoom**. The next meeting will be May 6, 2024. All are welcome to attend. Contact Rosa Whiting or Robin Melavalin via admin@uuffm.org if you would like to join us or be added to our active email list.

Looking Back...



Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make the Auction and Potluck on April 13 such a success (and so much fun!).



Farming Falmouth presented a lot of valuable information at their April 17 event.



On April 20, over 100 people attended the fourth event in a year-long collaboration between UU Falmouth and L.I.N.K (Linking Indigenous & Non-Indigenous Knowledge).



The Environmental Stewardship Award for Lifetime Achievement went to David Dow during the April 21 service. Congratulations!

UU Falmouth Announcements



May Birthdays



05/01 Michael Singer
05/03 Steve Treistman
05/04 Henry Gartner
05/05 Victor Smith
05/08 James Liljestrand
05/08 Judy Alden

05/12 Margaret Cooper
05/12 Seth Stoffregan
05/13 Barry Blake
05/16 Jacqueline Webster
05/20 Alan Alai
05/20 Jenifer Alai

05/21 Jean Stern
05/28 Marilyn Pageau
05/29 Al Tomek
05/30 Callidora Ward

Fellowship Weekly/Monthly Gatherings

For information on any of these gatherings, contact the person listed or email admin@uuffm.org.

- **Chiming Workshop** - Monday, May 6 and 20 at 4 PM (and the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month) at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Laura Wing.
- **The Breakfast Group** - Tuesdays at 8 AM at Persy's Place, 40 North Main Street in Falmouth. For more information, contact Reed Walsh.
- **Mah Jongg** - Tuesdays from 1-3 PM at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Peggy Sabin.
- **Chiming Ensemble** - Tuesdays at 3:30 PM at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Laura Wing.
- **Fellowship Tea** - Tuesdays at 4 PM. To get the Zoom login, email admin@uuffm.org.
- **Brown Bag Book Bunch** - Wednesday, May 15 at noon at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Chris Jacobi.
- **Men's Breakfast** - Thursdays from 8-10 AM. Meet in person at the Meeting House on May 2, 16 and 30; via Zoom on May 9 & 23. If you would like more information, or for the Zoom login, please contact Bob Sabin.
- **Ladies Luncheon** - Thursday, May 9 at noon (and the 2nd Thursday of each month). This month it will be at Shipwrecked, 263 Grand Avenue, Falmouth. Contact Reed Walsh to let her know you are coming.
- **Community Circle** - Friday, May 3 at 2 PM at the Meeting House for Members and Friends only; the topic is "Inherent worth and dignity." The Friday, May 10 session is open to the public; the topic is "Mothering." For more information, contact Joanne Treistman at treistmanjoanne@gmail.com.
- **Percussion Discussion** - Friday, May 3 & 17 (and every other Friday) at 6:30 PM at the Meeting House.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth Staff

Ann German, Bookkeeper
Frederick Johnson, Director of Music - johnsonfrederick953@gmail.com
Kit O'Connor, Office Administrator - admin@uuffm.org
Nancy Wendlandt, Pianist - welcome3434@yahoo.com

Office Hours: Kit will be in the office from 9 AM - 1 PM Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
Website: uufalmouth.org

The UU Falmouth central calendar is linked in real time to the website, UUFalmouth.org so you can see up-to-date changes as they occur.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 2024			Red = All are welcome to attend.			
			1 8am Religious Services Committee 9:30am Writing Time 1pm CoM Meeting 3pm Partners Grief Support Group	2 8am Men's Breakfast 10am B&G Meeting	3 2pm Community Circle 6:30pm Percussion Discussion	4 1pm Don Mallinson Celebration of Life
5 10am Sunday Service 11:15am Coffee Hour/ Grocery Cards 11:30am Sermon Discussion	6 4pm Chiming Workshop 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm SEAC Meeting	7 8am Breakfast Grp. 1pm Mah Jongg 3:30pm Chiming Ensemble 3:30pm Welcoming Congregation Cmte 4pm Fellowship Tea	8 9:30am Writing Time 3:30pm Lay Ministry Team	9 8am Men's Breakfast 10am Membership Committee 12pm Ladies Luncheon 3:30pm Fellowship Group #3 7pm Finance	10 2pm Community Circle	11 9:30am Starting Point Program
12 10am MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY 11:15am Coffee Hour/ Grocery Cards 11:30am Sermon Discussion	13 1pm Caring Community Meeting 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 8pm Music Committee	14 8am Breakfast Grp. 1pm Mah Jongg 1:30pm Fellowship Group #1 3:30pm Chiming Ensemble 4pm Fellowship Tea	15 9:30am Writing Time 12pm Brown Bag Book Bunch 3pm Partners Grief Support Group	16 8am Men's Breakfast 1pm Rob Fleming Memorial 7pm Governing Board	17 6:30pm Percussion Discussion	18 9:30am Sandwich Road Cleanup 1pm L.I.N.K. Presentation
19 10am Sunday Service 11:15am Coffee Hour/ Grocery Cards 11:30am Sermon Discussion	20 4pm Chiming Workshop 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	21 8am Breakfast Grp. 1pm Mah Jongg 3:30pm Chiming Ensemble 4pm Fellowship Tea	22 9:30am Writing Time 6:30pm Date With Death Club In-Person	23 8am Men's Breakfast 3:30pm Fellowship Group #3	24	25 9:30am Starting Point Program
26 10am Sunday Service 11:15am Coffee Hour/ Grocery Cards 11:30am Sermon Discussion	27 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	28 8am Breakfast Grp. 1pm Mah Jongg 1:30pm Fellowship Group #1 3:30pm Chiming Ensemble 4pm Fellowship Tea	29 9:30am Writing Time	30 8am Men's Breakfast 5:30pm Get Out the Vote Potluck Dinner	31 6:30pm Percussion Discussion	