



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

RELIGIOUS SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

Our Soul Matters theme for September is *Beginnings*. This is an excerpt from a poem by Rev. Marta I. Valentin: “By the grace of the Divine Power, which is larger hearted than we can ever imagine, we are constantly given the opportunity to begin again...”

September 6 at 10 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom—“Songs of Action” led by Rev. Rali; service associate Noreen Cavanaugh. This Sunday we will explore the importance of folk music in giving voice to world concerns. We will sing folk songs of protest instead of hymns. After church you are invited to a special reception for our foyer artist Anne Tcherepnin, which will include a live dance performance by Dunya McPherson. (See page 4 for more details.)

Share the Plate will go to World Central Kitchen. World Central Kitchen is a nonprofit organization founded by celebrity chef José Andrés that provides fresh meals to people in the wake of natural disasters, climate emergencies, and armed conflicts. Operating on the front lines, the organization partners with local chefs and restaurants to rapidly deliver food with a focus on local palates and restoring community dignity.

September 13 WELCOME BACK CONGREGATIONAL BREAKFAST at 10 AM at the Meeting House — This Sunday, starting at 10 AM, there will be a *Welcome Back Congregational Breakfast* in place of the service. All are invited to bring a food item to share. Most importantly, come and celebrate the start of the new fellowship year!

September 20 at 10 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom—“St. Augustine for the Modern UU” led by Daniel Mark Welch; service associate, Judy Andrade. Augustine was an incredibly influential thinker for many of the philosophies that would eventually become Unitarian Universalism, but many of his ideas can be challenging for a UU 1700 years later. How can we reconcile these 4th and 5th century ideas with our 21st century sensibilities?

September 27 at 10 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom—“How Did It Get So Late So Soon?” led by Steve Treistman; service associate, John Jackson. “It’s night before it’s afternoon. December is here before it’s June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?” (Dr. Seuss)... “Time is an illusion.” (Albert Einstein)... “To every thing there is a season. A time to be born, and a time to die.” (Ecclesiastes) The concept of time is critical for religious practice, but differs among religions. How does it influence UU theology?

Reminder: Rev. Rali will be out of the office from September 9th to September 30th on a Southern Africa study leave. If you would like to contact her while she is away, you can reach her through WhatsApp via 617-459-5979.

Minister's Message



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth

840 Sandwich Road
East Falmouth, MA
02536
508-457-0449

UU Falmouth Staff

Reverend Rali Weaver
Minister

Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday
10 AM - 5 PM

Phone: 617-459-5979
Email: minister@uuffm.org

Frederick Johnson
Director of Music

Nancy Wendlandt
Pianist

Jennifer Kelly
Bookkeeper

Kit O'Connor
Office Administrator
admin@uuffm.org

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

Our website:
<https://uufalmouth.org>

Dear UU Falmouth Friends,

From September 9th to September 30th, I will be embarking on a journey with a friend to Southern Africa as part of a Williams College Alumni Trip to study the impacts of climate change and how local communities are responding. As I prepare for this trip, I've been reflecting deeply on how stepping outside our familiar coastal Massachusetts context might help us better understand our own environmental challenges and limitations right here in Falmouth—and how our Unitarian Universalist values can guide our approach to both.

When we think about climate change in Falmouth, our minds often turn to tangible, local threats: rising sea levels along our shoreline, coastal erosion, and the need to reduce our carbon footprint and preserve our limited resources. The Town of Falmouth's Sustainability Department has outlined vital goals, such as cutting greenhouse gas emissions, expanding solar installations, building electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and aiming for net-zero emissions by 2050 at the intersection of the environment, economy, and society.

Yet when we look at climate change through a global lens, the perspective shifts in revealing ways. In Southern Africa, recent survey data highlight a critical dynamic: while climate change poses severe long-term threats to food production, public health, and human and animal displacement, it rarely ranks as the average citizen's most pressing daily concern. Instead, immediate survival issues for the poorest citizens such as poverty, high unemployment, inequality, and public safety take priority.

This offers a powerful lesson in human motivation and environmental justice. In Southern Africa, successful climate action cannot be separated from economic survival and social stability—if an environmental policy does not address daily human needs, it struggles to gain traction.

Though our financial circumstances in Falmouth may seem vastly different, the underlying principle remains the same. Climate change is never just an abstract ecological problem; it is deeply intertwined with economic vitality, municipal budgets, housing equity, and community well-being. Whether in a coastal Cape Cod town transitioning to clean fleet vehicles or in a South African community balancing immediate economic survival with long-term ecological resilience, effective stewardship requires us to strive to balance the needs of all people and the needs of the earth.

As UUs, our Seventh Principle calls us to respect the interdependent web of all existence, while our Second Principle demands justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. I look forward to sharing what I learn upon my return—and exploring how a broader, more compassionate global perspective can enrich our local commitment to a sustainable future for Falmouth.

Rali

If you would like to contact me while I am away, you can reach me through WhatsApp via 617-459-5979.

Governing Board Report



UU FALMOUTH BOARD

2026-2027 Officers

Charlotte Harris, President
Phil Zimmerman, Vice President
Betsy Wilder, Treasurer
Joanie Thompson, Clerk

Directors

Cynthia Dyer
John Jackson
David Mark Welch

2026-2027 Committee Chairs

Art Exhibits—Joanie Thompson
Building & Grounds—Dave Crichton,
Phil Zimmerman, Dave Dimmick,
emeritus chair
Caring Community—Betsy Young
Committee on Ministry—Alice
Liljestrand
Communications—Joanie
Thompson & Nannette
Oldenbourg
Denominational Affairs—Larry Ladd
Fellowship Activities—Steve &
Joanne Treistman
Finance—Gayle Simundza
Lay Ministry Team—Tom Kirkman
Leadership Council—Steve
Treistman
Membership—Jane Jackson
Memorial Woodland—Phil
Zimmerman
Music—Susan Brooks
Nominating—Jane Jackson
Religious Services—Judy Andrade
& Julie DeSorgher
Safe Congregation—Contact: Tom
Kirkman
Social & Environmental Action—
Rosa Whiting
Stewardship—David & Jessica Mark
Welch
Welcoming Congregation—Contact:
Judy LeBeau

Hello Members and Friends,

Before I report on August's Governing Board meeting, I'd like to be sure you know the two part-time workers who joined us this year. You may already know **Maureen McIver**. A longtime UU Falmouth member and volunteer Sunday School teacher, Maureen is our Sunday coffee hour worker. As her kitchen duties allow, she volunteers in the Sunday school, too. **Dan Doughty**, who attended our Sunday School when he was a boy, is the owner/operator of Tree and Anchor Property Services in East Falmouth. Dan works on an on-call basis as our facility manager to identify issues and fix what he can, which is a lot. It was Dan who brushcut the front yard so the Meeting House can be seen from the street. Say hi and introduce yourself when you can. I'm hoping Maureen and Dan will be with us for long while.

The Governing Board agenda flipped in August to make routine reports first so we would not run out of time to learn what's going on.

On Going Reports – Rev. Rali reported two deaths in the congregation, Erica Fox and Joan Vaughn; and three members are in the hospital. Much of her time goes to pastoral care. She also announced she will be visiting Southern Africa from September 9 to 30. Retiring membership chair Betsy Wilder reported 170 members. The new membership chair will be Jane Jackson aided by Karen Zimmerman, perhaps as co-chair. As newly elected treasurer, Betsy Wilder reported the money is good, more than last year at this time. She is digitizing the financial records in our database Breeze. My own report to the board was that there seems to be a strong sense of well being and harmony in the congregation, evidenced by attendance, participation, high satisfaction with the Sunday services, and the expression on men's, women's and children's faces seen at the Meeting House over the summer.

Old Business – David Mark Welch reported \$404,250 in pledges with several more anticipated based on prior year experience. Rali, who works with Rex on UU Falmouth's insurances, reported that we will continue to be insured through Guide One. Wrapping up old business, Betsy reminded committees to spend within their budgets, and submit requests for payment signed by their chair to the bookkeeper overseen by the treasurer.

New Business – The Buildings & Grounds Committee updated the board on the state of the property and talked with us about what's ahead for the year. The congregation's big task for the year is the creation of a three-year plan starting in the fall and concluding with a vote next June. Steve Treistman agreed to call together some board and leadership committee members to plan the planning process and bring the plan to the next Governing Board meeting.

I'll close with a reminder that members and friends are welcome to zoom or attend board meetings—we welcome your ideas and comments. Best wishes for a happy transition from summer to fall.

Charlotte Harris, Board President
charris20@me.com * 617-645-8609

Upcoming UU Falmouth Events & Notices

COME CELEBRATE DEMOCRACY TOGETHER—Primary Election Day Brunch

When: Primary Day September 1, 2026 from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Where: UU Falmouth Meeting House

Before or after you cast your ballot in the Massachusetts Primary, come celebrate our voting rights and enjoy community with us at UU Falmouth!

We'll provide coffee, tea, quiche, and juice. You are invited to bring a favorite salad or some fresh fruit to share.

VOTE then CELEBRATE together!



ARTIST RECEPTION / DANCE PERFORMANCE

Sunday, September 6 from 12-1:15 PM at the Meeting House

The new art exhibit in the foyer of the Meeting House, *Transformations: Forms & Energies in Flux*, features expressive oil paintings by Anne Tcherepnin, celebrated and award-winning painter exploring themes of transformation, impermanence, and the dynamic energies that shape both nature and human experience. Her luminous landscapes, horses, birds, and figurative works capture the fleeting qualities of light and atmosphere.

An Artist Reception will be held Sunday, September 6 featuring an original performance by choreographer and dancer Dunya Dianne McPherson integrating live dance with projected dance films inspired by the exhibition's themes. Following the performance, Dunya and Anne will discuss their shared artistic interests, creative processes, and the ways painting and movement illuminate transformation.



Dunya is a Juilliard graduate, National Endowment for the Arts Choreography Fellow, and founder of Dancemeditation™. Anne's work is guided by her belief that “capturing the light is everything,” revealing the ever-changing beauty of the natural world through a painterly, impressionistic style.

“CAPE COD CAMINO WAY: WALKING WITH A PURPOSE”

Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30 PM at the Meeting House and via Zoom

Over the summer of 2020, Peggy Jablonski walked through every town on Cape Cod, the peninsula she calls home, on a pilgrimage to reflect, listen, understand, and take action. The “Cape Cod Camino Way” is her story of asking questions, finding answers, and sharing what she has found. It is the story of building awareness toward true social justice action for the future.

You are invited to join Peggy as she shares stories and insights from her journey and encourages us to create a Camino Way walk of our own.



Upcoming UU Falmouth Events & Notices

CREATIVE WAYS OF DEALING WITH DEMENTIA

with Dawna Hammers & Sue Beardsley

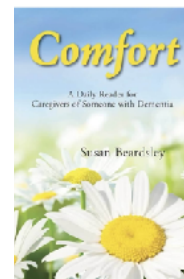
Wednesday, September 30, at 6:30 PM at the Meeting House and via Zoom

Singer-songwriter and caregiver Dawna Hammers uses music therapy, rhythm, and interactive performance as creative tools to connect with and comfort individuals living with Alzheimer's and dementia. Her approach focuses on unlocking preserved memories and bringing joy when verbal communication fades.

Artist and author Sue Beardsley will present a brief talk on her new book, *Comfort*, a daily reflection guide created to support caregivers of those living with dementia and Alzheimer's disease. The books will be available at the presentation.

The program will start with a screening of *Music is Medicine*, a short film produced by Dawna with support from a grant from the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod. The film highlights how music can uplift, connect, and comfort individuals facing physical and cognitive challenges while fostering meaningful connections between caregivers and their loved ones.

This program offers insight, encouragement and a sense of community for caregivers, families, and anyone interested in the role of creativity, music, and reflection in the healing process.



MAH JONGG FOR BEGINNERS

Tuesdays, from 1-3 PM at the Meeting House

Have you ever wondered what all the rage is about Mah Jongg? Do you want to learn how to play? We have been meeting for years every Tuesday from 1-3 PM at the Meeting House. But now Rosa Whiting and Cynthia Dyer have a Beginner-Beginner table and a Beginner table set up to help people learn the game. So if you've ever thought about playing Mah Jongg, Ladies and Gents, now is the time to come join us for this exciting game!



SIT AND STITCH GROUP IS MEETING AGAIN

Wednesdays, from 1-3 PM at the Meeting House

Cynthia Dyer and Ellen Todd invite you to help revive the crafting group that met several years ago. Join us from 1-3 PM on Wednesdays with your knitting, crocheting, embroidery or other portable craft projects.

We will gather at the Meeting House (room to be determined). Contact ellen@jackson-todd.com if you have any questions.



WRITERS PATH GROUP IS OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

2nd and 4th Fridays at 10 AM at the Meeting House

Current members Judy Alden (memoir), Lisa Bonneau (fiction), Pia Munro (memoir), Donna Scheer (poetry), and Ellen Todd (creative nonfiction) would welcome one or two additional writers to this group. We ask that you make a commitment to meet on the **2nd and 4th Fridays, from 10-12**. (We also welcome men.) Contact ellen@jackson-todd.com if you'd like to join us.



Looking Back...



Successful diaper collection for Father's Day June 21.



June 28 tour of the Green Center.



Thanks to Lew and Jean Stern for our ladies room makeover!



On July 20, UU Falmouth turned out for a town vigil for those killed by ICE. Rev. Rali was a speaker.



UU Falmouth Road Race Cleanup Team! UU volunteers near the starting line of the August 16, 2026 Falmouth Road Race where they cleaned up plastic bottles, zip ties, snack wrappers, etc. from the race, leaving Woods Hole pristine.



UU Falmouth provides the space for pond water sampling handoff for 8 local ponds through Falmouth Pond Coalition and APCC (every other Wednesday through October).



The annual "Pet Blessing" service on August 23 brought out many different kinds of pets.

UU Falmouth Announcements



September Birthdays



9/1 Charlotte Harris	9/5 Dorothy Schrumpf	9/17 Stephanie Ballo
9/2 Bobye Anderson	9/11 Jewel Blake	9/29 Annalisa Fox
9/3 Nancy Wendlandt	9/13 Louise Vardack	9/30 Susan Brooks
9/3 Ruth Agnew	9/16 Joanna McWilliam	9/30 Amy Greene

Fellowship Weekly/Monthly Gatherings Open to All

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

- **PFLAG Cape Cod** - Monday, September 28 (and the 4th Monday of the month) at 7 PM at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Scott Fitzmaurice.
- **Breakfast Bunch** - Tuesdays at 8 AM. This month we will meet at Cape Cod Coffee, Mashpee Commons. For more information, contact Judy Andrade.
- **Mah Jongg** - Tuesdays from 1-3 PM at the Meeting House. Beginners welcome! For more information, contact Cynthia Dyer or Rosa Whiting.
- **End Zone Reading Group** - Tuesdays from 6-7:30 PM on ZOOM ONLY. Joan Lederman will step in to lead the group while Rev. Rali is away.
- **Brown Bag Book Bunch** - The BBBB will start up again on Wednesday, September 16 (and the third Wednesday of the month) at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Chris Jacobi.
- **Men's Breakfast** - Thursdays from 8-9:30 AM at the Meeting House and via Zoom. If you would like more information, or for a Zoom login, please contact Stu Graham. **NOTE:** On September 10, Men's Breakfast will take place in Dave Dimmick's barn.
- **Chimes Ensemble** - Thursdays at 2:00 PM at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Laura Wing.
- **Justice Book Group** - This group is taking a pause and will reconvene in October. For more information, contact Rev. Rali.
- **Community Circle** - Friday, September 11 at 2 PM (and the 2nd Friday of the month) at the Meeting House - open to the public. During Community Circle, we listen to one another, share our thoughts about the topic, and build community as we learn from one another. For more information, contact Joanne Treistman.
- **Community Drumming (aka Percussion Discussion)** - Friday, September 18 at 6:30 PM (and the 3rd Friday of the month) at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Nannette Oldenbourg.
- **Grief Group** - Rev. Rali will be away in September so this group will start up again on Friday, October 23 at 1 PM (and the 4th Friday of the month) at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Rev. Rali.
- **Dancemeditation** - This group will resume Saturday, October 17 at 10 AM (and the 3rd Saturday of most months) at the Meeting House. For more information, contact Nannette Oldenbourg.

The online calendar is more complete and up-to-date. To find it, go to uufalmouth.org and click on "News."
Email admin@uuffm.org if you'd like to have an event or meeting added to the calendar.

• SUNDAY	• MONDAY	• TUESDAY	• WEDNESDAY	• THURSDAY	• FRIDAY	• SATURDAY
September 2026 Red = All are welcome to attend.						
		1 8am Breakfast Bunch 10:30am Religious Services Committee 11am Voting Day Lunch 1pm Mah Jongg 6pm End Zone Reading Group	2 9:30am Writing Time	3 8am Men's Breakfast 2pm Chimes Ensemble	4	5
6 10am Sunday Service 11:15am Coffee Hour/ Grocery Cards 11:30 Sermon Discussion 12pm Artist Reception and Dance	7 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8 8am Breakfast Bunch 1pm Mah Jongg 1:30pm Fellowship Group #1 3:30pm Welcoming Congregation Committee 6pm End Zone Reading Group	9 9:30am Writing Time 1pm Sit and Stitch Group	10 8am Men's Breakfast 2pm Chimes Ensemble 3:30pm Fellowship Group #3 7pm Finance Committee	11 10am Writer's Path Group 1pm Membership Committee 2pm Community Circle	12
13 10am CONGREGATIONAL BREAKFAST instead of Service	14 1pm Caring Committee Meeting 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm SEAC 8pm Music Committee	15 8am Breakfast Bunch 1pm Mah Jongg 6pm End Zone Reading Group	16 9:30am Writing Time 12pm Brown Bag Book Bunch 1pm Sit and Stitch Group 6:30pm "Cape Cod Camino Way" talk	17 8am Men's Breakfast 10:15am B&G 2pm Chimes Ensemble 7pm Governing Board	18 6:30pm Drumming Circle	19
20 10am Sunday Service 11:15am Coffee Hour/ Grocery Cards 11:30 Sermon Discussion	21 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	22 8am Breakfast Bunch 1pm Mah Jongg 1:30pm Fellowship Group #1 6pm End Zone Reading Group	23 9:30am Writing Time 1pm Sit and Stitch Group	24 8am Men's Breakfast 10am Soul Matters 2pm Chimes Ensemble 3:30pm Fellowship Group #3	25 10am Writer's Path Group	26 10am Prostate Cancer Survivors Group
27 10am Sunday Service 11:15am Coffee Hour/ Grocery Cards 11:30 Sermon Discussion	28 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm PFLAG Cape Cod	29 8am Breakfast Bunch 1pm Mah Jongg 6pm End Zone Reading Group	30 9:30am Writing Time 1pm Sit and Stitch Group 6:30pm "Creative Ways of Dealing with Dementia" talk			