



The Foreside Community Church United Church of Christ

November 2022



*Connecting
to God*

*Nurturing
Community*

*Discovering
how our Lives
Make a
Difference*

The Green Team will be hosting a nature walk on November 13 at the Audubon Gilsland Farm location in Falmouth. See page 8 for more info and additional pictures, like this one recently taken at Gilsland.

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Pastoral Notes

Carried by the Water

I'm writing to you as I'm preparing for this Sunday, in which Julia and I will bring Grace to be baptized. As her parent, I'm filled with joy at the prospect, and maybe a worried thought for all that might come after this sacred milestone and "starting line."

All of our lives are filled with exquisite beauty and wonder, vulnerability and uncertainty... but I see these things a little more acutely as I watch this tiny person greet the world right now.

Grace can take in new and wondrous things just by turning her head, entranced by a world in which she is learning about beauty, about love, about connection.

She will, in time, also join the world filled with challenges of life to come: successes, failures, great love, and great heartbreak...

We all, too, face uncertainty and struggle. We continue to face milestones: another season of respiratory ailments in public health; another general election cycle in which we feel more divided—and as if the systems of self-governance itself are weakening; as we grapple with a global climate that is shifting and changing in ways we cannot predict, in shifting landscapes of church and faith.

It's enough to wish I could offer Grace a cure to the human condition... and maybe spare a little extra for her parents... perhaps some for you, too, dear friends. Maybe you sometimes join in an anxious hour thinking of the world and your loved ones.

For many of us, there was a time in life when the primary purpose of faith might have been to give us *answers*, sureties that we hoped would inoculate us to the uncertainties and anxieties that life can bring. But, of course, if you're like me, you discovered that faith as "cure" inevitably failed to work as promised on the label, and brought with it further disillusionment.

In the baptismal prayer, I say that the water is a sign and seal of God's love which has been with us before we were born:

poured out for all who thirst, washing over all those who seek wholeness in You, and carrying Your children through the straights of all their days.

How might we think of faith as more that stream of water, carrying us, present with us as we face the reality that there is no cure for uncertainty, for grief, for change... but there may be a transformation: in the presence of God's love, a current in our lives we can float on, be carried by, even in our questions and uncertainty, even in the most turbulent of times.

In this next way of faith, we—as individuals, as the church, as communities—are called: not to moor ourselves to some preconceived answer—safe at harbor, but to discern the currents of the Spirit in which we move, trusting that though there may be the occasional rapids, we are being carried somewhere meaningful.

Grace—we all—will face challenges in uncertain futures. Parents, or baptism, cannot "save" us from those. Surely Jesus's own life and death teach us of realities of the world that may try to assert themselves as solid death-dealing facts.

But that the power of that life also teaches us that God is as present as an unending stream of living water, and offers assurance that we all will be loved as we struggle... and *in those struggles and in that love* we will find a greater solidarity and belonging with our beloved community, with humanity, and all creation. And *that* may, indeed, save us, through that divine presence with us and within us all.

So, I will look with joy to Sunday, and the reminder that the living water of God's love will carry us—all we hold dear, and this community of faith—through the straights and struggles and into greater wholeness and new life.

Blessings,



Evening Prayer and Adult Education Wednesdays for November

There will be no Evening Prayers and Adult Ed on **Wednesday, November 9th**. Additionally, we'll conclude this season of prayer and learning on **November 23rd** as Advent begins November 27th.

Evening Prayers - 6:00 p.m.

A brief service of prayer, candlelight, quiet, and communion. All are welcome to this chance to reflect and renew in the middle of the week.

Adult Education - 6:30 p.m.

November 2 - We'll conclude our discussion of *Do I Stay Christian?* by Brian McLaren. Read section "How" to prepare.

November 16 & 23 - Join us as we wrap our "*I Believe? Faithful Questions*" series with a chance to gather and talk about the questions of faith that are most central to our lives right now. Bring the questions that have been with you throughout our fall series!



I am fully vaccinated and am available for times to visit, sit, or pray together as you would like. If you would like to schedule a meeting, [you can do so here](#), or by contacting me [by email](#).

*Blessings of the Spirit to you,
Pastor Geoff*

On the road and missing a sermon? Want to go back and revisit any one sermon? Want to share a sermon with a friend or family member? Pastor Geoff's sermons in both written and audio form from May 2019 to the present can be viewed and/or heard on FCC's website at:

<http://www.foresidechurch.org/index.php/category/sermons/>.

worship in the sanctuary...

...and attendance on Sundays is open to all with the following prevention protocols in place:

- **Masks are now optional, but feel free to wear as your comfort level dictates.**
- We ask households to give each other good social distance.
- Windows will be opened enough to increase ventilation.
- Worship will also be live-streamed for any who cannot - or do not feel comfortable - attending by going to:

<https://www.youtube.com/ForesideCommunityChurch>

Bulletins for each service, including words to that day's hymns are also posted at this website address.

UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

The Foreside Book Club

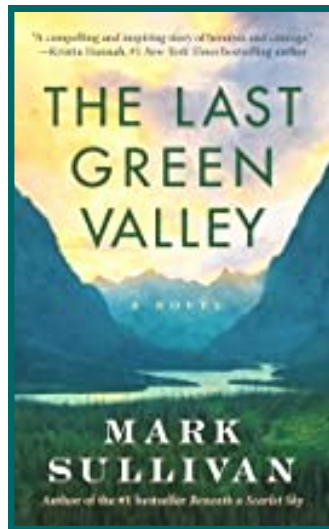
had a smaller group in October but a big discussion of Broken for You by Stephanie Kallos. It is always so rewarding to share thoughts and opinions with others. Thanks to all who participated. We will be meeting again on November 16 at 4:00 to talk about The Last Green Valley by Mark Sullivan.

"From the author of the #1 bestseller *Beneath a Starlit Sky* comes a new historical novel inspired by one family's incredible story of daring, survival, and triumph. In late March 1944, as Stalin's forces push into Ukraine, young Emil and Adeline Martel must make a terrible decision: Do they wait for the Soviet bear's intrusion and risk being sent to Siberia? Or do they reluctantly follow the wolves—murderous Nazi officers who have pledged to protect "pure-blood" Germans?

The Martels are one of many families of German heritage whose ancestors have farmed in Ukraine for more than a century. But after already living under Stalin's horrifying regime, Emil and Adeline decide they must run in retreat from their land with the wolves they despise to escape the Soviets and go in search of freedom.

Caught between two warring forces and overcoming horrific trials to pursue their hope of immigrating to the West, the Martels' story is a brutal, complex, and ultimately triumphant tale that illuminates the extraordinary power of love, faith, and one family's incredible will to survive and see their dreams realized." (quoted from Goodreads)

Please consider joining us any month for what is always a friendly but stimulating and enriching experience. [November's gathering will be held via Zoom at this link.](#) FMI: mimihinkel@gmail.com



Holiday Fair Workshops Continue

Two more Holiday Fair Workshops have been scheduled and will be held in the Fellowship Hall. This will be an opportunity to work on arts/crafts that you are working on, individually, for the fair OR you can join the attendees in a variety of projects that will be brought to the group by facilitator Kathie McCatherin. All who were involved agree that a wonderful time of fellowship and creativity was had when the crafters met last spring. Please consider joining in this time. Email Kathie McCatherin at kathiejoy@maine.rr.com or call at 207-272-4364 with questions and be sure to get these dates on your calendar:

Wednesday November 2 @ 7 p.m.

Wednesday, November 30 @ 7 p.m.

Women's Breakfast Is On, Again!



Nine attendees opened the first of the season Women's Breakfast gathering. A fine fare, good coffee, and entertaining conversation all around! **The next scheduled breakfast will be Thursday, November 17. Please R.S.V.P. to Deborah Gray.**

UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS (cont.)

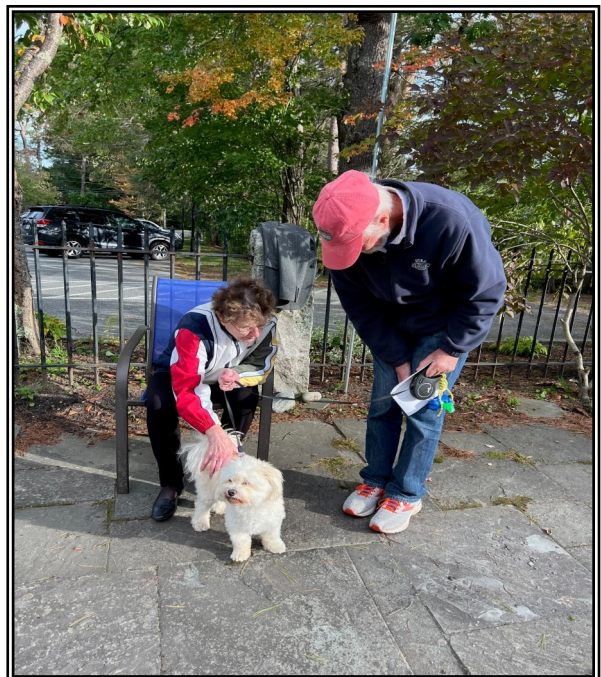
Blessing of the Animals Service

On Sunday, October 2nd upwards of 25 members and friends (and 6 furry friends!) gathered on the patio for Family Church and Blessing of the Pets. Friends of all ages shared songs and scriptures together and then took a moment to bless the pets who joined us. Together we also created 30 plus dog toys which will be donated to the Animal Refuge League of Portland to help pets in need. Special thanks to Jill Fox for preparing our craft supplies!

AND...Save the date for November's Family Church (all are welcome!) which will be Sunday, November 13th at 4:00 p.m. Turn to page for more details!



Members of the FCC Youth Group lend a hand at creating dog toys for the fur babies at the League.



God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.
Genesis 1:25

UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS (cont.)

Christmas Angels Take Flight (D. Blanchette)

Once again our congregation is invited to share the joy of Christmas with children in need of warm clothing. “*Christmas Angels*” has been part of FCC’s holiday celebration for well over two decades, and it not only helps these children, but seeing the enthusiasm of our church sponsors is clear indication that it touches the hearts of our members as well.

For those who are new to this program, first names and sizes of local children in need of warm clothing are displayed on a small tree in the narthex. Church members and friends are asked to choose a tag and then deliver the wrapped clothing gift to the church office by the first week in December with the tree tag mounted on the gift. Justice & Outreach members and others then deliver the packages directly to the child’s home.

This year as in last, J&O is aware that many in our church are facing financial stress. With this in mind, sponsors are being asked to limit their gifts to what is written on the tags in order that all the children on our list can be helped. The focus is primarily winter jackets and small items such as gloves.

How can everyone in our church be involved? Creative ways to include everyone including children can include sharing the cost of a child’s gift, or perhaps select an unnamed tag and purchase a small gift card to Walmart or a package of markers, bright colored pencils etc. These items will be added to the packages of children facing urgent needs.

“*Christmas Angel*” tags will be available at church starting November 20 and a separate list will be available through the church office. Christina will have a complete list of children in the office and she will welcome deliveries of gifts when the office is open. **Please wrap all gifts and securely tape the child’s name tag to each gift and deliver to the church by December 4.** For more information please contact Dotty: dorothyb@maine.rr.com. or Resa: resabird@gmail.com. Thank you.



Coffee hour will continue through the winter indoors beginning November 6th

The governing board realizes that not everyone is comfortable with an indoor coffee hour after church on Sunday mornings. They also felt that it was important to offer it for those who would like to attend. Everyone is welcome, either masked or not. So join us if you want, eat, or simply enjoy the company and conversations.

However, in order to offer it, we NEED people to sign up to host. Work alone, or as a team, make it simple with just coffee, tea, juice and donut holes (or ???).

A Sign-up sheet is now located in the narthex, or you can email carriepenrose@gmail.com. If no one signs up, there will be no coffee. November 6th will be hosted by Jill Fox and Carrie Penrose.

Planes, Trains, Automobiles, and Cruise Ship



Get your Passport Ready – We are off to France!

Please join us on a trip to France with Deb Gray on Thursday November 10th at 7 p.m. We will go on an ocean cruise from Amsterdam traveling along the northern and west coasts of France and ending in Bordeaux. From there, we will hop in a car and drive around the Dordogne region for several day and then board the TGV train for Paris. Sounds glorious does it not. [I hope you all can join us by accessing this Zoom link.](#)

Bon Voyage!

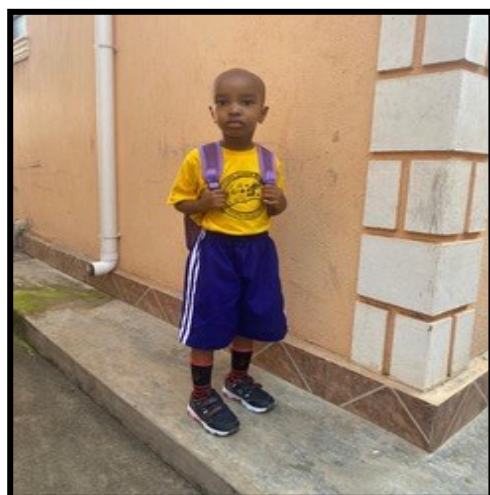
UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS (cont.)

Firepit Gathering Was Fabulous!

Thank you again to the Goodrich’s hospitality at their inviting firepit! It was too dark for pictures but know that the evening was spectacular, just like the stars in the sky. There was glow in the dark frisbee for the younger set, wine for the older set and s’mores and wonderful snacks and beverages for all ages. Twenty-two of gathered around the fire and chatted in small and ever-changing groups. It was great to see faces from the last fire pit as well as many newcomers. All ages had a blast and it is suspected that many, if not all, will join again if their schedule allows. Stay tuned.



Museveni continues to be challenged by all the demands of the American Embassy before they can process the visas for his wife and daughter to be allowed to join him here in Maine. This week it is hoped that the last of the required documents have been received by the embassy! Below is a photo of his daughter Ella Museveni taken last month on her first day of school in Uganda.



**The Falmouth Food Pantry:
A Continued Vital Partner**

For 15 years the Pantry has been serving hundreds of families facing food insecurity not only in Falmouth, but also in Cumberland, Yarmouth, Westbrook, and Portland. Most who attend the Foreside Community Church are aware of the work of the Pantry. But I wonder how many are aware that there are members who provide not only financial support but who for years have been Family Partners. Once a month Family Partners pick-up large supplies of food at the Pantry, including not only non-perishables but also fresh produce, meat, and eggs. They then deliver directly to the home of their clients. This program not only feeds the people served but in addition it provides a personal, respectful connection to people who are struggling with basic needs. For more information contact Dorothy:



dorothyb@maine.rr.com

**CHRISTMAS FAIR PREP
AND PLANNING GOING STRONG
MANY, MANY HANDS STILL NEEDED
AS WELL AS PRICELESS DONATIONS
STAY TUNED FOR
A DETAILED PROGRESS REPORT
IN THE NEAR FUTURE.**

DON'T FOREGET TO HOLD THESE DATES:

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2ND @ 5:00 P.M.
~ SPARKLE PREVIEW ~
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD
9:00 A.M. UNTIL 1:00 P.M.
FAIR TIME!**

UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS (cont.)**Explore Maine Audubon's Walking Trails on Sunday Afternoon, Nov. 13 ~
A Family Friendly Outing Hosted by FCC's Green Team**

The Green Team at Foreside Community Church will host a nature walk around Gilsland Farm on Sunday afternoon, November 13, from 3 - 4 p.m.

Please join members and friends of all ages anytime after 2:45 p.m. for this family friendly outing to explore the late autumn wonders of Maine Audubon Society's beautiful, 65-acre sanctuary of walking trails and woods at the edge of the Presumpscot River estuary. The farm is located at 20 Gilsland Farm Road off Route 1 in Falmouth, just south of the intersection of Rt. 88 and Rt. 1.

We will set off at 3 p.m. after gathering just outside the Maine Audubon Society's environmental education center's entrance at the farm, adjacent to the large parking lot that is closest to the main trail head. Maine Audubon's Children's Discovery Center, art exhibits and nature store will be open until 4 p.m.

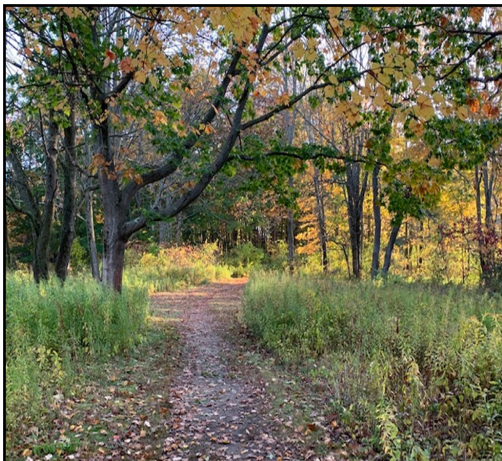
This will be the first in a series of new activities for those of us seeking community and inspiration as "Green Buddies." In the months ahead, we look forward to organizing regular opportunities to meet for walks and other outdoor play and to offer a series of new programs dedicated to conversations that build hope for the earth.

FCC has committed itself in the past to any number of responses to our world's environmental and climate crises and responsible creation care. We pray often in worship for those displaced by fire, famine and floods exacerbated by our changing climate. "Forty Days of Green" during Lent and our annual Earth Day and Blessing of the Animals services honor eco-justice concerns. Among other activities, the church also conducted an energy audit of our building leading to the installation of a new heating system and contracted with Garbage to Gardens to recycle our compostable waste.

Eco-justice and our relationship with the Earth remained in our consciousness during the pandemic as the Tuesday study group's read and discussed *Braiding Sweet Grass* and Susan and Cliff Gilpin arranged for the electric car and bike display at last spring's yard sale.

"Green Buddies" hopes to build on this history with your ideas, leadership and participation.

For more information, please contact Susan Gilpin at susanogilpin@gmail.com or Sue Clark at susanmannclark@gmail.com.



UPDATES, REPORT OUTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS (cont.)

November Birthday Greetings

Scorpio ~ A water sign that uses emotional energy as fuel, cultivating powerful wisdom through both the physical and unseen realms, derives its extraordinary courage from its psychic abilities, which is what makes this sign one of the most complicated, dynamic signs of the zodiac:

David Bartoletti - 4

Erlene Skillin - 10

David Clough - 19

Tina Noyes - 20

Sagittarius ~ This fire sign knows no bounds. Represented by the archer, Sagittarians are always on a quest for knowledge. The last fire sign of the zodiac, Sagittarius launches its many pursuits like blazing arrows, chasing after geographical, intellectual, and spiritual adventures:

Carrie Penrose - 27

Cynthia Beggs - 27

The Men's Breakfast...

Will be gathering on

Saturday, November 5

@ 8:30 a.m.

An enjoyable repast and lively discussions are always on the menu!

FMI John Bischof

jegbischof@gmail.com or 781-2391

The December Steeplenotes



deadline is

Friday

November 18, 2022

November 2022

Be sure to check the calendar at Foreside Community Church's website
www.foresidechurch.org for any updates or changes.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6 Set clocks back on Saturday night. ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^		1 9 a.m. Tues Study Group 12 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitters 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. AA Meeting 7:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal	2 9:30 a.m. Christmas Fair Prep downstairs 6:00 p.m. Evening Prayers (See pg. 3 for details.) 6:30 p.m. Adult Ed 7:00 p.m. Holiday Fair Workshop Fellowship Hall (See pg. 4 for details.)	3 9 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay	4	5 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Reception Area (See pg. 9 for details.)
6 ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ 9:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Schedule 4 to 6:00 p.m. Youth Group @ FCC	7	8 9 a.m. Tues Study Group 12 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitters 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. AA Meeting 7:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal	9 9:30 a.m. Christmas Fair Prep downstairs	10 9 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay 7:00 p.m. Travelogue (See pg. 6 for details.)		12
13 9:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Schedule w/ Rev. Joan Murray in the pulpit 3 p.m. Family Church w/ Rev. Susan Gilpin @ Gilsland -see pg. 8 for details	14	15 9 a.m. Tues Study Group 12 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitters 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. AA Meeting 7:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal	16 9:30 a.m. Christmas Fair Prep downstairs 6:00 p.m. Evening Prayers 6:30 p.m. Adult Eds 4:00 p.m. FCC Book Club (See pg. 4 for details.)	17 8:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast (See pg. 4 for details.) 9 a.m. Bells of Casco Bay	18 Deadline for December Steeplenotes material into office	19
20 9:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Blessing of the Gifts '23 4 to 6:00 p.m. Youth Group @ Falmouth Congo	21 6:00 p.m. Stewardship Monthly Mtg 7:00 p.m. Governing Board Monthly Mtg	22 9 a.m. Tues Study Group 12 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitters 6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. AA Meeting 7:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal	23 9:30 a.m. Christmas Fair Prep downstairs 6:00 p.m. Evening Prayers 6:30 p.m. Adult Eds			26 5 to 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Pot Luck Details to follow.
27 9:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship	28	29	30 9:30 a.m. Christmas Fair Prep downstairs 7:00 p.m. Holiday Fair Workshop-Fellowship Hall (See pg. 4 for details.)			

Daily Lectionary Readings for November 2022

Tues., Nov. 1

Psalm 142
Habakkuk 3:1-16
Jude 5-21

Wed., Nov. 9

Psalm 98
Zechariah 8:1-17
John 5:19-29

Thurs., Nov. 17

Luke 1:68-79
Jeremiah 21:1-14
Hebrews 9:23-28

Fri., Nov. 25

Psalm 122
Genesis 6:1-10
Hebrews 11:1-7

Wed., Nov. 2

Psalm 142
Habakkuk 3:17-19
Luke 19:11-27

Thurs., Nov. 10

Isaiah 12
Isaiah 57:14-21
Romans 1:18-25

Fri., Nov. 18

Luke 1:68-79
Jeremiah 22:1-17
1 Peter 1:3-9

Sat., Nov. 26

Psalm 122
Genesis 6:11-22
Matthew 24:1-22

Thurs., Nov. 3

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
Zechariah 1:1-17
Acts 22:22—23:11

Fri., Nov. 11

Isaiah 12
Isaiah 59:1-15a 2
Thessalonians 1:3-12

Sat., Nov. 19

Luke 1:68-79
Jeremiah 22:18-30
Luke 18:15-17

Sun., Nov. 27

First Sunday in Advent
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

Fri., Nov. 4

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
Zechariah 6:9-15
Acts 24:10-23

Sat., Nov. 12

Isaiah 12
Isaiah 59:15b-21
Luke 17:20-37

Sun., Nov. 20

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Luke 1:68-79
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

Mon., Nov. 28

Psalm 124
Genesis 8:1-19
Romans 6:1-11

Sat., Nov. 5

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
Haggai 1:1-15a
Luke 20:1-8

Sun., Nov. 13

Isaiah 65:17-25
Isaiah 12 2
Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

Mon., Nov. 21

Psalm 117
Jeremiah 30:1-17
Revelation 21:5-27

Tues., Nov. 29

Psalm 124
Genesis 9:1-17
Hebrews 11:32-40

Sun., Nov. 6

Haggai 1:15b—2:9
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or
Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

Mon., Nov. 14

Psalm 76
Isaiah 60:17-22
Ephesians 4:25—5:2

Tues., Nov. 22

Psalm 117
Revelation 21:5-27
Revelation 22:8-21

Wed., Nov. 30

Psalm 124
Isaiah 54:1-10
Matthew 24:23-35

Mon., Nov. 7

Psalm 98
Haggai 2:10-19
2 Peter 1:16-21

Tues., Nov. 15

Psalm 76
Isaiah 66:1-13
1 Corinthians 10:23—11:1

Wed., Nov. 23

Psalm 117
Jeremiah 31:1-6
Luke 1:1-4

Tues., Nov. 8

Psalm 98
Haggai 2:20-23 2
John 1-13

Wed., Nov. 16

Psalm 76
Isaiah 66:14-24
Matthew 23:37—24:14

Thurs., Nov. 24

Psalm 122
Daniel 9:15-19
James 4:1-10



STEEPLENOTES

A Newsletter of

The Foreside Community Church, UCC

General Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

or unless otherwise posted

Office: 207-781-5880

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