



# THE EMMAUS ENCOUNTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

FALMOUTH, ME



## Dear Siblings in Christ,

This June at Emmaus, we will be using a different affirmation of faith during worship for **one month**: the Iona Creed. Some of you may recognize it immediately, while for others it may sound new, poetic, or even a little unfamiliar at first. I wanted to share a bit about where it comes from and why we are trying it together.

The Iona Community began on the tiny island of Iona, off the western coast of Scotland. Though small in size, Iona has been a place of Christian pilgrimage, prayer, and renewal for centuries. In the 1930s, Scottish minister George MacLeod founded the modern Iona Community as a movement committed to worship, justice, peace, creativity, and rebuilding connections between the church and everyday life.

Today, the [Iona Community](#) continues to shape Christian worship around the world through music, liturgy, social justice work, and prayers that often speak of God through the beauty of creation and the interconnectedness of all life.

The creed we will use in June is not replacing the Apostles' Creed. Rather, it is an additional voice within the wide stream of Christian worship – a poetic affirmation meant to help us hear familiar truths in a fresh way.

The Iona Creed begins:

“We believe in God above us,  
maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon,  
of water and earth,  
of children of God...”

Notice how deeply rooted it is in creation itself. The language echoes the opening chapters of Genesis, the Psalms, and Paul's words in Acts: “For in him we live and move and have our being.” It reminds us that faith is not only something we think about – it is something we live within. God is present not only in heaven, but in the ordinary stuff of life: earth, water, bodies, relationships, community, justice, suffering, and joy.

The creed continues by proclaiming Christ as the one who “brought life and hope to all humanity,” and the Spirit as the one who calls us into peace, justice, forgiveness, and new life. In many ways, it beautifully reflects themes we already emphasize at Emmaus: God's presence in the world, Christ among us, and our call to love and serve our neighbors.

Using different worship resources from time to time can help us hear the gospel with fresh ears. Sometimes when words become deeply familiar, we stop noticing them. A new prayer, hymn, or creed can invite us to slow down and listen again.

My hope is that the Iona Creed will not feel like a replacement for tradition, but an invitation to see the breadth and beauty of the Christian faith through another window of the church.

**REMEMBER, IT IS ONLY FOR ONE MONTH!**

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Gail



## RIC Sunday!

On **Sunday, June 14th**, our congregation will join with over 1,140 faith communities across the United States and Canada to **celebrate Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Sunday**.

Organized annually by ReconcilingWorks, RIC Sunday is a special day dedicated to

celebrating and publicly recommitting to the ongoing work of welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for LGBTQIA+ individuals within the life of the church.

Join us in celebrating love, acceptance, and equality with uplifting music, an inspiring sermon, and post-service fellowship in the fellowship hall.



## Emmaus' RIC Welcome Statement

At Emmaus Lutheran Church, we embrace the uniqueness of every individual and respect their dignity and worth, for all are created in the image of God. We strive to welcome everyone in the fullness of who they are. As a congregation called to reconciliation, we share God's vision of love for people of all races, sexual orientations, gender identities/expressions, socio-economic statuses, ages, abilities, political persuasions, and personal histories. Emmaus renounces the Church's problematic past of oppression, hatred, and exclusion. We dedicate ourselves to the ongoing work of racial equality and justice for all. Here we believe there is a place for EVERYONE. Welcome to Emmaus!



## PRIDE Sign Making

In anticipation for the Portland PRIDE! Parade, join us on **Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>** after worship for a **sign making party** in the fellowship hall!

## Portland PRIDE! Parade



Mark your calendars! Emmaus is thrilled to be marching again in the **Pride Portland! parade** on **Saturday, June 20th**. We invite everyone, whether you are a parade veteran or a first-timer, to join us in a fun day of supporting our LGBTQIA+ community. On the day of the parade, we will carpool from the church to meet at Monument Square for the **11:30 AM** kickoff. The march concludes at Deering Oaks Park, where the Pride Festival continues until **5:00 PM**. If you've never marched before, this is a wonderful way to show that at Emmaus, **all are truly welcome!**



Social Ministry

## Yard Sale & Camp Calumet Update

Thank you to ALL who contributed to, worked at, and supported the Yard Sale on May 2nd! It took many hands and hearts to make the day possible; from those who donated the treasures, toys, and furniture to sell, the hands that sorted and set up all those items, the bakers who made bake sale goodies, those who worked the sale, cleaned up afterwards, and all those who made purchases.... Contributing to a HUGE success, with over \$4,274 raised to go towards camperships for Camp Calumet. Well done, friends!



We have 3 campers and one counselor in our Emmaus family attending Camp Calumet this summer, and we wish them a wonderful time. Camp Calumet will also receive a check from the funds raised at the Yard Sale and May Thankoffering for their own campership assistance fund, helping other families give their children the opportunity to experience Camp Calumet. Thank you to Jencie & Bob Gerwig for leading the Yard Sale efforts.

## June Thankoffering



The Thankoffering for June will go to Maine Harvest Bucks. Maine Harvest Bucks helps 10,000+ Mainers live healthier lives every year. With Maine Harvest Bucks, people who shop with SNAP/EBT (formerly food stamps) earn BONUS BUCKS to buy fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers. In 2021, Maine Harvest Bucks (MHB) led to over to over \$700,000 in local food purchased by more than 6,000 Maine households using SNAP/EBT. That \$700,000 goes directly into the hands of Maine farmers, boosting their bottom line and the local economy that these farmers support.

Join us!

Rain or Shine!

FREE ADMISSION

# FALMOUTH COMMUNITY FEST

art • music • food • fun

**Saturday, June 20**

**10:00 am to 4:00 pm**

Falmouth Community Park  
19 Winn Road, Falmouth

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

ARTISTS & MAKERS

Fine Art • Jewelry • Gourmet Foods • Pottery • Glass • Fiber • Clothing

MUSIC

BhavaVibe Rhythm Tribe • Jud Caswell • RoadTrip Band • Alive in the Root

ACTIVITIES

Balloon Twisting • Face Painting • Touch-A-Truck • Bee Train • Demonstrations • Crafts • Music Lessons • Corn Hole Tournament

WELLNESS

Breathwork • Reiki • Chiropractic • Martial Arts • Dental • Organics • Nutritionists

FOOD TRUCKS

Giuseppe Roasters • Mainely Meatballs • Poppies Kettle Corn • Sook Thai • Mows Munchies • Smokin' Dad's BBQ • Cheese the Day



## Falmouth Land Trust Hike



Join the Holy Hikers on **Saturday, June 13th at 10:00 AM** for a scenic guided walk at the **Hardy Road Conservation Area (66 Hardy Road, Falmouth)**, led by **Falmouth Land Trust** board member **Rick Scala**. The group will walk two to three miles along trails in the

woods that connect into Westbrook's Pride Preserve. While there won't be any significant elevation change, walkers can expect to encounter some roots and rocks along the trails and occasional bog bridging over wet areas. Participants should bring water, insect repellent, and walking poles as needed.

**Parking Details:** Parking is available in a small paved pull off right at the trailhead as well as along the side of Hardy Road (a quiet, dead-end road)

## Summer Music Opportunities at Emmaus

### Attention All Musicians and Singers!



This summer, we warmly invite everyone to contribute to Sunday Worship by showcasing your talents. Whether you sing or play an instrument, we would be thrilled to hear from you! If you're interested in participating, please reach out to Pastor Gail or David Hansen.



### Hymn Lotto is Back!

Hymn Lotto is making a comeback this summer due to popular demand! Choose your favorite hymn from the ELW hymnal located in the pews, write it down, and place it in the blue box found in the Narthex. Every Sunday during worship, a hymn will be drawn from the box and played. Join in the fun!



## June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Worship & Music Meeting	3	4	5	6
7 Worship 9am	8	9 Finance & Council Meeting 6pm	10	11	12	13 Holy Hikers 10am
14 RIC Sunday Worship 9am	15	16	17	18 Social Ministry Meeting 5pm	19	20 Portland PRIDE! Parade
21 Worship 9am	22 Pr Gail Vacation	23	24	25	26	27
28 Worship 9am	29	30				

**Did you know we have a Facebook page?**



It's a great way to stay connected and informed about everything happening in our congregation. From event photos to special announcements, our page is filled with engaging content that celebrates our vibrant community. Join us online and be a part of our digital family!

[@emmauslutheranchurch](#)



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