



Trail-Blazing: Making Our Way Toward the Promised Land October 2026

Call the Midwives October 11, 2026

We are a progressive community of faith seeking to follow
the teachings of Jesus, pursue justice and live God's love.

**No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.**



A Note for Families / Folks of All Ages: Children are invited to follow their teachers upstairs for Church School following Sacred Play.

There are also clipboards with paper and coloring pages at the back of the sanctuary, for worshippers of any age to use during the service.

PRELUDE

Be Still My Soul

Jean Sibelius,
Arr. Laura Bergquist

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

THRESHOLD MOMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP*

One: Into this world we are born,

All: Into the beauty and sorrow of everyday life.

One: Into this day we awake,

All: Into possibility and the unknown.

One: Into this church we are welcomed,

All: Into God's grace and each other's truth.

One: So let us worship God this day, we who are called and loved.

***OPENING HYMN**

God of Abraham and Sarah

No. 3

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS **

**Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day,
and offer the truth of our lives:**

The fear that stifles us, the prejudice that blinds us,

The ignorance that hobbles us, the doubt that plagues us.

Help us, we pray, to find courage in unlikely places,

To see the world with new and gracious eyes,

To move to those places where love is needed,

And trust that you are with us. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

*Please rise, on your feet or in your hearts.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

Guide My Feet

African American Spiritual

Guide my feet while I run this race. [3 times]

For I don't want to run this race in vain.

Stand by me while I run this race...

I'm your child while I run this race...

SACRED PLAY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Judy Kimball

One: This is the sacred story of God's journey with God's people.

All: Holy One, open our ears to hear, our hearts to receive and our lives to be expanded by your Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:6-21

SERMON

Call the Midwives

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

Largo from the "New World Symphony"

Antonin Dvorak

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father-Mother in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kin-dom come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Yours is the kin-dom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

There is More Love Somewhere

African American Spiritual

1. There is more love, somewhere. There is more love, somewhere.

I'm gonna keep on, 'til I find it. There is more love, somewhere.

2. There is more peace somewhere...

OFFERING INVITATION

Help us to live God's love and justice. You can make a secure gift by scanning the QR code, by going to fccucc.org and clicking on "Donate," or by adding your contribution to the box at the back of the sanctuary.



MUSICAL INTERLUDE

BLESSING OF OUR GIFTS

One: God of Love and Justice,

All: bless these gifts and all our neighbors.

One: To neighbors in Arizona, helping new arrivals and fighting unjust deportation,

All: Send our gifts and our love.

One: To City Mission Boston, helping neighbors to understand housing insecurity,

All: Send our gifts and our love.

One: To 20 congregations and 1000 individuals from native tribes and nations
connected to our United Church of Christ,

All: Send our gifts and our love.

One: To all our neighbors doing justice and spreading compassion across the land,

All: Send our gifts and our love.

*CLOSING HYMN

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

No. 485

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Revive Us Again John J. Husband, Arr. Mark Hayes

* * * * *

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team H, Carrie Skeffington, captain.

Recording: Gratitude to Alex Ratta for recording our worship this morning.

The flowers on the altar today are given in loving memory of Susan Jewett Darneille by Judy Kimball.

****The Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession** was written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

☞ **Royalty for Spirituals:** Historically, the composers of African American Spirituals were neither known nor compensated for use of their songs. The FCCUCC music department has committed to paying forward a 'royalty' each time we include a Spiritual in worship. We donate funds to the **Indigo Arts Alliance**. Join us: you can donate by check or online, with "Royalty for Spirituals" in the memo. Thank you.

Neighbors in Need (NIN) Special Offering: NIN is one of five special offerings of the UCC. It supports ministries of justice and compassion. One third goes to the Council for American Indian Ministries. Two-thirds supports UCC justice ministries. In 2025, 26 grants were given to support projects of direct service and advocacy.

OCTOBER IS Shhhh

We recently sent out an email, asking you to help us mark the month of October in a special way. This is your friendly reminder - and if you didn't see the email, ask Pastor Alison, Pastor Steve or Bryan Wiggins to tell you more. Thanks!

WEEKLY @ FCC UCC

Bible Study every Tuesday, 12:30 - 1:30 pm in Davidson Lounge: Explore the scripture from the past Sunday, led by Pastor Steve.

Prayer Shawls, every Wednesday, 1 - 3 pm, in Davidson Lounge: New and experienced knitters welcome. Bring needles size 9, 10, or 11, and your own yarn, or check out the church yarn supply. Questions? Lynne: lanctotla74@gmail.com.

Meetinghouse Choir rehearses on Wednesdays, 6:15 – 8 pm. All singers are welcome. We meet in the Choir Room on the lower level of the church. Questions? Contact choir director Deirdre McClure at dmcclure@fccucc.org.

Handbell Rehearsal every Wednesday, 4:45 pm in the Sanctuary.

Anyone who would like to join the ringers this year should contact handbell director Sharon Potter at handbells@fccucc.org to arrange a time to meet.

COMING UP @ FCCUCC

Fair Fancy Crafters, Thursday, October 15, 5 pm – 7 pm, Room 5C, 5th Floor: The crafters are in high production mode in preparation for Holly Daze Bazaar. If you are a crafter and can't make any of the gatherings, we hope you are crafting at home. Consider adding your creations to our room at the bazaar. *Future gatherings include:* Thursdays, 10/22 and 11/5.

Remember: Fair Fancy Crafters teach, supply, guide, support, and laugh as we create. Join us for fellowship and laughter. No matter your level of crafting, you are welcome here! With questions or craft ideas, contact Gin Gedney (318-1581).

Women's Spirit Circle, Tuesday, October 13, 7 pm, Community Room (5th floor): A Sacred space to connect with one another. All women welcome, including LGBTQIA+ women. nancy.braitbord@gmail.com or pat.thatcher123@gmail.com

Lunch and Learn: Drought and Floods: Two Sides of the Same Coin, October 18, 11:30 am, Wright Pavilion: See back page.

Youth Service Corps Event, Sunday, October 18, 12 -2 pm, Mardens and St.

Elizabeth's Parish: Collect donations of hats, gloves, socks and boots. RSVP to the event by October 15 to Amber Burks: Amber@stalbandsmaine.org

Parents of Adult Children group, Sunday, October 18, 6:00 - 7:30 pm: All parents of adult children (over 18 years old) are welcome to join us. For more info contact FCC UCC member Jill Saxby at revjillsaxby@gmail.com.

Game Night, Tuesday, October 20, 7 pm in Wright Pavilion: Cookies are now served and you can play whatever game you prefer. All are welcome, even if you don't know how to play! Questions? kathrynsme@yahoo.com.

Digital Tech Support Session, October 25, 11:30 am in Wright Pavilion: Your FCC UCC Care and Connections team wants to help you feel connected to the digital world. Please come to our second FCC UCC Digital Tech Support Session. Bring your questions to us, and we'll do our best to help you!

Defend Democracy Vigil, October 25, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm: Please mark your calendars for this very important vigil, occurring just before the midterm elections, to encourage people to vote, because the greater the turnout, the more robust our democratic process! Poster making session: October 18.

Book Discussion: *The Land is Not Empty*, Sunday, November 15, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, in Davidson Lounge: The Wabanaki Allies working group is sponsoring a book discussion, facilitated by Judy Kimball and Deborah Tomblyn. The book is available at Nonesuch Books. Mention FCCUCC for a discounted price.

MISSION AND SOCIAL WITNESS

Volunteer for Preble Street Food Hub: On the last Friday of each month, we prepare meals at the Food Hub, 75 Darling Avenue, South Portland, for delivery to Preble Street satellite sites. Please join us! To learn more about how to volunteer, see the Weekly Word or contact Danna Wiggins at dannawig2@gmail.com.

Seeking Volunteers for our Children's Clothes Closet

2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 11 am - 1 pm; 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 12 pm - 2 pm. To volunteer email steve@fccucc.org or see coordinator AnnElissa Leveque.

DONATE:

- 1. clean, wearable children's clothes of all sizes (including teens)** On the 5th floor, in the Children's Clothes Closet donation bin inside the lefthand door.

2. **Adult clothes, shoes and accessories, both wearable *and* unwearable**, can now be deposited in the *Apparel Impact* Bin in the main parking lot. Upcycle and recycle to keep clothes out of our landfills!

Clynk Bags are in the narthex (inside main entrance). Collect your returnable cans and bottles and return them to a Clynk collection site at Hannaford or other participating grocery stores. Scan the code on the bags and the refunds will automatically be donated to our FCC mission team. *Thank you!*

THE WIDER COMMUNITY

TODAY: *Dawnland* - Film Screening & Conversation with Wabanaki REACH, Sunday, October 11, 12:30 pm – 2 pm, at First Parish, 425 Congress Street, Portland: An Emmy Award-winning documentary on the work of Maine's Truth & Reconciliation commission to confront the harm caused by indigenous child removal. 54-minute film and discussion with Wabanaki REACH. The event is FREE / Donations benefit Wabanaki REACH. Register: www.eventbrite.com/e/dawnland-film-screening-conversation-with-wabanaki-reach-tickets

Community Responds to Toxic Tank Emissions, Thursday, October 15, at FCCUCC: 5:30 pm food and community; 6-7 pm discussion. Recently released state data has confirmed unhealthy levels of the carcinogen benzene around the tank farms in South Portland. Join neighbors for a community meeting to share ideas, concerns, and stories. Kids welcome. Hosted by **Protect South Portland**. Then, make plans to attend the **City Council workshop on Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 6:30 p.m.** at South Portland High School (637 Highland Ave.). Email the City Council before the workshop and ask them to pressure the DEP to use the existing licensing process to stop tank farms from dumping pollutants into our neighborhoods. City Council email addresses are here: <https://southportland.gov/411/City-Council>

Living Both: Trans Journeys of Faith, Friday, October 23, 6:30 pm, Equality Community Center, 15 Casco St., Portland: A panel discussion of trans+ Mainers from different faith backgrounds. Free.

WHAT'S UP?

Want to stay in the loop? Make sure you are on our email list! To UPDATE or ADD your contact info, go to: fccucc.org and select "Contact Us".

Find us, like and follow us on social media. Now on Substack! @FCCUCC



LUNCH & LEARN

DROUGHT AND FLOODS: TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

Devastating floods have been occurring with more frequency here in Maine, across the country and around the globe. As floods have increased in severity, so have drought conditions, with one-third of the planet now being arid land. Join Dr. James Toxtli Melloh to take a look at the causes, including climate change and deforestation and explore solutions to restore the water cycle and living soil.

Dr. Melloh received an MS in Family Medicine Teaching and Research, and his Doctorate in Medicine from Indiana University. For 20 years he's been rehabilitating bare lawns and neglected orchards to create living diverse environments.

Sunday, October 18
Hosted by the Environmental
Working Group

