



What The World Needs Now: Practicing Refugia Faith

***Week 6: Lamenting our Losses
October 13, 2024***

Welcome to the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
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.*

UNITED CHURCH 
OF CHRIST

A Note for Families / Folks of All Ages: We begin worship together. After the Time for All God's Children, young people grades K-8 are invited to follow teachers Craig Patton and Kathy Cotter upstairs to our one-room classroom. This week's theme: Welcoming all people.

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

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PRELUDE *Through Deepening Trials* Careless

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Revs. Alison J. B. Patton and Stephen Savage

Come, Come, Whoever You Are Rumi - adapted/Ungar

**Come, come, whoever you are,
Wanderer, worshiper, lover of learning
Ours is no caravan of despair.
Come, yet again, come.**

THRESHOLD MOMENT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God of Life and Love, the waters are rising;

All: We gather to pray for neighbors overcome by floods.

One: God of Town and Country, the tensions are rising;

All: We gather to catch our breath, when we feel swamped by troubling news.

One: God of Sky and Ocean, the temperature is rising;

All: We gather to grieve overwhelming loss of life, melting ice, dying species.

One: God of Care and Comfort, the list of sorrows is rising;

All: We gather seeking solace, seeking guidance, seeking hope.

***OPENING HYMN** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* #470

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

God who stills the waters, we long for peace within and peace without. We long for harmony in our families, serenity in the midst of struggle, and safety from every storm. Yet we confess that when anxiety overtakes us, we can add to a rising tide of distrust and destruction. When we cling to what we have and fail to share; when in our grief we lash out or retreat from a world that needs us, forgive us. Teach us to breathe deeply, walk lightly on your earth, practice kindness and embody your grace.

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

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

*SUNG RESPONSE

Peace Like a River 

African-American Spiritual

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul. [Repeat]

I've got love like an ocean...
I've got joy like a fountain...

TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Walter 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

Psalm 69:1-3; 13-18

SERMON *Lamenting our Losses (because the world needs space to grieve)* Rev. Alison JB Patton

ANTHEM

The 23rd Psalm (dedicated to my mother) 

McFerrin

PASTORAL PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father-Mother in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy 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 thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE:

Hear Our Prayer, O God

Whelpton

**Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer, O God.
Incline your ear to us and grant us your peace.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING *and* EMERGENCY HURRICANE APPEAL [◊]

You can make a secure online gift by using the QR code, going to fccucc.org/donate, or by adding your contribution to the box at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you.



MUSICAL INTERLUDE

PRAYER OF BLESSING

*CLOSING HYMN

Lord of All Hopefulness

#444

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Adorn Thyself, O My Soul

Cruger

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A Gift for You and for the Earth: Last Sunday, ushers handed out greeting cards designed and gifted to us by FCC UCC member Louise Davis. The cover features an original painting by a friend of Louise. Inside is a list of things people can do, “to help protect, revive and heal the environment,” in Louise’ own words. The cards continue to be available in the Narthex (church entry). Please help yourself: Share one with a friend or hang it on your fridge, to inspire your actions. *Thank you, Louise!*

WORSHIP NOTES

[♯] **This morning’s anthem** is *The 23rd Psalm (dedicated to my mother)*, composed by Bobby McFerrin, who paraphrased this well-known and cherished text to honor his mother and grandmother. In this beautiful and chant-like setting, all of the pronouns have been changed to female, creating a deeply personal experience for singer and listener alike.

[◊] **Hurricane Helene Emergency Appeal:** Hurricane Helene Recovery Appeal: The National Ministries of the United Church of Christ has a long history of supporting communities as they recover from disaster and their plight fades from the headlines. Your support of this appeal will ensure that communities are supported and accompanied for years as they rebuild. To learn more, or to make a secure, online donation by clicking the QR code or by going to: <https://support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief> OR mail a check made payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Note “Hurricane Helene” in your check’s memo section.



☰ **Royalties and Spirituals:** Historically, the composers of African American Spirituals were neither known nor compensated for use of their songs. The FCC UCC music department has committed to paying forward a 'royalty' each time we include a Spiritual in worship. Funds are donated to atlanticblackbox.com.

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team H, Stan Jordan, Captain.

The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of Mary and Jim Huhta, by Heather Payson and family.

COMING UP AT FCC UCC

Bible Study, every Tuesday, 12:30 - 1:30 pm in Davidson Lounge: Join Rev. Steve Savage for a wide-ranging conversation about the previous Sunday's scripture reading.

Fair Fancy Crafters, every Thursday, 5-7 pm: Meet in the Laity Room to create, chat and laugh. There is something for every level of crafter so please feel free to join us any time.

Community-Wide Sing-Along! *Challenging Times Call for Jubilant Singing* - Sunday, October 20, 2-3:30 pm in the sanctuary: Come and bring a friend, because singing together is good for our spirits! Hosted by FCC UCC. *See back cover.*

A Short Story: October 27 in Davidson Lounge - "The Court Magician" by Sarah Pinsker

Join Pastor Steve and others in the Davidson Lounge following worship to discuss "The Court Magician" by Sarah Pinsker. In honor of Halloween this story wrestles with paranormal and the cost of wielding it? What is the cost of power? When is the cost too high? We hope you will join the conversation! You can find a link to the story in the weekly word, or by using this QR code.



Movie Time! Join us for a screening of *Biggest Little Farm*, November 10, 12 noon - 2 pm in the Community Room: The film chronicles the first year of an ambitious family's farm and what they learned along the way. Themes include connecting with the natural world, the joy of family, and the pain of loss. Rated PG. Lunch provided. Please RVSP steve@fccucc.org.

Descendants Walk, Saturday, November 16, First Parish Church, 180 York Street, York, ME: Atlantic Black Box and York History Partners invite FCCUCC members and friends to participate in a Walk for Historical and Ecological Recovery. The walk and program devoted to expanding public memory literacy and building the collective muscles needed to face difficult historical legacies. Our Wabanaki Allies Working Group is organizing a group to participate.

Please let Pastor Alison know of your interest and whether you would like to carpool: revalisonpatton@fccucc.org.

Transgender Remembrance Vigil, Sunday, November 17, after the worship service: The Mission and Social Witness Team invites you to join a silent, half-hour vigil outside the church's front doors to mark this year's Transgender Day of Remembrance.

🔊 **Host a Walk:** Do you have a favorite walking route? Consider co-hosting an FCC UCC Walk! Sign up to lead one of our walks between October 2024 and May 2025 by scanning the QR code at right. Questions? Contact Rev. Alison Patton at revalisonpatton@fccucc.org



MISSION CORNER

Vote with Love Election Display, October 6 to November 5:

Following Worship, members and guests of the election workgroup will be available in the Wright Pavilion to answer questions regarding the absentee ballot process. Check out the local election display with sample ballots, state and local candidate information and referendum issues across from the round wall, outside the sanctuary.

Wabanaki Allies Working Group: Learn about our history and current efforts to become better Wabanaki allies at: <https://fccucc.org/serve/mission-outreach-team/wabanaki-working-group/>

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.

MUSIC CORNER

Meetinghouse Choir rehearses Wednesdays, 6:15 - 8pm. 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.

Bell Choir & Chimes Choir rehearse on alternating Wednesdays, 4:45 - 5:45pm in Wright Pavilion. Questions? Contact bell choir director Sharon Potter: handbells@fccucc.org.

IN THE MAINE CONFERENCE, UCC

Maine Conference, UCC Annual Meeting, October 18-19, at Pilgrim Lodge, West Gardiner, Maine. For more information, go to: <https://www.maineucc.org/annual-meeting/>

- **Note to Retired UCC Clergy:** Annual Meeting includes a special luncheon for clergy at 12 noon, on Friday, October 18, to which all retired clergy are invited free of charge. Retired clergy and those celebrating anniversaries will be honored during the luncheon. *Let Rev. Alison Patton know if you plan to attend and/or need a ride.*

IN THE COMMUNITY

Concert for Climate, October 27, 2:30 pm, St. Luke's Church, 143 State Street

– A multimedia celebration of our livable world for all ages, Concert for Climate is an “entertaining, educational, and soul-filling afternoon of music and message to inspire climate action.” Keynote speaker: Briana Warner, CEO of Atlantic Sea Farms, working to diversity coastal incomes with kelp. Hosted by the Citizens' Climate Lobby. Learn more by scanning the QR code to the right.



Want to carpool/drive? Please contact Jess at 207-671-1366, jessdeeproctor@gmail.com

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WHAT'S UP? Want to stay in the loop? Make sure you are on our email list! **UPDATE or ADD your contact info!** Go to fccucc.org and select “Contact Us” then select “Contact Info Update Form.”



Also, look for us on Facebook: facebook.com/fccucc



On Instagram: instagram.com/fccucc_s.portland



And on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/@FCCUCCSouthPortland



Challenging Times Call for Jubilant Singing





JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY-WIDE SING-ALONG

— **To lift our spirits and feed our souls** —

**Sunday, October 20th
2 – 3:30 pm**

**First Congregational Church, UCC
301 Cottage Road, South Portland, ME**

Songs from folk, worship and world music traditions
will be taught and led by area houses of worship



All are welcome. No musical skills required, just a desire to
join your voice with others!