



What The World Needs Now: Practicing Refugia Faith

***Week 7: Owning Our Part
October 20, 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 Carolyn Clark and Sandra Kochy upstairs to our one-room classroom. This week's theme: Caring For Those In Need.

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

Andante

Gluck

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 calls old and young, tall and short, insider and outsider.

All: God calls beautiful and plain, beginner and expert, silly and serious.

One: God calls rich and poor, left right and center, faithful and doubting.

All: God calls into the heart, not based on appearance or circumstance.

One: God calls us to look inside, and to see, and to love what we see..

All: God calls us to love ourselves enough to change and to grow.

One: God calls...listen, can you hear?

***OPENING HYMN**

Search Me And Know Me

Savage

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

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

God of the shiny and the imperfect,
So much of who we are, and how we respond to our world is rooted deep inside of us, and what we have learned and experienced along the way gives it shape. Too often that shape is judgmental and self-serving. Forgive us when we refuse to look within. Forgive us when we refuse to see that our part in this world's injustice could lay in our unexamined privilege, or in our unintentional biases. Forgive us when we dare not look at ourselves, for fear of seeing what we are afraid we will find. Give us the strength and the courage to face our inner shortcomings with grace and love. And give us the conviction to commit to becoming a better, truer version of who you believe we can be. Amen

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

Beth DeTine

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

2 Samuel 7:1-5

SERMON

Seeing What We Actively Ignore

Rev. Stephen Savage

ANTHEM

Guide My Feet 

African- American Spiritual Bruce

Martell, Guitar

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 ^o

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

God of Justice, God of Mercy

#504

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Shout On---American Folk Hymn

Smith

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WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team I, Tom Hamerski, Captain.

☰ **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.

◊ **Hurricane Emergency 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.

COMING UP AT FCC UCC

TODAY - 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.*

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.

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.



Game Night! Tuesday, October 29, 7 - 8:30 pm, Wright Pavilion: The group will decide what they'd like to play, so bring your thoughts as to what you prefer.

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.

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



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 dmclure@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.

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.

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

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.

Register at: <https://www.walkwhere.org/walks/york>. Please let Pastor Alison know of your interest and whether you would like to carpool: revalisonpatton@fccucc.org.

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

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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!**