



What The World Needs Now: Practicing Refugia Faith

***Week 8: Noticing the Good
October 27, 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 Carrie Skeffington upstairs to our one-room classroom. This week's theme: Honoring Our Bodies.

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 *All Good Gifts (from Godspell)* Schwartz

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: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

All: We gather together to marvel and give thanks!

One: God is mighty, shaping mountains and rivers,
rainforests and coral reefs.

**All: God is tender, forming dragonfly wings,
delicate moss, and drops of dew.**

One: Today God is inviting us to notice
All that God has done – and to delight in it!

**All: Bless the Lord, O my soul.
With all the creatures, let us worship God!**

***OPENING HYMN** *All Creatures of Our God, Now Sing* #51

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

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

Holy and gracious God, at times we feel so fragile, getting blown about by the latest crisis, by bad news, by our own short tempers and failings. You call us to hold fast to what is good, but so often we flounder, unable to find our footing. Help us, we pray. Help us to see you as our anchor, and to cling to the good that you create in the world. Help us to set aside all our jealousies and prejudices, all our betrayals and lies, all that adds to the world's hurt. Help us to grow even more into Christ's likeness, so that we can bear his love and truth into the world. We pray in Christ's name. 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

Deb Sandler

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 104, excerpts

SERMON

Noticing the Good
(because the world needs more gratitude and wonder)

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

ANTHEM

Larghetto from Sonata in E Minor. F. 53
VentiCordi - Kathleen McNerney and Dean Stein

Bach

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.

GREAT AND SMALL TESTIMONY

Deb Sandler

First in a set of reflections during our Giving Season series *Calling All Creatures Great and Small*

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

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

#57

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Vivace from Sonata No. 1 in G Major, TWV 40:124

Telemann

VentiCordi - Kathleen McNerney and Dean Stein

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WORSHIP NOTES

Guest Musicians: We are delighted to welcome *VentiCordi*, with Kathleen McNerney and Dean Stein, to our worship this morning. *VentiCordi* will be holding a series of evening concerts in our sanctuary in the coming months. Their next performance is Saturday, November 16, at 7:00 pm. For more information, see: VentiCordi.com.

** **The Prayer for Forgiveness** was adapted from a prayer 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 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.

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team A, Terry Dellaire, Captain.

The Globe is lit today by Jill Saxby in loving memory of Ed Saxby on the anniversary of their Renewal of Wedding Vows in our sanctuary on October 29, 2016.

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.

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.

TODAY A Short Story: 11:30 am 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 a favorite game or your thoughts as to what you prefer. All are welcome!

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 RSVP 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.

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.

Shelter Open House, State Street Church - Sunday, November 17 from 1-3 pm. The Open House is a celebration of the recently completed housing shelter facilities in the State Street Church building. FCCUCC has been part of the Shelter Coalition over the past year, providing financial and staffing support. Come and see the rooms. Parking is limited so we should consider a carpool leaving from church. Please email Walter Kimball at whkimball77@gmail.com, if you are interested in a carpool.

For those who are considering being part of a FCC UCC volunteer team at the State Street Church shelter this winter, email Walter: whkimball77@gmail.com. More information to come on staffing needs at the shelter.

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.

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.

MISSION CORNER

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

TODAY - 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. For details: scan QR code at right.



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

Pink Haven Organizing for Trans Safety Workshop - Saturday, November 2, 1-3 pm at Allen Avenue UU Church, 524 Allen Avenue, Portland: FCC UCC members will be attending this trans safety organizing workshop (known as "Pink Haven") with Rev. Laura Randall from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. We'll gather with members of other local congregations interested in the work of helping trans families relocate to legislatively safer states (like Maine). Laura will guide us through the first steps of getting ourselves organized for this work. This workshop will be in-person only. Masks are optional and they will have extra if you forget yours and would like one. All interested in this work are welcome! Contact Rev. Alison Patton at revalisonpatton@fccucc.org.

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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

What the World Needs Now - Our Fall Worship Series in Review:

- Becoming a Refugia Church** (an intro to the concept of *refugia*)
- Reclaiming our Kinship** (because the world needs more *connection*)
- Practicing Forgiveness** (because the world needs more *grace*)
- Moving through Fear** (because the world needs more *courage*)
- Embracing Limits** (because the world needs more *sharing*)
- Lamenting the Losses** (because the world needs *space to grieve*)
- Owning our Part** (because the world needs more *self-reflection*)
- Noticing the Good** (because the world needs more *wonder and gratitude*)

☛ *Find all sermons for this series on our YouTube channel under the playlist*
[Practicing Refugia Faith.](#)

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During the coming month, we will take time to notice the ways
That God involves all of creation in the work of
feeding, healing and transforming a hurting world.

We will listen for the ways we are called to contribute to
That holy project - including through annual
pledges of financial support for FCC UCC ministries.

Watch for a pledge card in the mail, in early November!



O God, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures. + Psalm 104:24