



What The World Needs Now: Practicing Refugia Faith

***Week 5: Embracing Limits
World Communion Sunday
October 6, 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. While we sing *Peace Like a River*, young people grades K-8 are invited to follow teachers Sandra Kochy and Kathy Cotter upstairs to our one-room classroom. This week's theme: Holy Troublemakers series #2: Rumi.

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

Brother James' Air

Bain

Handbell Choir

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: If you are hungry,

All: There is bread enough to share at God's table.

One: If you are weary,

All: There is a seat saved for you.

One: If you dream of belonging,

All: Then we will practice belonging here.

One: From south, east, west, and north,

All: God invites us home.

One: Let us worship our nourishing God.

***OPENING HYMN**

O God of Every Nation

#517

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

Creator God,

**We hear your invitation to love our neighbors as ourselves,
to live like we belong to one another.**

And yet, what is out of sight is often out of mind.

Forgive us for consuming as if no one else has need.

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

Forgive us for ignoring the tie that binds us to all of creation.
Forgive us for assuming that you being with us means you can't be with others too.
Our gaze has been too narrow. Open our eyes. Teach us to share.
With hope in our hearts we pray, 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...

Children are invited to follow teachers to Church School while we sing.

PRAYER OF 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 20:1-17

SERMON

Embracing Limits (because the world needs more sharing)

Rev. Alison J.B. Patton

ANTHEM

Ukuthula - A Zulu Peace Prayer 

Anonymous

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

CELEBRATION OF WORLD COMMUNION**

Invitation to the Table

Congregational 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.

The Story is Told

Gifts are Blessed

The Meal is Shared

Communion Music

In Times Like These

Ruth Caye Jones

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Holy God, every time we come to this Table, we look for you.

All: We come looking for welcome and reasons to hope.

One: And just as you promised, you have met us here. What a gift!

All: As we prepare to leave this place, may we go with the memories of this holy meal clinging to us.

One: May we remember what it felt like to be welcomed to your Table,

All: So we can welcome others with that same warmth.

One: May we remember what it felt like to have a meal where all were fed,

All: So we can work for a world where none are hungry. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

For the Healing of the Nations

S-4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

For the Beauty of the Earth

Kocher

Handbell Choir

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A Gift for You and for the Earth: This morning, ushers are handing 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. On this World Communion Sunday, as we consider the call to embrace limits, to live simply that others may simply live, may this card inspire us. Share it with a friend or hang it on your fridge (or cut it in half and do both!) *Thank you, Louise!*

WORSHIP NOTES

****Liturgy** by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

♪ **Anthem Note - Ukuthula:** The anthem this week is called Ukuthula, which is a Zulu word meaning peace. You will fall under a spell as you listen to it, but the song's melodious beauty contrasts with the fierceness of its lyrics: "Peace in this world of sin, Alleluia, the blood of Jesus Christ brings peace." In the 2nd verse, peace is replaced with redemption, in the 3rd, praise, followed by faith, victory, and finally, comfort. The song has roots in the South African anti-Apartheid movement, and the whole of it - its beautiful melody, these affecting words - brings together powerful emotions.

Here are the lyrics:

Ukuthula kulo mhlaba wezono, Aleluya
igazi likaJesu linyenyez' ukuthula*

*Other verses end with: usindiso, ukukholwa, ukunqoba, induduzo

☰ **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 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.

Learn more and make a secure online donation by going to:

<https://support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief>. (Please note that due to a technical issue, the donation page is not currently displaying correctly on mobile devices.)

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 E, Rich Armstrong, captain.

The flowers on the altar today are given in loving memory of Elizabeth Whited by her husband James Whited, daughter Vicki Whited, son Scott Whited, his wife Kirsten McWilliams, their children Emmons Whited and Gus Whited.

Correction: Last week, the **Globe** was lit by Deborah and Jim Rideout in memory of their parents Eugene and Bernice Rideout *and* Linwood and Edithe Durrel. We apologize for omitting one set of parents in the original post.

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. *No experience required!*

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.

Wabanaki Allies working group meeting, Sunday, October 6, 11:30am to 12:30pm in the Laity Room. Newcomers are most welcome. No expertise needed beyond your curiosity, desire to learn, and passion for justice.



- **Learn more** about our history and current involvement by scanning the code.

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 on Sunday October 27, 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.



🔔 **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, starting today, Sunday, October 6:

Following worship, members and guests of the election workgroup will be available during coffee hour to answer any questions regarding the absentee ballot process. Be on the lookout for local election display at FCC including sample ballots, state and local candidate information and referendum issues.

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.”



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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!