



Week 3: Creativity

Sunday Worship November 16, 2025

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: Today we begin worship together. After the Passing of the Peace, young people grades K-8 are invited to follow teachers upstairs to our one-room classroom.

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

PRELUDE *Jesus Loves Me* William Bradbury, Arr. Fred Bock
(based on Clair de Lune by Claude Debussy)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Rev. Alison Buttrick Patton and Rev. Stephen Savage

THRESHOLD MOMENT: *The Call To Fly*** Lyrics for contemplation

*In my dreams I can fly,
and I soar,
and my feet touch the sky,
and it seems I can go anywhere if I try.
And the world's not so bleak
when the clouds reflect light.
If there's no hope,
tell me why in my dreams I can fly.*

CALL TO WORSHIP*

One: Isn't it true? So much about this precious world is longing for change!

All: Hunger longs for harvest, Division longs for kinship, Displacement longs for housing and our Climate longs to heal.

One: Every change calls for our collective creativity; but the tasks can overwhelm when we imagine it is all up to us.

All: Today we remember: The Source of Creativity is already at work.

One: Today we remember: God has been, and always will be, doing a new thing.

All: God's Spirit provides the creative spark and the company we need.

One: Beloved: we are changemakers, and we are being made ready.

All: May we be changed by this time of worship!

***OPENING HYMN** *God of Abraham and Sarah*

#3

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

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

One: Visionary God, you are always at work in the world:
designing, creating, connecting, transforming.

All: You call us to participate in your life-giving projects.

When we fail to see the creative opportunities you give us,

When we think too narrowly about what we can give, or what we can do,

When we struggle to trust that you are at work within us as well:

Forgive us.

One: Remake us as people who cooperate with your Spirit.

All: Remake us into your Body of Christ,

To work for the renewing of your world. 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**

Grateful!

Tomaszek

Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy One,

Joyful in your Spirit flowing overall, O God of Love.

Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful for your Holy Word.

Joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you!

TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Chuck Warner

One: Holy One, by the power of the Spirit, open our ears to your Word today.

**All: May this story show us how to be compassion-driven changemakers, like
Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING - Lectio Divina: Mark 6:30-44 New Revised Standard trans.,
Updated Edition

SERMON

"Go and see..."

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

Come, Holy Spirit

Victor Johnson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father-Mother in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

CHANGEMAKER TESTIMONY

Debbie Rideout

OFFERING RITUAL: The Nest

SUNG RESPONSE *Let Us Be Makers* [sung to the tune of *Blessed Assurance*]

Let us be makers, makers of change,
compassion and courage for each new exchange.
We pray for guidance, we seek your grace;
Discerning our gifts in this holy place.

CLOSING HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

#364

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

His Eye is on the Sparrow

Charles H. Gabriel, Arr. Faye López

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team D, Scott Berry, captain.

The Flowers on the altar are given with gratitude for nieces and nephew, Olivia, Catherine, Payney, and Johnny, by Heather Payson and family.

****The Changemakers worship series** is created and adapted with permission from www.worshipdesignstudio.com/changemakers.

Livestream: Thank you to Alex Ratta for managing our worship livestream!

WEEKLY @ FCC UCC

Tuesday Bible Study meets from 12:30 - 1:30 pm in Davidson Lounge:

Whether you are an FCC UCC member or just interested in joining in the fun, you are invited to join our weekly bible study group, to enjoy fellowship and to discuss the scripture from the past Sunday. Led by Rev. Steve Savage. All are welcome!

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.

Handbells rehearse on Wednesdays, 4:45 pm in Wright Pavilion. If you are interested in ringing in the choir or would like more information, please contact bell choir director Sharon Potter: handbells@fccucc.org.

COMING UP @ FCC UCC

TODAY: Vigil, Sunday, November 16, 11:30 am – 12 noon: Join us outside the front entrance, facing Cottage Road, as we stand in defense of LGBTQ+ justice.

Short Story Group, Sunday, November 16, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. Join Pastor Steve for November's short story, "The Appropriation of Cultures" by Percival Everett. This brief, subversive, story takes a satirical approach to the topic of race. See the Weekly Word or contact Pastor Steve at steve@fccucc.org for a link to the story.

Monthly Game Night, Tuesday, November 18, 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Wright Pavilion: Do you like to play board games? From classics like Rack-O and Rummikub to newer options like Ticket to Ride, there's something for everyone. Questions? Contact Kathy Sahrbeck at outreach@fccucc.org.

Greater Portland Multi-Faith Meal Packing, Sunday, Nov. 30, two shifts: 12-1:30 pm and 1:30 – 3 pm, Guptill Hall. Together with at least six other congregations, we will pack 20,000 meals in two shifts (Yes! It is possible!). Our partner is The Outreach Program, which provides staples in bulk for volunteers to pack. The food will be delivered to Portland area food pantries, including the South Portland Food Cupboard. This is a great, all-ages volunteer opportunity!

☛ Sign up outside the sanctuary or using the link in your *Weekly Word*.

HOLLY DAZE BAZAAR, Saturday, December 6, 9 am – 2 pm

NEW: Bazaar donations can be dropped off in Guptill Hall beginning Monday, November 24. *Thank you!*

NEW: Sign up for the Bazaar Brunch: Help us set the table for the FCCUCC Church Bazaar Brunch! We are offering brunch starting first thing in the morning. Some items can be dropped off ahead of time or on the day of event. Sign up using the QR code and help where you can! To make alternate arrangements for drop off, contact christine123168@hotmail.com



Volunteers are needed for the following positions/days:

To sort donations: Thurs., 12/4

To set up areas: Thurs., 12/4 and Fri., 12/5

To staff areas: Sat., 12/6

To prepare brunch: Fri., 12/5 & Sat., 12/6

To tear down Bazaar: Saturday, 12/6

Questions? Ready to lend a hand? Please contact Lynne Lanctot at lanctotla74@gmail.com

Pre-Order a Holiday Wreath: To order a wreath for pick-up on Saturday, December 6, please email Deb Sandler (dhallsandler@gmail.com) the following information: Your name, email address, phone number, and the number of wreaths you want, along with the following details for each wreath ordered.

Wreath only: \$20

Wreath with bow: \$25

Wreath with bow, cones, berries: \$30

Wreath, bow, holiday decorations: \$35

Bow: Red or Holiday theme

Any special notation

Holly Daze Jewelry Donations: We are welcoming donations for the jewelry committee in November. Please drop off at the church office – the earlier the better – so we can sort and price. Thank you. – Sue Mithcell and Kathy Blake.

MISSION AND SOCIAL WITNESS

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!*

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

FCCUCC is not scheduled to volunteer at Preble Street on Friday, November 28.

On Friday, December 26, the day after Christmas, 5 volunteers are needed to fill the FCCUCC shift from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm.

THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Weekly Multi-Faith Vigil outside the Cumberland County Detention Center, at the corner of Congress and County Way, every Wednesday from 2:45 – 3:15 pm
Community faith leaders will host these vigils to lament the harm inflicted on all those caught up in the immigration system, and to affirm the God-belovedness of all people. Each gathering may include songs, silence, prayer or other spiritual practices to honor the sacred worth of all people, and to hold up everyone involved - those detained, officers, and our entire community.

“Thanksgiving: It’s Complicated” – Sunday, November 23, 3 pm – 5:30 pm at Allen Avenue Unitarian Church, 524 Allen Avenue: join us for a workshop to confront the impacts White Supremacy Culture & Colonialism have had on Native People as well as White People - yes both. Hosted by local Interspiritual/Interfaith Minister Rev. Devin Green and enrolled tribal citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, AASECT Certified Sexuality Educator, and dedicated advocate for anti-oppressive, trauma-informed education Olivia Friday Loneman. Ticket sales will compensate Olivia for her time and expertise, and support an organization that replaces SNAP benefits for Native people impacted by the shutdown.

Learn more and register at:

<https://www.theconnectedway.com/events/thanksgiving-itscomplicated-2025>



Sitting with Loved Ones

*Have you ever wished you were a better listener?
Or wondered how to help someone grieving?*

Join Pastor Steve after worship in Davidson Lounge for a three-part series that will help! Explore ideas and practices connected with visiting folks in their homes. Learn useful skills and considerations for being a Lay Visitor or for additional support as a caregiver.

November 9 **Sitting with Grief**

November 23 **Tips for Visiting**

Email Pastor Steve at steve@fccucc.org with any questions.

****Please note that participation in these sessions does not require a commitment to become a lay visitor.****

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" then select "Contact Info Update Form."

Your positive reviews on social media help others to find us!

Facebook: facebook.com/fccucc

on Instagram: instagram.com/fccucc_s.portland

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





HOW DO I DECIDE HOW MUCH TO GIVE?

November is **Giving Season**, and you are invited to prayerfully consider making a pledge of financial support to First Congregational Church, UCC, South Portland, in 2026.

But how to decide how much to give?

Well, you could:

1. **COMPARE** how much you spend on your various monthly expenses. Ask: “*How does my spending reflect what I value?*” Maybe your church feels as important as laundry detergent, or your weekly coffee or electricity. OR...
2. **CALCULATE** a proportion of your income: 2%? 5%? 10%? This is called ‘proportional giving,’ or giving according to your resources. (See the back of a pledge card for a chart to help you calculate this number.) OR...
3. **CONTRIBUTE** to the total ‘pie’ — All it takes to fuel our ministries: It would take about \$2,800 per pledging household to balance our current budget, if each of us gave the same sized ‘slice.’ Of course, the pie is not actually divided into equal portions. We have different capacities to give (and that’s ok!). So it’s *also* helpful to...
4. **CONSIDER** giving an amount that feels generous *in the context of your own financial picture*. That looks different for each of us. The goal is to give a meaningful gift. In other words, “Give until it feels good!”
5. **CHALLENGE** yourself to increase your giving, because God invites us to live generous lives. How might you practice your faith by giving a little more each year? Maybe even set a goal then grow towards it.

...**AND** (no matter what else you do):

CELEBRATE everything God has done in your life and give until you feel like you’ve said, “Thank you, God!”

Please prayerfully consider your 2026 pledge, then watch for a pledge card in the mail. We’ll receive and bless all pledges on **Gratitude Sunday, Nov. 23, 2025.**