



Week 1: Compassion

Communion Sunday November 2, 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 Craig Patton and Sandra Kochy upstairs to our one-room classroom. They will return for communion. This week's focus: *Holy Troublemaker, Wangari Maathai*.

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

Arioso

JS Bach

Vee Hashimoto, flute

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Rev. Alison Buttrick Patton and Rev. Stephen Savage

THRESHOLD MOMENT: The Call To Fly**

Bruce Martell, Guitar. 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: The world is changing. We see it everywhere. We feel it in our bones. It seems to happen faster than it used to.

All: The world is changing.

One: The world needs to change. Children are hungry. Systems are unjust. People are afraid. There are people on the streets who may not make it a day longer.

All: The world needs to change.

One: God longs for the world to become more like a holy commonwealth of just peace, where all have what they need.

All: And we are the changemakers.

One: We are called to work alongside the Holy Spirit. We are called to follow the way of Jesus.

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

***OPENING HYMN**

For the Healing of the Nations

S-4

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

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Holy One, you are the beginning of all things. You are older than time itself. But we're the ones who sometimes struggle with change. When you try to do a new thing and we get in the way, when our attachment to the way things *are*, keeps us from imagining the way they *could be*, forgive us. When in our discomfort, we overlook the people who most need the world to change, teach us to welcome your holy transformation. Open our hearts to all that you would have us change. 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!

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

John Grew

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 (Common English Bible trans.)

SERMON

"He had compassion on them..."

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

Memories and Heartbeats

Jon Raybould

Vee Hashimoto, flute

CHANGEMAKER TESTIMONY

Heather Payson

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.**

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Preparation – 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.

We Tell the Story

We Bless the Bread

We Share the Meal You are invited to come forward by the center aisle to receive communion. All bread is gluten free. The juice is non-alcoholic. There are pre-wrapped communion elements for those who prefer, on the communion table.

Communion Music *Softly and Tenderly* Lamartine Thompson, Arr. Britt

Responsive Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Blessed are the changemakers.

Two: Blessed are you who are not asleep to the world's pain and suffering.

All: Blessed are you who lament for the way things are.

One: Blessed are you who know, to the depth of your bones, that this is not how things are meant to be.

Two: Blessed are you for not believing the lie that this is how they will always remain.

All: Blessed are you who know that things can change, who long for things to change.

One: Blessed are you whose life's ambition is to bring the change that is justice and mercy for all.

Two: Blessed are you who know that God has always engaged ordinary people to heal and change this world.

All: Blessed are you who know that it is a blessing to be changemakers.

One: Let the people say... **Amen!**

CLOSING HYMN *Lord, We Would Be Instruments of Loving Service* #354

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Beside the Gently Flowing Stream* Jon Raybould
Vee Hashimoto, flute

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WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team B, Peggy Murray, captain.

The Steeple is lit in memory of Honey Honey by her loving family.

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

Guest Musician Vee Hashimoto is a flutist from South Portland, Maine. She grew up performing with the Portland Youth Wind Ensemble and the Portland Youth Symphony Orchestra through the University of Southern Maine and participated in Districts and All-State festivals. Vee minored in music at the U Maine Farmington.

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: Film Screening, *The Eternal Song*, Sunday, November 2, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. join the Wabanaki Allies working group in the Community Room to view and discuss the documentary film “The Eternal Song” about Indigenous spiritualities and connection to the earth and land. Pizza and drinks provided.

Fair Fancy Crafters invites you to join us for a “marathon crafting session” on Saturday, November 8, 9 am – 3 pm, 5th floor. Lunch (pizza?) will be provided, and all the materials to create at least 3 different projects will be available. You don’t have to be a great crafter to participate – just willing to lend a hand. We look forward to seeing you.

☛ Also, we hope any crafter who can’t join us for this session or on Thursday evenings is continuing to create beautiful creations and will consider dropping them off at the church for inclusion at the Holly Daze Bazaar.

If you have any questions, please contact Gin Gedney at 207-318-1581.

Cumberland County Association, UCC, Annual Meeting, Saturday, November 8, 9 am – 12 noon: We will be hosting the annual meeting of the Cumberland Association of our Maine Conference, United Church of Christ here at FCC UCC. In addition to the business meeting, the morning will include a keynote by Jane Field, executive director of the Maine Council of Churches, titled, “Inspiring Peace, Justice and Compassion Through Collaborative Action.”

Poster-Making for our October Vigil: Sunday, November 9, Wright Pavilion: Join Cindy Doucette and Jan Hamilton during Social Hour to make posters for our November 16 Vigil for LGBTQ+ justice. Bring your own ideas for signs; suggestions also available.

Fellowship Club, Tuesday, November 11, 6:15 pm, Guptill Hall (Save the date and note the change!). Lee Humiston, founder of the Maine Military Museum in South Portland, will offer a special Veteran's Day program. Make a dinner reservation (turkey dinner or vegetarian option) for \$25 by Sunday, November 9, with Carolyn Clark at carolyn.clark353@gmail.com.

November 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 on November's short story. Selection TBA (stay tuned!).

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.

HOLLY DAZE BAZAAR

The Annual Holly Daze Bazaar will take place on Saturday, December 6, 2025 from 9 am – 2 pm. 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

October Food Drive: *Thank you to all who donated* non-perishable food for the South Portland Food Cupboard this month. We think we collected over 350 pounds of food! **Thanks, too, to Karen Westerberg** for collecting and transporting all those donations!

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

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!*

THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Wednesday, November 5, Weekly Multi-Faith Vigil outside the Cumberland County Detention Center, at the corner of Congress and County Way, 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.

Youth Service Corps, Sunday, November 9, 12 - 2 pm, St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 885 Shore Road in Cape Elizabeth: We'll spend our time together preparing trail mix snack bags for the Preble Street Food Security Hub and have pizza! Contact Amber Burks: amber@stalbansmaine.org OR 207-239-7159.

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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."





WHY GIVE? – TOP TEN

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.

WHY? Here are our top reasons to give.

Which one inspires you? Or what reason would you add?

- #10. Because it feels good to give!
- #9. Because in tough economic times, we can pool what we have to help each other.
- #8. Because we believe in FCC UCC's mission *to live God's love and justice.*
- #7. Because we've seen God's Spirit at work in our congregation.
- #6. Because we've felt God at work in our own lives.
- #5. Because this is one way we can make a difference in the world.
- #4. Because when my money is added to yours, it has greater power.
- #3. Because God calls us to live generously (and teach our kids and our grandkids to live generously, too!)
- #2. Because this is one way to say, "Thank you!" to God.
- #1. *Because the more we give, the more we can do together!*

Help our ministries to take flight!

Bring your pledge on Gratitude Sunday, November 23 and we'll bless all our gifts together!



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.

October 26 Tools for Listening

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.****