



**THE
CHANGE MAKERS**

Week 4: Empowerment

Gratitude Sunday November 23, 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 Time for All God's Children, 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 *Concert Piece in D minor, Op. 10 (2nd Movement)* Julius Lengel
Andrew Sawyer, Cello

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Rev. Alison Buttrick Patton and Rev. Steve 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: The world needs to change. And we are changemakers!
The work of changemaking is going to take a while.

All: And this work is going to take all of us!

One: To keep going, we need to be inviting others, joining with others,
and empowering others to do this work with us.

**All: This can be the most challenging part of making change,
but we are ready to be bold.**

One: We come to worship this morning, eager to be part of this movement
and to bring others along in our work.

**All: We come to worship this morning, trusting that God will empower us.
We are the changemakers, and we are ready!
Thanks be to God!**

***OPENING HYMN** *Now Thank we all our God*

#27

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

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

One: Holy One, Jesus was always gathering the people,

All: but sometimes we insist on doing this changemaking work alone.

Maybe we worry that no one else will show up.

Maybe we are afraid to ask.

Or maybe we wanted things done *our* way.

When we forget that changemaking is not about us,

When we lose track of the truth that this is God's work

And we all have a part to play, forgive us.

One: Send us your spirit again, and free us from our fear and complacency.

Embolden us. Teach us to trust that others will pick up where we leave off.

All: Make us unafraid of change,

and undeterred in our work of changemaking. 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**

Kevin Cleary

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 The Voice paraphrase

SERMON

"You give them something to eat..."

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

and Rev. Steve Savage

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM *Do Not Leave Your Cares At The Door*

Elizabeth Alexander

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

Hannah Long-Higgins

OFFERING RITUAL: The Nest

GATHERING OUR PLEDGES, GIFTS and GRATITUDES

Offering Anthem: *Come, Ye Thankful People Come* Jennifer Meko, Flute

BLESSING FOR CHANGEMAKERS

One: Blessed are the changemakers.

All: Blessed are you who are awake to the world's suffering.

One: Blessed are you who know that things can change.

All: Blessed are you who long to increase justice and mercy for all.

One: Blessed are you who know that God has always employed the faithful acts of ordinary people to heal and change this world.

All: Blessed are these abundant gifts and blessed are the givers.

One: Blessed are you who know that change begins today,

All: change begins with us,

One: And we are blessed to be changemakers.

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

CLOSING HYMN

We'll Build a Land

S-26

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Grateful! (Reprise)

The Thanksgiving Baskets will be packed immediately following the worship service in the chancel. Please feel free to join this wonderfully chaotic hour!

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team E, Rich Armstrong, captain.

The Thanksgiving Bounty on the altar was purchased by the church to fill the altar and distribute to food baskets after service.

****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!

SEASONAL GRATITUDES *Deep gratitude to:*

Sue Farris, for volunteering to edit the *Weekly Word*, while we searched for a new Community Engagement Manager.

Karen Westerberg for maintaining our Facebook presence, especially while we were in between Community Engagement Managers.

And to all those who made possible the relocation of our Children's Clothes Closet:

- Children Clothes Closet team: **Jan Bosse, Lorissa Ciriello, Holly Culver, Jan Hamilton, AnnElissa Leveque, Jane Lockhart**, and **Karen Westerberg** for packing and prepping for the clothes closet move!
- **Lynn Holler** who measured/graphed/labeled everything to simplify the move!
- **Lorissa Ciriello, Holly Culver, Linda Foss, Judy Kimball, Bruce Lockwood, Bryan Wiggins** and **Chris Zechman** for moving the Children's Clothes Closet to the 5th Level from Guptill Hall!

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!

The Meetinghouse and Bell Choirs will NOT rehearse on November 26 due to Thanksgiving break. Rehearsals resume on December 3 at 4:45 pm in the Sanctuary for the Bell Choir, and 6:15 pm for the Meetinghouse Choir.

☛ To join the choir, contact Deirdre McClure at dmcclure@fccucc.org. To play in the bell choir, please contact Sharon Potter at handbells@fccucc.org.

COMING UP @ FCC UCC

Sitting with Loved Ones, Session 3: Tips for Visiting – Sunday, November 23, 11:30 am in Davidson Lounge: Explore ideas and practices for visiting folks in their homes. Learn useful skills for being a Lay Visitor or for supporting your loved ones. Led by Pastor Steve. For more info, email steve@fccucc.org.

Advent Wreath Making, Sunday, November 30, after worship in Wright Pavilion: Come make an Advent Wreath during fellowship hour; take it home and light the candles to count down the weeks to Christmas.

☛ If you have evergreen branches in your yard, that you could contribute, please contact Christine Campbell: christine123168@hotmail.com

Greater Portland Multi-Faith Meal Packing, Sunday, November 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!). 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 use 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 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

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

Climate Changed Podcast, Behind the Scenes, Episode 10: Listen to BTS Center Executive Director Allen speak on “Small Experiments with Radical Intent.” Our *Toss the Tanks* community forum was one of those experiments!

<https://thebtscenter.org/climate-changed/podcast-behind-the-scenes-episode-ten/>

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 Olivia Friday Loneman, enrolled tribal citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, AASECT Certified Sexuality Educator, and dedicated advocate for anti-oppressive, trauma-informed education. 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>

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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.”

Was your experience with us meaningful?

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

Write a review on Google (Thanks!). Like and follow us:

Facebook: facebook.com/fccucc

Instagram: instagram.com/fccucc_s.portland

YouTube channel: youtube.com/@FCCUCCSouthPortland



SAYING and GIVING THANKS

Giving is one way we practice our faith and say “Thanks!” to God.

What does that look like?

1. **All your gifts count:** A Gift of *any size* can be a faithful gift!
2. **Faithful gifts help us to grow closer to God. Think of giving as a *spiritual practice*, which is:**
 - INTENTIONAL – It’s making a decision to give back to God.
 - REGULAR – It’s turning our giving into a routine, or a habit.
 - GENEROUS – Because so is God!
 - FIRST – Not giving the leftovers but giving ‘off the top.’
 - PROPORTIONAL – It’s making sure that what we give reflects the resources we actually have.
 - CHEERFUL – As in: Give until it feels good!



Ready to Give? Pro-Tips to Make Giving Easy:

You can set up a [repeat donation](https://fccucc.org/donate) at fccucc.org/donate.

1. Go to fccucc.org/donate and click on Regular Offering/Pledge.
2. Enter an amount, select “Recurring” and choose a frequency (weekly, monthly, or quarterly). Enter a start date.
3. Click “Add to Basket” then “Continue to payment.”
4. Under Payment Method:
 - a. To avoid fees and stretch your gift
 - b. , select “Bank Account” to schedule a direct withdrawal from your checking account.
 - c. OR select “Credit or Debit” and enter your card info. Consider clicking the button to offset the processing fees. *Thank you!*
5. **Feel good that you are helping to make love and justice take flight!**