



Spirit-Led: Dismantling Barriers to Belonging
Week 3 - Crossing Thresholds
Sunday Worship
June 16, 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 

***OPENING HYMN** *O God...*

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS †

Threshold God, in every generation, you call your people to leave behind familiar places and comfortable spaces. When we resist your invitation, when our habits and practices become a barrier to someone's belonging, forgive us, we pray. May the urge to connect outpace our fear of the foreign; and your promise of transformation outweigh our fear of change. We ask it in your transforming 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**

We Are One in the Spirit

Scholtes

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Unison

Tom Hamerski

Open our hearts and minds, O God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit, so that as these words are read and proclaimed we may hear what you have to say to us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 10:9-43 (excerpts)

SERMON

Crossing Thresholds

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

ANTHEM *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* Arlen. Gary Richardson, Guitar

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.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

BLESSING THE OFFERING

***CLOSING HYMN**

In the Midst of New Dimensions

#363

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim people wandering their separate ways?

Refrain:

God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We, your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,

Grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams.

Refrain

Every race and every gender, all persuasions, old and young,

Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.

Refrain

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,

May your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.

Refrain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *I Want Jesus To Walk With Me* African-American Spiritual

Gary Richardson, Guitar

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team C, Bill Campbell, captain.

The flowers on the altar today are given by Heather Payson with gratitude for the people of FCCUCC.

In recognition of Pride and Juneteenth, our June worship theme is **Spirit-Led: Dismantling Barriers to Belonging**. We'll explore what it means to be a church called by God's Spirit to cross lines of difference. How are we all enriched when we break down barriers, including those that have harmed members of the LGBTQ+ community and other marginalized groups? How are our connections deepened and our faith expanded?

THIS SEASON AT FCC UCC

Sunday, June 23, 11:30 am: *The High Mountains of Portugal* - Book Read and Discussion: Pastor Alison has been captivated by the book by Yann Martel (author of *Life of Pi*). Check it out, then join her for a conversation on its themes, date TBD. From the back cover: *“Part quest, part ghost story, part contemporary fable— [this novel] offers a haunting exploration of great love and great loss. Filled with tenderness, humor, and endless surprise, it takes the reader on a road trip through Portugal in the last century--and through the human soul.”*

Sunday, June 30, 11:30 am - Short Story Group: We hope you can join our next short story discussion, on the story, “Young Goodman Brown,” by Nathaniel Hawthorne. In this story from the mid 19th century, a young man is joined for a walk by an unexpected companion...Find a link to the story in the Weekly Word or contact Pastor Steve.

Sunday, June 30, 11:30 am - 1 pm - Wabanaki Allies Working Group: Did you know that FCC's Mission and Social Witness Team, in order to further support Wabanaki tribal rights and well-being, has recently become a member of the Wabanaki Alliance Coalition? To learn more and help plan events for the coming year, please join our Wabanaki Allies working group in the Laity Room. No expertise needed; only curiosity and a passion for social justice.

Our mission trip is July 21 – July 26 in Cherryfield, ME. Want to join us? Contact Chris Keiter for more info or to register: cfkeiter@gmail.com

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Doodles, Notes and Reflections...

