



Spirit-Led: Dismantling Barriers to Belonging
Week 1 - Becoming Church
Sunday Worship
June 2, 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: Welcome! Today we begin worship together. Following the Time for All God's Children, children are welcome to move to the Craft Corner in the narthex (the entryway at the back of the sanctuary), accompanied by an adult. Worship can be heard through the open door.

There are also clipboards with paper and coloring pages at the back of the sanctuary, for anyone who wants to sit in a pew and draw/color during the service.

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PRELUDE *Largo* from "New World Symphony" Dvorak
Handbell Quartet with Jennifer Meko, Flute

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Revs. Alison J. Buttrick Patton and Stephen Savage

**No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.**

THRESHOLD MOMENT

SUNG RESPONSE *Draw the Circle Wide* Light

**God the still point of the circle, 'round whom all creation turns;
Nothing lost, but held forever in God's gracious arms.
Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone,
Standing side by side. Draw the circle wide.**

****CALL TO WORSHIP****

One: People of God: welcome!

All: Welcome to this place of love and grace,

One: Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

All: God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,

One: God invites all of us to share in the good news:

All: We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

One: In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

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

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS †

One: God of the early Church and our God, You called us into this community of faith, taught us to praise You and to love Your people:

All: When we have not met but missed You in each other; when we have not received but rejected You in the stranger; when we have not forgiven, but nursed the wounds we bear; when we have not touched, but trampled You in creation; when we have not heard or heeded Your call to new life: Forgive us, we pray, and send the winds of Your Holy Spirit to renew us and restore 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**

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.**

TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Unison

Carrie Skeffington

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 2: 41-47

SERMON

Becoming Church

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

Debbie Rideout

Edith Bigelow

Michael Mallick

Claude Vachon

Joseph Calise

Henrietta Marino

Marcia Webber

Ann Googins

Frances Rowell

ANTHEM

Ave Verum Corpus

Mozart

Meetinghouse Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Preparation

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.

We Tell The Story

We Bless the Elements

***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 *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*
 Walker's Southern Harmony, and Thy Word Is Like a Garden, Lord Fink
Jennifer Meko, Flute

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Christ in our midst, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table.
Now strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and send us out to
live the love and justice of Jesus. Amen!**

***CLOSING HYMN** *We're Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table* Traditional

**We're gonna sit at the welcome table,
We're gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days, hallelujah!
We're gonna sit at the welcome table,
gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days.**

All kinds of people around that table...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *God of Grace and God of Glory* Hughes
Handbell and Handchime Choirs

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WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team A, Terry Dellaire, captain.

**This morning's call to worship was written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

† This morning's call to worship is adapted from an Iona Community prayer.

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

TODAY! Sunday, June 2 – Congregational Lunch and Annual Meeting: Join us for this important gathering of the church. We will elect our leaders, reflect on the past year and engage in a playful practice led by Pastor Alison.

Sunday, June 9 – New Member Sunday: Join us as we welcome those who have chosen to enter into covenant with our First Congregational Church community. Interested in becoming a member? Contact Rev. Alison Patton at revalisonpatton@fccucc.org

Wednesday, June 12 – Beach Walk, 5 - 6:30 pm: Mark your calendar and join us for a late afternoon walk - because getting outside together is good for bodies and spirits! Location TBD. Led by Pastor Alison.

Sunday, June 23, 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.

Book Read and Discussion – *The High Mountains of Portugal*: 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.”*

Interested? Contact revalisonpatton@fccucc.org to let her know you are reading. **If there are at least 4 people who want to purchase the book from Nonesuch Books, we can get a 20% book group discount!**

We'll set a date in late June or early July for a group discussion!

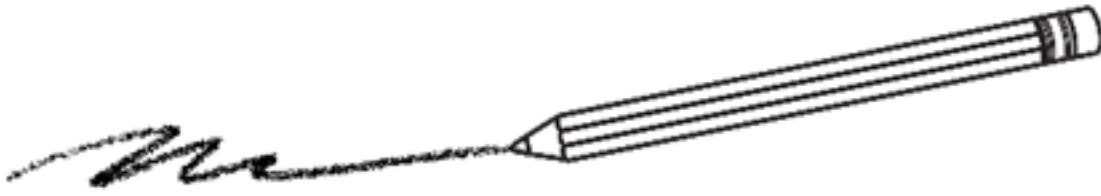
Evening And overnight Shelter Volunteers Needed: State Street Church UCC in Portland provides an emergency housing shelter for immigrant and refugee families. The shelter has been re-opened through June. Volunteer opportunities include:

One person 6:30 - 8:30 pm and two people from 8:30 pm - 7:30 am

OR


two people - one from 6:30 pm - 7:30 am and one from 8:30 pm - 7:30 am. For more info contact Walter Kimball at whkimball77@gmail.com.

Doodles, Notes and Reflections...



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