



**Spirit-Led: Dismantling Barriers to Belonging**  
**Week 4 - Acknowledging The Past**  
**Sunday Worship**  
**June 23, 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. After 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.

\* \* \* \* \*

**PRELUDE<sup>†</sup>**                      Oh Freedom                      African-American Spiritual

**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:** In a world that aches for a more just tomorrow, it is right to turn to God!

**ALL:** **The God, who crafted the diversity of creation and gave it life through their  
breath is deserving of our praise!**

**One:** God looked out at creation, all of creation, and said, without exception, it is  
GOOD!

**ALL:** **Let us see the world through Gods eyes!**

**One:** Let us work toward a world where God's vision is made plain to everyone's  
eyes,

**ALL:** **Let us practice the love and justice of Jesus!**

---

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

**\*OPENING HYMN†**

*I Woke Up This Morning*

African-American Spiritual

**I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus... (3X)**

**Allelu, allelu, allelu-u-u-ua.**

**Singin' and prayin' with my mind stayed on Jesus... (3X)**

**Allelu, allelu, allelu-u-u-ua.**

**I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on freedom... (3X)**

**Allelu, allelu, allelu-u-u-ua.**

**PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS †**

One: Through Jesus Christ you have modeled a life of love, and a pursuit of justice for all creation. We strive to walk the path that he laid out for us, yet we are too often complicit in systems of oppression, injustice, and inequality that lifts up some at the expense of others' dignity. We are too often silent when we benefit from privilege, because of the color of our skin, the shape of our features, or our shared experience.

**ALL: Give us the strength to admit this difficult truth to ourselves, and through that admission, the strength to set down the crutch of power at the expense of others, so that all your beloved children might one day stand shoulder to shoulder, side by side, together. 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**

**Carol Zechman**

**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 16:35-40

**SERMON**

**“Speak Up, I Can’t Hear You!”**

Rev. Stephen Savage

**ANTHEM**

*Plowshare Prayer*

*LaJoye*

*Solo, Skyler Keiter-Massefski*

**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**

† In recognition of Juneteenth, and in response to the harm inflicted on the African-American community by the legacy of slavery in this country, we invite you to make a small contribution - a “royalty” - for the Negro spirituals that we have included in today’s service and, the funds donated will be given to the Atlantic Black Box Project, to support their ongoing work. [www.atlanticblackbox.com](http://www.atlanticblackbox.com)

*You can make a secure online gift by using the QR code, going to [fccucc.org/donate](http://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

*O God We Bear The Imprint Of Your Face*

#506

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE<sup>†</sup>

**Children, We All Shall Be Free**

**African-American Spiritual**

## WORSHIP NOTES

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

<sup>†</sup> **June 19 was Juneteenth, also called "Emancipation Day" or "Freedom Day,"** symbolically marking the end of enslavement in the United States. President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, but it only applied to enslaved people in the Confederacy, and its enforcement depended on the presence of Union troops — and those troops didn't arrive in Galveston, Texas, one of the southernmost outposts of enslaving territory, until June 19, 1865.

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 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."*

**NEXT 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.

**NEXT 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](mailto:cfkeiter@gmail.com)

## **IN THE COMMUNITY**

**Walk for Historical and Ecological Recovery:** a series of walking events designed to explore truths about colonial history and its impact on Black and Native American communities, in solidarity with those communities. Learn more and see a list of all the scheduled walks at: <https://www.walkwhere.org/walks> *See Pastor Alison if you are interested in participating in one or more of these events.*

**BTS Center's Convocation 2024 - Hope in Small Places: Becoming People of Refugia Faith, September 26-27, 2024:** Keynote by Debra Reinstra, author of *Refugia Faith*, will help us consider ways for churches to be places of nurture and flourishing in an unsettled, climate-changed world. Pastors Alison and Steve will both be attending. Learn more at <https://thebtscenter.org/convocation-2024/> Register by the end of June for a registration discount.

## SUMMER SCHEDULES

Beginning July 1, our bookkeeper, Bob DesMueles, will be in the office two days a week: Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Pastor Steve will be away on vacation July 1-14.

Pastor Alison will participate in our FCC mission trip, leaving after church on Sunday, July 21 and returning on Saturday, July 27.

Pastor Alison will be away on vacation July 29 - August 19.

\* \* \* \* \*

**WHAT'S UP? Want to stay in the loop? UPDATE or ADD your contact info!**  
Go to [fccucc.org](http://fccucc.org) and select "Contact Us" then select "Contact Info Update Form."



Also, look for us on Facebook: [facebook.com/fccucc](https://facebook.com/fccucc)



Or on Instagram: [instagram.com/fccucc\\_s.portland](https://instagram.com/fccucc_s.portland)



And on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/@FCCUCCSouthPortland](https://youtube.com/@FCCUCCSouthPortland)



You're now able to view Bulletins online. Scan the QR Code for the digital version.

*Doodles, Notes and Reflections...*

