



Spirit-Led: Dismantling Barriers to Belonging
Week 5 - All Are One
Sunday Worship
June 30, 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.

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PRELUDE

Tarantella

Lin

Emily Savage, piano

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. (Repeat chorus)**

***CALL TO WORSHIP[†]**

One: The world belongs to God,

All: The earth and all its people.

One: How good and how lovely it is

All: To live together in unity.

One: Love and faith come together,

All: Justice and Peace join hands.

One: Open our lips, O God

All: And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

[†]Please rise, on your feet or in your hearts.

***OPENING HYMN**

God of Justice, God of Mercy

Huber/Richard

**God of justice, God of mercy, make us merciful and just!
Help us see all your creation as from you a sacred trust.
And when people cry in anguish for their own or others' pain
Show us ways to make a difference, O dear God, make us humane!**

**You have formed us, God of rainbows, in your image for your will.
Seeing our diverse reflections, trusting you, we marvel still;
For our colors, strengths and talents show what one alone would lack,
Calling us to work together - brown, red, golden, white and black.**

**Grant all people work with meaning, strength to care for those they love.
Food for table, truth for telling, challenges to rise above.
But remind us, God of justice, this is now our work, our call!
Changing life's oppressive systems into ones empow'ring all.**

**So the vision you have planted in each human mind and heart
Now becomes the spark of action calling us to do our part.
Keep that vision clear before us, every gender, every voice:
Valued in response and witness, sharing challenges and joys.**

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

**O Holy God, we know we have fallen short.
We turn our backs when we could embrace.
We remain silent when we could speak.
We speak when we could listen.
We close the door when we could fling it wide open.
We judge when we could seek understanding.
We cling when we could give.
Forgive us, O God, and help us to grow into the interconnected people
you created us to be. Through Christ, we pray. 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

Scott Berry

**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

Galatians 3:23-28 (trans., Wilda Gafney)

SERMON

“All Are One”

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

ANTHEM

Song of Community

McDade

FCC Pick-up Choir

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

Restless Weaver

#520

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

For the Healing of the Nations

Purcell

WORSHIP NOTES

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

Flowers: Terry and Nancy Dallaire offer flowers on the altar in celebration of Thomas Clark Dallaire and Charles Kent Dallaire; son Aaron and wife Stephanie Dallaire; and son Joshua and wife Melody.

†**The Call to Worship** comes from *The Iona Community Worship Book*. Used with permission.

****The Prayer of Confession** was adapted from a prayer written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

Thank you to all who contributed to our Juneteenth special offering last Sunday. The royalties we raised to honor the artistry of enslaved composers of Negro Spirituals, totaled close to \$500. Those funds will be donated to Atlantic Black Box.

Spirit-Led: Dismantling Barriers to Belonging: During June, in recognition of Pride Month and Juneteenth, we are exploring 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: 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.

TODAY: 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.

Sunday, July 14, 11:30 am: *The High Mountains of Portugal* - Book Read and Discussion - REPRISE: Did you miss our first discussion of this unique novel? Still finishing the book? Contact Pastor Alison if you'd like to join her for a second round of group reflection on Yann Martel's three-part contemporary fable: revalisonpatton@fccucc.org

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

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

The church offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5 in observance of the national holiday.

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

Rev. Steve Savage will be away on vacation July 1-14.

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

She will be away on vacation July 29 - August 19.

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Doodles, Notes and Reflections...

