



**Spirit-Led: Dismantling Barriers to Belonging
Week 2 - In or Out?
Sunday Worship
June 9, 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 we welcome new members, 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 *Day By Day* Schwartz

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: Come, you who thirst for grace.

All: Come, you who hunger for justice.

One: Come, you who are a stranger in a strange land.

All: Come, you who are like a child at home.

One: Come, for Christ welcomes you to this time and place.

All: We have come to worship God.

One Then let us worship well, the God of love and grace!

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

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS †

Open-Armed God: When we speak without loving, judge without listening, turn away without seeing, dismiss without learning... When our way becomes *the only* way: Break through our barriers; banish our bigotry, open our hearts; reintroduce us to each other. Teach us humility and reconcile your peoples, we pray.

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.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Andrew and Beverly Moore

Craig Patton

Pat Thatcher

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Unison

Bob Morse

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 8: 26-39

SERMON

In or Out?

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

ANTHEM

Bruce Lockwood

What Gift Can We Bring

Marshall

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**

Help Us Accept Each Other

#19 - Gray Hymnal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team B, Peggy Murray, 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.

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 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: *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.*"

NEW DATE: 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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Go to fccucc.org and select "Contact Us" then select "Contact Info Update Form."



Also, look for us on Facebook: facebook.com/fccucc

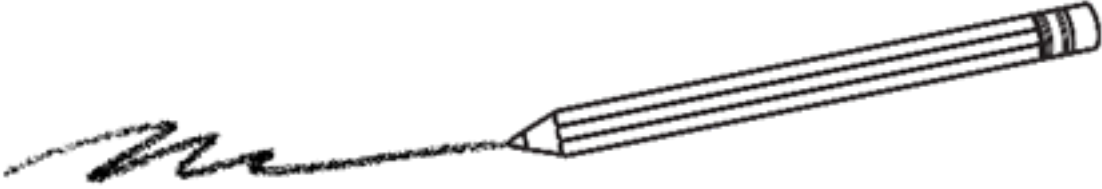


Or on Instagram: instagram.com/fccucc_s.portland



And on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/@FCCUCCSouthPortland

Doodles, Notes and Reflections...



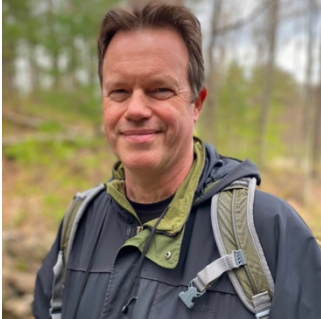
INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



Beverly and Andrew Moore: Andy and Beverly Moore are excited to join FCCUCC. We're looking forward to the worship, fellowship and becoming involved with the church. Bev and Andy were just recently married at the church, back on April 12, 2024. They presently reside in Cape Elizabeth. Bev is originally from Massachusetts and Andy from New Jersey.



Pat Thatcher: Pat moved to Maine 5 years ago to enjoy the closeness of family. Since then, she has made wonderful friends, rekindled her love of learning, and relished the values and the commitment to all things local that embody this beautiful area. Pat says: "My search for a welcoming and positive spiritual community led me to FCCUCC and I am very happy to become part of this delightful congregation."



Craig D. B. Patton: Craig grew up outside Boston, graduated from Bates College, and has lived most of his life in New England. He is a marketing and communications professional who has worked in high-tech, performing arts, and Maine's aquaculture industry. Craig has been married to Pastor Alison for almost 28 years and they have two sons, Tobey and Rowan. Fun Facts: dabbles at birding, guitar, and gardening; has 25 published stories and poems; enjoys hiking and camping; and has gone whitewater rafting in three countries.