



Borders & Belonging

Part 2: Those People From Away

Sunday Worship
July 6, 2025

We are 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: We worship all together this morning. There are clipboards with paper and coloring pages at the back of the sanctuary, for worshippers of any age to use during the service.

"When fear and anxiety govern a community's actions in the civic square, there is often a scapegoat created to carry away that community's worst anxieties.
And that scapegoat is frequently the stranger."

Borders & Belongings
The Book of Ruth: A Story for Our Time
Pádraig Ó Tuama & Glenn Jordan

PRELUDE *When Thou Art Near* J. S. Bach

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

SUNG SUMMONS *Spirit of Life*

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

THRESHOLD MOMENT

SUNG SUMMONS, repeat: *Spirit of Life*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: People of God, you made it!
All: Some of us just walked down the street;
One: Some of you traveled for miles.
All: We come every week or once in a while,
One: Diverse people descended from many lands.
All: We may not recognize all the faces around us,
One: But there are no strangers in God's presence,
All: Only beloved Children of God.

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

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Border-Crossing God: Our maps are littered with borders, crisscrossing lines that divide *us* from *them* and *you* from *me*. When we invoke those lines to justify our divisions, when we convince ourselves that we are safer apart, when we confuse *stranger* with *threat* and *other* with *enemy*, forgive us. Remind us that our maps tell a misleading story. In you, we are all connected, citizens of your Beloved Community.

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

Shine, Jesus, Shine!

Graham Kendrick

Shine, Jesus, shine! Fill this land with Creator's glory.

Blaze, Spirit, blaze. Set our hearts on fire!

Flow, River, flow. Fill the nations with grace and mercy.

Send forth your Word, God and let there be light!

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Karen Westerberg

One: This is the sacred story of God's journey with God's people.

All: Holy One, open our ears to hear, our hearts to receive and our lives to be expanded by your Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Ruth 2:1-13, 17-20, 23

Karen Westerberg and Deborah Tomblyn

SERMON

Those People from Away

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM *I am a Poor, Wayfaring Stranger* Traditional American folk song
Bruce Lockwood – acapella

PASTORAL PRAYER

SUNG RESPONSE *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* Ken Medema

Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

OFFERING INVITATION

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 to the Table

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.

The Story is Told

The Gifts are Blessed

The Meal is Shared

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 *I Am the Bread of Life* Suzanne Toolan

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of Grace, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table, by granting us the presence of Christ. 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

As We Gather at Your Table

#314

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

O, Hear the Joyful Tidings

Composer Unknown

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Join us for lemonade on the front porch after worship.

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team H, Carrie Skeffington, captain.

Livestream: Thank you to Alex Ratta for managing our worship livestream, this week and every week!

The altar arrangement is given in honor our amazing co-directors of music Terry Foster and Deirdre McClure, from Judy and Walter Kimball.

WEEKLY @ FCC UCC

Tuesday Bible Study will continue, every Tuesday, 12:30 - 1:30 pm in Davidson Lounge: While Pastor Steve is on his much-deserved sabbatical, a loyal group of FCC UCC members will continue their Tuesday tradition of worship reflection. All are welcome!

Meetinghouse Choir, Handbells and Handchimes are on summer recess. Rehearsals will resume on August 27.

SUMMER AT FCC UCC

Lunch-n-Games, Sunday, July 13, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm: Our Game Nights have been a hit, so we're adding a Game *Day!* Join us for light lunch and board games in Wright Pavilion. Please RSVP at outreach@fccucc.org so we can plan to feed you.

Game Night, Tuesday, July 15, 7 pm in Wright Pavilion: Bring your favorite board game or learn to play one of the games we have on hand. All welcome! Questions: outreach@fccucc.org

Cheer on *Tri for a Cure* Tri-athletes! Sunday, July 20, 8:40 – 9:40 am: Tri-athletes will be cycling past our door on Sunday, to raise money for cancer research. Bring your noise-makers and join us at the corner of Cottage and Sawyer as we cheer them on!

☛ *Also, plan for possible traffic delays as you arrive for church that morning.*

Bless Weaving and Make-your-own-blessing-oil Workshop, July 20, 11:15 – 12 pm: As we conclude our summer series, *Borders and Belonging*, join us for a special fellowship hour after worship. Add fabric to the Bless Weaving and make your own blessing oil.

Both are made possible through the *Bless Project* at South Congregational Church, UCC in Kennebunkport. As part of their summer-long project, they have invited other congregations to join them in exploring the power and meaning we find in blessing each other. *See the back page of this bulletin* to learn more and request a daily blessing.

Open Air Worship and Lawn Games, Sunday, July 27, 10 am at Bug Light: We're taking our worship outside! Join us at Bug Light for our regular Sunday service followed by a Tailgate social hour and lawn games! Bring your own chair (and an extra to share, if you have one). *We will not be livestreaming, but we will post a recording of worship on Sunday afternoon.*

FCC UCC Goes to the Theater! For those of you who love the theater, we have three opportunities to take in a show together this summer:

- *As You Like It* – Shakespeare in the Park, Deering Oaks Park, **Thursday, July 17** at 6:30 pm (Tickets are free)
- *Barefoot in the Park* – Hackmatack Playhouse in Berwick on **Thursday, July 31** at 2:00 pm
- *Grease* - Hackmatack Playhouse on **Thursday, August 14** at 2:00 pm.

Want to join us? Contact Kathy Sahrbeck to let her know you are interested (or if you have questions) at outreach@fccucc.org. You can also find Kathy after worship, at Lemonade on the Porch, most Sundays.

Handbell Workshops coming this summer: The FCCUCC handbell director will be presenting two workshops this summer. Each hour-long workshop will be presented twice:

Bell Basics

Wednesday, July 23, 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Wednesday, August 13, 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

For those who want to learn how to ring handbells and play in the choir or are just curious about how the instrument works.

Advanced Ringing Techniques

Wednesday, July 23, 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

Wednesday, August 13, 11:00 am-12:00 pm

For ringers with at least one year of ringing experience who would like to learn more advanced techniques.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Sharon Potter at handbells@FCCUCC.org.

Pop-up Handchime Choir on Sunday, August 10. Come at 8:30 am to learn a song or two to play during 10 am worship.

MISSION CORNER

Volunteer for Preble Street Food Hub: On the last Friday of each month, we prepare meals at the Food Hub, 75 Darling Avenue, South Portland, for delivery to Preble Street satellite sites. Please join us! To learn more about how to volunteer, see the Weekly Word or contact Danna Wiggins at dannawig2@gmail.com

BUILDING UPDATES!

Steeple Repairs: Did you know that there is only one steeple repair person in our region? After waiting for about two years, we finally have a team on site. Check out the work they are doing to repair our steeple and give it a face lift!

Small Parking Lot: The small church parking lot adjoining Mitchell Road is about to be repaved. The town is also scheduled to repave Mitchell Road sometime during the month of July. Please plan accordingly.

WHAT'S UP? Want to stay in the loop? Make sure you are on our email list! To UPDATE or ADD your contact info, go to: fccucc.org and select "Contact Us" then select "Contact Info Update Form."

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

on Instagram: instagram.com/fccucc_s.portland

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



IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY

A DAILY BLESSING: Need a spirit-lift? Sign up to receive a daily blessing in your inbox, each morning between now and September 15. Offered as part of the **Bless Project** at South Congregational Church, UCC, in Kennebunkport.

Sign up here:

<https://www.southchurchucc.org/blessproject#daily-blessing>

Then, watch for the arrival of the *Bless Weaving*, which FCC UCC will be hosting July 14-July 20. Add to the weaving during a special fellowship hour on **Sunday, July 20** (see details in this bulletin under "Summer at FCC UCC").

