



**Lessons From the Wild  
Week 1 - Light Bearers  
Sunday Worship with Communion  
July 7, 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 

*"'What is this?' I ask... I swirl my fingers across the surface, enchanted.  
'This is nature being ridiculous,' Emma says. 'Bioluminescent plankton.  
Like swimming in fireworks.'"*

— Adi Alsaid, *North of Happy*

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**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**

*There Is A Balm in Gilead*  
Peter Dunphy, Banjo; Barry Daniels, Clarinet; Terry Foster, Piano

Negro Spiritual

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

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

**THRESHOLD MOMENT**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP \*\***

One: To see the life that teems around us,

**All: To give thanks for the gift we have received;**

One: To notice the brightness and beauty of summer,

**All: To admire a world full of sparkle and shine.**

One: To accept the gift of love, and to love in return:

**All: This is to worship God.**

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

**PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

Source of Light and Love, you create us to shine. When in our disappointment, anger or anxiety our light grows dim; when we turn in on ourselves and away from each other, reignite our spark, we pray. When by our actions or inactions we diminish the light of others, forgive us. Teach us to look for and to encourage the Christ Light in those we meet, until your whole creation is aglow.

**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**

Peggy Murray

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**

Matthew 5:13–16

**SERMON**

“Light Bearers”

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

**ANTHEM**

*Down To the River To Pray*

Attributed to George H. Allan  
in a slave songbook

## 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 are invited to make a small contribution, a “royalty” - for the Negro spirituals that we have included in today’s service. Donations will be given to the Atlantic Black Box Project, to support their ongoing work. [www.atlanticblackbox.com](http://www.atlanticblackbox.com) . Mark “Royalty for Spirituals” on your check or in the memo field under “Other” online.



*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

## 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**

### **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 illuminate the love and justice of Jesus. Amen!

### **\*CLOSING HYMN**

*This Little Light of Mine*

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

*In the Sweet By and By*

Webster

### **WORSHIP NOTES**

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team H, Stan Jordan, captain.

\*\*This morning's Call to Worship was adapted from words 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*** two weeks ago. 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.

### **THIS SEASON AT FCC UCC**

**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](mailto: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](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

**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...*

