

All My Days

A Summer Worship Series on Prayer



Persistence August 23, 2026

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.**



A Note for Families / Folks of All Ages: During the summer, we do not have church school, but young people are encouraged to check the basket on the picnic table for activities. There are clipboards with paper and coloring pages, for worshippers of any age to use during the service.

PRELUDE

Stand By Me

Charles A. Tindley

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

THRESHOLD MOMENT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We arrive fully into this moment, Holy One.

We open to sense your presence among us.

ALL: We hear you say, "I am holding this world."

One: We need you, Jesus, to help us.

We come to you as your first disciples did.

ALL: We hear you say, "I am holding this world."

One: Spirit of Divine Love, come to us with your healing waters.

ALL: We hear you say, "I am holding this world."

***OPENING HYMN**

Seek Ye First

No. 443

RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

One: Mighty God, we walk in paths well trodden
by generations of fellow believers.

We love to claim you as our God
and to be known as your people.

We love to hear the great deeds of the saints
who went before us.

We love to count ourselves
in their mighty company.

**ALL: Forgive our hesitancy
to build our own monuments
to your importance in our lives.
Forgive our reluctance
to put on our own armor of faith
as we face the powers of sin and death
in our own lives. Amen.**

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

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

***SUNG RESPONSE** *Peace Like a River* African American Spiritual 𐄂

**I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul. (Repeat)**

I've got joy like a fountain...

I've got love like an ocean...

SACRED PLAY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Carol Zechman

One: This is the story of God's journey with God's people - including all of us.

All: **Open our hearts and minds to hear these texts, as they illuminate prayer
and praise for us.**

SCRIPTURE Luke 11:5-10 *and* Ephesians 6:14-18

SERMON "Keep Knocking" Rev. Stephen Savage

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ORGAN ANTHEM *Seek Ye First* Karen Lafferty

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father-Mother in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kin-dom come; Your 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 Yours is the kin-dom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE *Open My Eyes* Manibusan/Zaragoza

Open my eyes, Love, Help me to see your face.

Open my eyes, Love. Help me to see.

Open my ears, Love. Help me to hear your voice.

Open my ears, Love. Help me to hear.

Open my heart, Love. Help me to love like you.
Open my heart, Love. Help me to love.
I live within you. Deep in your heart, O Love.
I live within you. Rest now in me.

OFFERING INVITATION

Help us to live God's love and justice. You can make a secure gift by scanning the QR code, by going to fccucc.org and clicking on "Donate," or by adding your contribution to the box at the back of the sanctuary.



MUSICAL INTERLUDE

BLESSING OUR GIFTS

*CLOSING HYMN

Restless Weaver

No. 520

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Improvisation on "I Will Sing of My Redeemer"* James McGranahan

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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!

All My Days is adapted from the series created by Marcia McFee and the Worship Design Studio and used by permission. Worshipdesignstudio.com/days

Today's Prayer for Forgiveness is adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009, © 2008 Abingdon Press. Posted on the Ministry Matters website.

☰ **Royalty for Spirituals:** Historically, the composers of African American Spirituals were neither known nor compensated for use of their songs. The FCCUCC music department has committed to paying forward a 'royalty' each time we include a Spiritual in worship. We donate funds to the **Indigo Arts Alliance**. Join us: you can donate by check or online, with "Royalty for Spirituals" in the memo. Thank you.

FCCUCC T-Shirts have arrived! If you ordered a shirt, you can pay and pick them up on Sunday or during normal office hours.

WEEKLY @ FCCUCC

Bible Study every Tuesday, 12:30 - 1:30 pm in Davidson Lounge: Explore the scripture from the past Sunday, led by Pastor Steve.

Prayer Shawls, every Wednesday, 1 - 3 pm, Summer location changes weekly: Text Lynne Lanctot at 318-1605 by Tuesday evening for location. New and experienced knitters welcome. Bring needles size 9, 10, or 11, and your own yarn, or check out the church yarn supply. Questions? Lynne: lanctotla74@gmail.com.

Handbell Rehearsals for current members of Ring for Joy will begin on Wednesday, August 26 at 4:45 PM in the Sanctuary. Anyone who is not currently a ringer and who would like to play this year should contact handbell director Sharon Potter at handbells@fccucc.org to arrange a time to meet.

COMING UP @ FCCUCC

Join us for the Homecoming Picnic Sunday, September 13 after worship service!

You may sign up to bring needed items via the sign-up genius:

<https://tinyurl.com/2kfvudj7> OR reach out to Christine Campbell @ 207-409-8948 or christinecampbell1231@gmail.com. There will be a paper sign up available during some upcoming gatherings of Lemonade on the Porch as well.

Faith and Fiction - in Davidson Lounge following worship NEXT Sunday August 30 and again on September 20. Join FCCUCC member Chuck Warner and Pastor Steve for reflection on various books and short stories. In August and September, we will be reading *Parable Of The Sower* by Octavia Butler! Anyone interested is invited to gather to discuss the first 13 chapters on August 30, and the remainder of the book on September 20. The book is widely available, and often in stock at local libraries and local bookstores. Please contact Pastor Steve if you are having difficulty finding the book.

MISSION AND SOCIAL WITNESS

Back-To-School Backpacks and Supplies: It is that time again when we provide backpacks and school supplies to students going back to school. Instead of folks purchasing supplies we are asking for monetary donations and we will purchase the supplies as they are needed.

We receive requests from families, the General Assistance offices, and the schools.

If you would like to donate, you can:

- Write a check made out to the church, put Backpacks in the memo field
- A cash donation with a note indicating Backpacks or
- Donate on-line at www.fccucc.org/donate, choose Other and put Backpacks in the note section

Children's Clothes Closet is now open to the public!

- Second and fourth Wednesdays, 11 am - 1 pm
- Second and fourth Saturdays, 12 pm - 2 pm

If you are interested in volunteering, contact AnnElissa Leveque or Pastor Steve at steve@fccucc.org.

Clothing Donations:

1. Clean, wearable children's clothes of all sizes (including teens) can be dropped off on the 5th floor, in the Children's Clothes Closet donation bin just inside the left-hand door.
2. Adult clothes, shoes and accessories, both wearable *and* unwearable, can now be deposited in the *Apparel Impact* Bin in the main parking lot. Upcycle and recycle to keep clothes out of our landfills! Learn more: <https://www.apparelimpact.com/>.

Clynk Bags are in the narthex (inside main entrance). Collect your returnable cans and bottles and return them to a Clynk collection site at Hannaford or other participating grocery stores. Scan the code on the bags and the refunds will automatically be donated to our FCC mission team. *Thank you!*

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.

THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Multifaith Community Vigil, August 25, 5:30-6:00 pm in Mechanics Park (corner of Main and Water Streets), Biddeford: Join this weekly vigil led by local multifaith leaders in Biddeford/Saco (modeled after the vigils we held outside Cumberland County Jail), as together we offer support for grieving neighbors and build loving community. This is a prayerful gathering of love, solidarity and support for the Biddeford community, especially for Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero's family and friends, our immigrant neighbors, those feeling unsafe, and all caught up in systems of injustice and division.

Consider checking out An Evening With Bishop Mariann Budde, at Merrill Auditorium on October 8, presented by the Maine Council of Churches. Bishop Budde's keynote address, entitled "Courage Is Contagious," will explore how we can all learn to be brave. For more information, including how to purchase tickets, see the weekly word!

SUMMER SCHEDULE

- Rev. Alison Buttrick Patton, Senior Pastor, will be back from vacation on Tuesday, August 25.

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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".

Find us, like and follow us on social media. Now on Substack! @FCCUCC

