



**God's House
Sunday Worship
August 25, 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 

“There [is] no word for ‘hello’ in [the] local language of Papua New Guinea. Instead...one simply said ‘You are here.’ The answer, as I recall it, was equally straightforward: ‘Yes I am.’ ... For decades I have thought of the words ‘You are here’ and ‘Yes I am’ as good places to begin something that might be called prayer.”

- Pádraig Ó Tuama

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

Præludium

Dimitri Schostakovich
Danilo and Sava Thurber, violins

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Revs. Alison J. B. Patton and Stephen Savage

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

THRESHOLD MOMENT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come in, all you people! Come from south and west, north and east!

**All: We come along streets and across bridges; we come by car, by ferry,
or on foot!**

One: Come in! God delights that you are here.

All: We are here to sing, to pray, to greet, to wonder, to give thanks.

One: Then come in! This is God’s house; Christ is our host. Let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN**

Open Now Your Gates of Beauty

No. 249

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

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Homemaker God: You invite us into your dwelling place, roll out the welcome mat and open your arms. But some days we ignore your invitation. Some days we turn away, figuring we don't need you or your people. We get distracted or self-absorbed. When we disregard your hospitality, when we fail to appreciate the care with which you have made a home for all your creatures, forgive us, we pray. Teach us the way to your door, until we know the route by heart.

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

Carrie Skeffington

Open our hearts and minds, O God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit, so that as this word is read and proclaimed we may hear what you have to say to us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 84

SERMON

God's House

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

ANTHEM

Gavotte

Dimitri Schostakovich
Danilo and Sava Thurber, violins

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 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**

How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely

No. 252

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Duo Concertant for Two Violins, No. 1 in G Minor

Charles de Beriot

Danilo and Sava Thurber, violins

WORSHIP NOTES

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

****Our Call to Worship is adapted from a call written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.**

THIS SEASON AT FCC UCC

Backpack Ministry! Throughout the month of August, we are once again be collecting new and gently used backpacks as well as the school supplies that fill them. We hope you will contribute to this important cause, equipping children and youth to get all that they possibly can from their education! For a list of needed items or other ways to contribute, please see your Weekly Word.

Meetinghouse Choir rehearsals resume Wednesday, August 28, 6:15 - 8pm. All singers are welcome. We meet in the Choir Room on the lower level of the church. Questions? Contact choir director Deirdre McClure at dmclure@fccucc.org.

Bell Choir rehearsals resume Wednesday, September 4 at 4:45 - 5:45pm in Wright Pavilion. Questions? Contact bell choir director Sharon Potter at handbells@fccucc.org.

Welcome Sunday - Worship and Picnic, September 8: Join us as we launch the fall season, complete with backpack blessing, praise and delicious food off the grill! *Thanks to the Education, Growth and Fellowship Team for organizing our picnic.* Scan the QR code for the online sign up, or look for the paper sheet in the narthex, to see ways that you can contribute to the fun!



Host a Walk: Do you have a favorite walking route? Consider hosting an FCC UCC Walk! Here's what 'hosting' means:

1. Choose an easy to moderate walking route that our group could do in 75 - 90 minutes.
2. Choose a date and time that you are available, along with a meeting place that we can announce in the Weekly Word and bulletin.
3. Consider including a brief (5 minutes) meditation: a quote, poem, prayer or meditative practice that you could share, partway through the walk, to help us tune into the world around us and the spirit within us.

Sign up to lead one of our walks between September 2024 and May 2025 by scanning the QR code.



NOTE: We don't have to walk a new route every month. Feel free to repeat a favorite route. Questions? Contact Rev. Alison Patton at revalisonpatton@fccucc.org.

MISSION CORNER

CLYNK Bags are now available in the Narthex: Did you know that you can collect your returnable cans and bottles to support our mission and outreach efforts? The green CLYNK bags are now restocked and available in the narthex of the church (back of the sanctuary). Save up your bottles and cans. When the bag is full, turn them in at participating grocery stores, scan the code on the bags and the refunds will automatically be donated to our FCC mission team. It's easy!

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.

IN THE COMMUNITY

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

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

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Doodles, Notes and Reflections...

