



"Here You Come Again"

August 30, 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 narthex (entryway) for simple crafts / activities. There are also clipboards with paper and coloring pages at the back of the sanctuary, for worshippers of any age to use during the service.

PRELUDE

Music Box

Lindsey Wiehl, bassoon

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

THRESHOLD MOMENT

Holy Ground

S-3

We are standing on holy ground

And I know that there are angels all around.

Let us praise Jesus now,

We are standing in God's presence on holy ground.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Welcome to this holy place!

All: Which holy place?

One: *This* place: Wherever you are standing or sitting: on a pew, at your kitchen table, or propped up on pillows, at home or at camp or in your backyard:

The ground beneath you is holy!

All: What makes it holy ground?

One: The Presence of God, who shows up when we're not looking...

All: Who finds us wherever we are

One: Who sends us out in new directions

All: Who journeys with us, wherever we go.

One: Beloved, plant your feet on this holy ground, because here comes God again:

All: and here we go!

OPENING SONG

Holy Ground (Reprise)

S-3

We are standing on holy ground

And I know that there are angels all around.

Let us praise Jesus now,

We are standing in his presence on holy ground.

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

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

One: How do we pray for forgiveness in a world so fraught with pain and destruction?

All: Would God have us carry the weight of all that suffering?

One: No, surely God does not want us to be consumed by grief.
But God does want us to see - the beautiful and the beleaguered;

All: God does want us to *feel* - the dismay *and* the wonder.

One: "Take off your shoes," God says. "Feel the earth beneath your feet. Feel connected to the land and to each other."

**All: God who calls and sustains us: forgive us when we hide our face or turn away. Teach us to remain wide-eyed and tender-hearted, so that the world's suffering might touch, inform, embolden and guide us.
Then let us say, "Yes," to your call to liberate and love.**

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

Jennifer Goode

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

All: Open our hearts to receive and our lives to be expanded by what we hear.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3:1-12

SERMON

"Here You Come Again" Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

Concerto in B Flat Major for Bassoon
(II. Andante ma adagio)

W. A. Mozart

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

I'm Gonna Live

No. 467

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Our Glass Chapel

Lindsey Wiehl

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WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team I, Richard Parker, captain.

Welcome and thanks to guest musician Lyndsey Wiehl, music educator, bassoon player and composer, for playing and sharing her original compositions with us!

The flowers on the altar are from Carolyn Clark in memory of Greg Smith: “May you have fair winds and following seas.”

Livestream: Thank you to Alex Ratta for managing our worship livestream!

☰ **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.

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.

Meetinghouse Choir rehearses on Wednesdays, 6:15 – 8 pm. All singers are welcome. We meet in the Choir Room on the lower level of the church. Questions? Contact choir director Deirdre McClure at dmcclure@fccucc.org.

Handbell Rehearsal every Wednesday, 4:45 pm in Wright Pavilion. Anyone who would like to join the ringers this year should contact handbell director Sharon Potter at handbells@fccucc.org to arrange a time to meet.

COMING UP @ FCCUCC

Men's Seekers group, Saturday, September 5, 8 am in the Wright Pavillion. Join for breakfast and discussion. Newcomers are most welcome. See John Grew for more information: grewjd@gmail.com

Women's Spirit Circle of FCCUCC, Tuesday, September 8, 7 pm, Community Room (5th floor) A welcoming, sacred space where we can slow down, breathe deeply, and connect with one another through laughter, reflection, and soulful conversation. Come just as you are. All women, including LGBTQIA+ women, are welcome. For more info, contact Nancy Brajtbord: nancy.braitbord@gmail.com or Pat Thatcher: pat.thatcher123@gmail.com

Join us for a Welcome Sunday Picnic on Sunday, September 13 after worship service! You may sign up to bring needed items via the sign-up genius (QR code at right) OR reach out to Christine Campbell at 207-409-8948 or christinecampbell1231@gmail.com.



There will also be a paper sign-up available after worship.

Game Night, Tuesday, September 15, 7 pm in Wright Pavilion: The rumor is that cookies are now served and you can still play whatever game you prefer. We would love to have you play games with us. All are welcome, even if you don't know how to play! Questions? Contact Kathy Sahrbeck: kathrynsme@yahoo.com.

Faith and Fiction – Sunday, September 20, after worship in Davidson Lounge: 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 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.

Parents of Adult Children group, Sunday, September 20, 6:00 - 7:30 pm: All parents of adult children (over 18 years old) are welcome to join us. For more info contact FCC UCC member Jill Saxby at revjillsaxby@gmail.com.

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.
- Schools do have a need for reusable water bottles. If folks have extra water bottles appropriate for school kids, we would appreciate the donation. They can be left in the office.

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

To volunteer, 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

Doctrine of Discovery Learning Weekend, sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese:

Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery, Thursday, September 10, 7:30 - 9 pm, Online: Sarah Augustine, a Pueblo (Tewa) descendent, executive director of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery, and author of *The Land is Not Empty*, will discuss what is hidden in plain sight: how violence against Indigenous people is ongoing, and how we, as the church, are uniquely called to dismantle the systems that continue to justify it. Hosted by the St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer in Boston in partnership with the ecumenical, regional Find a Way sacred journey project.

Wabanaki Land and Child Removal and the Doctrine of Discover, Sunday, September 13, 2 pm, St. Luke's Cathedral, Portland – Emmanuel Chapel and Online: This panel discussion will feature Sarah Augustine, author of *The Land is Not Empty* and the Rev. Joe Hubbard, both members of The Episcopal Church's Truth, Justice, & Healing Commission of Native Boarding Schools. Hubbard is also executive director of Ministry on the Margins in Bismarck, ND, and convenor of the Episcopal Indigenous Justice Roundtable.

Register here to attend in person:

<https://www.cathedralofsaintluke.org/event-details/panel-discussion-1>

The event will be livestreamed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@stlukesportland>

Sacred Soil: BTS Center Convocation, Friday, September 18, 9:30 am – 5:30 pm, The Ecology School at River Bend Farm, Saco, Maine: This one-day event will feature keynote speaker Leah Penniman, a Black Kreyol farmer, mother, activist, author, scientist, earth-lover, and African Traditional Priest who has been tending the soil and organizing for a racially just food system for 30 years. She serves as Co-Founder and Farm Director at Soul Fire Farm in Grafton, New York, an Afro-Indigenous training farm dedicated to food and land sovereignty. Register at: <https://thebtscenter.org/convocation-2026/>

An Evening with Bishop Mariann Budde, Thursday, October 8, 7 pm at Merrill Auditorium, Portland: 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 info and tickets: <https://mainecouncilofchurches.org/2026/07/bishop-mariann-budde/>

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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

