



EATING TOGETHER
Sunday Worship
August 4, 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

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

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Rev. 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: A table is set before us. A feast is prepared for us.

ALL: A meal of bread and juice is laid out before us.

One: The Lord calls us to this supper of remembrance.

ALL: The Lord calls us to serve and to be served.

One: As we break the bread and share the cup,

ALL: our understanding may fail us.

One: But we will never forget Christ's example.

ALL: We will never forget the full extent of God's love.

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

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

God of justice and of plenty,

**Throughout this life, and beyond its limits, you call on us
to live boldly in commitment to love for all of creation.**

We confess that we have not perfectly fulfilled our calling.

Too often we have failed to use your power to serve our neighbors.

**Too often we have walked away from oppression and injustice,
and we have turned our backs on your beloved children
who hunger and thirst in a world of plenty.**

Forgive us, Lord.

**Make us more perfect servants of your justice, your peace, you're your wholeness, in
Jesus' name. Amen**

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

Heather Payson

**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

1 Corinthians 11:17-22

SERMON

“Food Fights”

Rev. Stephen Savage

ANTHEM

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

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Words of invitation

Prayer of Preparation

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 and Bless the Elements

You are invited forward to receive bread and dip in the cup. All bread is gluten free. The Cup is non-alcoholic. There are also individually wrapped elements for those who prefer.

Communion Anthems

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Beloved God, 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 into the world, to care for one another as you care for us. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

I Come With Joy

#313

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Fifers

Dandrieu

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team C, Bill Campbell, captain.

Our Call to Worship today was adapted from liturgy on re-worship.blogspot.com, and our Prayer of confession was adapted from materials on liturgylink.net.

THIS SEASON AT FCC UCC

Outdoor Worship! Sunday, August 11, 10 am at Bug Light: We are blessed to live in such a beautiful place, so why not bring our worship out into the midst of it! You are cordially invited to join us for worship, weather permitting, outside, at Bug Light Park. Bring a camp chair or a blanket and gather for a service of song and of prayer. For those who cannot attend in person, the service will be recorded and made available on YouTube and Facebook later in the day. If the weather is bad, the service will be held in the sanctuary as usual.

Morning Walk! Wednesday, August 14, 8 am at Kettle Cove: FCC Member Elinor Redmond will host this walk along Crescent Beach and into the woods. Meet at the Kettle Cove parking lot. Questions? Contact Elinor Redmond at eredmond63@gmail.com, or: 207-650-8579.

Backpack Ministry! Throughout the month of August, we will 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.

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.

Pastor Alison Patton is away on vacation until August 19.

WHAT'S UP? Want to stay in the loop? 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



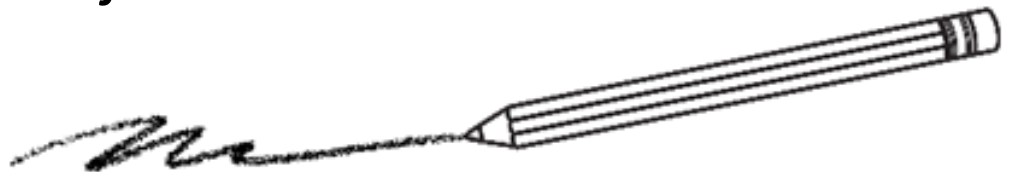
And on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/@FCCUCCSouthPortland

THE BEACON newsletter: The July/August issue went out via email last month. Didn't get it? Make sure you are on our email list! **DEADLINE:** Please send your content for the *September* issue to Bethany Porter at communicate@fccucc.org by August 18, 2024. Thanks!



BULLETINS are now available to view online. Scan the QR Code for the digital version.

Doodles, Notes and Reflections...



BREAK NOW THE BREAD OF LIFE

**Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord,
to me,
as thou didst break the loaves beside
the sea;
beyond the sacred page I seek thee,
Lord;
my spirit longs for thee, O living Word.**

**Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me,
to me,
as thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
then shall all bondage cease, all fetters
fall;
and I shall find my peace, my all in all!**

I COME WITH JOY

**I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread, and bids us
share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.**

**The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.**

**Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.**