



**All Who Labor
Sunday Worship
September 1, 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

The Peaceful Forests

Heinrich Isaak

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: God said, "Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

All: But the seventh day is God's Sabbath."

One: Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,

All: And I will give you rest."

One: We come in the name of the Spirit, resting from our labors,

All: Let us worship God this day!

***OPENING HYMN**

Morning has Broken

No. 258

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Creator God, You designed us to work and to rest, but we live in a culture where some folks labor while other folks rest, where some work is elevated while other work is overlooked. Forgive us, when we treat each other as resources, and forget that we are also neighbors. We all desire meaningful work and the chance to thrive. May we learn to treat every job with respect and all workers with dignity. Help us to build a world where those who clean houses can also buy them; where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill; and where *all* your creatures have time to rest and play. 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

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.**

LITANY FOR LABORERS

Congregational Response: **O God, bless the work of their hands.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Unison

Karen Westerberg

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

Genesis 2:2-3; Matthew 11:28-30

SERMON

All Who Labor

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

ANTHEM

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

H. Percy Smith

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

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 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* 7th Century French Tune

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 live the love and justice of Jesus. Amen!

***CLOSING HYMN** *Behold Us, Lord, a Little Space* (Tune: Amazing Grace) No. 438

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata In G

Dennis Eliot

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team I, Tom Hamerski, captain.

**posted on the Presbytery of the Cascades: www.facebook.com/cascadespresbytery

The Litany for Laborers was adapted from an Interfaith Worker Justice resource, and posted on the University of Arizona website.

SEPTEMBER AT FCC UCC

Bible Study, Tuesdays, 12:30 - 1:30 pm in Davidson Lounge: Join Rev. Steve Savage for a wide ranging conversation about the previous Sunday's scripture reading.

Welcome Sunday Worship and Picnic, September 8: Launch the fall season with backpack blessing, joyful worship and delicious food off the grill! *Thanks to the Education, Growth and Fellowship Team for organizing our picnic.* Scan the QR code for a link to an online signup or look for the paper signup sheet in the narthex, to contribute to the fun!



Church School starts, Sunday morning, September 15! Children and youth are invited to join our Faith Formation classes each week. We start worship together in the sanctuary, then children and teachers head upstairs to the classroom. Our classes will have stories, crafts, games and other opportunities to explore ideas like justice, peace, love, and even to wrestle with questions about who God is in all of our lives. Registration forms are available in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Steve at Steve@fccucc.org

Wabanaki Allies Working Group Meeting, Sunday, September 15, 11:30 am - 1 pm - in the Laity Room. All welcome! No expertise is needed, only your curiosity and passion for justice.

Breakfast at IHOP, Tuesday, September 17, 9 am, 195 Maine Mall Road in South Portland: Join FCC friends for breakfast and good conversation! Hosted by Kathy Sahrbeck: RSVP or questions: outreach@fccucc.org

Take a Walk ☼ - **Tuesday, September 17, 5-6:30 pm, hosted by Heather Hanson.** Route TBD. Mark your calendars and join us, because walking together is good for body and spirit!

We're starting a Games Group! Tuesday, September 24, 7 pm, Wright Pavilion: This month, we'll play Rummikub together, then we will discuss other games we'd like to play and how often we will meet. Questions? Contact Kathy Sahrbeck at outreach@fccucc.org

Voting with Love? Challenges and Opportunities in Fraught Times, Sunday, September 29, 11:30 am in Davidson Lounge:

As we approach the November elections, how do we gain our bearings as people of faith who are also citizen-voters? What does "voting with love" ask of us? Marvin Ellison will offer some reflections and lead a discussion. Your convictions -- and your vote -- matter, so after worship that Sunday, grab coffee and join the conversation.

☼ **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

Backpack Ministry! Thanks to everyone who has donated bags and supplies for our school backpack collection. We will bless them next Sunday!

CLYNK Bags are available in the Narthex: Did you know that you can collect your returnable cans and bottles to support our mission and outreach efforts? Save up your bottles and cans to turn 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/>

In-person registration is now full, but you can still register to participate online!

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On Instagram: instagram.com/fccucc_s.portland



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

SAVE THE DATE!

All-Church Visioning Retreat

Saturday, September 28

9:30 am - 2:30 pm

FCC UCC members and friends are encouraged to join us for a day of:

- Play and connection
- Creative thinking
- Reflection on FCC's gifts and direction.

We will be led by the Rev. Susan Townsley, Pastor of South Congregational Church in Kennebunkport, ME.

Rev. Townsley is a skilled facilitator, pastor, preacher and community leader who has served the United Church of Christ at the local, conference and national levels.

She will invite us to practice playfulness and out-of-the-box thinking, as we consider the ways that God is leading us to make a difference in the world.



All are welcome. Mark your calendars. You don't want to miss this!

To help us plan for lunch, please RSVP to Rev. Alison Patton:

revalisonpatton@fccucc.org