



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

Ezekiel 47:9, 12



Welcome Sunday: We Belong to the Water September 13, 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: Welcome! This is an all-ages worship service. Young people are invited to participate with us, and to check the narthex (entryway) for simple crafts or 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

Romances Sans Paroles Op. 17 No. 3

Gabriel Fauré

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

THRESHOLD MOMENT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Rivers run. Waves crash! Rain drops fall...

All: God is blessing the earth with water!

One: We fish. We swim. We water gardens and quench our thirst...

All: We are nourished and blessed with water.

One: God formed. The river flows. We gather at the water's edge.

All: Saco Bay is our home. We belong to this water.

Hello and thanks to our rushing rivers

One: and to God who connects us one to another!

***OPENING HYMN**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

#407

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Source of Life, you made us for each other: salmon and streams, monarchs and milkweed, saltmarsh and seagrass. Part of an interconnected watershed, we all survive because the water flows. When we neglect, hoard or poison water, forgive us! When the ways we consume and discard threaten the wellbeing of our neighbors, and our more-than-human kin, change our course. Show us a more generous way of living. Let love and justice flow from our hearts as from our waterways. Amen.

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

***SUNG RESPONSE**

Turn the World Around

Harry Belafonte

We come from the water, living in the water

Go back to the water, turn the world around! [clap, clap, clap!]

Water make the river, river wash the mountain

Fire make the sunlight, turn the world around [clap, clap, clap!]

Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh! Oh-oh, turn the world around! [clap, clap, clap!]

Heart is of the river, body is the mountain

Spirit is the sunlight, turn the world around [clap, clap, clap!]

We are of the spirit, truly of the spirit

Only can the spirit, turn the world around [clap, clap, clap!]

Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh! Oh-oh, turn the world around! [clap, clap, clap!]

Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh! Oh-oh, turn the world around! [clap, clap, clap!]

SACRED PLAY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pat Thatcher

One: This is the sacred story of God's journey with God's people.

All: Holy One, open our ears to hear, our hearts to receive and our lives to be expanded by your Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 2:10-14 *and* Revelations 22:1-2

SERMON

We Belong to the Water Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

Beside a Stream of Living Water

Thomas Keesecker

Meetinghouse Choir

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

Peace, I Ask of Thee, O River

Gwyneth Walker

Peace I ask of thee, O river, peace, peace, peace. When I learn to live serenely, cares will cease. From the hills I gather courage, vision of the day to be, Strength to lead and faith to follow, all are given unto me. Peace I ask of thee, O river, peace, peace, peace.

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 OF THE BACKPACKS

*CLOSING HYMN

We'll Build a Land

S-26

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Wade in the Water

Traditional American Spiritual,
Arr. Gary Norian

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Join us for our Welcome Sunday Picnic outside in our parking lot!

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team B, Peggy Murray, captain.

Recording: Gratitude to Alex Ratta for recording our worship this morning.

The flowers on the altar today are given in loving memory of Stanley and Marie Jordan's parents.

GRATITUDES

Today's Picnic: Thank you to our Education, Growth and Fellowship Team for organizing our picnic, and to everyone who contributed to the feast!

New mural, monitor and signs! Our space is more colorful and easier to navigate, thanks to our new Wayfinding System and mural. Deep gratitude to FCCUCC member **Bryan Wiggins** for his creative design and project management, **Tom Conlon** for helping to manage installation, **Karen Westerberg** and **Judy Kimball** for

proofreading signs and Bryan's son-in-law **Trevor Gionet**, for programming the new monitor in our lobby.

Organizing: Thank you to **Kathy Cotter** for her efforts this spring and summer to de-clutter several spaces in our building.

Photo Directory: Thanks to **Kat Roderick**, our Community Engagement Manager, for helping to create our new directory! Cover Photo Credit: **Karen Westerberg**.

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, in Davidson Lounge: 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

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.

Fancy Fair Crafters, Thursday, September 17, 5 – 7 pm in the Crafting Room

It is time to ramp up production for the Holly Daze Bazaar. Join us for any of the dates/times. To learn more, please contact Gin Gedney at 207-318-1581.

Saturday, 9/26, from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm in the Studio (Laiety Room)

Thursday, 10/1, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the Crafting Room

Faith and Fiction, Sunday, September 20, 11:30 am in Davidson Lounge: Join FCCUCC member Chuck Warner and Pastor Steve for part 2 of the discussion on *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler! Contact Pastor Steve at steve@fccucc.org.

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.

FCC On the Town, Thursday, September 24: Please join us for a trip to the Maine Wildlife Park in Gray on Thursday, September 24, leaving the church at 9:30 am. After our visit with 30 different wildlife species, we will go to the Sweet Spot bakery, also in Gray. Please RSVP to kathrynsme@yahoo.com or 415-0170 by Tuesday, September 22.

Dwayne Tomah, Passamaquoddy Language Teacher - Worship Guest and Second Hour Presenter, Sunday, September 27, 2026: We are delighted to welcome Dwayne Tomah for an in-worship interview with Rev. Alison Patton (as part of our "Living Water" series), followed by a second hour screening and discussion of *Pagans in the Promised Land*. This documentary film explores the destructive impact of the Doctrine of Discovery on the Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island. Hosted by our Wabanaki Allies Working Group.



MISSION AND SOCIAL WITNESS

From our Community Crisis Ministry: Help us to Stock the Care Closet at Cape Elizabeth High School! The Care Closet provides personal care items and basic clothing to students through donations. Elizabeth Thomas, co-director of school counseling, said the school saw a significant increase in need last year.

There is a bin in the Narthex (the entryway to the sanctuary near Cottage Road). Please consider dropping off an item or two by Sunday, Sept. 20. Please donate new items, with the exception of shoes—good quality used shoes are welcome.

body wash (neutral scent)

menstrual products

body lotion (neutral scent)

shaving cream

bras and bralettes (all sizes)

women's underwear (sizes xs-xl)

new sneakers or athletic shoes (sizes Big Kid 4 through all adult sizes. All genders. Adult sizes will go to CEHS. Kids' sizes will fill needs at other schools.)

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.

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

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





For Grassroots Environmental Impact, There's No Place Like Home

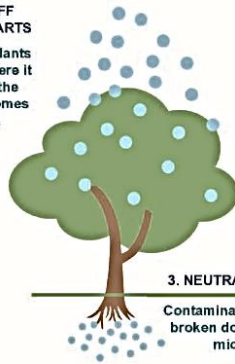
FCC's Environmental Working Group is exploring different ways to support the health of our local biosphere. One option we are investigating is a grassroots stormwater-capture initiative that would encourage South Portland and Cape Elizabeth residents to protect Casco Bay, one inch of rain at a time, by planting one or more native plants in specific areas around their homes to increase stormwater capture. We are calling it 'Casco Catch.' If you would like to participate in this initiative, please email cascocatch@fccucc.org to let us know. If we move forward with this proposal, we'll contact you with information on how to participate. Thank you! — *The FCC Environmental Working Group*

Three Ways One Inch Works

with both freestanding & positioned plants

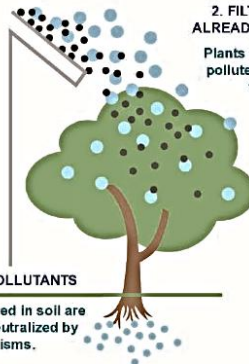
1. STOP RUNOFF BEFORE IT STARTS

Freestanding plants absorb rain where it falls, reducing the water that becomes polluted runoff.



2. FILTER RUNOFF ALREADY IN MOTION

Plants in the path of polluted runoff help filter it before it reaches the bay.



3. NEUTRALIZE POLLUTANTS

Contaminants filtered in soil are broken down & neutralized by microorganisms.

Where to Catch One Inch

with plantings to suit both yards & budgets

