



**What The World Needs Now:
Practicing Refugia Faith**

Week 2: Reclaiming Our Kinship
September 15, 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: Church School starts today! We begin worship together. After the Time for All God's Children, young people grades K-8 are invited to follow teachers Kathy Cotter and Sandra Kochy upstairs to our one-room classroom. This week's theme: Finding God in Stories.

Also, there are clipboards with paper and coloring pages at the back of the sanctuary, for worshippers of any age to use during the service.

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PRELUDE

O Mio Bambino Caro

G. Puccini

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Revs. Alison J. B. Patton and Stephen Savage

Come, Come, Whoever You Are

Rumi / Ungar

**Come, come, whoever you are,
Wanderer, worshiper, lover of learning
Ours is no caravan of despair.
Come, yet again, come.**

THRESHOLD MOMENT Land Acknowledgement Meditation

CALL TO WORSHIP*

One: This we know, the earth does not belong to us,

All: We belong to the earth.

One: This we know, all things are connected,

All: Like the blood that unites one family.

One: This we know, we did not weave the web of life,

All: We are merely strands in it.

One: This we know, whatever we do to the web,

All: We do to ourselves.

One: Let us give thanks that all things are held together in Christ.

***OPENING HYMN**

God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale

Grey Book No. 14

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

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Creator-Creating God, You formed the earth and its creatures from the same soil. You made us to be companions, to call each other by name. When we opt to go it alone; when we make choices based on our own needs and wants, without regard for the lives of others, forgive us, we pray. Remind us that we are all related. Teach us how to step back, until we can see and honor your whole, interconnected world.

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 love like an ocean...
I've got joy like a fountain...

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Bruce Lockwood

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 2:18-23

SERMON

Reclaiming our Kinship

Alison J. Buttrick Patton

ANTHEM

Lean on Me

Bill Withers

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

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

PRAYER OF BLESSING

***CLOSING HYMN**

Spirit of Love

Red Hymnal No. S-22

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

March In G

A. Schreine

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WORSHIP NOTES

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

The flowers on the altar today are given in loving memory of Lloyd and Marjorie Jordan and Isla Ifill by Stanley and Marie Jordan and family.

**This morning's call to worship comes from *The Iona Community Worship Book*. Used by permission.

☰ Historically, the composers of African-American Spirituals were neither known nor compensated for use of their songs. The FCC UCC music department has committed to paying forward a 'royalty' each time we include a Spiritual in worship. Funds are donated to atlanticblackbox.com. You also are invited to contribute to this fund. Make your donation to FCC UCC with "Spiritual Royalty" in the memo or note field. *Thank you!*

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. *No formal knowledge required!*

Church School starts this morning! We start worship together in the sanctuary, then children and teachers head upstairs to class for stories, crafts and games. They will 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 (at the back of the sanctuary). Questions? Contact Pastor Steve at Steve@fccucc.org

Wabanaki Allies Working Group Meeting, TODAY, September 15, 11:30 am - 1 pm - in the Laity Room. All welcome! No expertise needed, just 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☼ - Thursday, September 19, 5-6:15 pm, hosted by Heather Hanson. Meet in Portland at the Eastern Promenade, lower lot by the food trucks. We'll walk the waterfront paved walkway. Mark your calendars, because walking together is good for body and spirit!

Meet the Pastors, Sunday, September 22, 11:30 am - 12:30, Davidson Lounge - Are you new to FCC? Curious to learn more? Join the conversation with Revs. Alison Patton and Steve Savage. Connect with other newcomers and learn more about what makes FCC tick!

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 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 will take 75 - 90 minutes.
2. Choose a date and time that you are available to host, and a meeting place.
3. Consider including a brief (5 minutes) reading: a quote, poem or prayer to share on 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 October 2024 and May 2025 by scanning the QR code.



NOTE: Feel free to repeat a favorite route. Questions? Contact Rev. Alison Patton at revalisonpatton@fccucc.org

MUSIC CORNER

Meetinghouse Choir rehearses Wednesdays, 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 & Chimes Choir rehearse on alternating Wednesdays, 4:45 - 5:45pm in Wright Pavilion. Questions? Contact bell choir director Sharon Potter: handbells@fccucc.org.

MISSION CORNER

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

Youth Service Corps - Tour of the Animal Refuge League and lunch, September 22, 2-3:30 pm: FCC UCC has joined forces with eleven other local churches to create this monthly youth service opportunity. Middle and high school students are invited to connect with each other as we make a difference in the community. For more info or to sign up, see Pastor Steve: steve@fccucc.org

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. Learn more at <https://thebtscenter.org/convocation-2024/>

You can still register to participate online or in person!

Concert for Climate, October 27, 2:30 pm, St. Luke's Church, 143 State Street – A multimedia celebration of our livable world for all ages, Concert for Climate is an “entertaining, educational, and soul-filling afternoon of music and message to inspire climate action.” Keynote speaker: Briana Warner, CEO of Atlantic Sea Farms, working to diversity coastal incomes with kelp. Hosted by the Citizens' Climate Lobby. Learn more by scanning the QR code to the right.



Want to carpool/drive? Please contact Jess at 207-671-1366, jessdeeproctor@gmail.com

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WHAT'S UP? Want to stay in the loop? Make sure you are on our email list! **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

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