



# Living Water

## Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

Ezekiel 47:9, 12



## We Find Healing in the Water

### September 20, 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. Children are invited to join their teachers for Church School, in the narthex following the Sacred Play portion of the service. 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**      *Prelude in C Major from the Well Tempered Clavier*      J. S. Bach

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

### **THRESHOLD MOMENT**

#### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God calls us to the water, and so...

**ALL: With open minds we come to the water,**

One: And God, like a vast unending sea is waiting!

**ALL: With open hearts we come to the water,**

One: And Christ, like a welcoming pool is waiting!

**ALL: With open arms we come to the water,**

One: And the Holy Spirit, like a glass of cool water is waiting!

There is new life to be found in God's living water,  
if we but dive in with faith.

So come, let's dive in together!

**\*OPENING HYMN**      *God, Who Touches Earth with Beauty*      #398

### **PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

Beloved God, yours is a path that winds and climbs, through challenges, and past unforeseen hurdles. Too often we forget that you are at our side, and that your love is freely given. Too often we fail to recognize your mercy, your grace, and your love when we encounter it, and so we do not give you thanks or praise your name for the gifts that you so abundantly provide as you so rightfully deserve! Forgive us! Open our eyes, our hearts, and remind us to have faith, that we might see and know your presence in our life, and that the world might know you better through us, amen.

### **PRAYERFUL PAUSE**

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

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**      One: The peace of Christ be with you.  
All:    **And also with you.**

**\*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**                                              Carrie Skeffington

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**                                              2 Kings 5:1-14

**SERMON**                                              *We Find Healing in the Water*                      Rev. Stephen Savage

## **MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE**

**ANTHEM**                                              *Come Thou Fount*                      arr. Craig Courtney

## **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.  
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](http://fccucc.org) and clicking on "Donate," or by adding your contribution to the box at the back of the sanctuary.



### MUSICAL INTERLUDE

### BLESSING OF OUR GIFTS

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *Like a Healing Stream* See Insert

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** *On the Sunny Side of the Street* Benny Goodman  
\* \* \* \* \*

### WORSHIP NOTES

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

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

**The Globe is lighted by** Deborah and Jim Rideout in memory of their parents, Eugene and Bernice Rideout and Linwood and Edithe Durrel

### GRATITUDES

**Last Sunday's Welcome Picnic:** Thank you to Carol and Chris Zechman, Bill Campbell, Tove Rasmussen, Dana and Bryan Wiggins, Chuck Warner, Tim Proctor, Nancy Irving, Bruce Lockwood, Christine Campbell and all those that donated food, and supplies.

**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! Correction - Cover Photo Credit: **Jody Mills** of South Portland

### **TODAY @ FCCUCC**

**Faith and Fiction - in Davidson Lounge, Sunday, September 20, 11:30 am:** Join FCCUCC member Chuck Warner and Pastor Steve for reflection on various books and short stories. We are currently reading *Parable Of The Sower* by Octavia Butler! Join Part 2 of our discussion on September 20. Please contact Pastor Steve at [steve@fccucc.org](mailto:steve@fccucc.org) 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 Jill Saxby at [revjillsaxby@gmail.com](mailto:revjillsaxby@gmail.com).

### **COMING UP @ FCCUCC**

**FANCY FAIR CRAFTERS** It is time to ramp up production to get ready for the Holly Daze Bazaar. That being said, we would love to have you join us for any of the following dates/times.

Saturday, 9/26, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Studio (Laiety Room)

Thursday, 10/1, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Crafting Room

FFC provides instructions and materials to make all projects, and the creations are easy and fun. Please consider joining us as your schedule allows. If you aren't able to attend but would like to create some projects at home, we would really appreciate your help. If you have any questions, please contact Gin Gedney at 207-318-1581.

**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](mailto: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.



**People of the Table: What communion has to offer in a fragmented world, Mini-Retreat, Sunday, October 4, 11:30 - 1:30 pm**

Join Pastors Alison and Steve, and members of the Spiritual Life and Worship Team, for a gathering round the table to consider the Sacrament of Communion. How does it work? Why is it significant? Bring your questions and your stories, and dig deeper into the Feast together.

### **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 donate new items, with the exception of shoes—good quality used shoes are welcome.

body wash (neutral scent)  
body lotion (neutral scent)  
bras and bralettes (all sizes)

menstrual products  
shaving cream  
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.)

## THE WIDER COMMUNITY

**TODAY - Sunday, Sept. 20th - Greater Portland Community Sing,**

**6-7ish pm at Hope Gateway Church, 515 Woodford Street, Portland:**

All ages welcome. Co-created by Emilia Dahlin in a perfection-free field.

No Experience necessary. Bring a simple song to share. Harmonies and multiple parts welcome. We share the composer and any context/history. Masking is welcome. Learn more: <https://chorusamerica.org/singers/community-sings>

Questions: [emilia@emiliadahlin.com](mailto:emilia@emiliadahlin.com)

**Community Organizing Book Study, Wednesdays on Zoom • 6:30-8:00 pm,**

**September 23 & 30 • October 14 & 21:** Rev. Sara Ewing-Merrill of HopeGateway Church will lead a conversation based on the book *Empowered to Repair:*

*Becoming People Who Mend Broken Systems and Heal Our Communities* by Brenda Salter McNeil.

Through this book, the author guides us to join in God's work of transformation, repairing and rebuilding broken communities. She goes beyond theories to offer practical tools for organizing, empowering, and activating people to work for personal and systemic change.

*Curious about community organizing with FCCUCC? Check out this study. Then ask FCC pastors about the chance for FCC to help create a broad based organization in Maine, to build congregations, organizations, and communities where all people can flourish. Register at: <https://hopegateway.breezechms.com/form/098fc847>*

**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](https://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

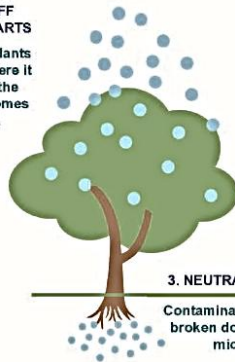
FCC's Environmental Working Group is exploring different ways to support the health of our local biosphere. One option we are investigating is a grassroots stormwater-capture initiative that would encourage South Portland and Cape Elizabeth residents to protect Casco Bay, one inch of rain at a time, 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](mailto: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

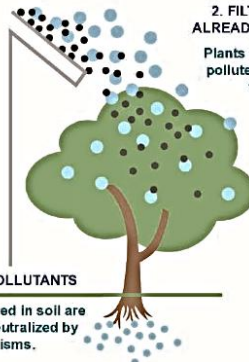
#### 1. STOP RUNOFF BEFORE IT STARTS

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

