



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

### ***Week 3: Practicing Forgiveness*** **September 22, 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:** 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: Bayard Rustin - Holy Trouble Makers and Unconventional Saints.

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** *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* Traditional English Melody

**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**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Everyone come!

**ALL: To a moment of Mercy, and a helping of Grace!**

One: Come and listen!

**ALL: To the prayers of God's people, and God's promise of forgiveness!**

One: Everyone come!

**ALL: That our voices and our spirits might soar forth in praise! Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *Lord, Make Us Servants Of Your Peace* #458

**PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS - A Meditation**

**PRAYERFUL PAUSE**

\*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

*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

Judith Borrelli

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 37-50 - Excerpts

### SERMON

*Untied, Set Down, and Set Free*

Rev. Stephen Savage

### ANTHEM

God of Mercy, God of Grace

Kocher

### 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](https://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**      *Help Us Accept Each Other* (to the tune Aurelia)      #376

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE**      *March in G*      A. Schreine

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## WORSHIP NOTES

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

☰ 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](https://atlanticblackbox.com).

## COMING UP AT FCC UCC

**Meet the Pastors, TODAY 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!

**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!*

## **We're starting a Games Group! THIS 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](mailto:outreach@fccucc.org)

## **Voting with Love? Challenges and Opportunities in Fraught Times, Sunday, Sept. 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.

**Fellowship Club, Tuesday, October 1, 6:15pm in Guptill Hall.** Mary Ann Wallace will present a history of First Congregational Church UCC. You do not have to be a member to attend; all are welcome! Reservations are required and must be made by noon on Sunday, September 29th to Bob Seussmann at [rsuessmann@icloud.com](mailto:rsuessmann@icloud.com).

☪ **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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. 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](mailto:jessdeeproctor@gmail.com)

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And on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/@FCCUCCSouthPortland](https://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](mailto:revalisonpatton@fccucc.org)