



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

Ezekiel 47:9, 12



Communion Sunday: We Come from the Water September 6, 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: During the summer, we do not have church school, but young people are encouraged 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 *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child* African-American Spiritual 
Kevin Cleary, Basso

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

THRESHOLD MOMENT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: This is the day that God has made!

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

One: This is the day that God says 'Yes!'

All: To life and love for all God's creatures.

One: This is the day that God makes new!

All: Let all the earth give thanks and praise!

***OPENING HYMN** *Crashing Waters of Creation* Dunstan/Witt

Crashing waters of creation, ordered by the Spirit's breath

First to witness Day's beginning from the brightness of Night's death.

Parting water stood and trembled as the captives passed on through

Washing off the chains of bondage, channel to a life made new

Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the one foretold

Opened to reveal the glory ever new and ever old.

Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and cleanse the soul,

Wellspring, source of life eternal, drench our dryness, make us whole.

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Wellspring of Grace, some days it feels like joy, hope or faith are running dry.

When we try to quench our thirst in ways that harm us or others, forgive us.

When our compassion is at a low ebb, replenish it. When we choose not to extend the cup of care to others whose reserves of kindness are depleted, nudge us closer together. Restore our patience and our joy. Remind us that your life-renewing Spirit flows through and between us. Amen.

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

No darkness can dispel thy light, Through Thee alone mine eyes shall see.

In Thee I dwell, My Guide and Father,
Though raging tempest surge around me, My joy and shelter Thou shalt be.
Thy face I see; Thy voice is saying,
“When troubled waters would o’er-come thee, I am forever at thy side.
Then would I die, Dying victorious! In death or life I shall not fear!
I know my soul shall rest in Thee.

Original German text anonymous. Translation and sacred text by Margaret Bristol.

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

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People

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.

The Story is Told

The Gifts are Blessed

***The Meal is Shared**

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 Anthem

The Love of God

Frederick M. Lehman,
arr. Mark Hayes

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

Christ in Every Heart, for this moment, this meal, this gathering, we give you thanks! Now, send us out to be your Church in the world, living the love and justice of Jesus. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

In Water We Grow – verses 1, 2, 4

Brian Wren

Tune: *Lyons*, attr. Haydn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Deep and wide with There is a Fountain Traditional Melody
arr. Joel Raney

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WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team A, Terry Dallaire, captain.

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

The flowers on the altar are given in celebration of Scott Berry and Pat Thatcher's second anniversary.

Communion Coordinator: Thank you to Jennifer Goode for preparing our communion table this Sunday and each month.

☰ **Royalty for Spirituals:** Historically, the composers of African American Spirituals were neither known nor compensated for use of their songs. The FCCUCC music department has committed to paying forward a 'royalty' each time we include a Spiritual in worship. We donate funds to the **Indigo Arts Alliance**. Join us: you can donate by check or online, with "Royalty for Spirituals" in the memo. Thank you.

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.

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.

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.

COMING UP @ FCCUCC

Women's Spirit Circle of FCCUCC, Tuesday, September 8, 7 pm, Community Room (5th floor) A welcoming, sacred space where we can slow down, breathe deeply, and connect with one another through laughter, reflection, and soulful conversation. Come just as you are. All women, including LGBTQIA+ women, are welcome. For more info, contact Nancy Brajtbord: nancy.brajtbord@gmail.com or Pat Thatcher: pat.thatcher123@gmail.com

Join us for a Welcome Sunday Picnic on Sunday, September 13 after worship service!

You may sign up to bring needed items via the sign-up genius (QR code at right) OR reach out to Christine Campbell at 207-409-8948 or christinecampbell1231@gmail.com.

There will also be a paper sign-up available after worship.



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.

Faith and Fiction – Sunday, September 20, after worship in Davidson Lounge: Join FCCUCC member Chuck Warner and Pastor Steve for reflection on various books and short stories. We are currently reading *The Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler! Join us to discuss the second half of the book on September 20. The book is often in stock at local libraries and local bookstores. Please contact Pastor Steve at 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 FCC UCC member Jill Saxby at revjillsaxby@gmail.com.

MISSION AND SOCIAL WITNESS

Donate Back-To-School Backpacks and Supplies: We have had several requests for used backpacks in good shape that we can fill with supplies. They can be dropped off in the office along with reusable water bottles. We are also inviting monetary donations to purchase the supplies as they are needed: To donate:

- Write a check made out to the church, put “Backpacks” in the memo field
- Make a cash donation with a note indicating Backpacks or
- Donate on-line at www.fccucc.org/donate, choose “Other: and put “Backpacks” in the note section.

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

Doctrine of Discovery Learning Weekend, sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese:

Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery, Thursday, September 10, 7:30 - 9 pm,

Online: Sarah Augustine, a Pueblo (Tewa) descendent, executive director of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery, and author of *The Land is Not Empty*, will discuss what is hidden in plain sight: how violence against Indigenous people is ongoing, and how we, as the church, are uniquely called to dismantle the systems that continue to justify it. Hosted by the St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer in Boston in partnership with the ecumenical, regional Find a Way sacred journey project.

Wabanaki Land and Child Removal and the Doctrine of Discover, Sunday, September 13, 2 pm, St. Luke's Cathedral, Portland – Emmanuel Chapel and Online: This panel discussion will feature Sarah Augustine, author of *The Land is Not Empty* and the Rev. Joe Hubbard, both members of The Episcopal Church's Truth, Justice, & Healing Commission of Native Boarding Schools. Hubbard is also executive director of Ministry on the Margins in Bismarck, ND, and convenor of the Episcopal Indigenous Justice Roundtable.

Register here to attend in person: <https://www.cathedralofsaintluke.org/event-details/panel-discussion-1>

The event will be livestreamed here:
<https://www.youtube.com/@stlukesportland>

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

